

MAY 2004

# THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION



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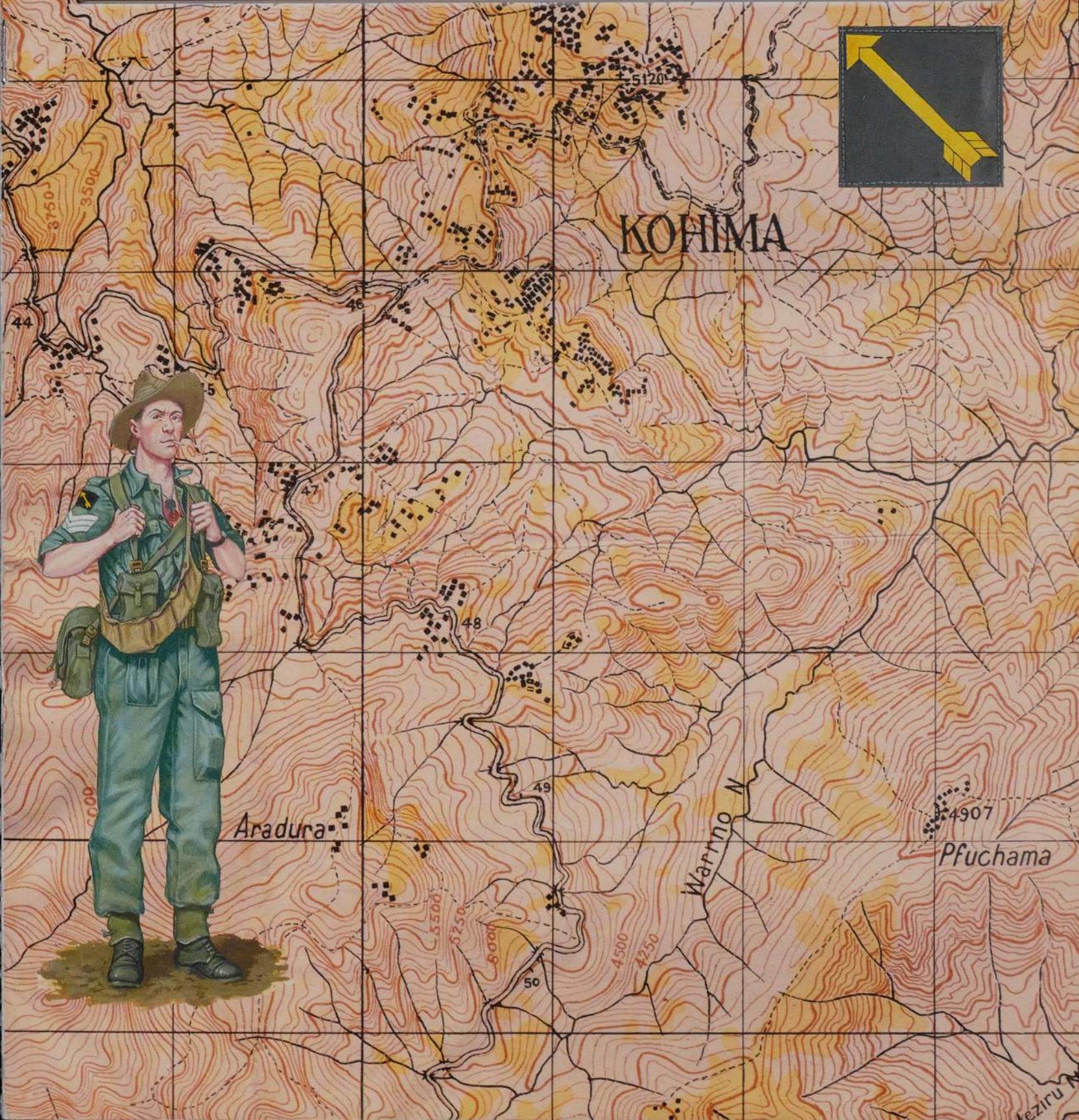
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NUMBER 75

## NEWSLETTER





## FORECAST OF EVENTS

2004

1st June

THE GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE (1794).

11th June

President's Reception for the Mayors of Surrey - Clandon.

13th June

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

3rd July

First Surrey Rifles Meeting and Supper.

1st August

MINDEN DAY (1759).

9th September

SALERNO DAY (1943).

11th September

6th (Bermondsey), 2/6th and 2/7th Bns The Queen's Royal Regiment OCAs Combined Annual Reunion Lunch.

12th September

First Surrey Rifles Church Parade.

4th October

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

6th October

Golf Society Autumn Meeting - Woking Golf Club.

9th October

The East Surrey OCA Reunion (1300-1800), Clapham.

5th November

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association Annual Reunion - Union Jack Club.

14th November

Remembrance Sunday.

2nd December

First Surrey Rifles Meeting and Christmas Draw.

20th December

BRITISH BATTALION DAY (1941).

### Covers:

**Frontispiece:** Section from the map used by the Commanding Officer The 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Duncombe, during the battle of Kohima in May 1944. The map is part of the regimental archive which is now available to the public at the Surrey History Centre, Woking. Lieutenant Colonel Duncombe handed over command of the battalion in September 1944. He was awarded the DSO for his leadership in Arakan and at Kohima. **Inset:** Sergeant of the 1st Queen's, Burma 1944 (from an original watercolour by Bryan Fosten). Also Divisional badge of 7th Indian Division with which 1st Queen's served in Burma, although at Kohima, with the remainder of 33 Brigade, the battalion came under command of 2nd British Division.

**Back cover:** Diagram of the operations of The 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment around Cassino 1st March to 18th May 1944 (Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum).



### Editorial

As noted by the President, this year marks the 60th anniversaries of the battles of Cassino and Kohima. These are both featured in this edition of the Association Newsletter, and details of how to obtain Lieutenant Colonel Michael Lowry's book 'Fighting Through to Kohima' are also given. The enclosed Museum leaflet gives an outline of the programme of special exhibitions and other events at Clandon during the season.

Memories of some younger readers may be stirred by personal recollections of life as a national serviceman in this edition; contributions about, and photographic records of, the period are welcomed.

On Sunday 14th November the annual Service of Remembrance will take place at the Cenotaph, Whitehall. Sadly the numbers of those attending from the Association, and from other forebear Regiments of the PWRR, has been declining in recent years. It has been agreed that the forebear Regiments, coordinated by Major Brian Wright, should march with the PWRR contingent. Details of arrangements and how to apply for tickets are given in the enclosed letter. Those who wish to parade at Kingston or elsewhere are not affected by this.

With best wishes  
Tony Russell

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### President's Notes

It is often thought that the allies first landed on mainland Europe in World War II on the Normandy beaches in 1944. In fact the allies had first landed at Salerno some nine months before with the two Queen's Brigades, 131 and 169, amongst the first to land. This year a number of 60th anniversaries are being celebrated including D-Day. We will remember regrettably the battles of Cassino and Kohima and other events in those areas in which both the Queen's and Surreys were intimately involved.

Most of my generation know about the Burma Campaign from Field Marshal Slim's book 'Defeat into Victory'. This excellent book gave us the view from the Army Commander's perspective. Lieutenant Colonel Michael Lowry whom many of you know and who was a company commander in 1 Queen's at Kohima, has just written a book, 'Fighting through to Kohima', which complements and provides the essential detail and conditions facing the soldier in the front line which are inevitably lost at the Army Commander's level. It is an excellent book which I commend to you all.

As you will read elsewhere in the newsletter our finances are in good order but we have still not recovered any of the stolen medals.

It has been a relatively quiet six months for the Association but we do have our Cathedral service on Sunday 13th June and I look forward to seeing you there.

With best wishes,  
Bob Acworth

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### Association Finances

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Charity's audited income for 2003 totalled £100,995. Of this £74,748 was interest on investments and cash deposits, the vast majority being generated by the substantial investment portfolio based upon charitable funds which were built up by the Regiment and its forebears.

Audited expenditure was just under £128,000. Major items within this included: £15,121 connected with the museum; £30,771 on individual benevolence cases; £18,688 disbursed on behalf of the Army Benevolent Fund; £5,252 on the Newsletter; £1,641 for wreaths and funeral representation; and £2,208 for facilities, staff and catering at the Annual Reunion. A total of just over £43,000 was spent on the management and administration, in the widest sense, of the Association. This expenditure included: auditors', accountants' and lawyers' fees; salary and pension contributions; office costs such as those for stationery, postage and the telephone; travel expenses; and all the work involved in running the Association and arranging its events during the year.

Like many other charities, the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Charity had been affected by the decline in the stock market over previous years. However there was some recovery during 2003 and the Charity's investment portfolio and cash deposits, which had been worth £1,812,600 at the beginning of 2003, stood at £1,902,341 on 31st December 2003.

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### Museum Notes

Without doubt, the headline event for the Museum in the past six months was the shocking burglary and theft of medals, news of which just made the stop-press of the last Newsletter. This was a staggering blow for the Museum, and the loss of medals is particularly sad, since they are a memorial and a reminder of the real people - our relatives, comrades and compatriots - and the deeds that they did for us and for our country. Nothing has been heard of the stolen medals since the burglary in October, and professional advice is not to expect to hear anything for a long time, but that eventually they will begin to appear.

Naturally, there has been a full scale investigation by the police, and a review and strengthening of National Trust and Museum security (which was already thought to be good). The physical damage at the Museum has been repaired and, by dint of very hard work by staff and volunteers, a good display of medals has been re-established. But good can come out of evil, and it is a pleasure to record and thank all those, members and others, who have given moral and physical support to the Museum at this trying time. Major Dennis Burton, a member, and Pierce Noonan of the specialist firm of Dix, Noonan, Webb have particularly given freely of their time and specialist professional advice.

Thankfully all has not been doom and gloom in recent months, and one of the Museum's major long-term operational objectives has been achieved too. This is the transfer of the Museum's collection of historic Regimental Archives to the Surrey History Centre at Woking (alias the Surrey County Record Office). Parting with our archives was not done without mixed feelings by all involved at the Museum, feelings which I expect will be shared by others, so why did we do it?

The reason is, as part of the Museum's long-term plan, to ensure the safe physical conservation and secure storage of, and the easy public access to, these important documents; things in which the History Centre specialises, but which the Museum could not achieve in the long run. This job was more hard work for the Museum staff, of course, but we were greatly assisted by the staff of the History Centre, of whom Michael Page and Isabel Sullivan deserve a special mention. Our Regimental Archives are now available for anyone who wants to see them, at the Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking.

As usual, news of people is an important part of these notes. It was with regret that the Trustees accepted Lt. Col Anson Squire's decision to step down as a Museum Trustee after very long and distinguished service, during which he made a great contribution to many aspects of the Museum's work; his regular cheerful presence as a "Wednesday volunteer" at the Museum is also being much missed. We were delighted, therefore, that Col Nicholas Davies accepted appointment to the vacant Trustee position.

The end of another era has been brought about by Roy Harding's retirement from the Museum staff at the end of March, 'though we are delighted that he will be continuing as a volunteer from time to time. Roy too has had a long and very distinguished career at the Museum. Starting as a volunteer, he was persuaded by Col Peter Durrant to join the staff, since when both the Museum and the Association have benefited from his hard work, loyalty and expertise; his determination to get the medal display back in good order before retiring has been a good example of his attitude to the "job". Roy has been ably and extensively assisted by Joy, his wife, and we

wished them a long and happy future at a gathering of friends and colleagues at the Museum in mid-April. At the time of writing these notes arrangements are underway to interview a number of applicants for the position of part-time Museum Attendant, and it is hoped that the appointment will be filled in the near future.



Roy and Joy Harding in front of the re-constituted medal display

Last, but by no means least, is to say that, despite the trials and tribulations of the "closed" season, your Museum has re-opened for the new season in very good order under Sam Higgs' capable guidance. Do come to see us, and please note and support the "special events", details of which are enclosed with this Newsletter. And, if you cannot get to Clandon Park, try a visit to the Regimental and Museum Web Site, [www.queensroyalsurreys.org.uk](http://www.queensroyalsurreys.org.uk)

Adrian Birtles

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#### Royal Hospital Chelsea

The Royal Hospital Chelsea, home of the Chelsea Pensioners, is looking for old soldiers to join its ranks. Those wishing to apply must be in receipt of a pension for Army service or disability due to a military career, or an officer on retired pay with at least twelve years service. They should also be over 65, able to walk unaided and look after themselves, free from obligations to support a wife or family, and passed medically fit for admission. The Royal Hospital is primarily a residential home, not a hospital. For more details contact: The Secretary, Royal Hospital Chelsea, London SW3 4SR. Telephone: 02078815204.

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

#### The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment



As we pass the first anniversary of the start of hostilities in Iraq, a snapshot of where the Regiment is today gives a true reflection of the diversity and wide ranging capabilities that today's modern soldier has to train for. It has been a very hectic period for everyone.

Lieutenant Colonel Mat Maer now commands the 1st Battalion based in Tidworth. They are still in the armoured warrior role. The beginning of the year saw everyone deep in courses/cadres for the deployment to Iraq in April 2004. They deployed and within the first 12 hours had sustained three casualties in gunfights and explosions. Over the next week this was increased by another eleven casualties.

The 1st Battalion ('C' and 'Y' Companies and Bn HQ) are deployed to the Maysam Province, which is located 150 kilometres north of Basra. The main town is Al



The composite Platoon with Colonel M J Ball (Regimental Secretary PWRR)



Sergeant Kelly and Lieutenant Passmore (Composite Platoon) with the Polish Contingent in Iraq

Amarah. 'A' Company is based in Basra and 'B' Company is attached to the 1st Battalion The Cheshire Regiment also based in Basra.

Also in Iraq with the 1st Battalion The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders is a composite platoon from our 1st and 2nd Battalions.

They have been there since January. They are also in the thick of it and have sustained three casualties in gunfights and explosions.

We wish them all the best of luck.

The 2nd Battalion is based in Ternhill. They had a good tour (six months) in Northern Ireland and have now returned to concentrate on courses and cadres. The Battalion goes to Canada for final work up training to take on the task of Spearhead Battalion. Also going with them to Canada will be an exchange officer from The 15th Battalion, The Punjab Regiment (Pakistan) one of our affiliated Regiments.

On return the Battalion will assume the duties of Spearhead Battalion for four months. This is a long period and will no doubt result in some deployment.

The long term plan for both the Regular Battalions could be liable to change, however the latest edition is that the 1st Battalion will Arms Plot to Paderborn (Germany) in March 2005 in the Armoured Warrior role for at least a six year tour. The 2nd Battalion will Arms Plot to Northern Ireland in December 2005, for a two-year tour.

The 3rd Battalion continues to provide manpower in support of operations in Iraq (with 1st Battalion), Bosnia and Kosovo. They are also committed to providing a formed platoon for Op Telic (Iraq) in 2005. This is a continual demand on limited resources, however they feel confident that they can fulfil these demands.

The great challenge this year is Annual Camp in Kazakhstan. This will take place in August. For those hardened BAOR warriors who trained to fight the Russians and their equipment, the 3rd Battalion will now be exercising with BTR 80's and Russian helicopters.

The two independent companies, 'B' Company The London Regiment and 'C' Company The Royal Rifle Volunteers, are also on excellent form. They also are providing manpower for Iraq. Annual Camp this year will be Thetford for 'B' Company and Otterburn for 'C' Company.

In summary we are in good form and wish success to those serving overseas.

(by Major A J Martin)

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## Benevolence

Major John Rogerson, at RHQ PWRR, continues to administer the Charity's individual benevolence work on our behalf and we are extremely grateful for all his hard work. During 2003 a total of 148 cases were investigated and 94 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 18 further electrically powered vehicles and contributed to two convalescent holidays. The Charity paid out £30,771 as individual grants-in-aid and the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) provided a further £3,436 in General Grants. Of the 54 cases not receiving a grant, local Councils/Charities or other Regimental Charities assisted 26 after we had contacted them. Eight cases were not receiving such allowances as attendance, mobility or rent rebate.

Twenty one ABF Annuities were administered; the ABF generously contributed £50 per month per case, increasing to £55 per month in November 2003. During this period we have renewed or arranged for three Nursing Home Fees grants, each of £624 from the ABF and £156 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, including Nursing Home Fees, were £18,688. 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.

We are extremely grateful to the ABF which is always helpful with prompt action and advice, and to SSAFA/ Forces Help Society and The Royal British Legion whose caseworkers investigate the majority of our cases.

We are also most grateful to those who have made donations to the Charity in memory of members of the Association.

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

**A SSAFA Forces Help officer writes:** Thank you so much for your generous cheque. Mrs A was absolutely thrilled and really quite overcome - she is so grateful. Mr A is now at the rehabilitation hospital so there is definitely good progress. The fact that people care about their predicament is a huge tonic.

Thank you also for sending the Association Newsletter. It was actually through reading the newsletter that they thought of contacting SSAFA. So many thanks for helping with our publicity! We much appreciate your kind support.

**A SSAFA Forces Help officer writes:** Thank you very much for your quick response with assistance for Mrs B. She has been informed of the source of the grant and is very grateful. The Royal British Legion is providing a cooker for her.

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**A SSAFA Forces Help officer writes:** Thank you very much for your letter enclosing your grant cheque on behalf of Mr C. The generosity of the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Charity is very much appreciated and Mr C will be informed of your grant by me. I sincerely hope that in due course he will show his own appreciation to you.

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**A SSAFA Forces Help officer writes:** Thank you for your letter enclosing Marks & Spencer Vouchers together with the Christmas Card. These have now been passed to Mr D who is, of course, delighted with your generous gift and would like us to pass on his grateful thanks.

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**A SSAFA Forces Help officer writes:** I will be pleased to pass your Christmas card to Mrs E with the Marks and Spencer Voucher. I do thank you for your kind thoughts on behalf of Mrs E; it is this that makes life liveable for our clients.

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Please accept my grateful thanks to your Benevolence Committee and the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Charity and all those concerned in getting me the grant for removal expenses which allowed my wife and I to move into an extra-care flat. I would like to thank you for the copy of the Association Newsletter which if possible I would like to subscribe to in future. I would like to remain in contact with my old Regiment as I am very interested to know how they are getting on. Once again thank you for all the help you have given me.

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Please accept my grateful thanks to your Benevolence Committee and the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Charity and those concerned in getting me the grant of £500 towards essential repairs to my mobile home.

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On behalf of my mother I should like to thank the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association for all the support you have given her over the last twelve months.

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My wife died recently and I found myself in financial difficulty; it is due to your help that I now am able to sort myself out. Please accept my gratitude to the Regiment.

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I would like to thank you very much for the £200 given to me towards the cost of our removal. We moved in and are very happy to be in a ground floor flat as the stairs were becoming a problem in the other flat.

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We are so grateful to you and to SSAFA for all the help you gave my brother and me to have a bath lift. It was delivered on 26th November; we couldn't believe it. It will certainly make life easier.

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Thank you for the M&S Voucher which you sent me. It was very kind of you. Thank you again and a Happy New Year to you all.

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I would like to thank you most sincerely for the Marks and Spencer voucher that you sent to my mother via SSAFA for Christmas and for all your help during the year.

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## The Veterans Agency

The Veterans Agency is an Executive Agency of the Ministry of Defence. It is the single point of contact within the Ministry for providing information and advice on issues of concern to veterans and their families. Its free Helpline service is available to deal with enquiries from ex-Service personnel and their dependants. There is also a website which contains information and links to other useful websites.

The term Veteran is used to mean all those who have served in the UK Armed Forces including their widow(er)s and dependants. If you have served in the UK Armed Forces, regardless of whether it was in war or during peace time or if you were a volunteer, reservist or national servicemen, you are now considered to be a veteran.

The Veterans Agency also provides support and advice to war pensioners and widow(er)s via the War Pensioners' Welfare Service. Welfare staff are located throughout the UK and can undertake home visits when required. The Welfare Service can be contacted by ringing the Veterans Agency free Helpline.

The Veterans Agency can provide information about the **Heroes Return** scheme. This scheme will fund travel costs for veterans (including former PoWs) and their present day carers to visit the countries where they served, and will help veterans to record their experiences on these visits.

## Contact Details:

### Address:

Veterans Advice Unit  
Veterans Agency  
Norcross  
Blackpool  
FY5 3WP

### Phone:

Free Helpline: 0800 169 2277  
Free Minicom: 0800 169 3458  
Tel (Overseas): +44 1253 866043

### E-mail:

help@veteransagency.mod.uk

### Website:

www.veteransagency.mod.uk

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## Gibraltar Tercentenary

As part of Gibraltar's Tercentenary the Government is offering to sponsor financially and host a number of visits to the Rock as part of their Celebrations. The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and its Forebears have been offered 57 places for veterans **who have served in Gibraltar** during the visit which will take place between 8-15 October 2004.

Details available at this time are:

- Free return flights from LUTON airport (arrange own transport and parking).
- Free food and accommodation for the week (double room sharing).
- Wives can accompany at a cost of £350.
- Mandatory programme of events as arranged by the Chief Minister.
- Free time available.
- Valid passport, travel insurance and spending money will be required.

RHQ PWRR will not commit to this event unless a party of 57 is guaranteed. A 'First Come First Served' policy will be applied. **Genuinely** interested individuals, **who must have served in Gibraltar**, should contact:

Maj (Retd) S R Bream QGM  
Assistant Regimental Secretary  
RHQ PWRR  
Howe Barracks  
Canterbury  
Kent CT1 1JY

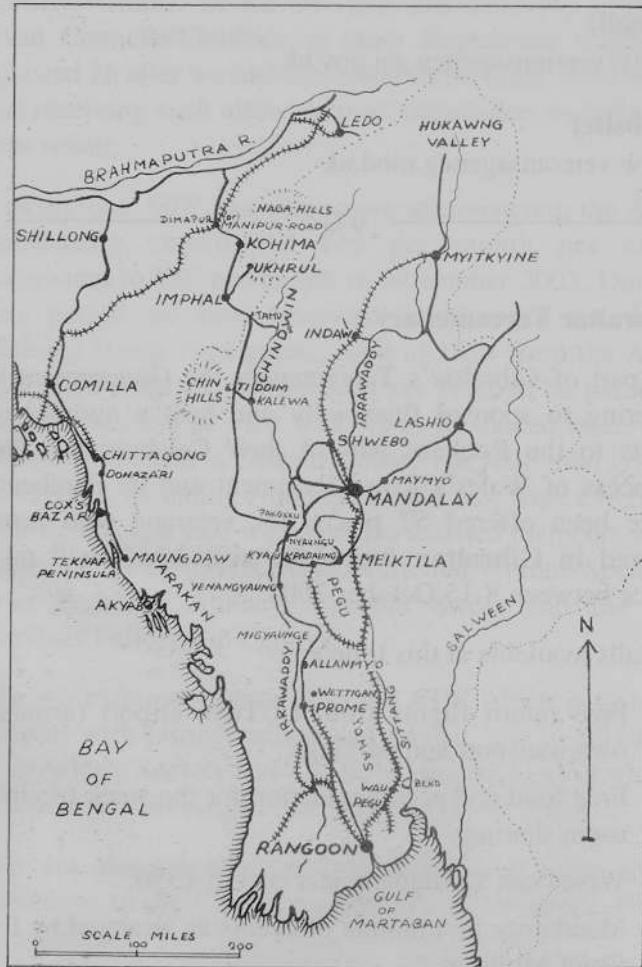
Telephone: 01227 818857

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## Kohima

### Background.

The 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment had moved to the Arakan in August 1943 as part of 33 Indian Infantry Brigade in the 7th Indian Division. Between October 1943 and April 1944 the Battalion was involved in a succession of operations at the Teknaf Peninsula, Awlanbyn, the Letwedet Chaung, the Battle of the Boxes and the Buthidaung Massif. By the end of March the Japanese were unable to sustain their renewed offensive in the region and were gradually killed or driven out.



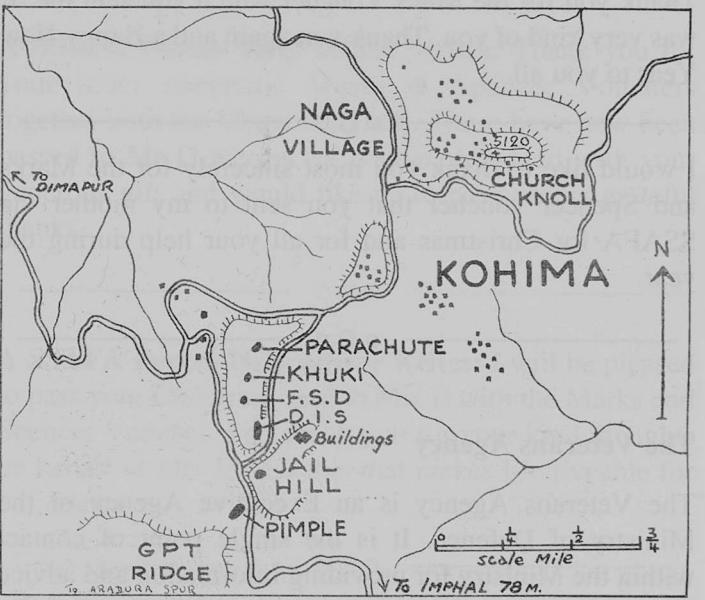
During the first week of March 1944 the Japanese had launched the U-Go offensive, in the area of Imphal and Kohima, to forestall a British invasion of Burma and to open the way for the invasion of India. The small garrison at Kohima was cut off on 5th April by elements of the Japanese 31st Infantry Division. Between 5th and 18th April the small British garrison at Kohima saw some of the most bitter close quarter fighting of the war until relieved by the British 2nd Division. However most of the commanding Kohima Ridge still remained in Japanese hands.

In early April 1st Queen's had moved to Chittagong and flown to Assam. Having been initially deployed on defensive operations at Dimapur, on 5th May the battalion rejoined 33 Bde to move to the relief of Kohima. On arriving in the area the Brigade would come under command of 2 Division. The Battalion moved by

M.T. on 6th May and debussed at milestone 42 about three miles to the west of Kohima. They then had a stiff climb to the Rifle Range area, short of the GPT Ridge. They were now over 5,000 feet above sea-level.

### The First Attack on Jail Hill.

Lt Col Duncombe received orders to attack Jail Hill, the largest feature in the central Kohima position and the key-point of the Japanese defences, on the following day (7th May). Whilst the strength and location of the opposition on Jail Hill was not known, it was obvious that no attack could succeed unless GPT Ridge, which could completely command Jail Hill from the right rear, was first cleared of Japanese. The Battalion plan was therefore contingent on GPT Ridge being cleared first.



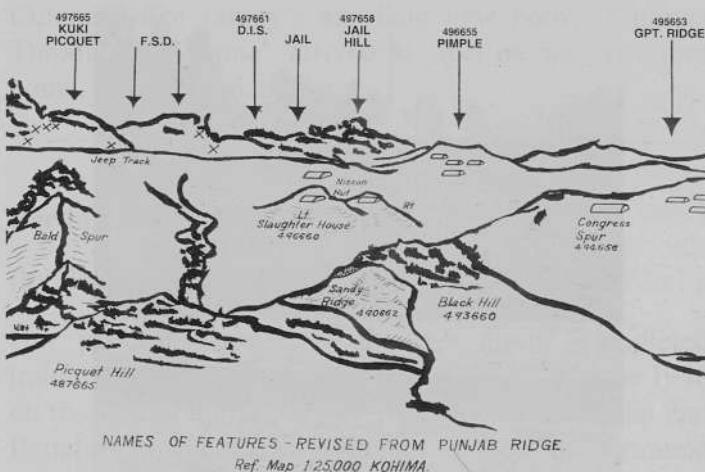
The Battalion had a sleepless night in pouring rain. At 1030 hours on 7th May when the Battalion's attack was due to begin, GPT Ridge had not been cleared and the start was postponed for an hour. By that time the Ridge was still not captured but the enemy on it were considered to be so fully engaged that 1st Queen's attack on Jail Hill itself could go in. The Battalion attacked with great gallantry. The initial objective was captured and 'D' Company, closely followed by 'A' Company, swept onto Jail Hill as the artillery barrage there finished. Although overrunning the first bunkers, 'D' Company soon came under heavy fire from both flanks and the assault was slowed down. 'A' Company which had followed up closely came under devastating fire from both flanks when about a quarter of the way up the hill and could advance no further.

The initial objective, a feature known as 'Pimple', which had been taken by 'C' Company without opposition, had come under heavy fire from the Jail Hill area and from GPT Ridge. Despite the most determined efforts to clear it, the Japanese on GPT Ridge were in sufficient strength to command 'Pimple' and dominate Jail Hill. The Brigade Commander decided that the Battalion should

withdraw to its original harbour area. At 1500 hours all available artillery and 3-inch mortar smoke were put down on both flanks of Jail Hill to mask the enemy positions. Under this cover all the casualties were first evacuated before Battalion Headquarters and the companies were brought back.

### The Second Attack on Jail Hill.

In order to clear, finally, the F.S.D., D.I.S. and Jail Hill positions a co-ordinated plan was drawn up between 33rd Indian Infantry and 4th British Brigades for the second attack on 11th May. After GPT Ridge had been taken by others, 1st Queen's was to capture Jail Hill at first light. Two other battalions (Royal Berkshires and 4/15th Punjab) would attack F.S.D. and D.I.S.; on the night before the action 1/1st Punjab would infiltrate on to 'Pimple' and dig in by first light.



NAMES OF FEATURES - REVISED FROM PUNJAB RIDGE  
Ref. Map 125,000 KOHIMA

After a difficult and tiring approach march the Battalion formed up with 'C' Company right forward, 'B' Company left forward, and 'A' and 'D' Companies close behind. Following a heavy artillery barrage, at 0500 hours 'C' and 'B' Companies commenced the assault. Opposition was encountered from enemy positions on the summit and on reaching the top the leading companies were held up by heavy L.M.G. fire. 'A' and 'D' Companies, closely following up, were engaging enemy positions and mopping up posts which had been overrun by the leading companies.

The enemy posts on D.I.S. and GPT features had not been entirely eliminated and all four companies on Jail Hill were subjected to very heavy L.M.G. fire from both flanks, front and rear. Casualties were considerable and both officers in 'C' Company were amongst those killed. By late afternoon the entire north-west half of Jail Hill was in the hands of the Battalion and the troops were digging in and ordered to hold on at all costs. Casualties were mounting and the Battalion was reinforced by two companies of 4/1st Gurkha Rifles.

On the morning of 12th May Grant tanks got through to support the attackers and succeeded in destroying some emplacements. When the tanks ceased firing a company of Gurkhas attacked the emplacements with great

gallantry, capturing two and surrounding a third. Although enemy fire diminished, sniping continued and casualties were still being incurred: late in the afternoon OC 'A' Company was mortally wounded.

At dawn on 13th May the Queen's and Gurkha patrols found the other emplacements clear of enemy. By evening the whole feature was in the Battalion's possession and consolidated. Twenty Japanese emplacements, all of which had been recently occupied, were found. On 14th May 1st Queen's was relieved by a Punjab battalion and returned to their harbour area. The Battalion's total casualties in the two attempts had been 4 officers and 57 other ranks killed, and 6 officers and 106 wounded.

### After Jail Hill.

On 22nd May 1st Queen's moved to Naga Village on the left flank of Kohima where the Japanese continued to fight. Several days fighting, which included an enemy attack in strength against the Brigade position, followed. On the Glorious First of June, their last day in the line, 1st Queen's supported by tanks captured the stronghold of Naga Village. The Battalion was then withdrawn to Dimapur to rest and refit before it returned to action in late June.

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### Kohima, Sixty Years On

(by Major Michael Hare)

Dawn broke at five o'clock, accompanied by a tremendous thunder storm directly above my hotel on P.R. Hill (I am not sure what PR stands for) in Kohima. Sixty years ago these ferocious rumblings, bangs and flashes would have been from Japanese, British and Indian artillery exchanges as the struggle for Kohima continued.

But today was to be my first full day in 21st century Kohima, where the countryside has undoubtedly changed very considerably since April and May 1944. This place, now a large sprawling town of probably at least 50,000 people, is the capital of Nagaland, an Indian state established on 1st December 1963. The Nagas, made up of some fifteen groups of Burmese-Tibetan tribesmen, are largely Christians with historical head-hunting tendencies, who on the whole are not keen to be part of India: there is, consequently, an element of unrest around.

Armed with my passport, Indian visa and Restricted Area Permit, I got out of my car and approached the Naga Police Check Point on the outskirts of Dimapur, the then vital railhead for the Allies in the 1942 to 1945 period, and now on the state boundary. Two small but sturdy, khaki clad, armed and very no-nonsense looking policemen unsmilingly watched my approach to their

rather seedy looking wooden hut; I should add at this point there was only me, a lone non-Indian, and the permit I bore allowed the entry to Nagaland, subject to numerous petty conditions, of foreigners in a group of at least four people, so I wasn't sure of my welcome. However, the police were charm itself, though we had no common language. The one chair was dusted down, my documents scrutinised and laboriously copied into their well-thumbed official record book and within five minutes I was on my way into Nagaland, or more specifically Dimapur, a bustling, chaotic and filthy place, which my driver and I contrived to leave as soon as we could.

The battle honour "Defence of Kohima" was awarded only to 4RWK and the Assam Rifles, for their heroic stand against the Japanese thrust in April 1944. All the other units involved in the battle thereafter, including 1 QUEEN'S, were awarded plain "Kohima" for their spirited and tireless endeavours. The Assam Rifles are very much still in Nagaland, as frequently visible foot and vehicle patrols on the roads, villages and towns showed. Billboards in the roadside villages proclaim "The Assam Rifles, the friends of the tribes", which rather implies that perhaps they were not.

The Dimapur to Kohima road, a forty six mile and two and a half hour drive by car, is in good condition, probably much better than the 1940s, no doubt to speed the deployment of Indian army units should the need arise. It climbs steadily through beautiful forested areas and swings round many hairpin bends as it nears its destination at about 5,000 feet above sea level. There are some lovely panoramic views, occasional evidence of landslides on or near the road and some unwitting entertainment. This is in the form of frequent exhortations, to the speeding and hooting Indian drivers, in black English writing on large yellow painted stones with admonitions such as "After Whisky Driving Risky" and "If Married Divorce Speed", along with many others.

This road, though patrolled, is through 'bandit' country and should not be used after dark. Oil tankers and other plunderable vehicles travel in protected convoys, making it difficult and dangerous to overtake anywhere.

I looked carefully for Milestone 42 where 1 QUEEN'S debussed on 6th May 1944, but I could not find it. We reached Kohima at about four in the afternoon; by five it was getting dark and by six the place was almost deserted except by police and army patrols. One does not go out by night here.

The thunderstorm which had awoken me soon moved on and a hot sun came out. After a surprisingly good breakfast my driver and I set off to locate various features and positions. Our first task was to discover the site of the District Commissioner's bungalow and the famous tennis court, the epicentre of the April 1944 struggle and whence Cpl Harman of 4RWK won his posthumous

Victoria Cross. Armed with a copy of the sketch map of the battle from the Regimental History, and after a series of directions and counter directions, we found it, and I was allowed past the armed policeman at the gate of the present DC's bungalow, built on the site of the original one, and onto the tennis court, now derelict. It was then that it was possible to see the lie of the land from the defenders' point of view, though now much built over. We discovered the Jail on Jail Hill without too much difficulty, but again the area all around it is now covered in houses. Except for Garrison Hill, where the Commonwealth War Cemetery is established, the other undulating features on the sketch map were impossible to pinpoint, buried in housing. Nearly everybody we saw was too young to have been around in 1944 and many had no knowledge at all of the conflict.



The Commonwealth War Cemetery was in immaculate order, but nevertheless there were a couple of platoons, with their weapons, of the Assam Rifles who were deployed in a gardening and tidying role. The cemetery is terraced with the main memorial at the highest point, where the symbolic lines of a tennis court are also laid out. The graves are largely, though not entirely, in regimental groupings, with 1 QUEEN'S on the lower terrace at the northern end. The well known Kohima Epitaph is carved on a stone adjacent to this, readable from outside the cemetery, as is also a memorial to the men of 1 QUEEN'S and 4th/1st Gurkha Rifles killed in the Jail Hill battles of May 1944. It is all very moving.

My journeys in and just outside the town were made more difficult because a lot of the main roads were being resurfaced, and there were diversions everywhere. Later on in the afternoon we found our way up a high ridge feature which overlooked most of Kohima and its

immediate surrounds and gave us a bird's eye view of everything.

The next day we drove back down to Dimapur and out of Nagaland back into Assam and on to Guwahati, the state capital, on the south bank of the mighty Brahmaputra River. This vast waterway had sustained the Allied lines of supply and communication in the 1940s but is now disappointingly empty of shipping. Here, too, is a smaller Commonwealth War Cemetery with only one soldier of 1 QUEEN'S, but also, rather surprisingly, the graves of about a dozen Japanese soldiers who I assume died of wounds as PoWs.

I discovered then that the Indian Prime Minister was due to visit Kohima a week after I left, hence all the road resurfacing, shop front painting and the War Cemetery tidying. I hope he was impressed.

Colonel Mike Lowry's excellent new book, 'Fighting Through to Kohima', arrived to greet me on my return home. It is a fascinating story.

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### Berlin Revisited

(by Peter Matthews)

Our platoon, shown in the photograph, completed training and was sent to Germany on the 6th of June 1948 on the fourth anniversary of D-Day. We joined the 2nd Battalion of The Queen's Royal Regiment in Dortmund and were overawed by the men who had seen so much action in Europe. They were preparing for demob and we were to replace them; we felt very much as boys among men.



*The platoon on completing initial training. The cup is for best performance of an intake of conscripts in the Spring of 1948 at Shorncliffe Barracks.*

After a couple of weeks the regiment received orders to go to Berlin. Seven of us promptly contracted German measles (very apt) and were immediately dispatched to Military Hospital so as not to spread the plague. We listened to the wireless with mounting excitement in our

hospital beds, as the autobahn on which the trucks of our regiment were travelling became more and more restricted so that a six-hour journey took two days. The convoy was threatened and harassed by Red Army soldiers in all sorts of ways, as we heard later. Our spots duly disappeared but by then the road to Berlin was firmly closed. The Russians were now blockading the city so that no food, fuel or people could move in or out and 2.5 million people were under siege.

The sickly seven were ordered to join the regiment in Berlin by air. We did not know that we would be in the first aircraft in the vast airborne armada, which became the Berlin Airlift. Our flight was the first of the supply planes into the British sector's Gatow airport but we were all too unwell to take much notice. Gatow was a deserted airfield with empty sheds and long grass but was set to explode into a centre for the greatest air supply of a city the world had ever seen. I was propped up by "Curly" Hooper as we all palely loitered into the still empty huts. The next day headlines in the Daily Express screamed

### "CRACK TROOPS OF THE QUEEN'S FLOWN INTO BERLIN"

Our Regiment was billeted in the City's Olympic Stadium. Colonel East, our much respected CO, had been wounded in the First World War, and had seen service in the Second at Dunkirk and El Alamein. As the 2nd Battalion he paraded us on the Platz in front of the Stadium. We were commanded as 2nd Battalion to lay down our arms, then commanded to again take up our arms as 1st Battalion. Later, when we were on leave, two ex Queen's men noticed our pascal lamb badge and asked about the Regiment.

"I was in the 1st Battalion" said one.

"I was in the 2nd" said the other.

"We were in both" we were able to chorus.

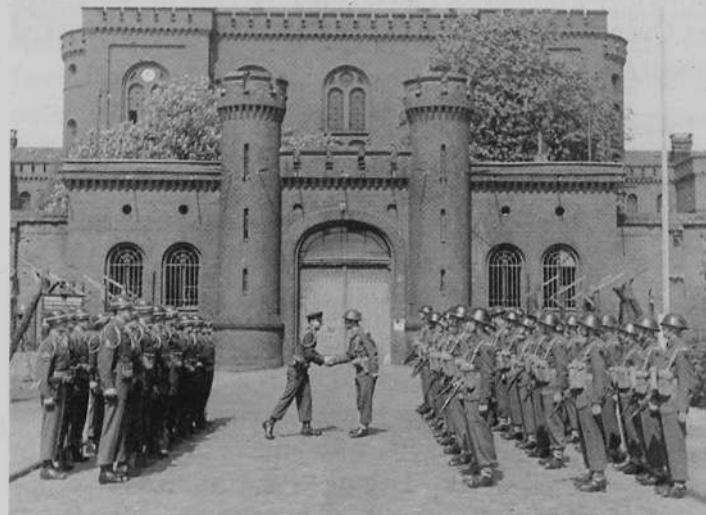
Berlin had been reduced to ruins by the bombs and shells of avenging armies; her inhabitants were in a parlous state. Young and old scribbled notes and pinned them to notice boards in public places, seeking news of lost relatives or friends in a city with little or no telephones or postal service; or even lacking postal addresses. As the blockade tightened, power for light and heat was switched off by the Russians and food became scarcer as winter approached. Children waited to be evacuated in planes returning empty to the outside world. Weeping parents waved them off as we watched from our guard posts.

Berliners patched up their ruined houses and tore down every available tree to create some heat in their shacks. Food was the main pre-occupation and money was valueless. The Black Market was a way of life - if you had something to sell, so we were constantly plagued with requests for cigarettes. British troops were fed on a continuous diet of POM (dried potato) and dried fish.

These were the foodstuffs that weighed little, which was important on an aircraft's payload. One day a rumour started that real potatoes were being served in the cookhouse, so there was a near riot when POM was served yet again. God knows what the populace had to eat but it was not enough to sustain many, particularly the old who suffered and often died as winter began to bite.

Duty at Gatow airfield during that time was a punishing round of guard rosters, and sleep was at a premium. Aircraft landed every 3 minutes and the noise of engines became a background to our lives. We stood guard over the huge cargoes of food including the everlasting POM. Thousands of tons of coal shovelled out of the holds of old propeller driven Dakota aircraft went to power the electrical generation plants for a few hours a day.

Finally, spring came and Berliners began to grow vegetables everywhere; carrots in window boxes, onions in the soil between tramlines. The growers guarded their precious produce with a great ferocity. The Regiment was moved from the spacious but unheated Olympic Stadium to the barely heated Schmidt Knoblesdorf Barracks in Spandau but we still lived by candlelight in the hours of darkness. Around the corner was the old red brick prison where the seven Nazi war criminals, Hess, Von Speer etc. were kept. Russian, American, French and British troops took turns monthly to supply guards to man towers high up on the prison wall. From our vantage points we watched Hitler's old associates tending their vegetable patches (yes, they were at it as well) as the weather improved.



'B' Company of the Queen's Royal Regiment formally taking over the guard duties at Spandau Prison from a detachment of the American Army.

The life of Berlin was gaining momentum among vast heaps of rubble. Typhus from the bodies in the ruins had been a major fear but now, with time, the clearance began. Everybody worked - those that did not receive no food rations. Women in party frocks and high heeled shoes (probably all they had) cleared bricks and rubbish all over the City. Berliners began to realise with relief that they had a future and the City began to blossom in more ways than one.

Meanwhile, a new, and to our minds over keen, 2nd Lieutenant arrived in our company by the name of Millman. He played a major part in the Regiment's life and retired with the rank of Brigadier. His sad death was reported in the regimental newsletter of May 2003. Corporal Wilson in the Battalion's signal section was a well known figure; later as a Lieutenant Colonel he played a key role in running the Regimental Association. The months passed and the Airlift faltered, slowly petering out as the Russians realised that they were not going to be able to take over the city by starving it into submission.

The story does not end there because my son gave me a present last Christmas. He had listened - or not listened - to my stories about Berlin and how I was going back there some day. He finally called my bluff and gave my wife and myself a holiday in Berlin. Just to make me feel at home, he booked it for early February. So it was that for the first time in fifty-four years I landed back in Berlin.

We stayed near the busy and fashionable Kafurstendamm that I only remembered as an endless pile of rubble. We ate meals in their restaurants that the Berliners in Airlift times would have killed for. I visited Schmidt Knoblesdorf Barracks in a horizontal snowstorm: it was all still there including Corporal Wilson's barrack block. It is now a computer-training centre and the parade ground made sacred by our RSM is now a car park. I expected to see nothing of Spandau Prison as I had heard it had been demolished. The massive central gate and the main part of the prison had certainly gone but there were still some red brick buildings within a high wall that marked the site. The remainder, where the Nazi leaders had tended their little vegetable patches, was now a supermarket full of exotic fruits and vegetables.

The highlight of my visit was the Olympic Stadium, which was being rebuilt.

"Nobody goes in without permission" said the German watchman wearing his 'jobsworth' hat. I explained in my pidgin German, learned fifty years ago, that I only wanted to see the rooms where I had lived in that tumultuous time. He was adamant;

"Nein".

A little man standing by intervened, handing me a construction worker's helmet, and without a word beckoned me to follow him, completely ignoring the German watchman. He showed me all I wanted to see of our company's old billets and explained that he was Bosnian. The British Army had rescued him and his family from death at the hands of the Serbs. He refused, with a slightly indignant air, the money I proffered and said that what he did came from the heart. So the British Army's work goes on.

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### The East Surrey Regiment Officers' Reunion Lunch

(by Colonel Geoff Strong)

Thanks again to the kindness of The Commanding Officer of The London Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Jeremy Mooney, in allowing us to use his Headquarters Officers' Mess and to the efficient service of June Daniels and her good natured team, thirty seven of us had a great time on Thursday 22nd April. Thirty nine had booked in, the same number as attended last year, but unfortunately Mike Rixon and Les Wilson had to drop out at fairly short notice.



Say Cheese

John Rogerson shows Tony Wade how it should be done.

Ron Morris shuns publicity

It was a brilliantly sunny and warm day. As a result, on arrival I found the dining room too warm. I turned off the radiators and Tony Ridger, who had come from his home in Laroquevieille in Southern France for the sum of thirty nine Euros, thanks to Ryan Air, opened some windows. I told him that we would have to close the ones overlooking St John's Hill, when the lunch started, due to traffic noise. However, the ambiance was such that, in the event, if we had shut the windows it would have been to obviate complaints from people in St John's Hill about the noise from the Mess.



Greece and Somalia Contingent

Donald Abbott, Bryan Ray, Noel Pepperall, Derek Bishop, Geoff Strong

Anno Domini is a pretty formidable adversary. Nevertheless, it was great to still have some half-a-dozen real soldiers, by which I mean World War II chaps, with us. They were typified by Bill Brown, who was commissioned on 22nd October 1939 and reported to The

Depot at Kingston on 11th November. What tales he could tell, if he chose to do so, which he wouldn't.



Welcome Back

Tony Price and Richard Fisher with Jack St Aubyn deep in thought

It was good to welcome back into the Regimental Family Ken Bond, who served in Greece between 1946 and 1948, and Richard Fisher and Tony Price of the mid 50s era. We are still open for recruits.

Derek Bishop presided, skilfully keeping his comments commendably short and amusing; less ribald than usual too!! I followed by saying that I would organise the 2005 Reunion, which would be on Thursday 21st April, subject to the availability of the mess.

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### Queen's (Southwark) OCA

(by Major S Playfoot)

On 6th March 2004 the anniversary of the Battle of Medenine was celebrated by 1/7th Queen's at their annual lunch. At the same time the usual visit by representatives of Sint Niklaas recalled their liberation in 1944.

The President, Major Stuart Playfoot MC, welcomed all the guests and commented that some had travelled long distances to attend from various parts of the UK, and one member had come from Canada. All were determined to continue the annual celebration. Unfortunately our numbers are dwindling but nevertheless it is the intention of the committee to continue the lunch and Remembrance Parade for as long as possible.

The royal toasts to Her Majesty The Queen and King Albert of Belgium were drunk. Toasts were also drunk to the guests and to "absent friends". Mr De Cuyper of Sint Niklaas laid a floral tribute and 'Reveille' and 'Last Post' were played by members of the Royal British Legion.

It was announced that Major J Tamplin MBE, our Secretary for many years, was resigning and he was thanked for his great service to the Association. Finally the Rowe family who had made all the arrangements were congratulated on a magnificent effort and warmly thanked by all.

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## Regimental Reunion 2003



Majors Max Maloney and Brian Wright in relaxed mode



Laurie Costa, Patrick Murphy, Sid Levy, D'Arcy O'Farrell



Les Wilson, Sid Levy and Tommy Atkins



Ron Wildgoose, D'Arcy O'Farrell and Ahmed Kiamil



Together again after 50 years, former National Servicemen Bruce Bartlett, Alf Guppay and Harry Cookson recall Basic Training at Guildford and subsequent service in Malaya



Lt Col Foster Herd brings everyone up to date on Association news

## Chelsea Hospital, Christmas Lunch 2003



Association President with (left) the late Arthur Kelly and (right) Cyril Cook



Colonel Toby Sewell during an inspection visit

## Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey, November 2003



## National Service 1958-1960

### The Queen's Royal Regiment - 52nd Intake

(by Harry Ulrich)

Having had my medical at Blackheath, Lewisham and been passed 'A1', I went home to await my call up. After several weeks I was informed that I was to report to Stoughton Barracks, Guildford to join The Queen's Royal Regiment. That evening I met a friend of mine to inform him of my fate. He told me he was to join the R.E.M.E. - this I thought rather strange, as I had just completed my apprenticeship and was now a toolmaker by trade, and I had originally requested to go into the R.E.M.E. - my friend was selling men's outfits for Burton's, and did not know one end of a spanner from the other. I suppose there was some logic but at the time I failed to see it.

However, report to Guildford I did along with many other young apprehensive lads. I remember through the course of the day chaps were turning up in dribs and drabs. Needless to say there is always one who turns up after the given time, and our intake was no exception. Well after the time, up turns Brian Weatherell. He was met by the duty Sergeant Eric Lockwood. "Where the flipping hell have you been?" (or words to that effect) were his first words to the unfortunate Mr. Weatherell.

"Sorry, I got lost on the underground" was the reply.

"And where have you come from?" was the next question.

"Peckham" was the next reply.

"What! Are you telling me you couldn't find your way from Peckham to Guildford without getting lost?" Needless to say, from that day forward they never quite saw eye to eye.

The 52nd intake was a mixed bag, as I'm sure all intakes were; we had Mod's, Rocker's, Teddy Boys, College types etc. However, after we had been kitted out and given our first haircuts we all had that 'look alike' look. There were four platoons at Stoughton Barracks: Alamein, Mons, Corunna & Salerno. I was seconded to Alamein platoon; so was Mr. Weatherell and guess who our platoon Sergeant was! You guessed it - Sergeant Eric Lockwood (nice one Mr. Weatherell, I thought). Mons Platoon Sergeant was Sergeant Riley and I think Corunna Platoon was Sergeant Pearson, whilst Salerno's Platoon Sergeant escapes me.

Basic training was twelve weeks, which turned out to be the longest weeks of our lives, broken only by the chance to appear in the film 'Carry On Sergeant'. It was filmed at Stoughton Barracks, and our intake appeared in the passing out parade in the film. The only person to be recognised was RSM Tommy Atkins; I guess that as the rest of us did not have equity cards we were extras, making up the crowds so to speak.



Platoon boxing team, Stoughton Barracks

After our first forty eight hour leave (having completed our basic training), upon returning to Stoughton Barracks Sergeant Lockwood informed us that we were to join the Battalion in Iserlohn (Germany.) He was to go with us and only a few of the chaps from our intake were being left behind. Some of the names that spring to mind that were to go were George Fry, Ron Rhone, Roy King, Brian Weatherell, Bill Shipton, Bob Salter, Maurice Towner, Dai Rees, Pete Kirby, John Todd, Terry Uggles, Dave Wallace, Titch Rice, Alan Warnes, Reg Tamplin and of course yours truly Harry Ulrich, to name but a few.



Passing Out Parade day, back row L to R: Terry Uggles, Maurice Towner, front row L to R: Harry Ulrich, Tony Rice

When we arrived at Iserlohn the Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel David Lloyd Owen, spoke to us. He welcomed us to the Battalion, and told us we were to form 'A' Company. All the above were included - and Brian Weatherell was pleased to hear that (once again) Sergeant Eric Lockwood was to be with us. Life in the Battalion proved difficult. Just to find your way around the camp took some getting used to, and the drill timing was much faster than we had been taught at Guildford. Being the new boys we also felt slightly intimidated by the 'old sweats'. Number one on the list to look out for was the Provost Sergeant (Sergeant Stevens), a very rotund man with a German Shepherd dog.

'A' Company commander was Captain Donaldson and Lieutenant Trotman and 2nd Lieutenant Stuart Anderson were two of the other officers. Of course, all of these officers rose to much higher ranks in the army as they were professional soldiers and not national servicemen like yours truly.



'A' Company Trooping the Colour, Iserlohn

During our tour in Germany, on one occasion we did a tank training exercise with the Scots Greys at a place called Sennelager. I was fortunate enough to be on the same tank as His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent. Basically each squad was allocated a tank, and we all had to link arms whilst sitting on our given tanks and be driven along to a destination, where we had to disembark, run forward, form a semi-circle and give all round rifle cover. Thinking back two lasting memories come to mind. Why did we have to sit on the red-hot exhaust tubes on the tank? And why did the tanks always have to stop where the water and mud were inches deep?

However, once we had completed the exercise, and if my memory serves me correctly, we had a wonderful time that evening in the NAAFI beer bar, all of us sitting at tables enjoying a beer together. As the evening got into full swing, one from the Greys would get up and sing a

song, then one from the Queen's would do the same. Incidentally, it didn't matter how tone deaf you were, after the amount of beer we had all sunk everyone sounded like Frank Sinatra; or so we thought at the time. The singing went on and on, right up until the duty officer came to shut the bar.

We also went to the town of Hameln in Germany, to the river Weser to engage in an aquatic exercise. We were allocated a number of boats, which had canvas sides and wooden straps coming vertically down to support the canvas sides. When the wooden straps were knocked horizontally the canvas sides collapsed. The start of the exercise was to have the boats in the collapsed position by the edge of the river. There were four teams competing and the crews consisted of six, plus one corporal and an anchorman in the front. We were all dressed in denims, boots, gaiters, small packs and helmets, and carried rifles. Each team had to stand about ten yards up the bank of the river. On the other bank of the river, positioned about fifty yards down stream, there were four sets of white tapes going up the bank. Each set was thirty feet long and about fifty feet apart. On the word of command each team had to run down to the boats, pull up the sides and knock in the vertical supports. Then they had to paddle as fast as possible to the other side to land between their respective two white tapes.

As the river was flowing at about one hundred miles an hour (in non-nautical terms) this proved to be very difficult. To try to get some sort of togetherness, the corporal of the party, ours being Corporal George Fry, had to count out loud to enable us to all stroke at the same time - "one, two, three, four" and so on. Once reaching the other side, upon the word of command the seventh chap, who was holding the anchor in the bow, would have to leap out, run ashore and secure the boat. This would enable the rest of us to get ashore, run forward, drop to the ground and give all round cover; the first team to do so would be the winners of the race.

The chap who was to jump ashore with the anchor for us was Titch Rice, aptly named as he was only about five feet tall on tiptoe. The word of command was given and the race got under way; our boat did quite well. But as we reached the other shore, Corporal Fry, in his eagerness to win, unfortunately did not realise that when he gave the word for Titch to jump the boat was still about eight feet from the bank - and the water was probably about the same depth. So when Titch Rice jumped all that remained visible above the water line was the top of his helmet. After producing hundreds of air bubbles, Titch finally emerged from the water, covered in blanket weed and gasping for air. If the truth be known, I think the biggest fear we had was that one of us might have to give him the kiss of life. Eventually, however, after managing to wade ashore he finally secured the boat, and we in turn were able to run ashore and give the all round cover.

To get over to the other bank the corporals calling the stroke would have counted about forty/fifty strokes; this plus the time it had taken with Titch nearly drowning, we

thought we had really blown it. But all was not lost, for it turned out that the crews of the other boats were not keen on the corporals in charge, and had decided that the Navy was not for them. As their boats rounded the bend in the river and faded into the distance some two hundred yards down stream, we could hear the faint voices of the corporals calling out the strokes "One hundred, one hundred and one, one hundred and two .....". The crews re-appeared some hours later carrying their boats over the fields. I may have forgotten to mention that all this was done in the middle of the night.

After many further adventures and quite a few months, 'A' Company were called together and told by Colonel David Lloyd Owen that we were to be seconded to the East Surreys to bring their battalion up to strength. We were going to Cyprus with them and were to be stationed in Nicosia. During the next few days we were kitted out and given the necessary jabs etc. Within a very short period we were all shipped to the airport and flew out, to arrive at Nicosia airport in the middle of the night.



Nicosia, Cyprus

My first and abiding memory of Cyprus was the smell of pine trees and the heat. Finally, after receiving clearances we all boarded three tonners and were then driven to the barracks. As the advance party had erected all the tents, all we had to do was to get our heads down for the night and try to get a good night's sleep.

In the morning the usual bodily functions had to be performed. It came as a bit of a shock to find that the latrines were some thirty yards in diameter, with four feet high hessian walls, and the toilets were only buckets with wooden seats. A total of about thirty of these bucket seats were positioned around the perimeter, and you could bet your life that whenever you have completed your function, the toilet rolls were always twenty buckets away. However after a few weeks a decision was made to build proper toilets. So we set to digging trenches, some fifty feet long, twelve feet deep, and six feet wide. We would then have to build separate cubicles and fit proper seats.

A few weeks after completion, one particular morning I was taking my turn when I thought I heard what sounded like a bell ringing from down below. Eventually curiosity got the better of me, and looking down I saw this Cypriot's face looking up at me. His head was just about

clearing the 'you know what', with his arms aloft ringing this bell. I just could not believe my eyes, however I went to get help, and after a great deal of effort we eventually managed to get this chap out. It was decided that the only way we were going to clean him up was to hose him down. We eventually found out what had happened. Apparently this chap was one of the camp workers and upon arriving at work he needed to go to the toilet. Whilst he was standing on the toilet seat (as this seemed to be his method of going to the toilet) his foot slipped and he plummeted down below. However he had remembered that on the way to work his bell fell off of his bicycle, and not wanting to be late for work he had put it in his pocket. An hour or so later, whilst he was up to his neck and nearly submerged, he remembered the bell, which proved to be very handy in his hour of need.

Like many others we carried out many tasks during our stay in Cyprus. Some of the duties that come to mind were guards at Nicosia general hospital, where prisoners that needed treatment were being kept in a special ward. Nicosia central prison was another duty we undertook.

There were many curfews around various villages. One particular curfew was around the village of Morphou. We were to keep guard whilst other personnel went in to search for suspects. I can remember we encircled the village some fifty yards outside the perimeter. With a distance of about forty feet between one soldier and the next, we were just about able to still see each other, but not close enough to communicate.

As it always happens, in the middle of the night, pitch black and deathly silent, I heard this noise coming from behind. I can remember at the time thinking to myself, "why me? I'm too young to die". As the noise got nearer and nearer, beads of perspiration began to form on my brow. Too scared to call out to the left or right, so intense was the fear creeping all over my body that I just lay there and waited until the noise was right on top of me. I quickly turned over onto my back, putting one up the spout as I turned. I can remember calling out the words we had been taught "Halt Stomata Dour" (not sure about the spelling) - only to find a donkey from the village staring down at me before he carried on grazing and walked away.

Just short of the required time to be entitled to our GSM medals we were all assembled and told we were to make no contact with our families, as we were to leave Cyprus for an undisclosed destination. We were taken to the docks, boarded LST's and set sail. After a period of time we were told that some trouble had started up in Suez, and that's where we were heading. Fortunately enough, though, during the voyage from Cyprus to Suez it had all cleared up. So we were diverted to Benghazi, North Africa.

(to be continued)

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Bruce Bartlett writes:-

I enjoyed meeting you at last month's reunion - as, indeed, I enjoyed everything else about the evening. Highlights included the discovery of two long lost contemporaries with whom I had started out on National Service Basic Training at Stoughton Barracks, Guildford, half a century earlier; followed by a happy encounter with one of our terrifying Training Sergeants from that time, now amazingly metamorphosised into a smiling, softly-spoken, retired Major! So, many thanks to everyone involved.

I am not sure that any of the enclosed pictures are up to Newsletter standards, but you may perhaps find the odd one of interest.

(Many of the photographs appear in the centre pages: Editor)

Don Papworth writes from India:

I was much saddened to see news of the death of Bruce McCririck - 1st Queen's - in the November 2003 Newsletter. Our regimental service more or less coincided: from 13 ITC, Invicta Lines, Maidstone to the Queen's at Redcar and the Yorkshire Moors - where we trained under Major George Grimston (who later commanded 1 Queen's in Burma).

In September 1943 we embarked on the P & O Mooltan at Glasgow, part of the second convoy through the Mediterranean, three weeks later arriving in Bombay and the British Base Reinforcement Camp, Deilali. A week's travel by train brought us to a transit camp at Gaya - entertained by what must have been the prototype of TV's "It ain't 'alf 'ot, Mum"! We arrived via Calcutta to board yet another train for Chittagong from where we boarded a small coastal boat to Cox's Bazaar and thence marched over the Ngakyedauk Pass to join 1st Queen's of 33 Indian Brigade of 7th Indian Division.

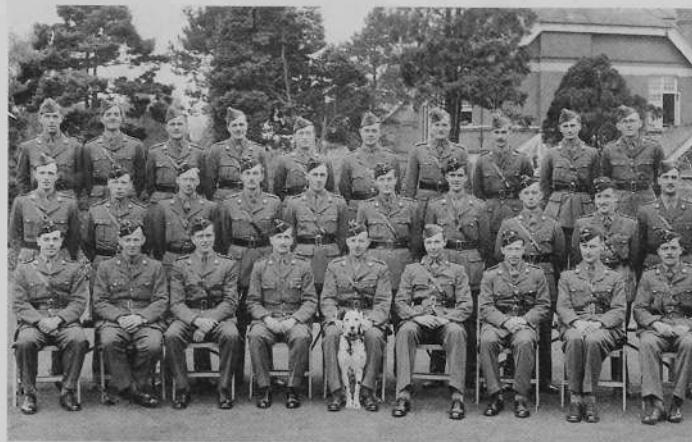
Mac, as he was known, had much front line service in Arakan with 'D' Company and 7th Division, being cut off and surrounded in February 1944 - relieved by 26th Indian Division - 1st Queen's were flown up to and moved to attack Jail Hill, the key feature in the holding of Kohima Ridge. Mac took part in both attacks, where 1st Queen's lost many good men killed and wounded. This valiant action by 1st Queen's was acknowledged by the CRA 2nd British Division, who had laid down such excellent and accurate artillery support, who sent a message to the CO 1st Queen's which, in part, read "that all ranks of the Royal Artillery regarded it as a very great honour to be able to support such a fine Battalion in their very gallant attacks on Jail Hill and Pimple".

Later Mac attained a commission, and was demobbed in the usual course of war time service. After the war he spent some years in Africa in business.



Major Toby Taylor writes:

I enclose a group photo. It was unusual in wartime. We were in Bournemouth after our return from Dunkirk. I do not remember most of the young officers' names. They replaced Dunkirk casualties and some went on to join the Paras etc and were not with us when we went to Tunisia. Of those shown I think that only I and Eric Cooper remain.



Officers 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment: Bournemouth, 1940

Back Row (L to R): Lt Godfrey-Smith (K.I.A. Italy), N/K, Lt I McMillan, Lt D Foster, N/K, Lt J Millard, N/K, N/K, N/K, Lt Tuck.

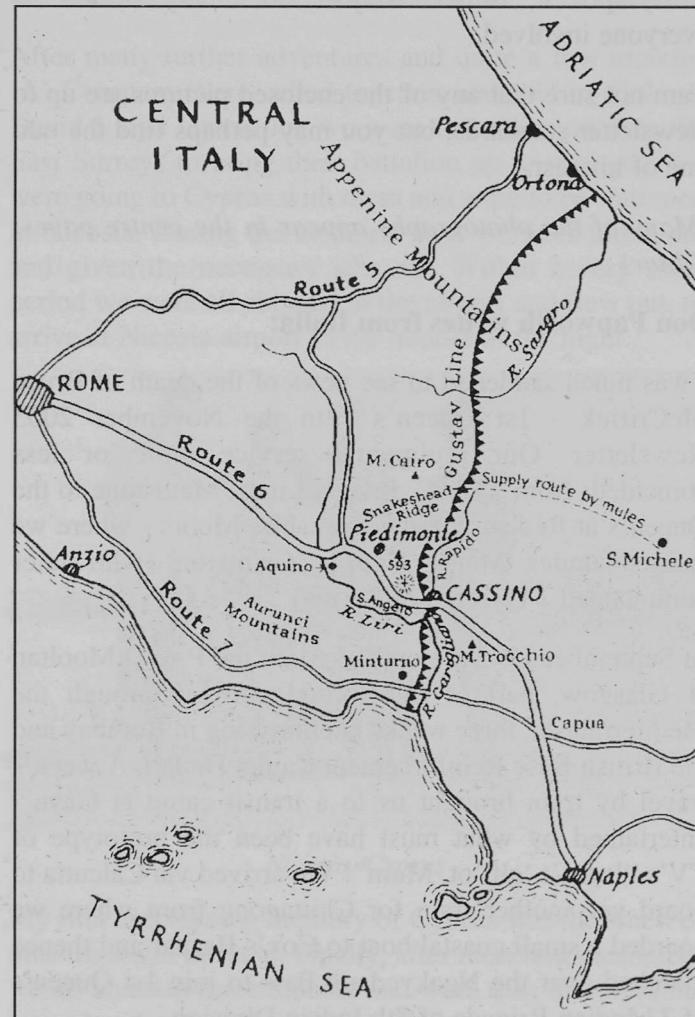
Middle Row: Lt Studeley, Capt G Birdsall (QM), N/K, Capt D Michelle, Lt N Crampton (K.I.A. Tunisia), Lt G Everitt (PoW Tunisia), Lt P Whiffin (PoW Tunisia), Capt L Brown, Lt Smith (RAMC), Capt R Andrews.

Front Row: Capt R C Taylor, Capt W D Caffyn (PoW Tunisia), Capt T A Buchanan, Maj D Alfree, Lt Col R A Boxshall, Capt R A Lindsay (K.I.A. Tunisia), Maj H B L Smith, Maj P G E Hill, Capt A E L Cooper.

Canine: Hugo (Capt Taylor's dog)

## Cassino

By the end of 1943, the Germans in Italy had withdrawn to the 'Gustav Line'. South east of Rome, it stretched across the whole of Italy from the Tyrrhenian Sea to the Adriatic and ran through mountainous regions. Monte Cassino and its monastery dominated Route 6, the main route to Rome through the Liri valley. The ground, with its ravines and rivers, favoured the defenders. It was to take four battles to break this line at Cassino.



The first battle lasted from 17th January until 11th February 1944. The first phase, an attack across the Garigliano, was fiercely repulsed and was followed by thrusts into the mountains north of Cassino by the Americans and French. These attacks drew the German reserves south and on 22nd January a landing was made at Anzio. Initially it met little resistance, however the build up was slow and progress stalled in the face of strong German counter-attacks.

The second battle, from the 15th to 18th February, sought to draw German forces from the beleaguered Anzio beachhead. The monastery was destroyed by bombers. Ground attacks were made on Monte Cassino and Cassino railway station but, although some gains were made, the Germans hung on. It was on the 18th February that 169 Brigade arrived at the Anzio Bridgehead.

The 1st Battalion The East Surreys had moved down to the Cassino area in late February 1944. Deployed



Bombing of the monastery

opposite the town of Sant' Angelo, on the south bank of the Rapido River, during the last week of February and much of March the Battalion carried out offensive patrols. The 1/6th Battalion, having arrived in Naples from Egypt on 21st February, moved into the front line in the mountains around Monte Cassino on 24th February.

The third battle took place from 15th to 20th March and saw more bombing, this time concentrated on Cassino town, as a prelude to the attack by the New Zealanders at which 1st Surreys were present. On the night of the 15th the 1/6th Battalion went back to the line for another four day spell in positions it had first occupied near Monte Cassino, lying low by day and patrolling by night. The New Zealanders captured part of the town, later to be evacuated, but 4th Indian Division could not reach the monastery and suffered heavy casualties. Subsequently 1st Surreys spent 28 days in 'the Bowl'.



L-R: Ptes Peacock, Moore, BAF Smith, 'C' Coy, 1 Surreys cleaning their weapons at a sangar near 'The Bowl', April 1944

The Allies' full weight was not brought to bear on Cassino until the fourth battle which took place between 11th and 18th May and opened with a heavy allied artillery bombardment. While the Fifth (US) Army on the left were initially held up, the French Corps made immediate progress in the Arunci mountains. British XIII

Corps, in the centre, were to force a crossing of the Rapido River. 1/6th Surreys led the 10th Brigade crossing at 'Rhino', a point a mile and a half below Cassino. The Rapido was a difficult river to cross for, although only sixty to eighty feet wide, it was deep and fast-flowing with banks varying from three to seven feet high.

The crossing was made on the night of 11th May against strong opposition. The outcome was very uncertain for a time as the 1/6th gallantly held their ground across the river but eventually the Brigade firmly established itself. On the 18th the Brigade was ordered to retake the town which the New Zealanders had been forced to leave. Whilst 1/6th Surreys retook Cassino, 'A' Company advanced towards the monastery. There they met the Polish Corps who, on the right, had taken the monastery.



1/6th Surreys going through the ruins of Cassino, 18 May 1944

Meanwhile 1st Surreys had crossed the Rapido on 16th May. Their set piece attack with 11 Brigade towards the Gustav Line on 17th May found that the Germans had withdrawn. With the fall of Cassino Town and the monastery, 1st Surreys advanced with 11 Brigade to Aquino. There the Battalion spent seven days in the line while the Canadians and 78th Division attacked the next German positions on the 'Adolph Hitler Support Line'.



British and Polish flags flying over the ruins of the monastery after its capture

By the third week in May the Germans were in full retreat; however the decision by General Mark Clark to ignore orders to attack from the Anzio breakout into the line of retreat and instead to strike for Rome effectively allowed the Germans to escape.

(Photographs: Imperial War Museum)

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## Medal Presentation

In July 2003 the Museum was contacted by the brother of the late Lieutenant H T P Large.

Peter Large had enlisted into the Natal Mounted Rifles in 1940 and had arrived in North Africa with the 1st South African Division. After El Alamein he was seconded to the Queen's. He subsequently saw action with 1/7th Queen's in Sicily, Italy and France. Sadly he was killed in Normandy, in the area of Villers Bocage, on the 12th June 1944 during a successful counter-attack by 'C' Company 1/7th Queen's after a forward platoon had been overrun.

The family were anxious to obtain a replica set of Lieutenant Large's medals and were given advice as to how to achieve this. In December 2003 Jonathan Large, a serving Army Officer in The Royal Australian Engineers who had taken on the task of preserving the memories of his late uncle's life for future family generations, and his family visited England. The family had asked whether it would be possible for a former serving member of the regiment to present the replica set of medals during their visit.

The Association and Museum were delighted to assist and the medals were presented to the family by Colonel Toby Sewell during a ceremony at the regimental museum.



Colonel Sewell with the family and medals after the ceremony

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# PAY ATTENTION CAN YOU HELP?



## Testimony Films

Testimony Films, an independent production company, is making a six part HTV series to commemorate the 60th anniversary, in 2005, of the end of the Second World War. The series will tell the untold stories of South West Servicemen and Women, specifically from Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire. Eventually the company will be looking to film just a small selection of people for the series, but at this stage they would like to hear a wide variety of personal accounts and stories. They are particularly looking for veterans of Dunkirk and D-Day, and also anyone who served in North Africa or Burma. All stories from the war are welcome, however. Testimony Films can be contacted at:  
12 Great George Street, Bristol BS1 5RS.  
Telephone: 0117 9258589.  
E-mail: clair@testimonyfilms.force9.co.uk

Alan Versey is trying to find information about his father's Second World War record. He believes that his father, Sgt R Versey, may have served with The Queen's Royal Regiment in Burma and India, and may have been Provost Sergeant on MV George which sailed from Singapore via India in 1947. He would be interested in hearing from anyone who may have been on the ship and can remember his father. Alan Versey can be contacted by e-mail at: alanversey@hotmail.com

Ronald Holme served with The Queen's Royal Regiment 1952-55 and was posted to Malaya during that period; he was one of the 'scousers' who served in the battalion. He would like to make contact with anyone who served with him and can be reached on e-mail at: ronald.holme@virgin.net

Hugo Levels is investigating the history of the Second World War in the area along the Maas River, between towns including Venlo, Roermond and Weert, for a local historical association. He would like to make contact with veterans who served in the area so that their experiences can be recorded. During the last 17 years he has made contact with 540 veterans but of these only four were from 1/5th, 1/6th and 1/7th Battalions of The

Queen's Royal Regiment which served in the area with 7th Armd Div. He can be contacted at: Hugo Levels, Ulensvaaren 47, 6086 GC Neer.



Tommo served with 'A' Company 2nd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment,

Robert Giles who served with 'D' Company 1/5th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment in France in 1940 before joining the RAF would like to hear from anyone who served with him.

(All information via Editor unless contact details given).

## Congratulations and Best Wishes



### Congratulations to:-

Mr and Mrs R M Dickinson who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 15th January 2004 at their home in Australia. They have also received congratulations from Her Majesty the Queen, from the Governor General and his lady, and from the Australian Prime Minister. Congratulations were also received from Revd Castle who "tied the knot" in 1944. In those days the church bells could not be rung for weddings; however the happy couple did not miss out completely since the air raid siren went off as they came out of the church into the midday sunshine! The groom served with The 1/5th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment.

## Regimental Deaths

Andrews - On 27th January 2004 aged 86, Colonel Peter Evelyn Clinton Andrews, the East Surrey Regiment (see obituary).

Austin - On 9th November 2003 aged 81, Ronald John Austin who served with The 2/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment during WW II.

Barilli - On 10th March 2004, Gordon William Barilli who served with The East Surrey Regiment.

Barnett - On 8th March 2004, Lionel Barnett who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Brown - On 19th January 2004, James Thomas Brown (see obituary).

Bushell - On 27th March 2004, Raymond Bushell who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Coletta - On 7th September 2002, aged 91, Ernest Anthony (Ernie) Coletta. He enlisted into The Queen's Royal Regiment at Guildford in November 1940 and saw service in North Africa and Italy before his discharge in 1946.

Corbett - On 8th September 2003, in Australia, Sergeant Stanley Arthur Corbett who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment from September 1942 until March 1946.

Cripps - On 5th January 2004, Sergeant Reginald Victor Cripps who served with The 1/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. He was evacuated from Dunkirk and subsequently saw service in North Africa, Italy and during the campaign following D-Day.

Croxford - On 24th March 2004, Sergeant Horace Robert Edward Croxford who enlisted into The Queen's Own Dorset Yeomanry in June 1939. He was transferred into The East Surrey Regiment in May 1941 and served with it until his discharge in April 1946.

Crutchfield - On 9th January 2004, Major Basil Arthur Crutchfield (see obituary).

Day - On 26th December 2003, John Henry Day. Conscribed into the Army in November 1942, he was trained as a light anti-aircraft gunner and posted to 101st LAA Regiment RA. The Regiment was disbanded in April 1944 and John Day was posted to The 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment with which he served in Egypt and Italy. He was then transferred to 5 RWK and thence to 1st Royal Hampshire. Discharged after almost 5 years conscripted service, he subsequently served with the TA from 1963 to 1972 when he was discharged having reached the maximum age. He was the author of the memoirs 'A Day at War' which appeared in instalments in the Association Newsletter between November 1998 and May 2001. His other correspondence in the Newsletter included a sequel about the dog Butch which was published in the November 2001 edition.

Dinnage - On 22nd January 2004, Bill Dinnage who served with The 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment during WW II.

Gibbs - On 8th December 2003, Leonard Gibbs. He enlisted into The 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in July 1940; his service prior to his discharge in January 1946 included Iraq, North Africa and Italy.

Goldner - On 25th December 2003, Captain Harold John Goldner. He served overseas with The 2/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from August 1942. He was MTO throughout the Italian campaign and was "Mentioned in Despatches".

Green - On 27th November 2003 aged 78, Frederick John Green who served with The 2/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment and The 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Harman - Recently, Cyril Frank Harman. He enlisted into The 2nd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment in February 1938. He saw service in the UK, China and Singapore, and was a Japanese PoW.

Iddenden - In March 2004, Charlie Iddenden who served with The 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment during WW II.

Jago - In January 2004, Charles Frederick Jago MBE. He transferred to The 2/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in April 1940. He was captured near Abbeville in May 1940 and was a PoW in Poland. He was discharged in February 1946 and subsequently became greatly involved with work for ex-PoWs, receiving the MBE for services to their Association.

Jones - On 11th November 2003, D A Jones who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Kelly - On 24th February 2004, in the Royal Hospital Chelsea, Staff Sergeant Alexander Arthur Kelly who served with the East Surrey Regiment from May 1939 to January 1941. Before discharge in August 1945 he also saw service with the Ordnance Corps and with the REME.

Lamport - On 19th November 2003, Thomas Edward Lamport who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Madgwick - In August 2003, aged 83, Horace Madgwick. He was enlisted into Mans Service with The 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment on 19th June 1936 at the age of 15 years 210 days: recruiters received a bounty for enlisted men but nothing for boys. Madgwick was posted to Support Company at Haslemere. He deployed to France in April 1940, arriving at Le Havre. He was subsequently captured near Abbeville and was a PoW in Poland, returning to the United Kingdom in May 1945.

McKernan - In September 2003, John Gilbert Lawrence McKernan. He joined The 2/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1936 and was called up in 1938. He was wounded at Dunkirk and a PoW 1940-45. Having been liberated by the US 101st Airborne Division he saw

action with them in early 1945. He was discharged from the Army in January 1946.

**Morley** - On 29th October 2003, Major Edwin John ("Joe") Morley MC, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

**Norman** - On 14th January 2004, Colour Sergeant Joseph Edward Norman (see obituary).

**Pickard** - In December 2003, Edward Albert Charles Pickard who enlisted in March 1939. During WW II he served with the Army Catering Corps and The 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. He saw service in France in 1940, and also in North Africa and Italy, as well as in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany in 1944/45.

**Plater** - On 15th November 2003, Major Kenneth Nisbet Plater. Having served with the HAC from 1933, he was commissioned into The East Surrey Regiment in October 1939. Prior to leaving the Army in September 1945 he saw service in UK, North Africa and Italy.

**Shuttle** - On 7th December 2003, Jack Frederick Shuttle. He enlisted into The 2/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment in May 1939. His service prior to his discharge in July 1946 included a period as a Japanese PoW working on the Burma-Siam railway.

**Skudder** - On 20th March 2004, Cecil Skudder who served with The East Surrey Regiment.

**Smith** - On 9th February 2004, Captain Charles Edwin Smith. He served with The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1932-45 and was with The 1/5th Bn from 1943 until released from service in November 1945. He led the 1/5th Queen's Guard of Honour at the Victory Parade in Berlin in July 1945.

**Sunner** - On 18th January 2004, Alan Harley Sunner MC. He enlisted into the Royal Army Service Corps in 1939 and, having been commissioned in December 1943, transferred into The 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. He was awarded the Military Cross in 1945. The citation read: "On 14 April 1945, 'B' Coy were attacking an enemy defended locality near Filo. Lieutenant Sunner was commanding 12 Platoon, who were ordered to carry out an outflanking movement. The Platoon moved along a ditch to within seventy yards of the enemy position. Any movement above ground level drew heavy enemy small arms fire. Under cover of fire provided by another platoon, Lieutenant Sunner ordered bayonets to be fixed, and, leading his platoon, charged the enemy position killing or capturing over eighty Germans.

Lieutenant Sunner displayed a complete disregard for his own personal safety, and his action was an inspiration to all ranks in 12 Platoon."

**Tack** - In August 2003 aged 89, Major John Tack who served with The 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

**Thompson** - On 3rd December 2003, Robert ("Tommo 40") Thompson. He joined the East Surreys in August 1935 at the age of 16. He subsequently served in the

Sudan and China before moving to Singapore in August 1940. He was a Japanese PoW for 3 years 211 days. After release he returned to the UK in October 1945 and was transferred to the Reserve in April 1946.

**Vincent** - On 25th March 2004 aged 79, Reginald Vincent who served with 'D' Company The 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

**White** - On 18th March 2004, John Rodney White who served with The 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment 1951-1953.

**Wiley** - On 14th March 2004, Bob Wiley. Transferred into The 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1939, he subsequently served with 'B' Company as a medical orderly. He saw service with the B.E.F., in North Africa, Italy and through France, Belgium and Holland. A Mounted Player prior to his transfer to the Regiment, he was a prominent member of The Queen's Royal Regiment Dance Band. After his discharge in 1946 he, with his brother, played in a number of dance bands for many years.

**Wootten** - On 19th December 2003, Henry 'Harry' Wootten who served with The 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

## Regimental Families

**Birch** - On 23rd February 2004, Aviv Birch, beloved wife of Sergeant Ron Birch who served with The 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

**Corbett** - On 27th December 2003, Margaret Corbett, widow of Stanley Corbett who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment.

**Lloyd Owen** - On 10th January 2004, Ursula Lloyd Owen M.B.E., D.St.J., widow of Major General D L Lloyd Owen.

**Walker** - On 27th November 2003, Magdalen Walker, widow of Colonel H H Walker, The East Surrey Regiment.

## Obituaries

### Colonel P E C Andrews

Colonel Peter Andrews, always known by his initials "Pec", was commissioned into The East Surrey Regiment in 1938. Two of his Christian names reflected a military connection: Evelyn, after his great-uncle Field Marshall Sir Evelyn Wood VC of South Africa fame; and Clinton, after General Clinton who fought in the American War of Independence.

In France in 1939 he was Signals Officer and due to his ability in this field was soon posted as an instructor to the Army School of Signals at Catterick. He served in 'A' Company in Tunisia, and commanded HQ Company in Sicily and Italy. He was highly gifted in scientific

technology. Whatever the conditions, even on a bleak mountainside in Italy, he would manage to exist as comfortably as possible. Sometimes he could even produce a form of primitive central heating for his slit-trench, would have a home made radio working, and usually coffee on the brew!

He was not fond of those, of whatever rank, he considered second-rate, and had a tendency not to suffer fools too gladly.

For a time after the war he commanded the ITC at Canterbury, and later attended the Technical Staff Course at Shrivenham. On leaving the Army, although interested in the Regiment, he did not join the Officers' Club.

For several years he taught 'A' level physics at a comprehensive school near his home in the New Forest. He was an expert on natural history and entomology, as well as being an expert yachtsman and a first-rate fly-fisherman.

He died on 27th January 2004. Our thoughts are with Jean his wife and the rest of his family.

RCT

### Major Basil Arthur Crutchfield



Though commissioned in the 1st/6th Battalion The East Surrey Regiment in September 1940, much of Basil's War service was with 2nd Battalion The North Staffordshire Regiment, but after demobilisation in 1945 he "returned" to the Surreys and gave valuable service for many years as Secretary of the Regimental Golf Society.

After leaving Kings College School, where he was in the OTC, he joined Westminster Bank and after War Service rejoined them, later ending his career as Manager of an important branch (patronised by many famous and wealthy people!) of what had by then become National Westminster Bank.

When war was declared he was already in the Territorial Army as an anti-aircraft gunner, so had a varied military experience when commissioned. Initially the 1st/6th Surreys, which had returned from Dunkirk a short time before Basil joined it, was deployed in defensive positions all over the South Coast. The Divisional Commander was Major General Bernard Montgomery, and the Battalion Commander was the legendary Lieutenant Colonel C.D. Armstrong DSO, MC. Basil found himself commanding the Divisional HQ Defence Platoon and, being overlooked by two such demanding officers, Basil's learning curve continued its steep climb.

After being used in a Civil Defence role when Southampton was severely damaged by the Luftwaffe, the Battalion had prolonged training in amphibious warfare and ultimately sailed from Glasgow to North

Africa, landing in Algiers on 23rd March 1943. They were then in almost continuous contact with the enemy until taking part in the capture of Tunis and the subsequent mopping up operations which involved the Battalion in processing the surrender of some 19,000 enemy personnel at Cape Bon. The Battalion then underwent months of garrison duty, but without Basil.

Soon after the German surrender he was one of ten officers and 172 Other Ranks transferred from the Surreys to 2nd North Staffords and other units of 1st Infantry Division to bring it up to strength preparatory to the invasion of Sicily. Basil found himself leading an assault on the tiny island of Pantelleria off the south coast of Sicily where the garrison offered their surrender; but Basil with becoming modesty declined to accept it until a more senior officer came ashore. After what Basil described as "this bloodless victory" the Staffords moved to Italy where training commenced for the Anzio landings.

The initial assault to secure the Port and the left flank of the Anzio beachhead was led by the Staffords and other elements of 2nd Brigade of 1st (British) Division and once again Basil, now the Mortar Platoon Commander, was among the first ashore. The Battalion quickly seized all of its initial objectives but the advance was halted by order of the American General in command of the operation thus giving the enemy time to mount a devastating counter-attack.

Months of the bitterest and bloodiest fighting of the Italian campaign if not of the entire war followed. Basil was continuously in action from the landing until the breakout four months later on 22nd May. Among his papers are press cuttings including the Daily Telegraph and Morning Post of 12th February 1944 which contains the following eye witness account:

#### 'Mortar Pit Struggle'

"There were so many Germans around us" Sgt Featherstone said, "that we were switching our mortar targets every second to stop them. We fired with reduced charges and aimed without using our sights."

"When the fight was hottest and our ammunition running out, Lt. B. Crutchfield, a Londoner, and the platoon sergeant got through with three carrier loads of ammunition. We lobbed the mortars (sic) in among the enemy and saw the havoc they caused. We couldn't miss."

The report continues to describe the hand to hand fighting which followed and how, when his mortar pit was finally overrun by superior numbers, Basil extricated the survivors of his Platoon. He was later Mentioned in Despatches. In this four month battle, the Staffords suffered very heavy casualties including 23 officers lost in the February counter-attack. Basil was one of a very small handful of Stafford officers who had taken part in the initial landing to survive until the breakout in May.

Having survived Anzio virtually unscathed, Basil was then seriously wounded during the fighting in the

Appenines and hospitalised. On discharge he remained with the Staffords as a Company Commander and served with them controlling illegal immigration in Egypt and Palestine until demobilised in May 1946.

On return to civilian life he took up golf and joined Coombe Wood Golf Club, a club in which his parents were already distinguished members, and of which he remained a popular member for the rest of his life.

Basil was a mild mannered, modest and self effacing gentleman, a gallant officer and a credit to both of his Regiments. He is survived by his wife Marion and their two sons.

WEMCC

#### Colour Sergeant Joseph Edward Norman



Joe Norman was born on 9th March 1916, the youngest of a family of four. His mother died when he was nine months old and he was taken by a widowed aunt and brought up by her.

At eighteen, he enlisted into The Queen's Royal Regiment on 21st March 1934 and, after training at the Depot,

Stoughton Barracks, Guildford, he was posted to the 2nd Battalion, stationed in Albany Barracks, Isle of Wight. In 1936 he was posted to the 1st Battalion who were in Quetta, India and was present during the Battalion's relief operations following the Quetta earthquake. He loved his service in India and the North West Frontier. In 1943 he returned to the United Kingdom and, after leave, was posted to a Reinforcement Holding Unit at Shorncliffe. He landed in Normandy on D+8 but only spent a short time in France before being medically evacuated to Northern Ireland, where he served with a training unit.

Joe then saw service in Nigeria and the Gold Coast with the West African Frontier Force. In March 1946 he returned to the UK and was demobilised. However, civilian life did not appeal to him so he rejoined the Army and his Regiment and was posted to the 1st Battalion in Singapore.

When the 1st Battalion was reduced to a Cadre, he came home and joined the 2nd Battalion in Dortmund. The 2nd Battalion became the 1st Battalion in Berlin, whilst serving there throughout the Berlin Airlift. He moved with the Battalion to Iserlohn in 1950 to be a weapon training instructor and later became Colour Sergeant of a rifle company. He was then selected for duties with Movement Control, BAOR until his final discharge on completion of twenty-two years' service.

He worked as a civilian in Moencheng Gladbach, BAOR until 1957 when his wife Erika, a German lady he married while serving in Berlin, tragically died of cancer.

Returning to the UK, he joined HQ London District within 'Q' branch until 1960 when he left and became a bullion guard with a London bank. In the same year, Joe married Phil and they were very happy until fate inflicted another grievous blow when she too contracted cancer and sadly died. Joe had joined the City of London Police in 1962, where he became Senior Traffic Warden until he retired in 1981 aged 65.

He entered the Royal Hospital, Chelsea in January 1982 and was very happy throughout his days there until his death on 14th January 2004. When fit and well, he enjoyed going to the races and was often lucky in backing winners! A great pleasure in his life was the Daily Telegraph crossword, which he prided himself on completing before breakfast every morning. Cricket was another of his passions and he watched the matches on TV avidly. He was the first editor of 'Tricorne', the Royal Hospital's in-house magazine, to which he contributed both prose and poetry.

Though eventually confined to barracks by failing health, he continued to have a very active mind, taking great interest in life, politics and world affairs. Gradually his sight deteriorated until he could hardly see the TV, which was a sad loss but he was still able to listen to music and discussions on Radio 4 until shortly before his death.

He was very proud of his Regiment and would sit for hours and reminisce with old friends about his time in the Regiment both at home and abroad. A great regimental character, he will be sadly missed by his family and older friends in the Regiment.

LMW

#### James Thomas Brown



James (Jim) Brown was born in Battersea in 1926. He enlisted in the General Service Corps in July 1944, when still some months short of his 18th Birthday, but in October 1944 he transferred to The Queen's Royal Regiment, where he saw service in this country and North West Europe. Whilst abroad he was transferred to the Royal Ulster Rifles but, on returning to the U.K. in 1945, he was transferred again, to the Devon Regiment with whom he saw service in the Middle East.

At the end of 1945, a further transfer took him into the Corps of Military Police, and eventually in November 1947, a posting to Trieste. Further transfer seemed inevitable and in July 1948 he found himself in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, although still in Trieste. After his return to the U.K. he was on the move again and this time, in April 1950, he returned to The Queen's Royal Regiment, with whom he spent a short

time in BAOR. Yet another change of cap badge came in November 1950, with a transfer to the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. However, this only lasted for 15 days and, in December 1950, he returned to The Queen's Royal Regiment in BAOR. With no further changes of regiment he remained in the Army until forced to leave by a back injury in March 1953.

After leaving the Army, he became a civilian driver with the Metropolitan Police, undertaking various tasks, including the transporting of police officers and prisoners, and the chauffeuring of senior commanders. Later employment took him to the Tate Gallery at Millbank, where he worked as a security attendant until his retirement in 1991.

In retirement he was able to concentrate on one of his main interests, researching the family history. He spent many hours at the Public Record Office and travelling the country, seeking out Parish and County Records with considerable success. His other interest was the Regiment. He gave much dedicated service for many years to the 6th (Bermondsey) Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment Old Comrades Association, as Assistant Secretary, Secretary, Secretary/Treasurer and Editor of the Newsletter. The last two appointments he held right up to his death.

Jim spent the last four months of his life in hospital; although he was discharged three times, he was re-admitted within days on each occasion. He died on 19th January 2004. He was a loyal and generous friend, and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

MRN

## FIGHTING THROUGH TO KOHIMA

A Memoir of War in India & Burma

by Michael Lowry

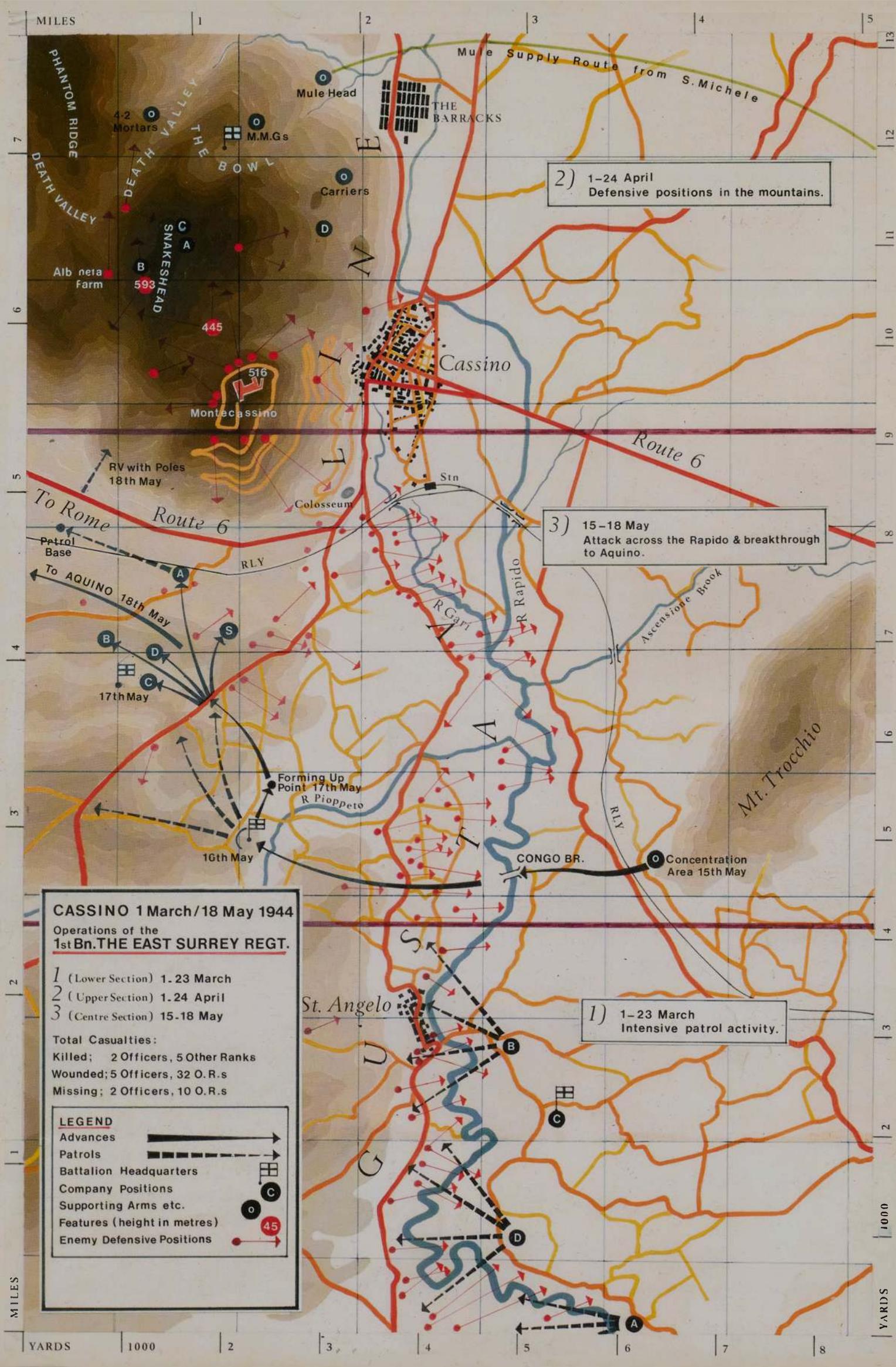
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NOVEMBER 2004

# THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION



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Chairman  
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Major A. W. Russell MBE

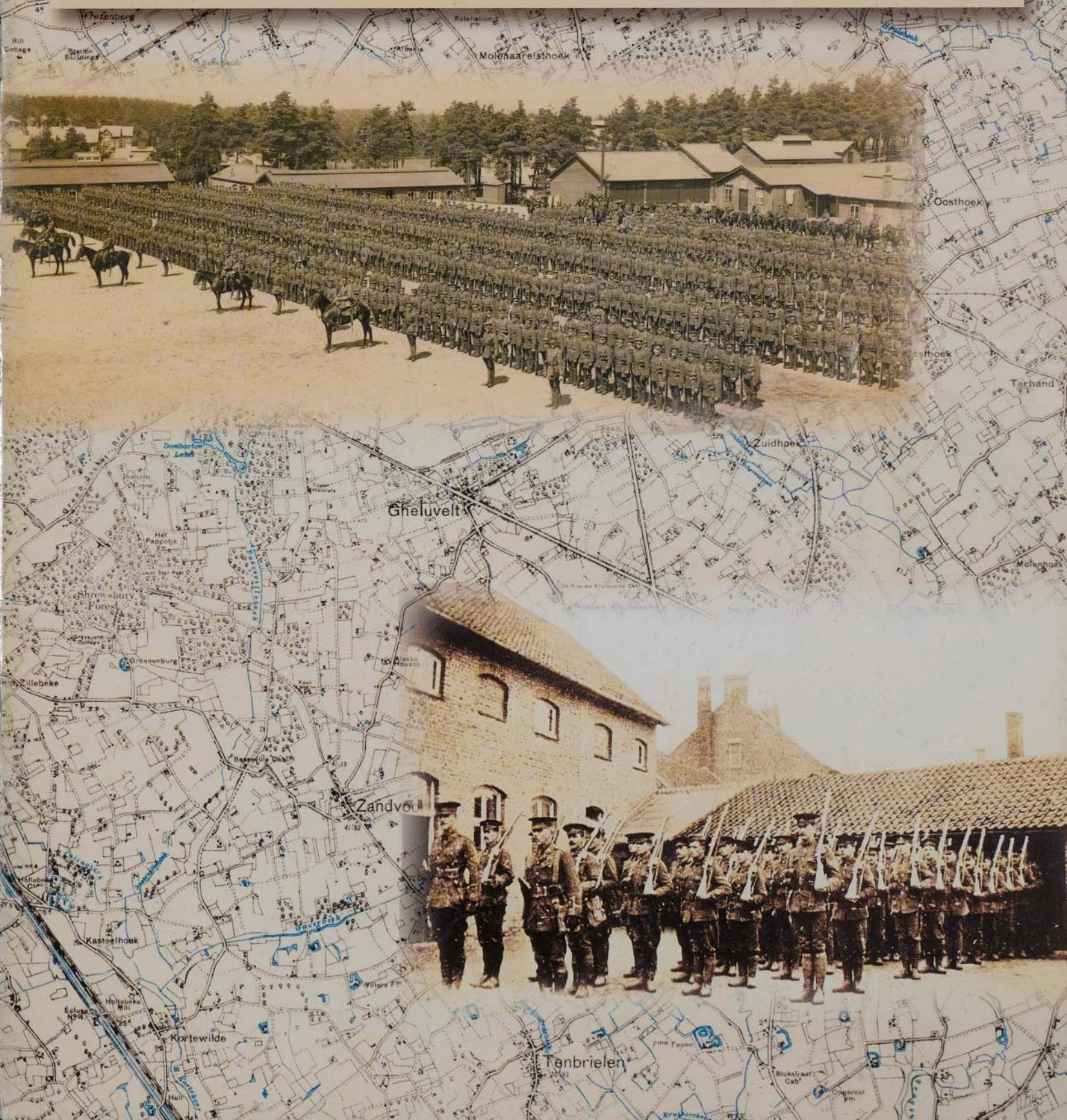
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## NEWSLETTER





20th December

BRITISH BATTALION DAY (1941).

2004

10th February

SOBRAON DAY (1846).

5th March

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

10th March

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

12th March

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

19th March

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

21st April

The East Surrey Regiment Officers' Club Lunch.

23rd April

YPRES DAY (1915).

5th May

Golf Society Spring Meeting - Sudbrook Park.

7th May (tbc)

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

16th May

ALBUHERA DAY (1811).

20th May

President's Reception for the Mayors of Surrey - Clandon.

1st June

THE GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE (1794).

5th June

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

1st August

MINDEN DAY.

3rd September

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

9th September

SALERNO DAY.

3rd October

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

October (date tbc)

The East Surrey OCA Reunion.

4th November

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association Annual Reunion - Union Jack Club.

20th December

BRITISH BATTALION DAY (1941).

**Covers:** The two regular battalions of The Queen's Royal Regiment and the 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment were amongst those which suffered grievously during the opening months of the First World War. The 1st Battalion of the Queen's, forming part of the British Expeditionary Force, landed at Le Havre on 13th August 1914. The 2nd Battalion, returning from Cape Town, landed at Zeebrugge in Belgium in the first week of October. The 1st Surreys had arrived at Le Havre by 15th August.

**Frontispiece:** The background is a map of the area of the first Battle of Ypres. The 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment had been at Mons and taken part in the retreat, covering 136 miles in thirteen days. After the battles of the Marne and Aisne it fought in the first battle of Ypres, near Gheluvelt, at the end of October 1914. On 29th October it had joined with the 2nd Battalion and during that night the two battalions side-by-side held a sector of the line before the 2nd Battalion was withdrawn on 30th October. During heavy fighting on 31st October the 1st Battalion was decimated; on the 1st of November it could muster only 32 survivors out of its original mobilized strength of 998. By the 7th of November the 2nd Battalion had suffered 676 casualties.

**Inset photographs:** The 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment on mobilization in August 1914; and the Battalion on 9th November 1914.



## Forecast of Events

2004

2005

## Editorial

As noted by the President, this edition marks the 90th Anniversary of the start of the Great War by recalling some of the sacrifices made by the regular battalions of the forebear Regiments in 1914. The ranks were to be filled by Territorials, men from Kitchener's 'New Army' and then conscripts. Also outlined are some of the actions in Iraq of their present successors, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

I am extremely grateful to all those who have produced articles, memoirs, letters and photographs for this edition. I regret that it has not been possible to include all contributions and I apologise to those who are disappointed not to see their work in print. I hope to publish some items in future editions, but please do keep writing.

I should also like to thank Major John Fowler for generously continuing to give us the paper on which to print our Newsletters.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the various Association and Branch events during the coming year.

With all good wishes  
Tony Russell

This edition of the Newsletter recalls some of the great sacrifices made on our behalf during the early months of the 1st World War. It is salutary to note that, 90 years on, our successors in the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment have just returned from an extremely successful tour in Iraq where they came under fire more times than any battalion since the Korean War. Your Trustees are giving a reception at Clandon to welcome them home and we expect to have around 30 all ranks, and their wives, with us on this occasion. The PWRR is a regiment of which we can and should be proud.

With best wishes,  
Bob Acworth

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## Museum Notes

It is good to be able to report a more ordinary six months for the Museum after the horrors of the burglary in the previous period but, as ever, the Summer half year has not been without its ups and downs. So far as the burglary is concerned, there is sadly little to add to the last report, except that one of the stolen medals has turned up, offered for sale at an auction and swiftly reclaimed. Tracking this back has, unfortunately, so far led nowhere, but it is re-assuring that the monitoring set in place after the burglary does work, and we hope for better things in the long term.

The transfer of the Regimental archives to the Surrey History Centre, also reported last time, was rounded off by a pleasant formal hand-over ceremony at Woking in June, at which Colonel Toby Sewell did the honours for the Regiment. This also marked the opening of an exhibition at the History Centre to mark the 90th anniversary of the start of the Great War, in which Regimental exhibits played a leading role.

At the Museum, we have had a good "ordinary" Summer season to date (these notes are being written in early October, with nearly a month to go before we close for the Winter). Visitor numbers and interest have been good. The Museum has itself staged special displays to mark the anniversaries of two of the Regiment's major roles in WWII, and a video of Newsreel footage of the 1944 campaign in France has proved a great attraction. A notable first for us in August was a talk given by Lt Col Les Wilson on the Infantry Regiments of Surrey. The Open Day in September for members of the Regiment was well-attended this year, and will be repeated next Autumn.

When walking around the towns of Surrey or in London you will often see people wearing the old Queen's or Surreys ties. Do stop them and ask if they are members of the Association. Often they are but equally frequently they are not and this is an ideal opportunity for you to recruit them.

Turning now to Museum people, we were delighted to welcome in July Ian Mumford to fill the post left by Roy Harding's retirement. Ian is new to the Regiment but no stranger to the operation of public attractions, having come to us from being a Warden at Windsor Castle. He

is now well-established at Clandon, and is playing a vital role in the Museum operation.



Ian Mumford in post

Sadly for us, Sam Higgs, our Curatorial Assistant, received an offer she could not refuse of a job at Westminster Abbey, and left the Museum at the end of September. Sam did the Museum proud in her 15 months with us, and will be much missed. Recruitment of a replacement (via the Civil Service procedures) is well-advanced at the time of writing, with interviews of candidates arranged for the end of October, and we have been greatly assisted by Major Steve Bream at RHQ, Canterbury, in getting this process running smoothly.

During this interregnum, we are very grateful to Ian Mumford for stepping into a breach he was not expecting, and to our band of Volunteers, who are taking on extra duties to staff the Museum for the rest of the season. Last but not least, Les Wilson has continued to beaver away behind the scenes developing the Regiment and Museum Web Site to great effect; the site statistics are recording a vast number of 'hits' from all over the world, and we are receiving much praise for its quality and content.

By the time you are reading this, Clandon will be closed for the Winter, and the season of cleaning, development and maintenance will be under way. This year, this will be enlivened by the installation of the new lift in Clandon Park by the National Trust, a welcome development which will improve life for the Museum as well as for visitors to the house. Another development in the Museum, which it is hoped to complete during the Winter, is the installation of a permanent display of the connection between the Regiment and the Onslow family of Clandon Park. Recent research has shown this connection to be more extensive and more important than most of us had suspected, and well-deserving of a proper mention in the history both of the Regiment and of Clandon Park House. The Museum and the House will re-open for the new season for Easter 2005.

Adrian Birtles

## Benevolence

The Charity's individual benevolence work continues to be administered by Major John Rogerson at RHQ PWRR; we are extremely grateful for all his hard work on our behalf. In the eight month period to 31st August 2004 a total of 75 cases were investigated and 58 individual grants-in-aid were approved. In the majority of cases the grants were for household expenses, debts and rent arrears. The Association helped provide 11 further electrically powered vehicles and contributed to two convalescent holidays.

Twenty one Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) Annuities were administered and the ABF generously contributed £55 per month per case. During this period the Charity renewed or arranged for five Nursing Home Fees grants, each of £780 from the ABF and £156 from the Association per year, to be paid for old soldiers or their widows to be looked after. We had one resident in Gifford House.

The Charity has paid out £16,879 as individual grants-in-aid. Of the 17 cases not receiving a grant, local Councils/Charities or other Regimental Charities assisted 10 after being contacted. Four cases were not receiving such allowances as attendance, mobility or rent rebate. The ABF total grants in support were £13,680 including five nursing home fees.

During the year we have also assisted members who are cared for by the Ex Services Mental Welfare Society/Combat Stress, the War Pensions Agency, and the Ex Services Fellowship Centres. We are extremely grateful to the ABF which, as always, has been helpful with prompt action and advice, and to SSAFA/ Forces Help Society and The Royal British Legion whose caseworkers have investigated the majority of our cases.

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

very much - and what a lovely thought to send him a Newsletter - Mrs B said he read it from cover to cover and then again. Neither of the other organisations was able to help financially, but we were able to buy an unused, returned scooter at a reduced price and the family all agreed that he should draw on his savings. His pride and independence have had a real boost this week. Thank you all again.

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**A SSAFA officer writes:** Thank you and, through you, your Benevolence Committee for the grant to Mrs C. Since we spoke last she has had a fall which has resulted in serious damage to her right wrist which was already pinned following a previous break. She has an appointment to see a specialist and hopes, on this occasion, that you will excuse her for not writing to thank the Regiment for its generosity. I am, as ever, extremely grateful for all you do for the families of ex-Royal Surreys.

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I have been advised by the County Field Officer of the Royal British Legion that you have generously contributed towards the cost of updating the heating at the above property. You will know that my husband and I are both elderly and on limited income. We can now look towards next winter with less trepidation knowing that we have a reliable means of keeping warm. It is heart-warming to know that organisations like yours continue to promote the well-being of ex-servicemen in their 'twilight' years! We offer our grateful thanks for your assistance.

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Just a brief note to express our sincere thanks for the very generous grant towards Dad's Nursing Home Fees. Dad was delighted when I gave him the news on Sunday; he really is extremely happy and so well looked after at the Home. He was in fine spirits as they had enjoyed an 'Old Time Musical' on the Saturday evening and had been able to participate in a good old sing song! Thank you also for sending the Regimental Magazine; Dad was already engrossed in it by the time we left on Sunday afternoon.

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I was most grateful to you and your committee for the grant towards the cost of essential external house maintenance. Mrs D is tireless in her efforts for SSAFA/Forces Help and I appreciate her kindness in dealing with my application.

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It is very remiss of me for not thanking you and your regiment for the contribution you make to my mother-in-law's care home funds. This contribution eases the

financial burden of residential care we have so may I thank you and your regiment for the funds you donate.

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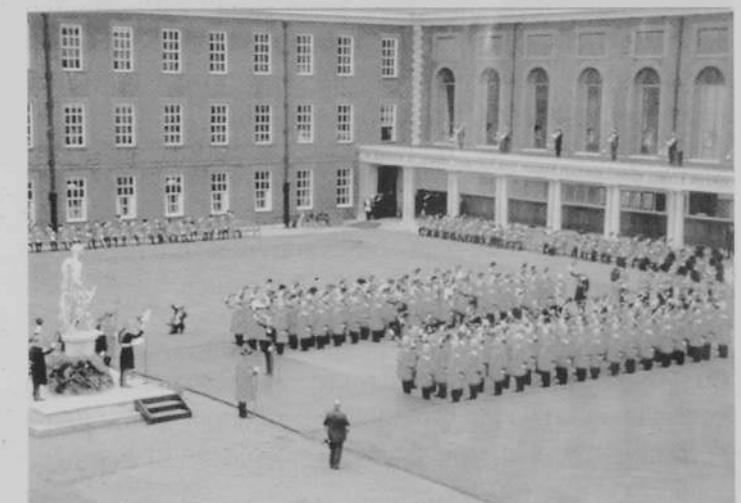
## The Queen Alexandra Hospital Home

The Queen Alexandra Hospital Home, Boundary Road, Worthing, West Sussex has recently had its registration changed to allow it, for the first time since its founding in 1919, to accept ex-Service females. It can offer a permanent, respite or rehabilitation stay in a Care Home.

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## Life at The Royal Hospital Chelsea - All Work, Rest and Play (or, never a dull moment.....)

Do not get the wrong idea. The Royal Hospital is not a 'hospital' as such - the name was given to almshouses in the days before hospitals, as we know them, were invented. The Royal Hospital is an old peoples' home - albeit a rather special one for the soldiers who have served for King, Queen and Country. So, it offers sheltered accommodation, care and, for some, a hospice. A few of the In-Pensioners are aged under 65 and the oldest is 99. The average age of the 310 residents is just over 80.



The Royal Hospital has all the things that are required for a comfortable old age - all meals and accommodation found, no laundry and other delightful chores, comradeship and security. Full medical and nursing care is also available for those who need it. For many a pleasant lifestyle is complete with a visit to the Club to take in a concert or a game of bingo, a game of snooker, a trip to the library or just chatting over the papers.

Yet, for those with more energy, there is a lot more to Royal Hospital life.

There is action. In-Pensioner Jim McGovern completed the 2004 London marathon in less than 6½ hours (not bad when you are over 68 and in uniform), collecting over £8,000 for the charitable work of the Royal British Legion and the Royal Hospital's development

programme. In 2002, aged 82, Buck Taylor went over the assault course at Pirbright and he has been snowboarding in Germany. Earlier this year a party of In-Pensioners joined in the annual 12km walk at Soest.

However, not every In-Pensioner does such athletic things: the Bowls Club is very active and popular. There is a full programme of matches, both home and away, throughout the year. The putting green is always available for a quiet 'round' with friends and family. Both are, of course, close to the 19th hole in the In-Pensioners' Club.

For those of a more practical and artistic bent there is a fully kitted out Arts and Crafts Block and all manner of pictures and objects are displayed at the popular annual Arts and Crafts exhibition, which is open to the public.

The more musical In-Pensioners can join The Royal Hospital Band. It plays at concerts within the Royal Hospital, for the Infirmary residents and at local shows and carnivals. For the green fingered there are allotments, the fruits of which often grace the tables of the Great Hall.

In-Pensioners also travel widely. Many go off on cruises or visit family all over the world. Organized trips are undertaken regularly - in 2004 to Gibraltar for the 300th anniversary of its capture and more recently to the D-Day beaches and Arnhem for the 60th Anniversary of those momentous events. In 2002 a party went to Washington and met the President. Every Autumn a battlefield tour is undertaken, this year taking the opportunity of international reconciliation to go to Libya.

Some, however, prefer the more mundane, but possibly profitable, ventures of going on one of the many trips to the races. These, like many other activities, are organized by the wide number of people and organizations who support us.

For those with more sedentary interests there is a computer suite which is available for all to use - tuition is no problem and internet access is always on line.

Apart from pure pleasure, around 90 of the In-Pensioners elect to work around the Royal Hospital. This is not onerous but allows them to maintain an interest in what goes on, meet people and, of course, receive additional income. In-Pensioners are valued as guides for the many tour parties that visit. They enthrall the visitors with interesting and often lurid stories about the Royal Hospital (sotto voce if the staff are around!). Others assist in the Chapel, Museum and Souvenir Shop and in many other ways in the various departments. They make a considerable and valued contribution to the running of the Royal Hospital.

There are a few duties that each In-Pensioner is expected to perform. Attendance is required at the Annual Founder's Day, which is held in the second week in June, and occasionally each In-Pensioner has to attend the

Governor's Parade which takes place on Sunday morning before Chapel. (Compulsory Chapel attendance ended some years ago, but many enjoy attending the service).



The Royal Hospital is acting to ensure that it can continue to provide the most modern residential accommodation and care, maintaining the fabric of the buildings and tradition of the past. Work has now started to provide a complete new Infirmary building. This will offer 'state of the art' medical and care facilities for up to 125 In-Pensioners.

Additionally, the In-Pensioner's accommodation in the Long Wards is to be improved to 21st Century standards. This will offer a much enhanced quality of life within the historic buildings. Importantly, it will eventually allow accommodation to be allocated to eligible women former soldiers.

The Royal Hospital welcomes enquiries at any time from any former soldier who is qualified. If you would like to apply (or you know someone who may be interested) the criteria for admission are:

You must be in receipt of a Service or Disability Pension awarded for Army Service,

You must normally be at least 65 years of age, and

You must be free from the obligation to support a wife or family.

If you are interested in joining please contact the Royal Hospital through the Royal Hospital website [www.chelsea-pensioners.org.uk](http://www.chelsea-pensioners.org.uk) or ring 020 7881 5204 for further information.

The Royal Hospital is open to the public (entry is free) on nearly every day of the year (not Sunday mornings unless attending Chapel) - if you are in Chelsea take the opportunity to visit and see the Chelsea Pensioners in action!

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## The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (by Maj A J Martin)



The two main subjects that reign supreme in the period covered by these notes are the 1st Battalion in Iraq and the proposed Future Army Structure (FAS) i.e. the restructuring of the Infantry.

The 1st Battalion arrived in Iraq in April 2004 and return by 23rd October 2004.

Many readers will have seen the press reports. The Battalion has been subjected to continual attack from the moment they landed until now. The takeover was more a relief in contact. To date the Battalion has lost one killed in action, one killed due to an operational accident and 48 wounded. In one period the Battalion was attacked every day for six weeks. The last time a regiment sustained such a high level of attack was during the Korean War.



Individual acts of heroism have been displayed by all ranks. One private soldier (Pte Beharry) with his vehicle ablaze under effective fire, with a bullet in his helmet, his platoon commander wounded, managed to pull him to safety and then lead his platoon through the well-organized ambush. In doing so an RPG (Rocket) hit the periscope and blasted open the hatch, badly wounding him. He continued to lead the platoon to safety. In another incident five soldiers put to rout more than 100 rebels in a well rehearsed bayonet charge clearing the enemy trenches.

There are too many stories to tell. We hope that all will deserve some form of recognition. The soldiers went out young boys and will return mature men, having seen so much action.



On return the Battalion will go back to Tidworth and in March 2005 move to Paderborn (Germany).

The 2nd Battalion based at Ternhill (Shropshire) had a very successful training period in Canada. Then they went onto four months at Spearhead. To date they have not been deployed. Of note is the award of the Military Cross to Sgt Paul Kelly of the 2nd Battalion who was platoon sergeant of the composite platoon attached to 1 Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders. The Battalion has just been warned for a six months tour of Iraq from January 2005. The plan is for the Battalion to move to Northern Ireland (Bally Kelly) in December 2005.

The 3rd Battalion has just had a very successful Annual Camp to Kazakhstan. This was the first element of the British Army to train along side what used to be our enemies. The training area was vast and their army learnt how operations should be done professionally! In addition individual reinforcements are with the 1st Battalion in Iraq.

The two independent companies, B Company The London Regiment and C Company The Royal Rifle Volunteers, continue to supply individual reinforcements to the Regular Army - as an example 17 members of B Company are in Iraq and seven members in Afghanistan - similar numbers from C Company are also reinforcing units.

The other topic of conversation is the Restructuring of the Army. I must not be distracted into making common sense observations so will only quote fact!

Four infantry battalions must go by 2008. Although readers may have seen press and other speculation, as we go to print no firm decisions have been made. The next report will provide all the information on the restructuring.

In summary, the Regiment is strong and extremely proud of everyone who has or is serving in hostile situations.

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## Sergeant Paul Joseph Kelly MC



Sergeant Kelly of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment was attached to the 1st Battalion The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. In January 2004, he was platoon sergeant of a composite platoon based alone in the isolated Camp Condor in the south of the notoriously lawless Maysan Province. On 11th February 2004, Sergeant Kelly was tasked to conduct a joint vehicle patrol with some soldiers of the local Iraqi Civil Defence Corps company. At approximately 1825 hours the patrol stopped on the main road in the area of previous hijackings. Stones had been placed across the road. Kelly walked to the front Defence Corps vehicle to investigate, confirm orders and assess the situation.

As he reached the vehicle, he came under a heavy weight of automatic fire; he took cover and, under heavy incoming fire, issued clear and decisive orders to his men to engage the enemy. Several hundred rounds were fired. As the fire-fight was being won and with little regard for his own safety, Kelly seized the initiative and led a rapid and decisive charge towards the enemy position. Together with some of his men, he there apprehended two armed bandits who were cowering in the night. Subsequently, they were imprisoned.

On 5th March 2004, a patrol in the village of Qal At Salih requested assistance from Kelly's patrol in making a number of arrests following a shooting incident. Soon after arriving, the situation exploded in a crescendo of violence, with local tribesmen engaging Coalition Forces with machine gun, Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) and small arms fire. Kelly was shot through the hand in this initial action and one of his Landrovers was destroyed by an RPG, wounding an Argyll soldier. Despite being in

severe pain, Kelly rallied his men in the confusion of this initial engagement and set up a strong point in a building. There he and his men fought an exhaustive close quarter battle for over two hours.

The enemy repeatedly attacked the position from three sides with intensive and unusually accurate machine gun fire, RPG's, grenades and satchel charges of explosives. Sergeant Kelly then switched to using a captured AK47 semi-automatic rifle. He hit several enemy combatants during this period. Firing with his good arm, he concurrently organised his men into shifts of firing, ammunition re-supply and looking after the casualties. He proved to be an inspiration to all those around him throughout this chaotic, adrenaline charged battle.

Once armoured reinforcements arrived three hours later, Kelly was extracted to safety and was then moved by helicopter to the Field Hospital where he underwent emergency surgery. He was subsequently evacuated to the United Kingdom. Kelly's first act of gallantry and exemplary leadership under heavy fire resulted in the arrest of two members of a violent gang, probably responsible for numerous murders, rapes and vehicle hijackings in the area. His second act of gallantry, whilst wounded in one of the biggest engagements of the campaign, was truly inspirational to those around him.

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### PWRR and Queen's Regiment Museum.

The Friends of the PWRR and Queen's Regiment Museum are planning their programme for 2005:

27 April 2005:

Annual Talk and Buffet evening at Leros Barracks, Canterbury "mainly military music with flowers". Talk with music by Lt Col Les Wilson, Maj Richard Powell and The Kohima Band. Flowers by Janice Luck and auctioned with Regimental sheet music by Major Graham Turner.

2/3 July 2005:

"The Spirit of the Regiment" museum weekend 'Veterans Reunited' 60th Anniversary of VE and VJ event at Dover Castle in association with English Heritage; a wide range of events programmed.

They would be happy to see any WW II veteran at the event as members of the visiting public but the aim of the occasion is to host the WW II veterans of the Regimental Family.

Those wishing to attend either of the above events should contact: Brenda Hunt, RHQ PWRR, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1JY (Tel: 01227 818058) by 10th January 2005.

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## Officers' Mess Photograph, 1st Battalion The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment

Bordon Camp, Aldershot 11th August 1914



Left to right (back row): Lt HE Iremonger 2/Lt HJP Thompson 2/Lt FM Eastwood 2/Lt HB Strong 2 Lt/ JD Boyd

(middle row): Capt HNA Hunter Lt RS Pringle Lt MV Foy Lt BM Kenny Lt W Hayes  
Capt FC Longbourne Lt RLQ Henriques 2/Lt C Bushell

(seated): Capt R Stanley-Creek Capt CF Watson DSO Capt & Adjt CE Wilson Lt Col D Warren  
Maj Gen Sir EOF Hamilton KCB Maj HC Pilleau DSO Bvt-Maj EB Mathew-Lannowe Capt MG Heath Capt RG Clarke

(front row): 2/Lt TOM Buchan 2/Lt ED Drew Lt & Qr-Mr GH Wallis 2/Lt C Cooper Lt MWH Pain

The above photograph, a copy of which is on display in the Museum at Clandon, may well be familiar to some readers. It appeared in a number of newspaper articles during the Great War, some of which are in the Regimental archives now at the Surrey History Centre. Lieutenant Colonel Les Wilson has spent a considerable amount of time researching the lives of the officers and a summary of his findings appears below.

Lieutenant HE Iremonger Wounded 14th September 1914.

2nd Lieutenant HJP Thompson Wounded 14th September 1914.

2nd Lieutenant FM Eastwood Killed 29th October 1914. Commemorated on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial Panel 11-13 and 14.

2nd Lieutenant HB Strong Killed 30th October 1914. Had been promoted Lieutenant. Commemorated on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial Panel 11-13 and 14.

2nd Lieutenant JD Boyd Killed 25th September 1918. Had been awarded DSO and MC.

Lieutenant Colonel HNA Hunter DSO Captain HNA Hunter was wounded in September 1914; he finished the war with the 1st Battalion as a Brevet Lieutenant Colonel (not in command). He subsequently commanded the 2nd Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment. He relinquished command in 1931 and retired.

Lieutenant RS Pringle Died of wounds 17th September 1914. Buried in Moulins New Communal Cemetery, Grave 6.

Lieutenant MV Foy Promoted Captain and killed 13th October 1914. Buried in Vendresse British Cemetery, Grave 111.C.8.

Lieutenant BN Kenny Wounded 14th October 1914.

Lieutenant W Hayes Killed 20th October 1918. Had been promoted to Captain and awarded the DSO. Buried in Stagheno Cemetery, Genoa, Grave I.C.19.

Colonel FC Longbourne CMG DSO Captain FC Longbourne was wounded serving with the 1st Battalion in October 1914. He was awarded the CMG and DSO during the war and commanded the 11th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment at the end of the war.

Lieutenant RLO Henriques Killed 14th September 1914. Lieutenant Henriques had been commissioned into The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment. He came from a deeply devout family and on hearing of his death his mother, Lady Margaret Henriques, commissioned a statuette of St George which, when completed, she placed in the family chapel in memory of her son. After her death and when the building in which the chapel was situated was demolished, her trustees presented the statuette to the regimental museum.

Lieutenant Henriques was serving with the 1st Battalion of The Queen's at the Battle of the Aisne when he was killed. He was the first regimental officer casualty killed in the war. Buried in Vendresse British Cemetery Grave N.H.1.

Lieutenant Colonel C Bushell VC DSO Wounded 14th October 1914. Killed 8th August 1918, whilst commanding 7th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment. He was twice Mentioned in Despatches, and awarded the VC and the DSO. His medals were presented by his family to the Regimental Museum, Clandon where they are on display.

Captain RFS Stanley-Creek DSO Captain RFS Stanley-Creek had embarked with the battalion on the 13th August 1914. He was wounded on 14th September. He returned to the battalion and took part in the Battle of the Aisne which was followed by the first Battle of Ypres. It was during this battle that Stanley-Creek was awarded his DSO: his company had been cut off by a large party of Germans, and he had to lead his men through the German lines to get back to the battalion. As senior officers had been killed or wounded, he commanded the battalion for a short while until he in turn was killed on 29th October 1914. His body was never found, but his name is remembered on panel 11-13 and 14 on the Menin Gate Memorial. His medals, including a Mentioned-in-Despatches and bronze plaque, are in the possession of a farmer in upstate New York forty miles north of Saratoga - close to the Vermont border. The farmer, Gordon Chaplin, married the eldest daughter of Captain M Teale who had served as a National Service Officer with the 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment in Iserlohn, West Germany in 1950 and later with the 6th Battalion.

Brigadier General CF Watson CMG DSO Wounded 14th October 1914 and again in 1918. Captain CF Watson had served in the South African War (1899-1902) and had been awarded the DSO and twice Mentioned in Despatches. In 1922 he commanded the 2nd Bn The Royal Warwickshire Regiment; this was followed by a period on half-pay until being selected as Brigadier-General in command of the Rangoon Brigade. He retired from the Army in 1931 and died on the 12th July 1948.

Captain and Adjutant CE Wilson Killed 17th September 1914. He had served throughout the South African Campaign with the 2nd Battalion. He was a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour (France). Buried in Paissy Churchyard.

Lieutenant Colonel D Warren Killed 17th September 1914 commanding the 1st Battalion. A very keen shot, he had presented several silver trophies to improve shooting; two are in use today. Brother and son also killed in the Great War. Burial in Paissy Churchyard.

Major General Sir Edward Hamilton KCB Colonel, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment 1914-1920.

Brevet Lieutenant Colonel HC Pilleau DSO Was Second in Command to Lt Col Warren and then assumed command. Killed 21st September 1914. Burial in Neuilly-Sur-Seine New Communal Cemetery. Grave A.23.1.

Brigadier General EB Mathew-Lannowe Brevet Major Mathew-Lannowe was seriously wounded on the 15th September 1914. He had joined the 1st Battalion in India in 1895 and had taken part in the North-West Frontier campaign of 1897-1898 including the operations of the Malakand Field Force. He had been Adjutant of the 1st Battalion from 1902 to 1905. After recovering from his wounds at the Aisne he saw further service in France in 1915-1916. He then held appointments at the Machine Gun Corps Training Centre, and at the end of the war he was Commandant of the Tank Corps Training Centre in the rank of Brigadier-General.

He returned to the Regiment at his own request to take command of the 2nd Battalion for the Waziristan Campaign of 1921. His final appointment was as Commander of the 2nd (Rawalpindi) Brigade. He retired in 1931 and died in 1940.

Lieutenant Colonel MG Heath Wounded 14th September 1914. Subsequently returned to duty and was acting Lieutenant Colonel when he was killed on 25th September 1915 commanding 2nd Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment. He had served for 16 years with the 1st Battalion; took part in the Tirah Expedition 1897-8 and on the North-West Frontier of India (1908). Commemorated on Loos Memorial panel 13 to 15.

Colonel RG Clarke CMG DSO MBE Captain RG Clarke survived the war. He had served with the 2nd Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment in the South African War 1899-1902 and been Mentioned in Despatches.

During the Great War he was made a Chevalier of the French Legion of Honour for his work during the retreat from Mons: four times Mentioned in Despatches, awarded the CMG and DSO. He was promoted to Lt Col. He commanded the 1st Battalion in China from 1927 to 1928 and then retired from the army, and was appointed Honorary Colonel. In retirement he was involved with various charities and was active in promoting the Sea Cadets in Folkestone, for which he was awarded an MBE in 1958. He was a very generous benefactor to the Regiment, including the purchase of the Carlisle Figures and two silver maces (one on display in the museum). He made many donations to the museum and for benevolence. He died on 27th October 1959 aged 80 years.

Major TOM Buchan MC Wounded 14th September 1914. 2nd/Lt Buchan served with the 1st Battalion during the Great War and was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry. Post war he served with the 2nd Battalion until 1926 when he was appointed Adjutant of 22nd Battalion The London Regiment (The Queen's). He retired from the Army in 1928 with the rank of Major.

2nd Lieutenant ED Drew Wounded 14th September 1914.

Captain & Quartermaster GH Wallis DCM Died of wounds 20th September 1918. Had been promoted to Captain (Quartermaster). Buried in Thilloy Road Cemetery, Beaulemcourt. He was awarded the DCM during the Tirah Campaign.

2nd Lieutenant C Cooper Wounded 14th September 1914 (evacuated to UK).

Lieutenant MWH Pain Wounded 26th August 1914. Returned to duty and served throughout the First World War. Subsequently served with the 2nd Battalion as Second-in-Command in Aldershot, 1931.

## The Officers' Club Ladies' Luncheon (by Bryan Ray)

Fifty five officers and ladies were at Clandon House for the lunch this year. This was slightly down from previous years, due to several members being unwell and unable to attend. We missed, amongst others, Les Wilson and Ralph and Adele Ewart - three of our stalwarts. Ralph had a medical appointment, but we look forward to seeing them next year, together with the others who could not make it this time.

We were unable to use the Salon and so pre-lunch drinks and the lunch were held in the gracious surroundings of the marble hall. The meal was excellent and our thanks go to all the staff at Clandon.



*Lunch is served*

After the Loyal Toast the President, Brigadier Bob Acworth, welcomed Julie Lawlor, the National Trust Property Manager at Clandon, and thanked her for her assistance to the Association. He said that he felt that the relations between the National Trust and the Association were such that we could hope to look forward to Clandon continuing as the home for our museum and Association functions for the foreseeable future. The President then outlined the on-going benevolence grants given to former soldiers of the Regiment, and summarised the financial situation of the Association.

Brigadier Acworth gave an outline of the recent activities of the battalions of the PWRR including the outstanding service in Iraq. The Territorials had provided volunteers for Afghanistan and other theatres and this year the annual camp was being held in Kazakhstan! A far cry from St Martin's Plain.

Finally, the President paid tribute to the excellent work done by Adrian Birtles as the Chairman of the Museum Trustees, a post that he would be relinquishing in 2006. The Regimental Toast was then proposed.

All present then adjourned to the museum for coffee and the opportunity to admire the displays.



*Coffee in the museum*

It is noted that very few single officers attend the lunch, and all are reminded that the function is not confined to married officers. Single officers, with or without partners, are more than welcome, and we look forward to seeing our numbers swell in the future.

Once more we are indebted to Tony Russell for organising everything; as always he did a first class job and managed to take the photographs too.

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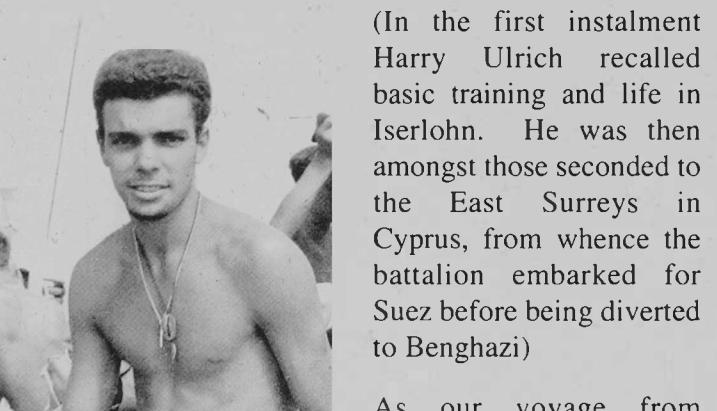
**Congratulations  
and  
Best Wishes**



The marriage took place on Saturday 30th October 2004 between Colonel J G W Davidson and Mrs Coral Higson.

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## National Service 1958-1960 The Queen's Royal Regiment - 52nd Intake: Part 2 (by Harry Ulrich)



(In the first instalment Harry Ulrich recalled basic training and life in Iserlohn. He was then amongst those seconded to the East Surreys in Cyprus, from whence the battalion embarked for Suez before being diverted to Benghazi)

As our voyage from Cyprus came to an end we entered the docks and drew alongside the quay and were greeted by 'Mucker Khan', who was the battalion char wallah in Cyprus. How on earth he knew we were to go to Benghazi was another mystery, but he did.

Once again we were to be loaded into three tonners and driven to our destination. Needless to say this was right out into the desert, having to go through the local shantytown on the way. As we were not going to stay long, it was agreed we would be allowed to use the married 'pads' accommodation, which was far better than having to sleep in tents. We were also told that, if we went into town, we must ensure we got a taxi and not to stop in shantytown: one of the advance parties had done so and had been mugged, only to wake up to find his great coat, battle dress, and boots had been stolen. The duty officer pointed out that, having stopped in shantytown, he was lucky he only lost his kit.



I remember the very first night we mounted a nine man guard. It proved to be a big mistake for in the morning we discovered that a number of lorry tyres, plus quite a number of jerry cans of petrol, were missing. From that day forward we had a thirty man guard each night. It came to pass that if you were one of the best turned out, the reward was (you guessed it) you got a twenty four-hour guard.

Unfortunately on one occasion I managed to get a twenty four-hour guard, which meant two hours tour of duty was

spent as a sentry on the front gate. I remember my first time, standing there not being allowed to move; it seemed that all the flies in North Africa were trying to get up every orifice in my body at the same time. The only way to escape this attack was to come to attention and march up and down. However, due to the heat this was only possible for a very short period before you had to stop. Once you had stopped it wasn't long before you were once again being attacked by the flies, which seemed to have spent their time during your marching up and down period resting in the toilets.

I remember one time whilst I was on guard seeing a big black official looking car coming towards the front gate. Out the corner of my eye I saw someone in the back of the car with a red band around his hat. Immediately I thought, "Brigadier"; and we had been instructed that for anything above the rank of major we were to present arms. So as the car drew nearer I thought "here we go" and Harry Ulrich goes into the present arms. Slowly the car drew up along side me, stopped, the window wound down, a head popped out, and a Salvation Army officer thanked me. Did I feel silly or what!



On another occasion myself and Robert Taylor (known to his mates as Satch as he resembled Satch in 'The Bowery Boys' - for those of you who remember the film) went into town. After we had covered most of the bars, and having bought a few presents from the bazaar, Satch decided he wanted to go to the toilet. Having searched for what seemed ages we finally found it. Would you believe, it was in the square in the middle of the road, with just the one cubicle. Satch entered and after a short period a voice called out from the cubicle "Harry, Harry come quick". I went over and opened the door; Satch looked at me and said "I know they are all poor out here, but some \*\*\*\*\* nicked the toilet and the toilet roll". I tried to explain to him that the two-foot prints and one hole in the ground was the toilet, and that there were no toilets or cisterns in this country, nor did they use toilet rolls. Satch looked at me and said "Harry, I was never a marksman on the rifle or the bren and I'm sure I won't get a bull's eye on this target". Shaking my head in disbelief, I gathered a few pieces of paper together and left him to carry on.

*continued on page 16*

## Annual Church Service



*Lunch in the refectory*



**The Autumn Golf Meeting at Woking**



*Left: preparing the sweepstake draw*



*Right : waiting to tee off*

## The President's Reception for the Mayors of Surrey

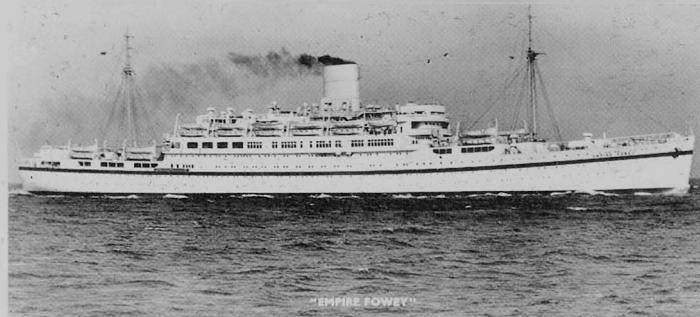


*Major Robinson with  
The High Sheriff*



*Colonel McConnell with some of the Mayoral representatives*

After a few months we eventually left Benghazi aboard the troop ship *Empire Fowey* bound for the UK. Prior to going on leave, we were told that, as we only had a few weeks left to do on completion of leave, we would be returning to Germany to join the Buffs. The remainder of the Queen's and the East Surreys were to stay in England, as they were going to amalgamate to become The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.



The last few weeks in Dortmund went fairly quickly and, finally having struck the last day from our demob charts, we eagerly waited for the three tonners to take us to the station. Upon their arrival we hurriedly climbed aboard and waited for the off, only to be held up at the last minute. We were one short; we were all waiting for dizzy Discombe, the only person ever to be late for his demob truck. He was on his pit reading 'War and Peace' in Russian!

Upon our arrival in Blighty we all made our way to Liverpool Street Station to have a final drink in 'Dirty Dicks', as dozens of our former mates had done before us. After we had sampled quite a few beers we finally exchanged telephone numbers and addresses and said our goodbyes. I was slightly sad on my part to see mates go after having spent the whole two years of national service with them, somehow knowing I would not find comrades as close as these in civvy street. Even though we said we would meet up once every year I knew that this would not last. Sure enough, after a few years people had either moved or had gone abroad, and eventually at the yearly get-together only a few of us turned up. So sadly it was decided to call it a day, knowing this would be the last that we would see of each other.

Many, many years later, one Sunday morning my wife Maureen came out to my shed in the garden where I was working and said that there was a chap on the phone wanting to speak to me. I picked up the phone and heard "Harry, is that you?". I could not believe my ears; it was my old mate Ron Rhone from the Queen's. We spent nearly an hour on the phone, Ron telling me that he was a member of the Association and had spent many months trying to contact some of our old mates from the Queen's. During our conversation he told me that there was going to be a re-union of the Queen's at Farnham and would I like to come; needless to say I jumped at the chance.

After a few weeks the re-union day was upon us. I arrived early at the TA centre in Farnham, positioned myself in the main entrance and waited for the arrival of Ron. I waited and waited; people were going past me, some in groups, and some in two's, but I did not recognise anyone. It got later and later, the hall began filling up and I thought "That's it; he's not coming, I will be stuck here on my own not knowing a soul". Then two chaps came hurrying along and passed me by. One of them came back looked at me and said "Harry, is that you?". It was Ron Rhone and the other chap was another mate Bob Salter. It was little wonder I did not recognise Ron, for the last time I saw him he had been the original six stone weakling and he was now a fifteen stone heavyweight.

Amazingly, that esprit de corps, that special friendship that we had built up during our two years national service, was still there, and the forty-two years that had passed since we last saw each other seemed like only yesterday. The four hours or so that we spent together went very quickly, but not before Ron told me about the Association and said he would arrange to get me an application form to join. Having said our goodbyes we all went our separate ways. All I could do in the meantime was to think about our next get together. After about a week the application form arrived. I filled it in and sent it away, and within no time at all I became a fully paid up member.

In 1999 I attended my first Queen's Surreys reunion on November 5 at the Union Jack Club. It was something I'll never forget; I met up with Ron Rhone, Bob Salter, Roy King, and my old mate Sgt Eric Lockwood. Since those first days of our getting together again we have expanded slightly.

We now meet every year in June at the Union Jack Club, go over to the Firestation pub next to Waterloo Station, and are taken to lunch by another of our old mates Bill Shipton. Bill comes over every year on business from his home in Australia, and although he is now a very successful business man he still takes time out to meet up with us for a few hours.



1st Reunion, Firestation pub, Waterloo

See what I mean about that esprit de corp. For the last two years another very good friend of mine from the

52nd intake, Terry Uggles, has joined us. Both Terry and I were keen footballers and we both played for the battalion and for the BAOR team whilst we were stationed in Germany. Incidentally we were also selected for the battalion boxing team, but decided that there was less damage to be had on the football field than in the ring, so we declined the offer. After seeing some of the battalion boxing matches and some of the ABA boxing champs in the other battalion teams, this was probably the best move we ever made.

At the 2003 re-union we added yet another one to the ranks, Evan Rees (Dai to his friends), so to date we have managed to assemble for our get together Ron Rhone, Bob Salter, Roy King, Bill Shipton, Terry Uggles, Eric Lockwood, Dai Rees, and not forgetting yours truly Harry Ulrich. By the way I am currently trying to get in touch with someone who now lives in Los Angeles, California; and yes you guessed it - Eric, it's your old mate Brian Weatherell!!!!

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#### 5th Queen's OMA Annual Reunion Dinner (by Ian Chatfield)

This year's reunion dinner was held as usual at A (Queen's Surrey) Company of The 3rd Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment Drill Hall in Farnham, Surrey and was once again attended by just under 200 old comrades who sat down to a very enjoyable four course meal. The Dinner was chaired in the absence of Brigadier Richard Holmes by Lt Col Les Wilson who gave a most interesting speech paying tribute to our senior members and their deeds of sixty years ago, and to our young soldiers who as he spoke were serving in Iraq having been called to the colours to reinforce our regular colleagues.



Lt Col Wilson finished by reading an e-mail that had arrived that afternoon from Capt Marcus Butlin, who is one of our committee members serving in Iraq, wishing us a great evening and saying that he and the other members of the Regiment looked forward to joining us again next year. Lt Col Wilson asked the secretary to write to Capt Butlin sending the best wishes of the OMA to all ranks of The Princess of Wales's, and wishing them

continued success for the rest of their tour of duty and a safe return home.



We once again give our thanks to the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Territorial Trustees for their financial support without which we would all have to dig deeper into our shallow pockets, and also to Capt John Gilfoyle and his Drill Hall staff who help so much in the preparation of the Hall, and to Maj Andrew Smith, OC A Coy, for his permission to use the Hall.



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#### The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Association

The venue for meetings has moved from Surbiton to The Jubilee Lodge, Devonshire Avenue, Sheerwater, Woking, Surrey. Directions for road or rail travellers can be supplied by the new Secretary (see page 27 for contact details).

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#### The Queen's Regimental Association

The next annual reunion of the Queen's Regimental Association, for those who served from 1967 to 1992, will be held in the Victory Services Club on 5th March 2005 at 1830 hours. Information about the Association and its events can be obtained from: Major S R Bream QGM, RHQ PWRR, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1JY (Tel: 01227 818857).

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## Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Golf Society

### Spring Meeting 2004

The Spring Meeting was held at Sudbrook Park, Richmond on Thursday 6 May, a fine sunny day. Twenty five members attended, and we were pleased to welcome Richard Bigland on his first outing with the Society.

The course as always was in excellent condition and the lunch provided by the Club at the conclusion of the morning's play was quite superb. The Society AGM was held after lunch; Maj Ron Green was elected as Captain of the Society, to take over after the Royal Marines Match, in succession to Christopher Surtees.

The prizes for the day's play were presented by the Captain, Christopher Surtees, as follows:

#### Senior Division Challenge Cup

Winner Col John Davidson (80 gross)

Runner Up Mike Power (81 gross)

#### Senior Division Medal

Capt Brian Scripps (72 net)

#### Junior Division Dodgson Cup

Winner Maj Ron Green (69 net)

Runner Up Christopher Allanson (78 net)

#### Junior Division Medal

Maj Hugh Greatwood (78 net)

#### Heale's Memorial Trophy Stableford

Eric Paton (37 pts)

#### Veteran's Halo

Col Toby Sewell (39pts)

#### Harry Adcock Putting Trophy

Maj Stephen Petzing

#### The Society Sweep Winners:

1st Capt Peter Dorey

2nd Lt Col Peter Roupell

3rd Colin Howard

## Q.R.S.G.S. v R.M.G.S. (North Hants Golf Club - May 2004)

For the second year running the RMGS proved too strong for us, winning by 6 ½ to 3 ½. The North Hampshire Golf Club at Fleet was in tip-top condition, and the weather fine, but the Marines had a very strong team. For the Queen's Brian Scripps and Ron Green were unbeaten with 1 ½ points each. Peter Roupell and Colin Howard each had one win, but the rest of us were undistinguished.

#### Yellow Tees

##### AM

8 John Davidson) 19 Adam Cane)	0	18 Henry Beverley) 18 Jim Wright)	1
11 Brian Scripps) 20 Peter Roupell)	1	6 Hugh Jones) 13 Keith Wilkins)	0
12 Colin Howard) 22 Ron Green)	1	10 Jeff Price) 12 Micky Duff)	0
20 Foster Herd) 23 Hugh Greatwood)	0	11 John Whelton) 6 Mark Thompson)	1
24 Malcolm Howard) 17 Chris Surtees)	0	15 Brian Hollinrake) 16 Shaun Hayward)	1
	2		3

#### PM Greensomes (9 Holes)

John Davidson) Ron Green)	½	Keith Wilkins) Micky Duff)	½
Brian Scripps) Adam Cane)	1	Henry Beverley) Jeff Price)	0
Foster Herd) Malcolm Howard)	0	Hugh Jones) John Whelton)	1
Colin Howard) Peter Roupell)	0	Brian Hollinrake) Jim Wright)	1
Hugh Greatwood) Chris Surtees)	0	Shaun Hayward) Mark Thompson)	1
	3 ½		6 ½

#### Autumn Meeting 2004

On 6 October 2004, twenty two members of our Golf Society gathered at Woking Golf Club to play the Autumn meeting. This excellent turn out enjoyed perfect weather, a well presented course, first class amenities of the club and the smooth organisation of our secretary Lt Col F B Herd.

The resulting scores were not to the satisfaction of some but the winning scores were certainly worthy of the Society's past reputation. The social meeting of so many acquaintances made for an enjoyable lunch and subsequent reminiscences among friends.



*Foster Herd's ball was up there somewhere*

Close scrutiny of the score cards resulted in the following awards being made:

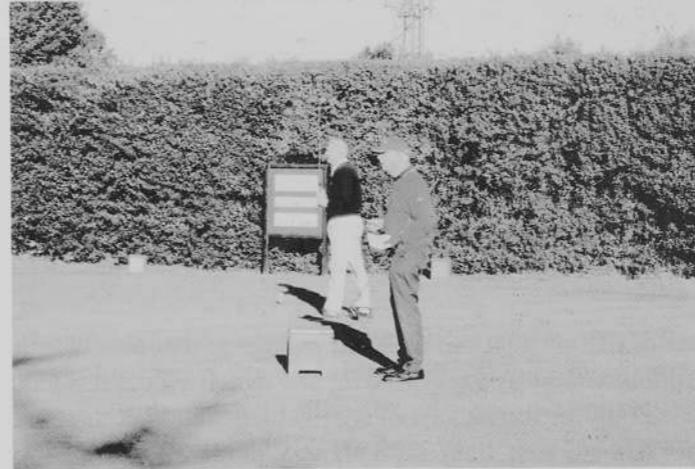
The Autumn Bowl - Col J Davidson (net 70)

The Glasgow Grey's Cup - JRL Wells (net 80)

The Petri Plate (Spring and Autumn) - Col J Davidson (142)

The Heales Memorial Trophy - CM Howard (35 pts)

The Veterans Halo - Col J Davidson (36 pts)



*John Davidson plainly does not believe it*

After prize-giving ideas were sought as to how best celebrate the 75th anniversary of our Society which occurs in 2005. It was decided that we should mark the occasion at the Spring meeting at Sudbrook Park on Thursday 5 May 2005 but no firm decision was taken as to the exact format.

In closing, all assembled honoured the memory of a former member, Dennis Burton, who died recently and whose funeral was that day taking place.



**Paul Dwyer writes:-**

With reference to our telephone conversation of today, please find enclosed a CD-Rom containing some images from my visit to Italy last week. As I explained, the main purpose of my trip was to visit the grave of Private Albert McGann 11265767 of the 2nd/7th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment. Albert was my Great Uncle and he was killed in action on the 8th of September 1944 in Gemmano. It was a source of great sadness to my late Grandfather that he had never managed to visit his younger brother's grave. Over 28 years ago as a mere 12 year old I made a promise that one day I would make the journey and pay my respects at Albert's final resting place.



This year the 6th of September was my 40th birthday and, now as a father of four myself, I decided that the 60th anniversary was the perfect time to keep my promise and visit Albert's grave. I managed to get in touch with Colonel Blum who forwarded my letter to Colonel Sewell, in which I asked if there were any ex-members of the regiment planning a visit this year as I would have been very pleased to meet them. Colonel Sewell explained there was no official commemoration planned this year and furthermore he was pleased to accept my offer to lay a wreath on behalf of the regiment in Gemmano.



I am happy to say this was a very memorable and very emotional trip. I was at Albert's grave on the 8th of September, 60 years to the day that he was killed in action, and then on the 9th of September I visited Gemmano. There I was met by the present Sindaco Mr. Luciano Colombari and Author and Historian Mr. Amedeo Montemaggi who presented me with a copy of his book "Gemmano The Cassino of the Adriatic". I laid a wreath at the town memorial and then enjoyed a guided tour of the area culminating in a walk of the route taken by the 2nd/7th Queen's on the 8th of September. It was a very moving experience and only when standing near to the town memorial did it become clear to me the strategic importance of tiny Gemmano. I could see as far as Rimini, Riccione, Catholica and Pesaro; the view was incredible.

Please feel free to reproduce any of the images enclosed for the purpose of your regimental newsletter. Can you also pass on the best wishes of Mr. Colombari and Mr. Montemaggi to Colonels Blum and Sewell.

May I also thank the Regimental Association for the opportunity to play a small part on their behalf in this act of remembrance; it was an honour and a privilege. Thank you.

#### John Puddephatt writes:

Recently when visiting Suffolk I had occasion to go to Southwold and its adjoining village, Walberswick, to reminisce about the time that I was serving with the 13th Training Battalion in September 1944. I had been sent on embarkation leave from Lancaster (Bowerham Barracks) with orders to report back to Southwold after 14 days.

When I reported back I went to Battalion HQ in Southwold. I was sent to A Coy across the estuary by rope-hauled ferry to Walberswick. There I remained until being sent on a further embarkation leave of 7 days before being detailed for a Far Eastern draft. I remember well being billeted in no less than 4 different houses in the village.

It was in the last one called 'Roof Trees' that myself and Ian McEwan (subsequently an officer in the Indian Army) made what has proved to be our marks. Armed with a tin of the inevitable white paint and having used it for the purposes for which it was supplied we decided to 'gild the lily' by painting the house name by the door at the front of the house: this achieved we decided to paint the letters "QRR" underneath. We little realised when we did so that it would still be visible 50 years later! I am enclosing a photograph to prove it in the hope that it may find its way into the next edition of the Newsletter.



One of the unusual things in the village at that time was a building known as the Barn Cinema, which a local resident had set up for the benefit of servicemen stationed there. It only had a dozen seats but it showed the latest releases!

About two days prior to my final departure the local inhabitants put on a show consisting of musical numbers for the benefit of the troops stationed in Southwold and Walberswick. It was done in the Pier Pavilion which held about 200 and it was full. At one point one of the singers (a particularly attractive young lady) asked for requests: the response was vociferous and extremely varied but I was naturally delighted that it was my request "Shoo Shoo Baby" that she sang.

#### Noel Matthews writes:

In 1997 a small party from the Regiment, together with members of the Royal Tank Regiment, visited the village of Beuvillers which is close to Lisieux, Normandy. This

invitation came about through the efforts of Monsieur Fernand Landemaine who wrote to the Mayor of Beuvillers, part of which I quote "Mr. Mayor I have always thought that the four soldiers killed at Beuvillers on the 22nd Aug 1944 should not be forgotten. I should be happy to see the community honour these soldiers in a manner that you judge to be suitable." Monsieur Landemaine was 14 years old in 1944.

I had kept in touch with Monsieur Landemaine and, prior to the 60th anniversary of D-Day, I received a card from the daughter, who had assisted at the reception in 1997, hoping to meet again. This I was able to do on Monday 7th June; so together with my wife we excused ourselves from a presentation that we due to attend and once again met Monsieur Landemaine, wife and daughter. Monsieur Landemaine was involved at a ceremony at Saint Desir cemetery, near Lisieux, at which members of the Highland Division were being presented with the Normandy medal. We were invited to attend. This is the cemetery where the four soldiers - two from 1/7th Queen's (Private Albert Burton and Sergeant George Cumbley), one from 1 RTR (Sergeant Shelcott) and one from 11th Royal Scots (Private Thomson) - all have graves which we had visited in 1997. Amongst the large number of civilians in attendance were groups of school children who, when instructed, each stood in front of a grave and put a flower on it. These children all had homemade flags of different nations. I was approached by two of the children and asked to write on their flags; this was followed by the whole class, which I found very moving.

Leaving the cemetery we went to Beuvillers to the old cider factory where in 1997 they had erected a stone memorial to the fellows killed with a small strip of flowers planted in front; it was all in very good condition. Our hosts' parents' house was a hundred yards further on, still showing shell marks, by the road renamed 'Carrefour de la Liberte' in 1997. Although they now live in Caen, the present occupier conveniently arrived to invite us to share his hospitality and cider! After a very pleasant 1 1/2 hours we proceeded to the school house where we most pleased to meet the lady in whose house we had stayed in 1997.

It was a most enjoyable day as I did not expect to see our friends in the light of the schedule that had been laid out by the travel firm that we were with for the period. The gratitude of those who spoke to us regarding the liberation was moving; to quote from a letter "The 6th of June always sounds for me and certainly for a lot of people like the birth of freedom."

Monsieur Landemaine presented me with a plaque recording the liberation of Beuvillers; this I have handed to the Museum at Clandon together with an account, in English, of the happenings regarding the liberation of Lisieux and Beuvillers.

(Editor's note: an account of the 1997 visit, written by Major Derrick Watson, appeared in Edition 62 of the Newsletter published in November 1997)

**Ron Harper** wrote from Spain with photographs of a 50th Anniversary meeting of the first day in the Regiment. The photographs below show Alan Bennett, Harry Cookson and Alf Hobbs in the 1950s



and now.



Due to Alan's health they met at his home and were well looked after by Alan's wife Linda, helped by Ron's wife Maureen. Maureen was Ron's girl friend when he joined the Regiment so she was part of the 50th Anniversary group too.

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#### Italy Star Association 1943-45 (by Graham Swain)

The past couple of years have been quite successful for us, particularly since our first reunion in Chichester; we have continued to use the city as our venue following the splendid cooperation the City Council have given us. We are fortunate in that the current Mayor is a member of the Association. The Chairman of the District Council is a member and the cooperation from the RMP who are based in the City has helped us no end; The Dean of the Cathedral is well disposed to us and on the last two occasions we have actually filled the Cathedral. We have also been fortunate in that the Commandant of the

RMA at Sandhurst has allowed an RSM to marshal our parade for several years so we do not lack support from the regulars.

Our membership, which is open to all holders of the Italy Star campaign medal and associate membership to relatives and other ex servicemen and women, reached 2500 at its peak but sadly we are now down to 1900, largely of course by comrades passing on. Most of our members are in their eighties but we still put on a good show when we march through the City of Chichester. This coming year we have again booked the holiday camp at Bracklesham Bay for a three night weekend, with the service and parade on Sunday May 8th. The service commences at 1.30 pm and all are welcome. Our Patron, Field Marshal the Lord Inge, supports us by his attendance every year and he chooses to lead the parade rather than take the salute. This gives immense pleasure to our members. We follow the parade with a formal dinner at the holiday camp attended by members who cannot stay the weekend. This year 230 sat down for the meal.

We have had some problems in getting the Royal British Legion to acknowledge the fact that the RETURN TO EUROPE was not June 1944 which they publicized earlier this year but that it was July 10th 1943 in Sicily followed by September 3rd in Calabria, September 9th at Salerno and Anzio January 1944. Despite considerable correspondence they would not publish a correction.

We have 16 branches all over the UK from Aberdeen to Somerset and Kent. We also have two branches in New Zealand, a large contingent of Polish Veterans who fought so valiantly at Cassino and members in Rome, South Africa, Canada, Argentina and Belgium.

Our aims and objectives are: (1) To ensure that the Italian campaign is fully recognised. (2) To hold an annual reunion, service and parade. (3) To promote visits to Commonwealth War cemeteries. (4) To keep alive that special bond of comradeship which existed during the campaign and to further support descendants of fallen comrades.

Due to the efforts of our man in Rome we have persuaded the Italian Government that it should take steps to renovate the special memorial in Rome (commemorating the liberation of the city on 4th June 1944) because of its dilapidated state. They agreed to commission a new memorial and on June 4th this year a number of our members attended a ceremony there which was supposed to unveil the new memorial. No one told us that it was not yet completed. Typical!! It will be ready we are told in 2005 in time for the next anniversary.

A number of members went to Cassino for the 60th anniversary of the battles and currently we have a party in Italy at Salerno. Sadly one of our members died suddenly yesterday (14th September) whilst on the pilgrimage.

Despite our age, we intend to keep going a while longer and if anyone wishes to join us please contact Graham Swain, The National Secretary, at: 76 Manor Road, New Milton, Hants BH25 5EN Tel 01425 614884.

Finally, our National Memorial to the fallen in Italy (the only one exclusive to the campaign) is in the Westgate Gardens, Canterbury and is well worth a visit. We used to hold our reunions at Canterbury until difficulties over accommodation and dinner venues made it impractical. We also have a large plot at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

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#### MOUSCRON 2004

(by R Bowden)

This year a party of 48 travelled to Belgium to take part in the memorial service to honour the fallen from the East Surrey Regiment in the battle for Risquons Tout in World War II.

The memorial is a Bren Gun Carrier restored by the local people and placed at the site of the action. The credit for this must go to the people of the town, not forgetting the two main figure heads, the then Capt P Watton R.M.P (now a Lt Col) and Mr. Mike Legras MBE who sadly passed away two years ago and will be sadly missed by all who met him. The trip would be very hard work if it was not for the valuable assistance of Annie (Mike's widow) and his friend of many years Ronnie Louf. Thanks must go here to many people - too many to name here - but a big thank you to the Local Technical College "Intranet" who let us use their accommodation and facilities.

After the parade there was a small reception hosted by the Mayor and Council. This has been resurrected after stopping in the in the year 2000. The rest of the afternoon is taken up with free time for people to explore the town of Mouscron followed by a barbecue in the College grounds, with invited people from the local community; this gives everybody a chance to mingle.

The evening is then taken up with a trip to Ypres for the last post ceremony which always brings a lump to my throat. Then back to Mouscron for a visit to the town, for refreshments?

Sunday after breakfast we depart for a tour of the battlefields around Ypres. This year started at the Hooge Crater Museum with many walking the short distance to the crater site with John Tucker as their guide. From there to Vancouver Corner and the Brooding Soldier. We would then normally visit Langemark, the German Cemetery, but due to road works and restricted parking it was decided to return to Ypres for lunch. After lunch we travelled to Paschendaele and on to Tyne Cot (always a moving sight) to visit. From there on to Essex Farm where the author of "In Flanders Fields" Lt Col John

McCrae is laid to rest; this being our final stop of the day before our trip home.

This year we took with us the Corps of Drums of the Surrey Army Cadet Force by kind permission of their outgoing Commandant Lt Col D.G Cox and their incoming Commandant Lt Col Andrew Blowers. The rest of the party was made up of ex-members of 6/7 PWRR plus serving members of 3 PWRR, some who had only just returned from operational tours all around the Globe.

Also present were friends and families; one such friend who was very welcome this year was ex-WO White ("Chalky") ex-2 PWRR who is now the Quartermaster for Kent A.C.F.

Last but not least, also with us was Mike Etherington, the Standard Bearer for the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association. As well as carrying the standard, he brought with him items from the Regimental shop which were well received.

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## PAY ATTENTION CAN YOU HELP?



Mr J Rutherford writes from 24 Dalveen Avenue, Urmston, Manchester, Lancs M41 7DP:

I have a group photograph of D Coy 2/7th Queen's. Very few of the men pictured are likely to be alive now; if so, like myself, they will be in their mid-eighties. It was taken outside an oast-house we were billeted in outside Faversham, Kent where we dug-in in the orchards ready for the impending enemy invasion. Many of the men would have been reinforcements from other regiments following the battalion's return from France in June 1940.

Remaining particularly in my memory are the men who were drafted on 17th January 1940 and, after being kitted out in the drill hall in Horsham, were despatched to the 2/7th at St Leonards-on-Sea. Thrown in at the deep end! To name but a few: Frank Thomas, Joe Tasker, Harry Halls, 'Wagger' Wade, Cpl Barber; a few of the men became X Coy at St Leonards and became very bonded during that particularly nasty 1940 winter.

A very annoying personal factor about the photograph is that I was on that special day sent to Canterbury to have a tooth yanked out.

If any survivors would like a copy of the photograph I would like to offer same and to learn of the fate of any of the men in the group.

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**Mrs R Thomas** of Oak Lodge Cottage, Chesley Hill, Wick, Bristol BS30 5NE would like to hear from anyone who remembers her father Private Norman Brock of 2/6th Queen's. He started the war in 10 Pl B Coy and in March 1943 was in 6 Pl HQ Coy 2/6th Queen's.

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**Alan Warnes** writes from 37 Crayford Way, Crayford, Kent DA1 4JY Tel: (01322 554149):

It was with much interest and nostalgia that I read the article written by Harry Ulrich in the May Newsletter. I was in Alamein Platoon with Harry and we were both in the Platoon Boxing Team photo published with the article. It would be great to hear from any of those mentioned.

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**Mr Norris** who served with 2/6th Queen's 1939 - 45 would like to get in contact with any former comrades. He can be contacted at 92 Kings Avenue, Bromley, Kent BR1 4HL (Tel: 0206 4604616).

o o o

**Mr S Scott** writes from 47 Ferndale Road, Leytonstone, London E11 3DW (Tel: 020 8558 1914):

The Commando Association disbands on 30th September 2005. Last parade at Portsmouth in mid-September. Could any past member of the Regiment who served with the Commandos 1940-46 and wishes to continue with the Commando Veterans Association please contact as above and full information will be provided.

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**Mrs B Rendell** writes on behalf of her mother Maisie Pusey (nee Bird) who is now 84 years old.

During WW II her mother had a friend called John Graves who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment. He was taken prisoner and sent to Stalag 42. During this time he corresponded with her mother sending her postcards and photographs of him and others in the camp; these she has kept and would now like to return them to Mr Graves, if he is still alive, or his family.

(contact through Editor)

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# Regimental Deaths

*Adlington* - On 19th July 2004, Albert Adlington.

*Ambrose* - On 14th September 2004, Lieutenant Colonel William Gunnell Russell Ambrose, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment and the Queen's Own Buffs who served with 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment in Aden and Hong Kong 1961-63.

*Attwell* - In May 2004 aged 92 years, Major Robert Hillwell Attwell. He served with 2/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment and The Hampshire Regiment during WW II.

*Bessell* - In July 2004, Rex Bessell. He enlisted into 2/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment in January 1940. He was captured whilst serving in France before Dunkirk and was a POW until 1945.

*Bott* - On 31st October 2004, Colonel Harold Frederick Bott MC (late The Queen's Royal Regiment and Royal Army Pay Corps).

*Bromige* - On 25th July 2004, Alec Bromige who served with The East Surrey Regiment, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and The Queen's Regiment.

*Brown* - On 10th May 2004, Lieutenant Colonel Walter Brown MC. He was seconded to The East Surrey Regiment after Anzio, serving with the Regiment for the remainder of the war. He was awarded an MC in September 1944 whilst commanding D Company 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment near Rimini, Italy.

*Burdett* - On 17th July 2004, Sergeant John Eric Burdett. Having enlisted in May 1944 his service prior to his discharge in 1966 included periods with The Royal Sussex Regiment, The Queen's Own Royal West Kents and The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Burton* - On 29th September 2004, Major B D S Burton (see obituary).

*Ford* - On 27th June 2004, George Ford who served with The East Surrey Regiment during WW II.

*Griffiths* - On 30th October 2004, Corporal Ernest John Griffiths who served with 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in Burma.

*Harper* - On 22nd July 2004, George Harper who served with 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Hill* - On 2nd July 2004, Richard Hill who served with 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment 1957-59 and also with The East Surrey Regiment in Cyprus. He was a member of the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment's successful hockey team in 1957/58.

*Hill* - On 21st July 2004, Sergeant Major William Henry Thomas Hill. During WW II he served with 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment and also with the British Military Administration, Eritrea.

*Hubbard* - In September 2003 aged 86, Fred Hubbard who served with 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

His service during WW II included North Africa. He subsequently became a gamekeeper for HM King George VI at Sandringham.

*Hughes-D'Aeth* - On 1st November 2004, Major Wyndham Peter Hughes-D'Aeth TD (Queen's Royal Regiment and H.A.C.).

*Humphrey* - On 22nd December 2003, Ronald H Humphrey who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*James* - On 20th August 2004 aged 77 years, Colour Sergeant Leonard William James. Having enlisted into 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in November 1944, he subsequently served with 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment, The Royal Fusiliers, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and The Queen's Regiment before his discharge in May 1967. He saw service in a number of theatres including the Far East, Korea and Aden.

*Johnson* - On 30th August 2004, Derek Johnson who served as a national service officer with the East Surrey Regiment. An outstanding athlete, his achievements included two gold medals in the 1954 Empire Games and a silver medal at the 1956 Olympics.

*Landen* - On 24th May 2004, Stuart George Owen Landen. He was commissioned into the Northamptonshire Regiment with which he served in Korea. Subsequently he joined the Territorial Army serving with 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment and 4th Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

*Leonard* - On 22nd September 2004, Albert Charles Leonard who served with The East Surrey Regiment during WW II including in India, North Africa and Italy.

*Longley* - On 29th September 2004, Corporal Bill Longley who served with 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment during WW II.

*Lowe* - On 20th December 2003, Frederick Lowe who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment during WW II.

*McDonald* - In February 2004, Archie McDonald who saw service with The East Surrey Regiment during WW II.

*Matthews* - On 9th August 2004 aged 82, Roy Matthews. He was wounded at El Alamein while serving with 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. He rejoined, was claimed by 131 Bde as a driver, and saw further service in Italy and NW Europe.

*Munns* - On 4th August 2004, Frederick Munns who, having enlisted into the Devonshire Regiment in July 1945 and then transferred to the Royal Norfolk Regiment, joined The East Surrey Regiment until his discharge in 1948.

*Pearce* - In January 2004, J W Pearce who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Purnell* - In July 2004, H Purnell who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Ramsey* - On 11th October 2004, Sergeant Frederick Albert William (Tony) Ramsey MM (see obituary).

*Sawtell* - On 23rd July 2004, Captain Roger Alan Sawtell. He enlisted into 4th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment with which he served until 1940 when he was transferred to the Royal Artillery.

*Shaw* - On 6th October 2004, Kenneth Henry Shaw. He enlisted in January 1942 and served with The Queen's Royal Regiment. He was wounded in action in North Africa in September 1943 and again in action in Italy in December 1944. He was invalided from the Army in November 1945.

*Stevens* - On 23rd May 2004, Albert Stevens who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Treadaway* - On 29th October 2004, in Ontario, Canada, Corporal Thomas Morton Treadaway. Having initially enlisted as a boy soldier in 1946, he subsequently served with 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment until 1955.

*Webb* - On 14th May 2004, Ernest Richard Webb.

*Wheeler* - On 8th July 2004, Fred (Gus) Wheeler who served with 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment during WW II.

*Woodhams* - On 28th August 2004 in the Royal Star and Garter Home, Ernest Henry Woodhams who served with The East Surrey Regiment from October 1936 until May 1946.

Dennis was born on 6th April 1935 and was educated at Sherborne. He had been destined for Dartmouth and the Royal Navy but he failed the eyesight test. This certainly did not affect his prowess as a first class small bore shot and the Navy's loss was the Army's gain. He was called up for National Service in 1953 and attended Eaton Hall. It was there that he decided to make the Army his career and transferred to Sandhurst from where he was commissioned into The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1956, joining 1st Battalion in Singapore where it was awaiting transfer to Malaya. Following service in Malaya he remained with the battalion when it moved to Iserlohn in Germany.

In 1959, after the amalgamation of the Queen's and East Surreys, Dennis was seconded to the Somaliland Scouts, then under the command of a Queen's officer Brigadier Maurice MacWilliam CBE DSO MC. In Hargesia he became ADC to the last Governor of British Somaliland, Sir Douglas Hall. When all seconded military personnel left Somaliland, on its being merged with the Italian dependency and becoming the Republic of Somalia, Dennis transferred to Ghana to complete his secondment to Commonwealth and Colonial forces. However, his tour of duty in Accra was cut short when the President of Ghana expelled all British staff in 1961.

Dennis returned to England and married Anne Jackson who herself came from a family with many well known Army connections. In April 1962, accompanied by his new wife, he joined 1st Battalion Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment in Hong Kong. He served with the Queen's Surreys throughout its tour of duty in Hong Kong and subsequently with the battalion in Munster until 1965.

On leaving the Regiment his final years in the Army saw him at the Brigade Depot in Canterbury, with the Junior Leaders in Wales and on the staff of 3 Division at Bulford. He retired from the Army in 1973.

In retirement in Northumberland Dennis became a gifted restorer of furniture and in latter years, following hip replacements which restricted his movements, of china also. He had always been very good with his hands and an excellent wood worker. He developed his furniture restoration skills into a successful business undertaking commissions for the National Trust and stately homes in the North East. He also became an enthusiastic water colour painter. He immersed himself in local life with great energy and commitment being closely associated with the British Legion and acting for some years as Chairman of his local Constituency Conservative Association. He also represented Northumberland and the North at shooting, attending meetings all over the country and winning many prizes. As an expert on medals and decorations he gave considerable assistance to the trustees of the Regimental Museum at Clandon. Dennis was also a good games player and was a member of the Queen's hockey team which won the BAOR

## Regimental Families

*Hickmott* - On 24th May, Mary Hickmott, beloved wife of Richard George Hickmott.

*Lockwood* - On 1st August 2004, Desni, beloved wife of Drum Major Eric Lockwood who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment and The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

*Redfern* - On 13th October 2004, Mo (Maureen) beloved wife of Lieutenant Colonel George Redfern.

*Swanson* - On 3rd July 2004, peacefully in hospital, Betty Swanson, widow of the late Major Paul Swanson.

## Obituaries

**Major B D S Burton**  
1935 - 2004



Dennis Burton, who died from a heart attack on 29th September, was a respected and popular officer who served in the Regiment between 1956 and 1973. His father, Brigadier B.E.L. Burton CBE, had also served in The Queen's Royal Regiment.

hockey cup in 1959 and which went on to narrowly lose in the Army final.

Dennis Burton was a man of considerable charm, warmth and integrity. He was a colourful character in every respect with a delightful sense of humour and a love of fun. He had, though, a very keen appreciation of the values and traditions of his Regiment. Those who knew him can testify to his negotiating skills and resourcefulness and how he was able to charm virtual strangers to do anything for him. There is no better example of this than on his return to England from Malaya. The battalion's troopship had docked at Durban where Dennis befriended a local tour guide and returned to the ship with a Zulu warrior's full war kit including a fearsome looking spear. On arriving at H.M. Customs in Southampton he was advised that the weapon was far too dangerous to be allowed into the Country without a licence. Dennis, quite unfazed, indicated that this really would not be a problem as he would be leaving England in four weeks and just wondered if the Customs officer would mind looking after everything for him and, if it was not too much trouble, have the spear and assorted weaponry delivered to Harwich. Sure enough it was all there awaiting him four weeks later!

As senior subaltern in Germany Dennis befriended all National Service subalterns and made their arrival in the Regiment and the mess an unforgettable experience. He really enjoyed a good party and was never far away from extra orderly officer duties himself! As wine member he showed considerable flair. When a disused cellar in the mess in Iserlohn was found to house wine left behind by a previous regiment Dennis insisted that he owed a duty to his fellow officers to sample each vintage before serving it in the mess. He would insist on being accompanied in this onerous task by selected colleagues. As can be imagined the sampling invariably ran to more than one bottle. It is not recorded whether the bar made a windfall profit.

In Somaliland he was known for his good humour and the efficient organisation of Government House, although on one occasion there was a problem with some ink stains on a set of invitations which gave rise to the nickname by which he became affectionately known in Somaliland. The Burton telephone greeting of "ADC to HE" closely followed by "but, my dear chap" became a byword in communication in Hargesia. He was never far from the action, though. On R and R in Kenya he and a cavalry officer friend managed to meet a zebra at 60 mph in their hired car. Not unnaturally the zebra was a write off, and so was the car. On ringing the car hire company to advise of the problem a new car was offered as a replacement. When Dennis made the point that the company might wish to reconsider whether this was indeed wise after what had happened he was told that it was not a problem really as a hirer the previous week had hit an elephant! One suspects Dennis was somewhat put out to have been upstaged.

In fact Dennis did not always have his greatest military successes when animals were involved as those who took part in the 'invasion of Lantao', a major amphibious exercise in which the battalion was involved in Hong Kong in 1962, can testify. Dennis was given the challenge of being mule officer, mules being the only reliable form of transport in the terrain. The battalion was steadily advancing on its objective when the advance came to a halt. Word had been received from the rear that there was 'some difficulty with the mules'. After some time without movement, and impatient to resume the advance, the C.O. who was not exactly noted for his patience in these matters, went back to establish what had happened only to find Dennis trying to coax a mule which had two three inch mortars strapped to its back, and which was lying upside down at the bottom of a ravine flailing all four legs furiously at anyone who approached it, back onto its feet. On being confronted with this spectacle the immortal cry sallied forth from the C.O. "don't effing well stand there, Dennis, do something". It could only have happened to Dennis. The soldiers, though, were delighted with the unplanned rest period!

Dennis could be irreverent when the mood took him, not least when he felt someone was taking advantage of a situation or shooting a line. He was by no means an automatic respecter of rank. One had to earn his respect and approval. On one occasion he was seen in heated discussion with Mrs Thatcher at a Conservative Party Conference. It would not surprise one if Dennis got the better of the argument.

As a proud husband, father and grandfather, as well as a friend to many people in different walks of life, Dennis was much loved. His premature death robs all his friends of a true gentleman and colleague. Many of us will surely have fond memories of his annual Southern tours which were planned down to the last detail of timing and location with military precision. At the time of his death he and Anne had decided to move to Wiltshire to be nearer three of their four children. Piers lives in Japan.

History relates that on advising his very strict father that he wished to leave the Army the reply had been, "Dennis, you do not leave the Army, the Army leaves you". And, that is exactly what has happened. Those of us who were privileged to have known him as a friend now know the sadness his passing brings. He was a special man, always fun loving and fun making and very generous of spirit. He will be sorely missed by many people.

But, it is really his family who will miss him most and it is to his dear wife Anne, who was such a support throughout their 42 years of married life, sons Piers and Rupert, daughters Alexandra and Caroline and sisters Audrey, Gillian and Joanna that we send our deepest sympathies in their loss.

#### FAW Ramsey MM 1923 - 2004



Fred Ramsey, known to all as Tony, was brought up in the Depot at Kingston where his father was a sergeant. Tony enlisted as a Boy Soldier at 15, but claimed to be older. He was posted to B Company 1 Surreys in Italy and was employed as a stretcher bearer. In the action near Larino the battalion suffered 71 casualties. Tony was awarded the Military Medal for bringing in casualties under fire.

He spent the rest of the war with 1 Surreys in Italy and Austria. After leaving the Army he was employed by the Post Office. He also joined the TA and rose to the rank of sergeant in the REME. He then transferred to 6 Surreys (TA) and served with the TA for many years.

Tony was a keen supporter of the East Surrey Reunion Association and became its secretary in the early 90s. His enthusiasm and positive advertising produced a substantial increase in the attendance at the annual reunions which remain highly popular and successful events. This year, Tony, who had been suffering from increasing ill-health, could not attend the reunion and died two days after it. He was though, happy to receive a presentation tankard and to know that a volunteer had come forward to take his place as secretary.

Tony was obviously a man of real character, one who was always amiable and very popular. He carried out a great deal of welfare work and made it his business to keep in touch with as many Surreys as possible. He was the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association Standard Bearer for a number of years. He was immensely proud of his regiment and his whole life was a credit to it.

Our sympathy goes to his wife, Elsie, who is seriously ill, and his daughters Brenda and Sandra.

DRB

#### Branch Secretaries

5th Bn OMA-QRR:	I Chatfield Esq, 13 Wood Road, Farncombe, Godalming, Surrey GU7 3NN	Tel: 01483 429425
6th Bn OCA-QRR:	Major M R Nason TD, 64 Westfield Road, Barnehurst, Kent DA7 6LR	Tel: 0132 2527017
7th Bn OCA-QRR:	Major J M A Tamplin MBE TD, 10 Hugh Street, London SW1	Tel: 0207 8340120
2/6th Bn OCA-QRR:	Major M R Nason TD, 64 Westfield Road, Barnehurst, Kent DA7 6LR	Tel: 0132 2527017
2/7th Bn OCA-QRR:	Colonel D E Blum OBE, 85 Thameside, Staines, Middlesex TW18 2HF	Tel: 01784 450483
East Surrey Reunion:	J Broom Esq, 11 Sayerland Road, Polegate, East Sussex BN26 6NU	Tel: 01323 489262
WOs and Sgts Assoc:	R W Stebbings Esq, 5 Ebbage Court, 14 Mount Herman Road, Woking, Surrey GU22 7SX	Tel: 01483 770343
2/6th East Surrey St Valery Assoc:	Maj A J Redfern MC TD, Courtlands, 12 Kent House, Sheen Rd, Richmond, Surrey TW10 5AV	Tel: 0208 9402191
Queen's Surreys (Kent) Branch:	R F Harper Esq, 90 Osbourne Road, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent TN24 0EQ	Tel: 01233 643719
Queen's Surreys (Suffolk) Branch:	D J Gardner Esq, 106 Oakes Road, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP32 6QS	Tel: 01284 753160
1st Surrey Rifles:	T W Young Esq BEM, 38 Stanstead Manor, St James Road, Sutton, Surrey	Tel: 0208 643 6189
Queen's Surreys (South West) Branch:	H Stewart Esq, 3 Wentworth Road, Springbank, Cheltenham, Glos GL51 0NS	Tel: 01242 239121

*Back cover: Pages from the handwritten War Diary of 1st Surreys (now held with the archive at Surrey History Centre: there is no page 10 nor 13) recording the action on the Mons-Condé Canal on 23rd August 1914.*

*C Company, on wooded ground on the North side, came under fire in the early afternoon and in due course was attacked by German infantry. Hard pressed and with an exposed flank, C Company was ordered to fall back across the canal, but the message never reached two platoons just north of the railway embankment. These platoons held on for as long as possible in order to check the German advance, until finally, with fixed bayonets and drawn swords, they charged the enemy in an attempt to break out.*

Date. Place.

WAR DIARY - continued

9

22<sup>nd</sup> Béthunes left ville at 7.15 am. Crossed Belgian to MONS CANAL frontier about 9 am and marching via ELOUGES, reached MONS-CONDÉ canal about 3 pm after a hot march of some 18 miles - made more trying by the cobble roads of Belgium. The Batteries had the right half of the line from just NW. of L'HERBISSE to the Canal railway Bridge to the VILLE - POMMEREUIL Road, the 1<sup>st</sup> R. Infy. then left half of this, as the outpost position of the 14<sup>th</sup> Brigade - the H. S. Batts. of the 13<sup>th</sup> Bde. continuing the outpost line on our right: The 15<sup>th</sup> Bde. was in Reserve.

At once began strengthening position  
of supplies, and men ordered to eat half  
their ration

The Ratta was dispersed as follows:-

WAR DIARY - *Continued*

12

Date Place  
23<sup>rd</sup> MONS/CANAL The morning opened misty & wet,  
Sunday. clearing about 10 a.m. Construction of  
fire trenches continued and clearing  
of foreground North of Canal commenced  
tools for this purpose not arriving previous  
night - Owing to the houses on  
North of Canal running down to Railway  
Bridge, 'C' Coy was obliged to hold  
advanced position on North Bank, so it was decided  
to move 'A' Coy up in their immediate  
support on the South Bank. A. Two Cos.  
of the Suffolk Regt. were ordered up  
in Reserve about noon. One of these was  
sent over Canal to assist in clearing  
the foreground, but owing to the  
advance of the Germans about 1 p.m. all  
work had to cease and most of this Coy.  
was drawn into the fire trenches along  
with 'C' Coy. The attack was soon  
pressed and several casualties quickly  
occurred in this section, including Capt  
T.P. Benson, dangerously wounded.  
All posts were ordered to offer as much  
resistance as possible and adjoining  
posts mutually arranged accordingly.  
with one another, but the Battle on the  
left had already been ordered to take up a  
fresh position further South.

WAR DIARY. Continued

15

Date Place.  
29<sup>th</sup> August. Marched to BOIS DE BOUSSU where at  
MONS-CANA eventually bivouacked about 2 am in a  
coal mine yard. Total Casualties in this action  
5 Officers <sup>130</sup> & ~~100~~ other ranks killed, wounded & missing.

~~8. Capt P.B. Benson. Capt R.C. Campbell. Lt. D. Wynnard.  
Lt G Morris. & 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. N. Ward -~~

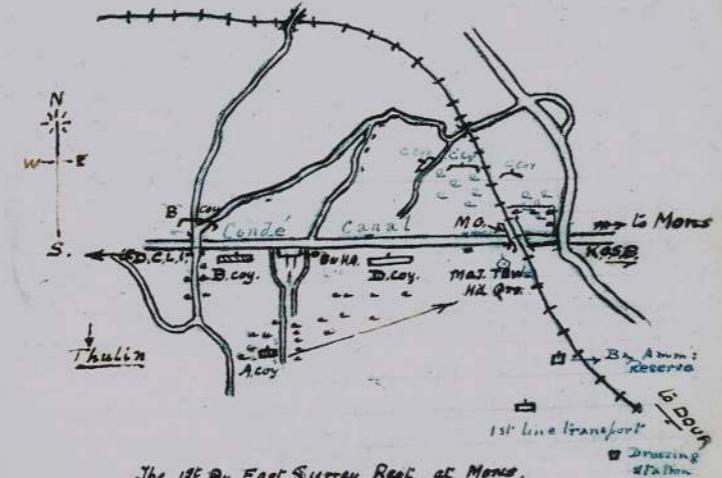
WAR DIARY - continued

1

278

Railway Bridge and immediate surroundings  
"C" Coy, under Capt. J. P. Benson and  
M.G. Section under Lieut. T. H. Darwell.  
Road Bridge over Caneel on left of our  
front - "B" Coy under Capt. E. M. Woulfe-  
Flanagan with "D" Coy under Capt. M. J.  
Munogue along the Grand South Banks  
connecting the two plank cos.

Headqrs. in a Canal employee's House  
on The Bank between "D & B" Cos.  
"A" Cos. under Capt. H. P. Torreus, in reserve  
500 yards behind Head qrs.



WAR DIARY - Continued

1

Ost. Glea

CANAL 1843 fm. The attack was being pressed all along the line and A Coy. was now absorbed in the Firing line - The Machine Gun Section from its position on the Railway Bridge did excellent work, and coupled with the steady firing of the men in the trenches helped much to delay the enemy's advance. About 6 pm the enemy's guns at short range blew in the KOSB Borderers barricade compelling them to withdraw - South of canal. This enabled the enemy to explode our right section which in turn also withdrew South of the Canal, covered by A Coy. About 7 pm the Railway Bridge, which had previously been prepared for destruction, was blown up. This was the prearranged signal for the Road Bridge held by B Coy to be also

blown up. This was effected none too soon as the last man had only just left the house loopholed and prepared for defence at the Bridge head when an enemy's shell completely destroyed it. The withdrawal to the south of River Haine in accordance with previous instructions received, was then carried out in good order by alternate portions of the line, and covered finally by the remainder of the Suffolk Cos. After reporting to Brigade Headqrs. at THULIN the Battalion

MAY 2005

# THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION



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Chairman  
Lieutenant Colonel F. B. Herd TD JP DL  
Association Secretary and Editor  
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NUMBER 77

## NEWSLETTER

### Hill 60





## Forecast of Events

### 2005

5th June The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association Annual Church Service - Guildford Cathedral.

23rd June Talk by Col Sewell "The War in Italy": Regimental Museum. Tickets from Museum (Tel 01483 223419)

2nd /3rd July "Spirit of the Regiment" - Dover Castle.

9th July First Surrey Rifles meeting/supper.

10th July National Commemoration of 60th Anniversary of end of WW II.

17th July 60th Anniversary County Service of Thanksgiving - Guildford Cathedral (3 pm). (Ticket holders only).

1st August MINDEN DAY.

3rd September 6th (Bermondsey), 2/6th and 2/7th Bns the Queen's Royal Regiment OCAs Combined Annual Reunion.

9th September SALERNO DAY.

11th September First Surrey Rifles Church Parade.

25th September Regimental Museum Open Day.

1st October The East Surrey Regiment OCA 30th Annual Reunion - Clapham.

1st /2nd October First Surrey Rifles Somme/Ypres trip.

3rd October The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Officers' Club Ladies' Luncheon - Clandon.

5th October Golf Society Autumn Meeting: Woking Golf Club.

4th November The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association Annual Reunion - Union Jack Club.

1st December First Surrey Rifles meeting/Xmas Draw.

20th December BRITISH BATTALION DAY (1941).

**Frontispiece:** The picture is a section from a watercolour by Margaret Dovaston RBA (with a border and "Hill 60" in red superimposed). It shows CSM Reid of the 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment bringing reserves to the front line on 20th April 1915 during one of the battles for Hill 60. For this and two similar actions CSM Reid was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. Three members of the battalion were awarded the Victoria Cross for their valour at the hill. An account of the battalion's actions 90 years ago appears in the Newsletter.

**Back cover:** The 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment was stationed at Quetta, India in 1935 when on 31st May at about 0300 hours the city was struck by a major earthquake. The photographs are all from the Regimental archive. Those at the top show Quetta Town Hall and Bruce Road before the earthquake; the centre picture shows Quetta General Post Office with the clock stopped by the earthquake; the bottom photographs show the Town Hall and Bruce Road after the earthquake. An account of the battalion's part 70 years ago in the subsequent humanitarian operation, actions during which resulted in the regiment's two George Crosses, appears in the Newsletter.



## Editorial

During the recent meetings of the Charity's Trustees and of the Regiment's Main Committee Brigadier Bob Acworth announced his intention to hand over as Association President to Colonel Tony Ward. Those present at the meetings recorded their grateful thanks for all his hard work and dedication during his extremely successful, long tenure. I would like to take this opportunity to express all Association members' very sincere appreciation to Brigadier Bob for all he has done, and on their behalf to welcome Colonel Tony to his new appointment.

We are justifiably proud of our forebear Regiments and this edition features two occasions, at Hill 60 and in the aftermath of the Quetta earthquake, when they particularly distinguished themselves. The Regiment's pride in our modern successors was recorded last November at our reception to mark the return from Iraq of 1 PWRR. Since then the battalion's outstanding tour has been recognised by a long list of richly deserved operational awards, including that of the Victoria Cross to Private Beharry; details are included amongst the following pages.

With all good wishes  
Tony Russell

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## President's Notes

In June I will have been President of the Association and Chairman of the Regimental Charity Trustees for 10 years. It has been an enormous privilege to have held this appointment but it is time for a change. I am handing over to Colonel Tony Ward on the Glorious First of June and I know he will serve you well.

Looking after our old members and their families who have fallen on hard times has always been our first priority. During the last 10 years over 2100 cases have been investigated and over 1730 grants made totalling some £450,000. This is quite a record and our thanks are due to Les Wilson and John Rogerson who have done so much work on our behalf to achieve this.

Our finances remain sound and we have slightly more invested now than we had 10 years ago. In that time we have spent nearly £1/2m on benevolence, £1/2m on the museum and a considerable amount on our annual grants. On the negative side our investment income has dropped from £125,000 per annum in 1995 to around £70,000 in 2004. We now have to meet some of our costs from capital but this was foreseen in the Doyle report and is very much under control. We are in a sound position to meet our commitments until the Association is wound up and will also be able to provide for ongoing benevolence and endowment of the museum after this time.

The Newsletter has changed since Les Wilson retired as editor but I am sure you will agree that it is still a first class production which helps enormously to keep people in touch. Our thanks for this go to Tony Russell.

Our 12 branches remain very active and my thanks go to the secretaries for the work they do to make this happen. It is very good to see our Guildford branch, 5 Queen's OMA, looking to the future and including amongst their members people who have not served in the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment but have served in the Queen's Regiment and the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. This must be the way ahead and I congratulate them on this.

During the past 10 years nearly 700 members of the Association have sadly died but I believe the Association is as strong as ever and now numbers around 1500 people and we continue to recruit new members.

The uncertainty over the future of the museum remains but the museum trustees with the Association are working hard to find a viable long term solution.

As I said at the beginning it has been a great privilege to be President of the Association and of course I will be sad to hand over but it is time for a new mind to take the helm. I would like to thank all those who have played a part in keeping the Association on the road, not least the Charity Trustees and Regimental Council and, particularly, Tony Russell who is an indefatigable secretary who keeps us all in order.

With my best wishes,  
Bob Acworth

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## Museum Notes

Every so often, it is helpful to take a mental step back from the everyday business of the Museum to get a better view of how (or if) we are meeting our objectives, and those which others set for us. Our own objectives are set clearly in the Museum Trust Deed, essentially "To perpetuate the history, deeds and traditions of the Regiment by making our collection of Regimental treasures widely accessible to the public". The Museum itself has been doing this throughout its life with, I think we may say, considerable success, but the establishment of the Regimental Website is now taking our history to a vastly wider audience, and is proving to be a very good investment of time, effort and money.

Of the others who set us objectives, the Ministry of Defence, with whom the Museum has a Service Level Agreement, is the most important. An address given last Autumn by the Adjutant General of the Army, Lieutenant General Sir Anthony Irwin, on the MoD's views on Regimental Museums like ours was, therefore, important

and it was an encouraging address. Too long to quote at length, the following are a few of the Adjutant General's key comments:- "There can be no doubt that keeping our great military history alive is an essential part of the business of generating fighting power and achieving success on operations", "An army that foresees its past is unlikely to be worth a damn", "We are determined to preserve the golden thread that links the past to the future through the present. Part of the golden thread is the network of existing museums". I think we may draw some satisfaction from these comments; our Museum is doing a proper job and going along the right road.

Coming back down to earth, we were all delighted when Ian Chatfield was appointed to be the new Curatorial Assistant at the Museum, filling the vacancy left by Sam Higgs's move. Ian is already well-known to many members of the Regiment through his work for 5 Queen's OMA, and as a long-time Museum volunteer. He took up his new post on 1st December, and has spent the winter, with Ian Mumford and Museum volunteers, getting everything clean and shipshape ready for the 2005 season, which opened on 20th March. We have been delighted too to welcome two new Regimental members to the Museum Management Committee; Lieutenant Colonels Patrick Crowley and Peter Swanson also are well-known to many members and they will add considerable knowledge and expertise to the management of the Museum.

Other results of the Winter work that can now be seen at the Museum include a new display on the Regiment's very long-standing connection with the Onslow family of Clandon Park - a connection which actually pre-dates the formation of the Tangier Regiment and is still going strong - and some subtle but extensive re-ordering of the main medal display to improve on the fairly hasty re-installation that was necessary after the 2003 burglary - almost needless to say, Roy Harding has played a major role in the medal work. All this has been enlivened by the installation of the National Trust's new lift just outside the Museum door, which is now virtually complete.

The Annual Meeting of the Regimental Main Committee was held at the Museum in March, and at a small ceremony before the meeting the Regiment was presented with the medals of Lance Corporal Leonard James Keyworth VC by Major John Tamplin, who had rescued them from a public sale many years ago.

The medals are now in the safe-keeping of the Museum. This is a most generous gift and an important acquisition for the Museum. Replicas of these medals of one of our Great War heroes should be on display at the Museum by the time you read this. The fact that it is replicas that will be on display is mentioned deliberately; it is a sad commentary on the age that all the prime medal sets awarded to members of the Regiment now have to be kept in a strongroom away from Clandon and replaced by replicas at the Museum, but the risk of doing otherwise

would be unthinkable in present circumstances. Fortunately, this does not detract from the displays at Clandon, nor from the heroism that won the original medals.



*The President accepts the Keyworth Medals from Major Tamplin*

Looking forward, the Museum is hoping for a busy Summer season and to a good many visits from members of the Regiment. Our Open Day in September is intended to be for regimental members. We are hoping too, that the long-planned improvement to the display on the Regiment's VC and GC holders will be carried out in the very near future, and should soon be on view. During the Summer, a series of talks is being organised on aspects of the history of the Regiment; the first of these, on Thursday 23rd June, will be on "The War in Italy" by Colonel Toby Sewell, who was there. Ian Chatfield will be launching the long-planned 'Friends of the Museum' organisation in the near future, something that will give more members of the Regiment easy ways to support the Museum, in addition to the present band of active volunteers. A 'phone call to Ian at the Museum will provide more information on all of these.

Finally, don't forget that the Museum Shop stocks a good range of Regimental items, as well as general military history and memorabilia, all available over-the-counter or by post; a 'phone call to Ian Mumford at the Museum will confirm stock and prices.

Adrian Birtles

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



## The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

(by Maj A J Martin)

The whole Regiment, past and present members, are extremely proud of the achievements of the 1st Battalion in Iraq with the numerous gallantry awards. These have dominated this period even though everyone else attends his or her normal duties.

### 1ST BATTALION

The Battalion returned from Iraq in October 2004. They then went on well-earned leave, came back to Barracks and moved to Paderborn in Germany where they have now settled in to (at least) a 10-year tour in the Armoured Warrior role. The main event was the publication of the honours and awards. This is given below:



### OPERATIONAL LIST 1st APRIL 2004 TO 30th NOVEMBER 2004

#### VICTORIA CROSS

PRIVATE JOHNSON GIDEON BEHARRY

#### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER

MAJOR JAMES CHENEVIX COOTE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL MATTHEW PHILLIP MAER MBE

#### CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY CROSS

SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER MARK BROOME

CORPORAL TERENCE ALAN THOMSON

#### MILITARY CROSS

CORPORAL MARK RICHARD BYLES

WARRANT OFFICER CLASS 2 DAVID GORDON FALCONER

MAJOR JUSTIN BURRITT FEATHERSTONE

SERGEANT DAVID ANTHONY HARRINGTON PERFECT

CORPORAL SEAN VITTY ERNEST ROBSON

PRIVATE TROY O'NEIL SAMUELS

LANCE CORPORAL BRIAN WOOD

#### MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

WARRANT OFFICER CLASS 2 DALE EDWARD NORMAN

#### MENTION IN DESPATCHES

PRIVATE GARY COOPER

PRIVATE DANIEL SHANE CRUCEFIX

PRIVATE THOMAS JAMES FERGUSON

CORPORAL LEE STEPHEN GIDALLA

CORPORAL SIMON JOHN GOWER

## MENTION IN DESPATCHES

PRIVATE JOSEPH DOMINIC HARTNELL  
CAPTAIN ROBIN HICKS  
SERGEANT BENJAMIN LLEWELLYN KELLY  
SERGEANT DANIEL MILLS  
LANCE CORPORAL JOSESE TUNIDAU NATUMERU  
LIEUTENANT WILLIAM JAMES PASSMORE  
SERGEANT ANDRE PAUL JOSEPH PEPPER  
LIEUTENANT BENJAMIN UDO PLENGE  
LIEUTENANT ADAM PHILIP STYLER  
MAJOR SIMON CHRISTOPHER THOMSETT

## QUEEN'S COMMENDATION FOR VALUABLE SERVICE

MAJOR RICHARD TOBY WALCH

In addition 13 Joint Commanders Commendations.

Note: The battle group, commanded by CO 1 PWRR Lt Col M Maer, were also awarded an additional 4 x Military Cross and 2 x Mention in Despatches. Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales awarded all medals over the period 27 and 28 April at Buckingham Palace.

The Battalion is now settling down to life of soldiering in Germany. Their next tour in Iraq is April 2006 (Op Telec 8).

## 2ND BATTALION

The Battalion deployed to Iraq in January 2005 and returns in July 2005. The Battalion is split and covers many tasks. Coys rotate with one Coy guarding Shaibah Logistic Base (SLB), one Coy guarding SLB and QRF, one Coy escorting, one Coy guarding tasks including locations in Baghdad. The Battalion's area recently increased with the inheritance from the Dutch Army who withdrew. In the first few weeks, the Battalion had 10 wounded due to a car bomb. All are now back at work. Road traffic accidents have taken their toll and some wounded are still under medical care.

The Battalion is in fine form. The Colonel of the Regiment visited them in Iraq in May. They arms plot to Northern Ireland in December 2005.

## 3RD BATTALION

Lt Col Tony Guthrie hands over command to Lt Col Adam Edmunds in mid 2005. Lt Col Guthrie goes on promotion to HQ 2 Inf Bde. He has had a very successful tour, which has seen the Battalion provide many TA soldiers in support of the Regular Army in Afghanistan and Iraq. This provision of support still goes ahead with a complete platoon joining the Royal Rifle Volunteers for deployment to Iraq in 2005. The remainder will complete Annual Camp in Tenby (South Wales).

## B COMPANY THE LONDON REGIMENT AND C COMPANY THE ROYAL RIFLE VOLUNTEERS

The Colonel of the Regiment has visited both the companies during drill nights. He was most impressed by both companies. They are supporting the regular units with both companies having at least 17 soldiers deployed in Iraq at any one time.

Annual Camp in 2005 for B Company will be Salisbury Plain Training Area and Oakhampton for C Company.

In summary the Regiment is now well established and as a result of the award of the Victoria Cross, and the plethora of other medals, everyone has now heard of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and they are all held up as fine example of that obscure mixture of courage and history and tradition that makes the British Infantry the finest in the world.

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## VICTORIA CROSS

### FULL CITATION

#### PRIVATE JOHNSON GIDEON BEHARRY THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT



*Private Beharry VC after receiving his award from Her Majesty The Queen*

"Private Beharry carried out two individual acts of great heroism by which he saved the lives of his comrades. Both were in direct face of the enemy, under intense fire, at great personal risk to himself (one leading to him sustaining very serious injuries). His valour is worthy of the highest recognition.

"In the early hours of the 1st May 2004 Beharry's company was ordered to replenish an isolated Coalition Forces outpost located in the centre of the troubled city of Al Amarah. He was the driver of a platoon commander's Warrior armoured fighting vehicle. His platoon was the company's reserve force and was placed on immediate notice to move. As the main elements of his company were moving into the city to carry out the replenishment, they were re-tasked to fight through a series of enemy ambushes in order to extract a foot patrol that had become pinned down under sustained small arms and heavy machine gun fire and improvised explosive device and rocket-propelled grenade attack.

"Beharry's platoon was tasked over the radio to come to the assistance of the remainder of the company, who were attempting to extract the isolated foot patrol. As his platoon passed a roundabout, en route to the pinned-down patrol, they became aware that the road to the front was empty of all civilians and traffic - an indicator of a potential ambush ahead. The platoon commander ordered the vehicle to halt, so that he could assess the situation. The vehicle was then immediately hit by multiple rocket-propelled grenades. Eyewitnesses report that the vehicle was engulfed in a number of violent explosions, which physically rocked the 30-tonne Warrior.

"As a result of this ferocious initial volley of fire, both the platoon commander and the vehicle's gunner were incapacitated by concussion and other wounds, and a number of the soldiers in the rear of the vehicle were also wounded. Due to damage sustained in the blast to the vehicle's radio systems, Beharry had no means of communication with either his turret crew or any of the other Warrior vehicles deployed around him. He did not know if his commander or crewmen were still alive, or how serious their injuries may be. In this confusing and dangerous situation, on his own initiative, he closed his driver's hatch and moved forward through the ambush position to try to establish some form of communications, halting just short of a barricade placed across the road.

"The vehicle was hit again by sustained rocket-propelled grenade attack from insurgent fighters in the alleyways and on rooftops around his vehicle. Further damage to the Warrior from these explosions caused it to catch fire and fill rapidly with thick, noxious smoke. Beharry opened up his armoured hatch cover to clear his view and orientate himself to the situation. He still had no radio communications and was now acting on his own initiative, as the lead vehicle of a six Warrior convoy in an enemy-controlled area of the city at night. He assessed that his best course of action to save the lives of his crew was to push through, out of the ambush. He drove his Warrior directly through the barricade, not knowing if there were mines or improvised explosive devices placed there to destroy his vehicle. By doing this he was able to lead the remaining five Warriors behind him towards safety.

"As the smoke in his driver's tunnel cleared, he was just able to make out the shape of another rocket-propelled grenade in flight heading directly towards him. He pulled the heavy armoured hatch down with one hand, whilst still controlling his vehicle with the other. However, the overpressure from the explosion of the rocket wrenched the hatch out of his grip, and the flames and force of the blast passed directly over him, down the driver's tunnel, further wounding the semi-conscious gunner in the turret. The impact of this rocket destroyed Beharry's armoured periscope, so he was forced to drive the vehicle through the remainder of the ambushed route, some 1500 metres long, with his hatch opened up and his head exposed to enemy fire, all the time with no communications with any other vehicle. During this long surge through the ambushes the vehicle was again struck by rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire. While his head remained out of the hatch, to enable him to see the route ahead, he was directly exposed to much of this fire, and was himself hit by a 7.62mm bullet, which penetrated his helmet and remained lodged on its inner surface.

"Despite this harrowing weight of incoming fire Beharry continued to push through the extended ambush, still leading his platoon until he broke clean. He then visually identified another Warrior from his company and followed it through the streets of Al Amarah to the outside of the Cimic House outpost, which was receiving small arms fire

from the surrounding area. Once he had brought his vehicle to a halt outside, without thought for his own personal safety, he climbed onto the turret of the still-burning vehicle and, seemingly oblivious to the incoming enemy small arms fire, manhandled his wounded platoon commander out of the turret, off the vehicle and to the safety of a nearby Warrior. He then returned once again to his vehicle and again mounted the exposed turret to lift out the vehicle's gunner and move him to a position of safety. Exposing himself yet again to enemy fire he returned to the rear of the burning vehicle to lead the disorientated and shocked dismounts and casualties to safety. Remounting his burning vehicle for the third time, he drove it through a complex chicane and into the security of the defended perimeter of the outpost, thus denying it to the enemy. Only at this stage did Beharry pull the fire extinguisher handles, immobilising the engine of the vehicle, dismounted and then moved himself into the relative safety of the back of another Warrior. Once inside Beharry collapsed from the sheer physical and mental exhaustion of his efforts and was subsequently himself evacuated.

"Having returned to duty following medical treatment, on the 11th June 2004 Beharry's Warrior was part of a quick reaction force tasked to attempt to cut off a mortar team that had attacked a Coalition Force base in Al Amarah. As the lead vehicle of the platoon he was moving rapidly through the dark city streets towards the suspected firing point, when his vehicle was ambushed by the enemy from a series of rooftop positions. During this initial heavy weight of enemy fire, a rocket-propelled grenade detonated on the vehicle's frontal armour, just six inches from Beharry's head, resulting in a serious head injury. Other rockets struck the turret and sides of the vehicle, incapacitating his commander and injuring several of the crew.

"With the blood from his head injury obscuring his vision, Beharry managed to continue to control his vehicle, and forcefully reversed the Warrior out of the ambush area. The vehicle continued to move until it struck the wall of a nearby building and came to rest. Beharry then lost consciousness as a result of his wounds. By moving the vehicle out of the enemy's chosen killing area he enabled other Warrior crews to be able to extract his crew from his vehicle, with a greatly reduced risk from incoming fire. Despite receiving a serious head injury, which later saw him being listed as very seriously injured and in a coma for some time, his level-headed actions in the face of heavy and accurate enemy fire at short range again almost certainly saved the lives of his crew and provided the conditions for their safe evacuation to medical treatment.

"Beharry displayed repeated extreme gallantry and unquestioned valour, despite intense direct attacks, personal injury and damage to his vehicle in the face of relentless enemy action."

## Benevolence

Major J C Rogerson, based at RHQ PWRR at Canterbury, has continued to administer the Charity's individual benevolence activities. We are most grateful to him for all his hard work on behalf of the Regimental Charity and those in need.

During 2004 a total of 132 cases were investigated and 83 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 21 further electrically powered vehicles, 13 orthopaedic chairs/beds and contributed to four convalescent holidays. The Charity paid out £31,520 as individual grants-in-aid through RHQ PWRR and a further £525 was spent to purchase vouchers as Christmas gifts for 20 annuity holders and one Chelsea Hospital in-pensioner. The Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) provided a further £2,890 in General Grants. Of the 49 cases not receiving a grant, local Councils/Charities or other Regimental Charities assisted 30 after we had contacted them. Ten cases were not receiving such allowances as attendance, mobility or rent rebate.

Twenty one ABF Annuities were administered; the ABF generously contributed £55 per month per case. During this period we have renewed or arranged for 5 Nursing Home Fees grants, each of £780 from the ABF and £156 from the Association per year, to be paid for our old soldiers or their widows to be looked after. At their March 2005 meeting the Charity's Trustees decided that our Nursing Home Fees grant for 2005 would rise to £350 per case. We had one resident and two for respite holidays in Gifford House. The ABF total grants in support, including Nursing Home Fees, were £20,910. The Trustees would again like to pay tribute to the ABF which is always helpful with prompt action and advice.

Association Branch Secretaries, who are an extremely important part of the benevolence 'chain', have the SSAFA Forces Help biannual flag book for them to deal direct with the local caseworkers. SSAFA Forces Help Society and The Royal British Legion investigate the majority of our cases and to their caseworkers we are particularly grateful for all their assistance. During this last year we have also assisted members who are cared for by COMBAT STRESS (Ex Services Mental Welfare Society), the War Pensions Agency, and the Ex Services Fellowship Centres.

The Trustees are grateful to all those who have made donations and in particular for two substantial legacies received by the Charity.

Extracts from a few of the letters of appreciation for Major Rogerson's work and the Charity's financial assistance which have been received over the last 6 months are reproduced overleaf.

**A SSAFA officer writes:** Thank you for your most welcome letter which enclosed two most generous cheques in respect of the above ex soldier. I had great pleasure in informing Mr and Mrs A of your overwhelming generosity and can report that he was almost overcome with emotion. He kept repeating the word "why?" and I had to tell him that this was your way of thanking him for his service to the Regiments and the country. He asked me to write and express his most sincere thanks and appreciation for the grant. He is also very enthusiastic about and grateful for the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association newsletter.

I have contacted the local Authority and they replied that they could start work within four weeks; Mrs A is really looking forward to being able to wash herself again. May I also express my appreciation for contacting the ABF on his behalf and for responding so quickly.

**A SSAFA officer writes:** I write to thank you for your kind donation for Mr B. He will be taken by a careworker to buy suitable clothing. I have given him the Association Newsletter which I am sure he will enjoy.

**A SSAFA officer writes:** I have just returned from France and was delighted to find your very generous cheque to enable me to continue to pay half of Mr C's gas bills. It was indeed very kind of your Benevolence Committee and would you please pass on my sincere thanks and the thanks of Mr C. I shall be seeing him in the next week and will ensure that he knows that the grant was made by the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Charity. Finally, thank you for the Regimental Association Newsletter which I know that Mr C will enjoy reading.

Please accept my grateful thanks for all the help the Association and SSAFA have given to me, the widow of the late Mr D. Mrs E (from SSAFA) is handling the extra money for my telephone, which is so important to keep in touch with friends who have moved away as I do not want to lose contact with them. So thank you so much for all the help I have received; Mrs E has been a friend, I have no living relatives.

I would just like to offer my grateful thanks for the gift voucher provided for my mother this Christmas. My mother was 94 last September and is doing OK overall, even though she is getting slower and more frail with each year that passes. The voucher will provide her with a little extra and she was most pleased. Many thanks for always remembering my mother and may we both wish you a happy and healthy 2005.

I would like to thank you very much for the contribution towards the Invacare Scooter and Rise/Recliner Chair. They have been put to very good use and have made my life a great deal more pleasant. My wife and I are now looking forward to the warmer days when we will be able to go out together.

I would like to thank you for the donation you gave me towards the scooter. Having the scooter has made a great difference to the quality of my life.

At last I have got my head in some sort of order following my wife's stroke in 2003 and her death in 2004. Obviously my finances took a hammering so I wrote to the Benevolence Office and through SSAFA the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment made me a grant. I would, although delayed, like to thank the Regiment very much for helping me to get through this difficult and heartbreaking period.

I wish to thank you and the Association for your help with my recent problem. I am so grateful for the help I received; now when it rains I don't have to worry and keep my fingers crossed that it won't come in.

## The East Surrey Officers' Reunion Lunch

On the 22 April last year 37 of us sat down to lunch, 39 having "signed up", but 2 fell by the wayside. This year 43 signed up, but again, unfortunately, 5 had to drop out late in the day. Nevertheless, any rise in numbers is encouraging. An interesting statistic is that the 10 Second World War veterans, who "signed up" were virtually balanced by 11 National Service officers. In the event 8 of each category turned up.

Lt Col Robert Lyle presided and, in asking Derek Bishop to propose The Queen's health, stressed the fact that it was Her Majesty's actual birthday. Peter Roupell proposed "The Regiment".

Once again the ambiance was great. Whilst the location, which is so easy to reach, is a great help, the actual mess is ideal for us, not only because of our ties with The London Regiment, but also for its size, its tasteful decoration and the willingness of its staff. Well done them! Once more we owe thanks to The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Jeremy Mooney, for allowing us to use it.

Next year's reunion will be on Thursday 20 April.

## Hill 60

In Spring 1915 The 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment probably achieved its finest feat of the Great War in the defence of Hill 60, near Ypres. During this action the Battalion won three Victoria Crosses, two Military Crosses and seven Distinguished Conduct Medals.



Private  
Edward Dwyer



Lieutenant  
George Rowland Roupell

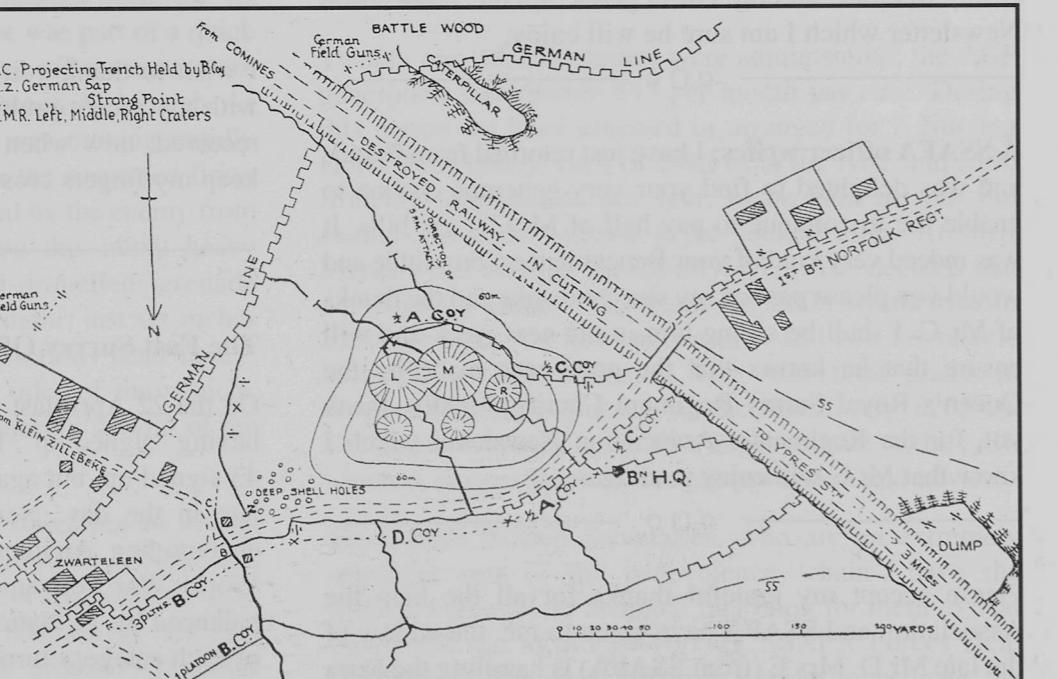


2nd Lieutenant  
Benjamin Handley Geary

Hill 60 was, in fact, merely a low ridge about 250 yards from end to end, formed artificially from the spoil of a 19th century railway cutting. It received its name from the British because of its height in metres on the contour map. It gave the possessor a dominating view towards Ypres.

The British had captured Hill 60 from the Germans on 17th April 1915 following the detonation of large mines under the German positions. The British were forced off the hill by German counter-attack but retook it on 18th April.

The following extract from the War Diary of The 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment records the Battalion's part in the subsequent defence of Hill 60:



SKETCH MAP FROM THE REGIMENTAL HISTORY OF THE 1ST BATTALION IN THE DEFENCE OF HILL 60.  
19TH-21ST APRIL, 1915

### “April 19th 1915.

About 2 a.m. the Battn. took over HILL 60 position. A Coy. and 1/2 C Coy. held the front trenches on the Hill, the other 1/2 C Coy. held the front trenches on right of hill up to and including the railway. 1/2 D Coy. were in support immediately behind the hill. The remaining 1/2 D Coy. held fire trenches on the left of Hill. B Coy. held fire and support trenches on left of D Coy. The Machine Gun Detachment had 5 guns mounted in the front line, one in C Co's trench, covering the right flank of hill; 4 in D & B Cos. fire trenches sweeping ground on left and front of hill. Throughout the day the position was shelled, especially support trenches and communication trenches behind the hill. At about 5 p.m. the Germans opened a very heavy bombardment of all the trenches which lasted for an hour but no infantry attack materialised. The trenches were badly damaged and the rest of the night was spent in repairing the damage and improving the communication between the hill and supports.

In spite of continual shelling and bombing throughout the night the men worked magnificently and all damage had been repaired by the morning.

### April 20th.

A quiet time till 11 a.m. when heavy shelling of the hill, communicating and support trenches commenced, with great effect, the Germans scoring many direct hits with heavy howitzers. Trenches were blown in and many men killed and buried. During this time Capt. & Adj't. Wynyard seeing some men attending wounded men near a shelled spot, went towards them, moved the men along the trench away from the danger spot, attended the wounded himself and in doing so was blown to bits. During this time the Germans were crawling up their old communication trenches and flinging bombs into our fire trenches, but could make no headway owing to our hand grenades and rifle fire. On the death of Capt. Wynyard, Major Paterson, the Comdg. Officer, sent for 2 Lt. Dymott to take over the duties of Adjutant, temporarily. About 2 p.m. Capt. Wynter, Comdg. B Coy. went forward on to the hill to reconnoitre the trenches held by A Coy. before taking over after dark. During this reconnaissance he was wounded in the leg, and placed in a dug-out for shelter; soon afterwards the dug-out was hit by a shell which caused Capt. Wynter's death. About 3 p.m. the Germans in front of B Coy. attempted to assault that trench, but on rising from their trench were hurled back by hand grenades and rifle fire. In this action, Pte. Dwyer, B Coy. greatly distinguished himself by crawling up the parapet and flinging hand grenades at the enemy, he himself being under a perfect hail of enemy bombs. About this time Lt. Watson who was in the support trench was killed by a heavy howitzer shell. About 3.30 p.m. Lt. Darwell the Machine Gun Officer, was sent for by the Comdg. Officer to go to Bn. Headqrs to take over the duties of Adjutant to the Battn. On arrival there he found Major Paterson, the Comdg. Officer, killed, and that 2 Lt. Dymott had been seriously wounded and carried to the dressing station. Now a most terrific bombardment of the position commenced, which lasted for two hours, the hill during this time being a mass of smoke, flame and debris. The enemy employed shells giving off asphyxiating gases freely. The result of this was every telephone line to the rear was cut and communication with the Artillery and Sector Headqrs. made impossible. By this time, every man from the support trenches had been sent to reinforce the fire trenches on the hill and still more men were wanted. In taking up these supports 2 Lt. Norton was killed by a heavy howitzer in the communication trench. Lieut. Roupell, wounded in several places, succeeded in reaching Sector Headqrs. when the bombardment was at its height, and explained to Colonel Griffiths, Comdg. Sector, the situation, asking for reinforcements. Corpl. Harding the Battn. Signalling Corpl. also managed to deliver a message asking for reinforcements to Sector Headqrs. An orderly was sent with the "S.O.S." signal to the Artillery Observing station on the "Dump". The reinforcements arrived about 6 p.m. and Major Allison, 1st Bedfords took over command of the hill position. The bombardment of front line lasted to about this hour and after this all their Artillery fire was directed against reserve and support trenches and lines of approach; this continued well into the night, and abated somewhat about midnight. Throughout the night until 3 a.m. the enemy repeatedly assaulted our trenches on the hill with bombs; only once did they succeed in gaining a footing and then they were immediately driven out. Once during the night the enemy attempted to assault the trench held by B Coy. but were immediately driven back by rifle fire. Lateral telephonic communication between Cos. was restored about 10 p.m. From 3 to 6 a.m. the situation was much quieter.

### 21st April.

At 6 a.m. the position was taken over by the Devon Regt. 2 Lieut. Davis, who was with his Coy. all through the night on the hill, was killed as he was being relieved. Capt. Huth was killed on the night of the 19th whilst superintending work on the trench held by his Coy. After relief the Battn. now under command of Lt. T.H. Darwell, marched to billets at KRUISSTRAAT, bringing with it the body of the Comdg. Officer, Major Paterson, which was interred later on in the day in the Convent grounds, YPRES. During the morning the following message was received from G.O.C., 14th Infy Bde.

“Deeply deplore loss of your C.O., so many Officers and men but congratulate the Battn. on the gallant example they have set to all”.

Colonel Thesiger,  
Comdg. 14th Infy Bde.”

The Battn remained in Billets throughout the day. Total Casualties between 19th and 21st :

Killed - Major W.H. Paterson; Capt. A.H. Huth; Capt. D. Wynyard; Capt. P.C. Wynter; Lieut. G.L. Watson; 2 Lieut W.A. Davis; 2 Lieut T.E. Norton. Wounded - Lieuts G.R.P. Roupell; G.H. Wigston; B.H. Geary; 2 Lieuts G.W. Kennedy; C.P. Emmett; C.B. Lugard; A.R. Abercrombie, R.W. Ourrey, - attached, and B.K. Dymott, Indian Army - attached, 42 other ranks killed, 158 wounded and 64 missing, believed killed.”

## Return to the Somme - 2005

(by Major Roddy Mellotte)

In fulfilment of a promise I had made to a couple friends some time ago, I found myself once again en route to the Somme and surrounding battlefields one chilly morning in early March. I have been there on several previous occasions but my fascination for them has not diminished and each trip has produced new, enriching and sometimes extraordinary experiences. This latest one was already proving to be no exception having by then already thrown up some amazing coincidences - and more were to follow.

I planned to show them the popular and well known sites on an itinerary which suited our time and convenience rather than any historically correct or logical route. We were booked into a hotel in Arras on the first and third nights and one in Albert for the middle one. I had set my friends some homework and given them some videos to watch to set the scene for them.

The first coincidence of this trip occurred a week before we set off when I was surfing the TV channels and fell upon a programme called "Time Fliers" on the Discovery Channel about a Sheffield Pals battalion and their training and preparation. A package within it was filmed at a recently opened B&B in Auchonvilliers (inevitably christened "Ocean Villas" by the soldiers) near Beaumont Hamel run by an English lady called Avril Williams. She had been renovating it when she came across some filled-in trenches in the garden and she found various war memorabilia in her cellar which had been variously a dressing station, a shelter and a chapel. Since then, she has refurbished both with the help of various historical societies and produced a glimpse into everyday life behind the front line. A quick search on the internet produced her full details and an e-mail exchange booked us in for a personally conducted tour.

The second coincidence occurred in my office on the day before we left when the Garrison Chaplain, who had no idea of my impending trip let alone my special interest in the First World War, called in to offer me a couple of items for me to "evaluate and keep or present to an appropriate place or museum". They had belonged to his great uncle and consisted of two booklets entitled "Knowledge of War - Every Officer's Handbook for the Front" which had cost 2/6d and "Instructions For The Training of Platoons For Offensive Action". Both were dated 1917, thus indicating that they were published in light of the experience of the Somme battles during the previous year. They are pure 'gold'. The former lists, for instance, "Officer's Kit for The Front" which had been annotated in ink by its owner; it includes some obvious items military kit but also some rather incongruous ones; "one suit of pyjamas, Sam Browne Belt and a Burberry". And this after 3 years of quite appalling life in the trenches. For a mere £20, an officer could be fully kitted out by Thresher and Glenny, and Moss Bros did a special price for 'officers on probation'. Otherwise the book has chapters on Discipline, Drill, Musketry, Topography, Trench Warfare, Billeting, Machine Guns, Interior

Economy and Military Law, Physical Drill and Signalling, in that order. It provides a fascinating perspective on the priorities of life at the time!

The second pamphlet, "Issued by the General Staff", covered organisation and tactics, training and general remarks. If nothing else, it showed that the Army was very much geared up for offensive action despite its enforced pre-occupation of defence in the trenches. The book is full of detailed direction and diagrams and reflects tactical thinking current at the time.

From Calais, we drove directly to Vimy Ridge, just off the E15. Sadly, we chose the one afternoon (Tuesday, then) which the Canadian student guides took off so denying us the opportunity of visiting the preserved underground trenches. In addition to that, the large and impressive memorial was under refurbishment and roped off thereby largely preventing us from seeing the militarily significant ground and view towards Douai - the key to why it became such vital ground to both sides.

Then on to Arras in time to do a tour of the town's ancient tunnels in which many soldiers and citizens lived and survived and which housed at least one hospital. This was a fascinating tour and revealed a particularly interesting document produced by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission but no longer in print. This was a large map of the Western Front with each of the 2500 cemeteries located and highlighted in red thus illustrating at a glance the scale of human sacrifice in that War. Like Ypres, Arras had been flattened during the war but the centre had been rebuilt in precise detail, including the Place des Heros and the beautiful Grande Place.

One guiding principle I have always tried to follow on my trips to the battlefields is to make a connection with some of the soldiers who are buried or remembered there. It adds great significance and meaning to the trip and honours a few of the thousands of graves and lists of names. I had therefore researched a number of casualties whose photographs and obituaries I had access to and we visited some of their graves by way of a small personal tribute. One particular visit was to an Irish Guards second lieutenant, Eustace Lord, aged 19, whose school obituary describes his burial beside apple trees in blossom adjacent to the dressing station where he died. The "small, pretty but ruined village" is rebuilt now but his grave still lies by an orchard with other recognisable features described by a fellow officer and the Chaplain who conducted and reported his funeral to his parents. It was a very moving episode. Indeed, it is such personalised aspects of these trips which discourage me from ever joining one of the many guided tours.

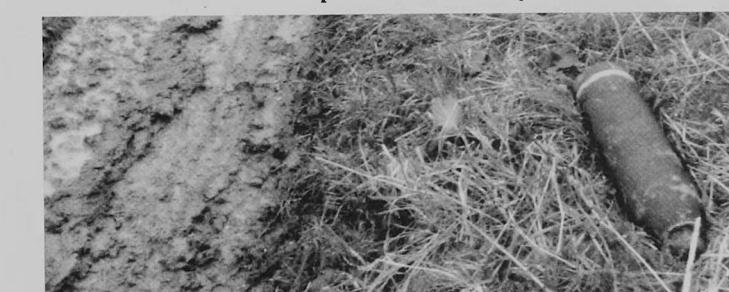
Day two saw us on a circuitous route towards Albert during which we passed through Serre and its rolling hills and making our appointment at "Ocean Villas". Here, we saw the names and regiments of some of its former occupants carved into the cellar walls. Thence on to Beaumont Hamel and its excellent new visitor centre manned by helpful and knowledgeable Canadian students. Another grave in the Y Ravine cemetery (2Lt Stonor

Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers) and the site's well preserved trenches provided plenty of food for thought. At the nearby imposing Thiepval Memorial to the 73,357 dead of the Somme who have no known grave, I laid a Queen's wreath beneath the regimental tablet. It also has an excellent and brand new visitor centre offering all manner of memorabilia and shows three thought-provoking films which one can take away in DVD format, at least. Then on to the Tommy Café in Pozières, a rather scruffy and touristy place but contains some excellent trenches, probably recreations, in the garden complete with an amazing amount of genuine weapons and kit.

The nearby Lochnagar Crater at La Boisselle is well worth a visit, if only to give graphic substance to the lengthy tunnelling descriptions in Sebastian Faulkes' novel "Bird Song". We arrived in Albert, re-taken by the East Surreys at bayonet point in 1918, just in time to visit the basic but chilling tunnel museum which includes a mannequin model of Captain William Nevill of 8 East Surreys and his footballs about to go over the top. By then physically and emotionally exhausted, we fell into our hotel and later its excellent restaurant.

Day three was planned to allow us to go into some of the actions in greater detail. This led to the third extraordinary coincidence. We were sitting on the start line for the assault on High Wood reading from Lyn Macdonald's book, "Somme", which is full of veterans' descriptive and detailed descriptions of what happened during various actions. As I listened to my friend reading from the book describing the scene in front of us as it was during an attack, I glanced over and noticed that he was reading the words of one Captain Arthur Agius MC. I immediately recognised the name since he was listed as a survivor in the Downside School memorial book of its old boys who had fought in the war which lay on my lap. It had especial significance to me because I had grown up near to the family of his brother, Captain Tancred Agius MC, in Walton-on-Thames by then a retired Lt Col and a survivor of the Second World War; my first house master at Downside had been their nephew, Dom Denis Agius OSB and one of my son's close friends at School now is a great nephew, Harry Agius. Arthur Agius's raw description of the battle in all its horrific detail suddenly became so much more significant.

High Wood was also the scene of one of the last cavalry charges of the war which, not surprisingly, came to grief in the withering machine gun fire poured down on them from the objective. This prompted me to walk to a cemetery in an isolated position half way up the hill to see how many cavalrymen lay buried. On the way, I came across the shell in the picture which lay beside the track.



I had seen the "iron harvest" before but it usually lay at the side of ploughed fields awaiting collection by the local French or Belgium ATO. This shell looked as if it had just emerged from hiding after all these years. Another small but significant incident of our tour. Surprisingly, there were no cavalrymen buried in the cemetery.

We passed by the cemetery at Bernafay Wood near Montauban and laid a wreath on the grave of 2Lt William Daly of the Rifle Brigade, who was 19, after which we visited Flat Iron Cemetery to lay a wreath on the grave of Cpl Dwyer who had won a VC with 1 East Surreys on Hill 60 at Ypres. He was a brave man indeed but apart from him at that cemetery, it was moving to see the graves of two brothers side by side there although they are by no means unique in that war.

Thence on down to the new "Historial" at Peronne, which actually spent most of the war behind German lines. It is a museum of the whole war, impressively laid out but definitely on the "touch-feely" peace museum model and my unsolicited advice to would-be visitors is make it a low priority.

Our arrival back in our Arras hotel that evening effectively marked the end of our battlefield tour, leaving only the return drive the following morning. It had been a full two and half days packed with many experiences. The saying "time spent in recce is never wasted" could perhaps be updated by inserting the word 'internet' in place of 'recce' although it amounts to much the same thing. Other advice might include beware the tracks in wet weather in an ordinary car - we nearly got stuck - and beware the "genuine" memorabilia available in copious quantities at various sites. One of my friends bought two "WWI" shell cases to use by his fireplace. One later revealed a 1940s date and my ammunition technician at work researched their serial numbers, again on the internet, to confirm that they would have been fired by Sherman tanks!

Anyone who has visited the Somme will recognise much of what I have said. To others, I strongly commend such a trip there as a fulfilling and memorable experience and I would always be happy to offer any advice.

## Association Reception for 1 PWRR



The President presents Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Maer with a scroll  
(picture courtesy of Surrey and Berkshire Newspapers Ltd)



## Association Annual Reunion 2004

## Round The Bend - Yet Again

(by Dr AWG Court)

- though it could, I suppose, just as well be 'up the chaung', if that word still reverberates 60 years on in the minds of veterans. Most likely it will for survivors of the Queen's Royal Regiment in Burma in the Second World War.

When our draft joined the 1st Queen's at Shillong in November 1944 we heard from the seven-year men something of what the battalion had endured and achieved in the previous five years, first with 7th Indian Division on the North-West Frontier and then in the Arakan, on the Ngakyidauk Pass, at Ukhru, Kohima and a dozen other places, all hostile and often deadly.

We were told what to expect when we went down into Burma: ambushes and booby-traps, Jap jitter-parties, malaria, dysentery, jungle sores and foot rot, leeches and scorpions, slime and mud, half-rations and stagnant water when we could get it, and fanatical last-ditch enemies - thousand on thousands of them.

It didn't quite turn out like that. The war had moved on and southward since Kohima, and instead of the gloom and hidden menace of the jungle we had, to start with, the scorching sun and 100 degree heat of the semi-desert central plain and the barren, blistered oilfields. The thick bamboo jungle came later. Until then, the Japs were not lurking behind every tree: they had to be sought out by section patrols and brought to action by companies - not a popular activity, especially for the senior, experienced infantrymen due for repat and demob. The expected cholera, tetanus, typhus, dengue and blackwater fever didn't often materialise, though dysentery and prickly heat tried their hardest to make up for them. The coming of the monsoon about 15th April gave some relief from the heat, while of course bringing the aforesaid slime, mud, leeches, foot-rot and its own brand of liquid misery.

The regimental history tells that 'the battalion drove the enemy down the Irrawaddy' (and lost good men in doing so) 'and fought its last battle of the war at the end of July' in the Sittang Bend; and it was the memory of that historic event, working in my mind for over half a century, that pushed me into taking up the generous offer of the Veterans' Return and going back in November last by courtesy of Piers Storie-Pugh's Remembrance Travel and in his care.

Half-way through the fifteen-hour flight from Heathrow to Rangoon I felt I would gladly have traded it for the lower deck of the old *Athlone Castle* (1944 vintage), but we survived, and next morning, in Rangoon, we arose and shone at 6.30, and by 7.30 we were on the road for the 60 jolting miles to the Sittang Bend - "we" being John Puddephat of Barnsley (ex-1st Queen's, Waw and Thailand), my "carer" (American son-in-law Dennis, son

of a Pearl Harbor and Pacific War veteran), our Burmese interpreter, U Lwin Aye, our driver and myself.

The Sittang Bridge which carried the railway from southern Burma across the river to Pegu and Rangoon is now only a row of piers, for its girders have since been removed and, apparently, re-used to make a new bridge a mile or two upstream. The old bridge, however, holds an unique place in military history, for here, in February 1942, the Burma land campaign began, and by a remarkable coincidence, for the Queen's three and a half years later, this was where it ended. The first battle in 1942 was one of those events which, even in a time when every week brought some new military defeat, seemed to us tragic even beyond the expected disasters of war. The British division defending the east bank of the Sittang had to withdraw over the bridge in the face of overwhelming Japanese pressure, but before all the troops could be brought over, the bridge was blown and the rearguard of more than 1500 men were left to death or captivity. Whatever the rights or wrongs of the action, the story soon became part of army lore and created an impression which even the Fourteenth Army's own hardships could not wipe away.

Early July 1945 brought the Queen's to Waw, east of Pegu, and then by a seven-mile march through the flooded paddy-fields and along the railway track to the east bank of the Sittang, with the aim of cutting off the retreat of the broken Japanese army to Thailand. Our company occupied the village of Payabyo, which stands almost directly under the bridge and is crowned by a pagoda visible for many miles in this flat countryside. The monsoon was at its height and the War Diary for 13 July reported, "Very heavy and continuous rain for last seven days. Day spent on defences. Owing to the waterlogged nature of the ground, defence positions had to be built up above ground." As I recall it, the unrelenting rain and mud rotted the soles of our boots away from the uppers, and when we could take off our sopping socks, we scarcely recognised our feet in what looked like white lumps of sodden bread. Nevertheless, one day Cpl Bill Reed got through to us with a half-track or a Bren carrier, which we gazed at with wonderment and some gratitude.

Still, section patrols went out north and east day after day, on foot and knee-deep in the stinking mud or in the flooded rice fields or in sampans up and down the river, but returned with no enemy sighted. Some of this activity - though a pre-arranged version - was captured by an Army Photographic Unit which came and took about 20 stills, four of which appeared some weeks later in a SEAC magazine, *Phoenix*, and are now in the Imperial War Museum.

Then came a report that the enemy had occupied the village of Posabe on an island formed by an old meander of the river, the "Sittang Bend", and the Queen's were ordered to clear them from the west bank. Our company

was ferried across by "alligator" and we occupied Letpan-thon-bin, a village on the east bank of the island. I cannot detail the movements of each company, but only say that on 24th July, as an NCO in Lt Brooks's platoon, I took out a section patrol, with orders to confirm that the Japs were still in the village, and to reconnoitre but not engage; and the Japs unwittingly obliged us by sending out a patrol stepping high and visible on the bunds across the paddy.

I reported our findings, and the CO very humanely decided, according to the War Diary, "not to capture Posabe but to shoot it up and play a large-scale jitter role." His decision was influenced by the thought that "it was well-nigh impossible to evacuate casualties through four foot of water for seven miles."

A fighting patrol of two companies left Letpan-thon-bin, while the rest set out in the night of 26/27 July to shoot up Posabe, and did it "very thoroughly at 0500 hours" on the 27th; but "by one of those unpredictable chances of war a Jap company had decided to raid Letpan-thon-bin at the same time. Passing the outgoing patrol without either side realising it, at 0400 hours the Japs attacked the two British platoons." So much for careful planning. At 0530 the patrol base reported that the enemy were firmly established in the village. Two sections of HQ Coy and one platoon of 4/15 Punjabis were our only troops left. The CO decided then and there to force march back to Letpan-thon-bin and attack straight away - and this was before dawn, with no artillery support, not even mortars in this morass.

I have no clear memory of the progress of the attack, other than the "whish" of Jap LMG bullets overhead as we lay in the water under cover of a bund waiting for the order to advance. But it was over before the morning was out, if I remember rightly, and a patrol next day found that the enemy casualties included 33 killed. Yet the cost to the Queen's was heavy: 17 killed or wounded, among whom were men of experience. On the 28th a search party returned to Letpan-thon-bin and found the bodies of Sgt Jones and Ptes Jessop, Jeffries and Richards. They now lie in the military cemetery of Rangoon.

A few days later a report of the battle appeared in the *Calcutta Statesman*. Among much else, it said that "without any kind of support, the troops slogged forward. It was sheer copybook 'rough-housing', both sides going all out. In the words of Pte V. Abell, of Poplar, 'Bullets were coming all ways at us.' RSM Simmons, of Battersea, said, 'I have never heard so much lead flung about in my life. The air was thick with it and the noise was indescribable.'

"But the British troops continued their advance until after savage fighting the village was captured... The battalion commander said, 'I have been in attacks off and on during most of the war, but for such endurance and guts

I have never seen anything like it. I am very proud of my battalion.'

This was, I believe, the very last action fought by a British battalion in Burma, though "mopping up" - not without cost - continued right up to VJ Day and beyond.

I cannot tell the immediate sequel to the battle, because the following day I was evacuated to Rangoon military hospital, where I remained for three weeks, and after convalescence I remained in Burma and did not see the battalion again.

But though long distant in time and place, the Queen's and the Fourteenth Army (and the neglected Twelfth) have remained bright and clear in my mind. And that is why, nearly 60 years after the event, our little party brought back the Lamb and Flag to the Sittang Bend. We spoke the Kohima Epitaph and the Lord's Prayer and, although we could not cross to the island, laid a poppy wreath on the water of the Sittang in tribute to those whom we had left behind, "the lads who will never grow old."



While we were thus engaged, a little crowd of villagers had gathered to watch us, and there they stood, silent and shy, but gently smiling in their Burmese way that I recalled with pleasure from all those years before. "We were here as soldiers 60 years ago", I explained. "Sixty years?" said the headman. "I was not even born then" - which made us feel not so much ancient as grateful for having been given that long. May we hope that one day, when conditions are more favourable, a simple monument can be erected on the banks of the Sittang to the men who died in the First Battle of Burma and the Last?

The rest of the week took us to Mandalay and Maymyo - not Queen's country in 1945 - but otherwise the visits were enthralling: Mandalay Hill, the Ava Bridge, Mingun pagoda and great bell, hill-station Maymyo and the superb tropical landscape gardens. On Saturday, back in Rangoon, we attended an impressive memorial service in the cathedral, (where the memorial to 1st Queen's, erected by the regiment in 1945, still stands in the grounds, though it sadly needs more than a touch of white paint and black lettering.) After the service we were privileged to be guests of the British Ambassador, Ms Vicki Bowman, at a garden party, where she presented Veteran's badges to the Burma Star holders.

Sunday morning saw the culmination of our pilgrimage with early morning services in the two cemeteries, Rangoon and the larger Kyauktan.



With semi-formal dress, blazers and ties, we didn't need telling that the temperature was 100 degrees, but strangely enough it did not seem any more oppressive than a hot day at home. (Perhaps the week had brought not only memories but rejuvenation!). It hardly needs saying that the cemeteries are tended with the same care and devotion as those in Europe, all the more moving because they are so far from home, and the staff are helpfulness itself, so that one can find a particular grave in a matter of minutes. The Queen's graves are not grouped together but in both cemeteries, but John and I were able to find several comrades and friends we had known, including the Letpan-thon-bin men and John Fisher and my friend John Treays, and lay poppies and sprays.



My Burma Star Association branch (West Somerset) had entrusted me with a wooden cross, suitably inscribed, and it was laid on the base of the Memorial Cross and then taken into permanent display. At the same time my carer Dennis laid a spray in memory of the men and women of Somerset who died in Burma.

On top of all this we also met one veteran resident in Rangoon (Yangon), Mr David Daniels, whose record of service in Burma is now probably unique, for he fired a Bofors ack-ack gun in defence of Mingaladon airfield under the first attack by the Japanese on Christmas Day 1941. It has been a privilege indeed to know this fine gentleman, a living and lively link with the long, long past.

For many of us this return to Burma has been as unforgettable as 60 years ago, and this time, of course, without a mortal enemy or "hard lying in kharab stations" or the danger of some deadly disease. Whatever your memories, if you go you will find that much is familiar and unchanged, but there is a flood of colour and vibrant life in contrast to the drab wartime years; and what will win you above all else is the universal friendliness and helpfulness of a devout and still unspoilt people. Whatever the charges against the present government, it has not, so far, allowed the Western world's blatant consumerism and exploitation to take hold.

Who can say whether we will ever go again? But it is something to hope for, save for and live for - so however old or young you are, let me recommend you to put your health and trust in the hands of Remembrance Travel and go ahead!



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### The Quetta Earthquake - 31st May 1935

In 1935 the 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment was stationed in Quetta where, in the early hours of the 31st of May, an earthquake occurred resulting in very heavy loss of life among the Indian population. The subsequent Government of India Report into the Quetta earthquake noted that of Quetta's estimated population of 70,000 "... between 15-20,000 perished in a minute at 3 o'clock that fateful morning".

The earthquake occurred at three minutes past three, on the morning of the 31st May, at which hour the Battalion was on night operations and had just left Bateli Bridge on the Chaman Road on its way back to barracks. This bridge was subsequently found to have sunk three feet below road level. Marching along a good tarred road when the earthquake occurred, most of the Battalion either sat or fell down, and, resuming the march immediately, were not aware of the havoc which had been wrought in the city during that brief period.

On arriving in barracks at about six thirty it was learned that the Ammunition Depot was in ruins; the guard furnished by the Battalion on this depot sustained one casualty, a sprained ankle. Although much of the barracks themselves was more or less intact, the buildings were later declared unsafe and demolished. No serious casualties were incurred by the Battalion nor by the garrison as a whole, except the Royal Air Force which suffered very heavily.

At 7.30 a.m. the Battalion was called upon to proceed to the city for rescue work. On their arrival they found that the city was completely razed to the ground and corpses were lying everywhere in the hot sun; every available vehicle in Quetta was being used for the transportation of the injured.

The area allotted to the Battalion was the Civil Lines, which included the Residency, the post office, the civil hospital, and the western end of the city. Battalion Headquarters was set up in the Residency, company areas were allotted and the work of rescuing the injured and removing the dead proceeded. A party of fifty, later increased to one hundred, was despatched to the cemetery to dig graves.

The system was to search methodically from house to house looking for the injured and the dead; the injured were removed to the hospitals and the dead were laid out on the roadside and collected in carts. Europeans and Anglo-Indians, some unidentified, were taken to the British cemetery, put into trenches dug by our men, and covered over quickly whilst the Padre read the Burial Service. Indians were removed in the same way and taken to a burial ground outside Quetta.

In the search men could only be guided by faint cries or by relatives who reported having heard cries. Frequently men, women and children were brought out

alive; others were dead when reached; some unfortunately were killed by the fall of masonry during digging; some who had been buried were able to crawl out unhurt; others were so crippled as to be unable to move.

Owing to the narrow streets being full of bricks and rubble it was impossible to get ambulances up, and the men had long journeys carrying the injured over piles of bricks to the nearest point where ambulances could collect. At 8 p.m. it was dark and, with no emergency lighting, further rescue work was impossible. The men, having been on the go for nearly 40 hours without rest, marched back to barracks.

They were back in the city at first light the next day. It was a very hot day, the digging and burying was terrible and the smell was hourly becoming worse. The pitiful requests of the survivors and the sight of dead bodies added to the strain. There was still a party at the cemetery burying Christians- Mohammedans were taken out to their burial place by cart and the Hindus burned their dead at any convenient place.

On the third day the Battalion continued working in the city, still digging out live people, but fewer than before. The men now wore medicated pads over their mouths and noses. The chief job, however, was the removal of survivors from the city. It had been decided that Quetta was to be completely evacuated. A big refugee camp was opened up on the racecourse; tentage, water and food were supplied. By evening it was apparent that even if anyone was still alive they would never be found; practically all survivors had been evacuated and the city was empty except for military patrols.

On 3rd June, the fourth day, the city was sealed and no one was allowed in the city except on duty; a cordon of soldiers surrounded the area and for the next two days patrols were sent through the city clearing out anyone seen and shooting stray animals.

Between the 4th and 12th June all British women and children were evacuated, thousands of refugees left Quetta, and over ten thousand casualties were sent away by train and by air.

During the first day or two, when everything was disorganised, the knowledge that beneath those bricks thousands of rupees and valuables were buried attracted looters from as far as forty miles away; martial law was proclaimed which meant that looters could be shot on sight; a cavalry screen was posted outside the city to prevent them coming in, but even so some looters were caught.

In recognition of its services in connection with this catastrophe, the Battalion received a Certificate of thanks from Lord Willingdon the Viceroy and Governor General of India. The message read:

### "Quetta Earthquake 1935"

Deeply impressed by the gallant and devoted conduct of the officers and men of His Majesty's Forces in Quetta during and after the earthquake of 31st May, 1935, I, Freeman Earl of Willingdon, Viceroy and Governor General of India, record on this certificate the thanks of the Government of India to 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment for their share in the work of rescue and succour, which saved so many lives and mitigated so much suffering on that occasion."

The medal of the Order of the British Empire for gallantry was awarded to Lance Corporal George Henshaw and Private Arthur Brooks. These awards were later to be converted to the George Cross on the institution of that award in 1940.



Lance Corporal  
George Henshaw

Private  
Arthur Brooks

Certificates were presented to Sgt Chapple, Sgt Manners, L Cpl Dakin, L Cpl Gowman and Pte Rainsbury.

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### The Regimental Golf Society

(by Lt Col Peter Roupell)

The Society began as The East Surrey Regimental Golfing Society with a meeting at Fullwell Golf Club, near Hampton Court in 1930. Eleven members attended and the entrance fee for the two day meeting was 10/- (50p) which included green fees of 2/6d (12½p) a day.

General Sir John Longley was elected the first President, General Dodgson the first Captain and Major 'Halo' Heales the first Hon Secretary and Treasurer. All three

played an active part in establishing the Society and the happy and relaxed atmosphere its meetings have always enjoyed. The object of the Society was agreed as:

- (a) to encourage esprit-de-corp by bringing together serving and retired members of the Regiment.
- (b) to help maintain our close relationship with the Royal Marines, and
- (c) to encourage golf and to raise the standard of play.

After 75 years the Society can congratulate itself on (a) and (b) but (c) is dubious.

Three sons, pictured below, of founder members are playing members of the Society today, Peter Mason, Peter Roupell and David Dickins.



The first meeting of the Society at Richmond Golf Club, Sudbrook Park was in 1934 and since then the Society has met there every year except for 1939-1947 when there were no meetings. Meetings were held over two days, 36 holes each day and from 1933 two meetings were held each year.

With the Amalgamation in 1959 the officers and retired officers of the Queen's Royal Regiment were welcomed to the Society, to its continuing benefit. The friendly welcome they received was, and still is, much appreciated by those concerned. The Society was renamed The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Golf Society. The entrance fee for a meeting was still 10/-.

In 1965 it was agreed that, when the second day of the Autumn Meeting coincided with the Regimental Dinner, the afternoon round should be restricted to 9 holes "so as to give players time to array themselves suitably for attendance at the Dinner." (White tie and tails at Claridges). The Minutes show that, when the proposal was discussed, some (senior) members were initially "not disposed to agree"!

In 1972 it was agreed that both the Spring and Autumn meetings be for one day only. More recently it was agreed that meetings be restricted to one round, allowing a later start and a longer lunch.

The Society played its first match against the Royal Marines in 1930 and this has normally been an annual event and a relaxed and happy one. It has been agreed that the match in 2005 will be the last. The Society therefore has the unusual record of never having lost more than one match a year and frequently being unbeaten!

There are a number of keenly contested trophies at both the Spring and Autumn meetings and many distinguished names are engraved upon them, in recent years those of Peter Mason, John Davidson and Michael Power appearing with commendable regularity. In 1947 Major 'Halo' Heales presented the Veterans Halo for an unusual Stableford competition with an extra point awarded for every year over 65, now raised to 70. The first winner was Brigadier George Roupell who won it a further 5 times. Since then the chief winners have been Alec Mason, 14 times between 1953 and 1975, Geoffrey Drane, 14 times between 1959 and 1975 and, more recently, Toby Sewell, 11 times to date, starting in 1978.

Prizes have always included a golf ball for 'the hidden hole'. Recently the hole has been so well hidden as to have become lost and a ball is awarded to each competitor, making the Society very 'politically correct' with no losers.

In 1995 the Society celebrated its 65th anniversary and those attending received an engraved pocket knife by courtesy of Peter Mason. At times there had been speculation as to whether the Society would survive until the end of the century and it was gratifying that the AGM in 2000 had the highest attendance ever.

The Minutes of the AGMs have always included expressions of gratitude to the Trustees and individuals who have subsidised the Society and also expressions of gratitude to the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, much abbreviated as it is they who wrote the Minutes.

Without doubt the Society's greatest good fortune has been those who accepted the task of Honorary Secretary and Treasurer:-

- Major 'Halo' Heales, 17 years from 1930 to 1947.
- Major Geoffrey Drane, 20 years from 1947 to 1967.
- Major CW Summers, 4 years from 1967 to 1971.
- Major Basil Crutchfield, 14 years from 1971 to 1985.
- Major 'Vic' Sheppard, 6 years from 1985 to 1991.
- Lieutenant Colonel Foster Herd, 14 years (so far!) from 1991 to date.

It is very remarkable that in its 75 year history the responsibility for running the Society has fallen on the shoulders of only six people and one can only hope that they were and are aware of how much their efforts are appreciated.

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### The 30th Annual Reunion of the East Surrey Regiment

The reunion (all ranks, all battalions) will take place at the New Drill Hall, St John's Hill, Clapham Junction on Saturday 1st October 2005 from 1300 to 1900 hours. Wives and guest are always welcome. Tickets, which must be shown at the door to gain entry and buffet lunch, are £5 each. Those wishing to attend should write to the reunion secretary (11 Sayerland Road, Polegate, East Sussex BN26 6NU) enclosing a cheque payable to "East Surrey Regiment Reunion Association".

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**PAY ATTENTION  
CAN  
YOU  
HELP?**



### Your help needed by The Surrey History Centre

Surrey History Centre, which looks after the regimental archive including photographs, is planning a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding to enhance the collection and widen access to its wonderful treasures. The project has three main elements:

firstly to create a detailed catalogue of all the records so people wishing to research the regimental history or trace a former member can find their way around the collection more easily;

secondly, to enrich the collection by recording the experiences of soldiers of the regiment(s) who served in World War II, in Palestine after the war, in Malaya and elsewhere (both on active service and in peacetime);

thirdly to use copies of documents and photographs in the archives and extracts from the sound recordings to create a 'virtual archive' of sources relating to Surrey and the two world wars which will be mounted on the internet for both teachers and pupils to use.

If you served with The Queen's Royal Regiment or with The East Surrey Regiment during World War II or later and would be willing to talk about your experiences, whether of combat or of soldiering in more peaceful conditions, the History Centre would be delighted to hear

from you. Your name and the arena in which you served will be logged and if the Heritage Lottery Fund approve the project you may be contacted (probably in the first half of 2006) by a skilled oral history recorder to set up a meeting. Please don't be hesitant to come forward: your personal experiences of some of the most significant events of the twentieth century will be of enormous interest and importance to future generations and will form a vitally important component of the permanent archives of the regiments.

In addition Surrey History Centre would like to know if there are former members of the regiment who would like to assist with the cataloguing of the archive by numbering and listing in detail the contents of the 312 photograph albums, which stretch back to the 1850s and are full of wonderful images of life in the various outstations of the British Empire.

The work of cataloguing would take place at the Centre in Woking under the supervision and guidance of a professional archivist. You would not need to devote much of your time, but if you would be prepared to commit to a regular stint (perhaps one half day a fortnight) for a few months, the History Centre would be very pleased to hear from you.

Those wishing to put their names forward should contact:

Michael Page,  
Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking,  
Surrey, GU21 6ND  
(tel: 01483 518756; email: [mpage@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:mpage@surreycc.gov.uk)).

Or the Association Secretary

private/corporal/sergeant with no link to their band role. He would be grateful for information to include name, rank, band and casualty/award detail together with the source of the information. He is only seeking details of musicians serving in established battalion, regimental or corps bands; this does not include drummers, buglers and pipers.

Contact: S Mason, 82 Southwell Road, Camberwell, London SE5 9PG



**Lance Corporal M T (Mick) Duan writes:-**

Could you please include in the Newsletter a 50th Anniversary photo of National Service intake 5503 Talavera Training Platoon passing out, Kingston Barracks, East Surrey Regiment Depot, April 1955.

Most of us joined the 1st Battalion at Shorncliffe, took part in the Royal Tournament. Then to Brunswick, Germany.



It was all a great experience and one I have never regretted, it has stood me in good stead all my life.

I am still proud to be a Surrey.

**Mr Stephen Hagen** is researching the Burma Siam Railway. He is particularly seeking information about Lieutenant Colonel GE Swinton MC who was commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment and was Senior British Prisoner of War in Thailand 1942-1945. He would be grateful for any information about the career and movements of this officer after returning to England in 1945 and about surviving family members. Contact: Mr S Hagen, 7 Constable Road, Gainsborough Park, Haverhill, Suffolk CB9 7FQ.

**Mr Stephen Mason** has been asked by the UK branch committee of the International Military Music Society to collate details of British Army musicians who died on active service or were awarded decorations. The aim is to publish this information to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall in 2007. A major problem concerns the rank shown on casualty records or in the London Gazette, where individuals may well be listed as

**Henry Theobalds writes:**

It is with great sadness that I read in the current issue of the Newsletter of the death of Lieutenant Colonel Walter Brown MC on 10th May last.

I joined D Company of the 1/6th Bn. The East Surrey Regiment at Cassino in the April as a Lieutenant and platoon commander when he was seconded to the East Surrey Regiment as D Company Commander with the rank of Major. He was great leader and gallant gentleman and very popular with all ranks. I served with him throughout the Italian campaign including our transfer to Greece during the civil war in December of 1944.

On 19th September 1944, the Company took the lead in the battle for a hill at the ridge of the mountain San Fortunato. I was wounded in the thigh and arms but the Company under the leadership of Major Brown took possession of the hill and took a number of prisoners. For that gallant leadership he was awarded the Military Cross. All those who served with him will be proud of doing so. He will be sadly missed.

**Ken Tuson writes:**

It was with sadness that I learnt in the Association Newsletter of the death of Alec Bromige. I first met Alec in 1951; we were both then 15 year olds employed by city stockbrokers and soon became firm friends. Alec was affectionately known as 'Brom' and we were both army mad. 'Brom' was in the Army Cadet Force in London and I was an army cadet in Essex.

When it was time for us to be called up for national service we both decided to become regular soldiers in an infantry regiment. 'Brom' was always keen to join the East Surrey Regiment and persuaded me, an Essex lad born and bred, to join him in what he described as "the finest regiment in the British Army". 'Brom' was slightly older than me and by the time I reported for basic training at the Depot in Kingston upon Thames he was already a lance corporal. We both became corporals and for the next year were instructors training numerous intakes of national servicemen.

I was transferred from the Depot in late 1955 to join the 1st Battalion in Brunswick, Germany. My last contact with 'Brom' was when he arrived at the battalion in Germany in 1957. He had been promoted to sergeant by then and I was leaving Germany for the Depot at Kingston for demobilization. I had signed on for 7 years (3 years with the colours and 4 years in the reserve). I believe 'Brom', had signed on for the full 20 plus years. After leaving Germany my knowledge of 'Brom' is vague.

'Brom' was a great character, always immaculately turned out, and was well liked and respected by all that knew him. I will always treasure the memory of the times that we spent together. My condolences go to his family.

## Regimental Deaths

**Blatch** - On 28th December 2004, Bryan Anthony Blatch who served as a National Service Officer with 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment 1956/57 in Malaya, Singapore and West Germany. He was in the Overseas Civil Service 1959-1970 and subsequently worked in university administration except for three years, 1977-1981, when he was in the Sudan as administration manager of a sugar project.

**Brown** - On 6th November 2004, Corporal J Brown who served during WW II with 1/5th Bn and 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

**Cluer** - On 10th December 2004, F Cluer (known as "Judge") who served with 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment.

**Collins** - On 23rd September 2004, Brian J Collins.

**Comrie** - On 25th September 2004, Lieutenant James Fenn Comrie (see obituary).

**Cook** - On 26th January 2005, at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, In-pensioner Cyril Lawrence Cook who served with The East Surrey Regiment from May 1942 until April 1947, including in North Africa and Italy.

**Day** - On 29th January 2005, Major J T Day (see obituary).

**English** - On 13th March 2005 aged 90, Major Robert William English. Having been commissioned into The East Surrey Regiment, he joined the 2nd Bn in 1940, serving in China and Malaysia. In 1941 he joined the Special Forces. He served with them until 1945, including in China, Burma, India and Ceylon, and was with 204 Military Mission. He retired from the Army in 1946.

**Enwright** - On 20th January 2005, Staff Sergeant Stan Enwright. He enlisted as a boy soldier with The East Surrey Regiment in 1939, serving with the Regiment until transferring to the Intelligence Corps in 1949.

**Fowles** - On 22nd March 2005, after a long illness, Lance Corporal Jack Fowles who served with 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment during WW II.

**Garrard** - On 23rd October 2004, Ernest Frederick Ronald Garrard who enlisted into The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1942 and was subsequently posted to the Royal Signals. He was discharged in November 1945.

**Gaul** - On 10th October 2004, Corporal Alec Gaul who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment. He was amongst those evacuated from Dunkirk and his subsequent active service included the D-Day landings, Belgium and Holland.

**Geeves** - On 24th December 2004, Sergeant Walter Vivian Geeves (see obituary).

*Holder* - On 7th April 2005, Lance Corporal Frederick George Holder. He enlisted into the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1939 and his service prior to his discharge in March 1946 included Burma and India.

*Kendall* - In January 2005 aged 90, Lance Corporal Bill Kendall who served with 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment during WW II.

*Morgan* - Tecwyn Cole Morgan who served with The East Surrey Regiment after enlisting in 1938.

*Morley-Clarke* - On 8th January 2005, Captain Ian Morley-Clarke (see obituary).

*Petch* - In Autumn 2004, J Petch. Having originally joined the Territorial Army at Cranleigh in 1939, he was subsequently a member of C Company 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. He was secretary of the Cranleigh Reunion until it was disbanded in 2003.

*Roadnight* - On 8th November 2004, Captain (QM) William Kennet Roadnight MBE (see obituary).

*Salenders* - On 4th December 2004 Major Richard Salenders who served with 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Swain* - On 28th March 2005, Graham William Arthur Swain. His service between 1942 and 1947 included a period with 2/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. He was for a number of years National Secretary of the Italy Star Association.

*Whittle* - On 15th March 2005, aged 89 years, J A Whittle. John Whittle enlisted into the Royal Berkshire Regiment in April 1940 and transferred to the 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in June of that year. After two years in the UK he went with the battalion to Iraq in August 1942, later moving into North Africa and Tunisia, where in April 1943 he was wounded; he was invalided out of the service in February 1944. Before joining the army he had spent nine years as a domestic servant to a number of influential people, including Lady Astor. After his discharge from the Army he went to Ruskin College, Oxford, where he obtained a Diploma in Economics and Political Science. He went on to become a Local Government Officer with Surrey County Council until retiring in 1977, after 27 years service. He is survived by a son and a daughter.

## Regimental Families

*Howard* - On 25th October 2004 aged 84, Rose May "Bubbles" Howard, beloved wife of Maurice Howard who served with 2/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Kealy* - On 13th March 2005 aged 92, Nancy Kealy, widow of Colonel John Kealy DSO DL and mother of the late Major Michael Kealy DSO.

*Morris* - On 21st January 2005, Pamela Daphne Morris, beloved wife of Captain Gordon Morris.

*Petch* - In Autumn 2004, Wyn Petch, beloved wife of J Petch who served with 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Ramsey* - On 20th January 2005, Elsie Ramsey, widow of Tony Ramsey MM.

## Obituaries

### Lieutenant James Fenn Comrie

Jim Comrie (as he was known) was born on 15th September 1919 in Vancouver, Canada. He was educated at North Shore College in North Vancouver.

At the outbreak of war, Jim volunteered and initially served with the London Scottish then with 9 Commandos. He was then commissioned and was posted to The Queen's Royal Regiment, joining the 2nd Battalion at Habbarani in Ceylon (now Sri-Lanka).

He was posted to C Company and commanded 14 Platoon, C Company under the command of the late Major Dick Merrit. They were attached to 51 Column R.A. and took part in Major General Orde Wingate's 2nd Chindit expedition into Burma in 1944. C Company later rejoined the 2nd Battalion in Burma. He was a highly respected officer who adapted well to command of soldiers in the jungle.

After being de-mobilised from the British Army in 1946 he returned to Canada and then continued soldiering happily with the British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaughts Own) from 1946 to 1954. He worked for Pacific Press from 1947 to 1978 where he was held in high regard.

He never forgot his comrades in 2 Queen's, maintaining contact with two brother officers up to his death. He subscribed to the Newsletter, and the Editor regularly received letters of appreciation and 'tit-bits' of his service with the Queen's. He died of lung cancer on 25th September 2004 at his home near Roberts Creek BC.

Our sincere condolences go to his family and we remember him as a Canadian, who adopted The Queen's Royal Regiment and served with great distinction with us.

LW

### Major J T (John) Day



Many who served with John Day will know little or nothing of the fullness of his life. Enlisting in 1947, he was soon an APTC Sgt Instructor at "P Coy", Airborne Forces Depot, Aldershot. I first met him in 1951, when 1 SURREYS were in Tripoli and John

was the PTI of 4/7 DG stationed nearby in Sabratha. I was immediately struck by his boyish enthusiasm and "officer-like" qualities. His tour with 4/7 DG was followed by a return to "P Coy", then commanded by Major SCAN Bishop of The Surreys who, also noting John's qualities, told him to "go for a commission" in The Surreys. This he did successfully, joining 1 SURREYS in Shornecliffe in 1954.

In BAOR in the summer of 1957 he managed 1 SURREYS' highly successful athletics team. Miriam, his wife, recounts that, at that time, their house seemed to be always full of young, fit, hungry officers. He was thrilled when the team won the BAOR Championships and came second in the Army Championships. Returning to Bury St Edmunds with the battalion John was introduced by David Froud and Hugh Greatwood to golf. He became a lifelong enthusiast.

Posted to Malta in late 1959, sailing became his passion. Next he was posted to Jamaica in 1961 where, because his family were keen on riding, he took over the Army stables, began playing polo and represented the island against teams such as Argentina and Texas. 1965 and on to Malaysia, to a new regiment the Rangers. This was a very busy period of recruit training, patrolling the Thai border and operating in Borneo.

In 1968 he became DOPT South East District then Chief Instructor at The Army School of PT. In 1973 he was asked to skipper "British Soldier" on the first leg of the Round the World Race from Southampton to Cape Town and later on the Cape Town to Rio race. In 1974 he became Deputy Commander and Chief Instructor of The Joint Services' Mountain Training Centre, where he learnt to climb and ski. Alas, he suffered a mild heart attack in 1977 and, fearing a bleak future of "desk jobs", he took redundancy, but continued sailing with The London Sailing Project (LSP) which helps young, often under-privileged, boys.

John and Miriam bought a hotel on the Norfolk coast, where he became secretary of the RNLI and bought a boat of his own. Built in Buenos Aires, he sailed it to the UK single handed. In "Sea Soldier" he and Miriam took holidays in the Canaries and the Azores and sailed the Atlantic. In 1992 the LSP chose John to skipper "Rona II" across the Atlantic to Puerto Rico and Boston to mark the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's voyage.

John's sailing included taking people from the charity "Sailing for The Blind" out on "Sea Soldier". Having to give up his work for LSP in 1988, when he was diagnosed with cancer, he nevertheless carried on sailing and playing golf, the latter with a dispensation at the golf club to wear his shirt outside his trousers to allow him to wear a chemotherapy pack on his back!

John, who died on 29th January 2005, was an enthusiastic man, who grasped every opportunity that

came his way and inspired so many youngsters. I am proud to have served with him.

GGS

### Sergeant Walter Vivian Geeves



Walter Vivian Geeves (Wally) was born on 24th April 1917, a member of a large family of six brothers and two sisters. He was always considered to be the quiet one of the family.

What was not so well known about him was the fact that he was a deeply religious man who always kept a bible near him and endeavoured to read it daily.

He was conscripted into the army on the 15th February 1940. After training, he joined the 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. He served with the BEF and returned to the United Kingdom after Dunkirk. He then moved to the Middle East with the battalion and was taken prisoner by the Germans in the desert. He was moved to Germany and spent the rest of the war as a POW.

He was demobilised in 1946 but he decided to re-enlist on 21st March 1947 and then joined 1st Bn The Queen's. He served in BAOR and moved with the battalion to Malaya, serving as a platoon sergeant in C Company then A Company. For his work as a platoon commander in the jungle he was Mentioned in Despatches in 1957. He was discharged from the Army in 1962 and was employed in a civilian capacity with the Ministry of Defence.

He was, and remained, a quiet man throughout his service: fiercely loyal to his Regiment he was a life member of the Association and subscriber to the Newsletter. His many friends in the Regiment will mourn the passing of this gentle giant.

LW

### Major WP Hughes D'Aeth TD



Major Peter Hughes D'Aeth who died last November aged nearly 92 served the Regiment with distinction during the 1939-1945 war. After school at Haileybury he joined the Royal Exchange Assurance Company in the city in 1932. He had already joined the HAC and then was commissioned into The Queen's Royal Regiment in June 1939, joining the 2/7th Battalion. He remained with the Battalion throughout, in UK, in Iraq in the autumn of 1942, and on

in March/April 1943 to join the 8th Army at Enfidaville where in command of the Carrier Platoon he particularly distinguished himself.

At Salerno, as a major, he was in command of a company, and finally to Anzio in February 1944. Here 2/7th Queen's were ordered to relieve a US Army battalion, 2/157th Infantry, who were holding out well to the front of the existing F.D.L.S. and had become surrounded. The Battalion got forward to do the task, although incurring some 50 casualties mainly due to an air attack on the way in, but were then themselves cut off. Peter Hughes D'Aeth commanded his C Company during the operation with coolness and gallantry, initially clearing the enemy holding some farm buildings in the middle of the position. However with no re-supply and ammunition running low, after 48 hours the Battalion was ordered to get back as best it could. Only four officers and 17 ORs made it, and Hughes D'Aeth was amongst the many, as he described it, who became compulsorily "attached to the Wehrmacht".

On returning from being a POW he returned to the city, also rejoining the HAC as a major, serving with them until 1951. He then continued service by becoming a Special Constable in the Metropolitan Police, serving as such for 19 years; his duties included the special occasions of HM The Queen's coronation and Winston Churchill's funeral.

Following retirement from the city he took on the task of running the St Barnabas Homes (now College) for retired clergy. He did this for five years before retiring with his wife to Broadstairs. He had married on 'The Glorious 1st of June' 1946, and with his wife brought up a large family of one son and five daughters.

Peter Hughes D'Aeth was a very nice man, whose life was an example of selfless service. He was much respected, always calm and collected, coping with all situations with a special good humour and positiveness. He remained throughout his life a member of the Regimental Association, attending 2/7th Queen's Reunion each year while he was still able.

JWS

#### Captain I W Morley-Clarke

Ian Morley-Clarke was commissioned from the ranks into The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1946 having enlisted in 1944 whilst a pupil at Wellington College. In 1947 he volunteered for secondment to the Parachute Regiment with which he served until the early 1950s when he returned to The Queen's Royal Regiment. He was a training officer at Stoumont Barracks. His subsequent service prior to leaving the Army in 1955 included a period as a Ground Liaison Officer at RAF Gutersloh and active service in Malaya. He was an active sportsman, playing cricket and hockey for the Regiment, as well as representing the Army and Combined Services at hockey.

LW

After leaving the Army he embarked on a career in publishing, managing several independent companies which produced over 700, mainly hardback, book titles. Particularly renowned for military history, he also specialised in sport and music. He retired in 1998. He passed away on 8th January 2005 aged 77 after a short illness at the Royal Surrey County Hospital

#### Captain (QM) William Kennet Roadnight MBE



Bill Roadnight was born on 25th November 1905 into a large family. At seventeen he joined the East Surrey Regiment but could not settle to Army life and his father purchased his discharge. Two years later he rejoined, this time into The Queen's Royal Regiment. He joined the Signal Platoon of the 1st Battalion and moved with

them to China. He became a clerk in the Orderly Room and later was the Orderly Room Sergeant. He had an amazing memory for numbers and knew all the personal numbers of the soldiers in the battalion. This gift was present throughout his life and service career. He married his wife Lillie in 1935 and she went to India. Both were present when the Quetta earthquake took place.

He left India just prior to the outbreak of the Second World War and following further promotions was posted to the 2/5th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment as Regimental Sergeant Major. With his Commanding Officer, Lt Col John Whitfield, they were among the first to land at Salerno. Later in the Italian campaign he was commissioned and moved to the 2/6th Battalion as Quartermaster. He remained with them until the last few months of the war when he was wounded.

Returning to the UK he was demobilised in 1946. When the TA was reformed, he again enlisted and was a Sergeant in the Quartermaster department of 5 Queen's. His civilian employment at that time was as an administrative officer. Later he was commissioned again and served for a number of years as QM to 131 Brigade at Surbiton. He had been awarded an MBE for his services during the war. His wife died in 1980. In retirement he lived quietly in Guildford, collecting stamps and cultivating his garden. He was a very patient man with a wonderful sense of humour. An excellent cricketer, he played for the Regiment and later qualified as an umpire. Above all, his pride in the Regiment and loyalty to it were major themes in his life. In 1996 he went into Gifford House at Worthing where he was very happy. He died at Gifford House on 8th November 2004. The Regiment extends their sympathy to his sister and other members of his family.

LW



## Publication

### Monty and Patton - Two Paths to Victory

by  
Mike Reynolds

has just been published. This is what it says on the inside of the cover:

"Of all the Allied generals who caught the headlines in the Middle East and Europe in WWII, two stand out. Neither held supreme command, but both had a magnetism and flair that set them apart from their contemporaries. Both achieved outstanding successes on the battlefield, both went out of their way to court the headlines and both made serious mistakes that attracted adverse publicity. Their names were Bernard Montgomery and George Patton.

There were numerous similarities in their early years. Born 'scorpions', two years apart, they had chequered careers at military academy, were commissioned within a year of each other and they were both wounded in France in WWI. However, there were important differences - one was born into the family of a Victorian churchman, the other into a wealthy American family; one became an infantryman, the other a cavalryman, and as such they displayed the basic characteristics of these two combat arms - Monty, for very good reasons, careful and meticulous; Patton dashing and devil-may-care. But despite these differences, Monty and Patton demonstrated similar traits throughout their lives - a total dedication to their careers, professionalism, selfishness, arrogance, a desire for the limelight and an unhesitating use of friends in high places to further their careers or achieve their aims. Neither was a particularly nice person - but then generals are not meant to be nice in war. Needless to say they did not like each other.

This book summarizes and compares the lives of that 'little fart' Monty and that 'foul-mouthed lover of war' Patton, but does not attempt to prove that one was a greater man or commander than the other. It shows clearly that they were both great generals and that they both made essential contributions to victory in Europe in WWII. Eisenhower said of Monty: 'I don't know if we could have done it without him. It was his sort of battle. Whatever they say about him, he got us there'; and of Patton he declared: 'His presence gave me the certainty that the boldest plan would be even more daringly executed. It is no exaggeration to say that Patton's name struck terror at the heart of the enemy'."

The book is available in all good bookshops at £25. If you would like a signed copy please send a cheque for £20 to Mike Reynolds at: 8, Grassington Road, Eastbourne, BN20 7BU

This will of course include postage and packaging.

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### Branch Secretaries

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# Quetta Earthquake 1935

