



THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY  
REGIMENT ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER

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## The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association



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### Forecast of Events

#### 2006

1st August MINDEN DAY.  
9th September SALERNO DAY.  
9th September 6th (Bermondsey), 2/6th and 2/7th Queen's Royal Regiment OCAs Combined Reunion.  
21st September The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum Trustees Meeting - Clandon.  
22nd September The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Charity Trustees Meeting.  
2nd October The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Officers' Club Ladies' Luncheon - Clandon.  
4th October Golf Society Autumn Meeting - Woking.  
7th October The East Surrey OCA Reunion, Clapham.  
3rd November The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association Annual Reunion - Union Jack Club.  
20th December BRITISH BATTALION DAY (1941).

#### 2007

10th February SOBRAON DAY (1846).  
17th March The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association, Charity Trustees and Officers' Club Meetings - Clandon.  
23rd April YPRES DAY (1915).  
16th May ALBUHERA DAY (1811).  
1st June THE GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE (1794).

### Editorial

From time to time I am asked about the Association's finances. As the President notes, we are in the fortunate position of having an Association that is not poor; the Regimental Charity, which provides most of the funding for our activities including benevolence, remains in sound financial condition. Total audited expenditure during 2005 was £151,411 pounds. The Charity's Trustees continue to keep expenditure and the Charity's investments under close scrutiny. The Charity does not undertake fund raising activities and is primarily dependent upon its investments and the income generated by those investments to meet expenditure. In 2005 that investment income was £68,706.

The excess expenditure above income is met by sale of investments; during 2005 those sales were more than offset by rising values. As a result at 31st December 2005 the investment portfolio stood at £2,079,356 compared with £1,939,605 at the beginning of 2005. Once cash holdings and liabilities were taken into account, the Charity's level of reserves (including the investments) was £2,095,903 at the end of 2005.

The end of this year will mark the 40th anniversary of the creation of The Queen's Regiment. May 1967 saw the publication of the first edition of the Regimental Association Newsletter. I would particularly welcome memories of service with The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, both Regular and TA, for inclusion in Edition 80 later this year.

Tony Russell

**Covers:** The covers are a picture from the collection of the Regimental Museum, Clandon Park depicting the attack by B Company 8th Battalion The East Surrey Regiment at Montauban on 1 July 1916, the first day of the battle of the Somme. It was during this attack that the Company advanced kicking footballs provided by their OC Captain W P Nevill. The artist was L/Cpl Percy Syer, a professional artist who served in the Orderly Room of the 8th Battalion.

### President's Notes

As some of you may know Captain Adrian Birtles retired as Chairman of our museum at the beginning of March. Adrian has been Chairman for nearly 6 years during which he has lead the team that has made our museum at Clandon such a prestigious attraction displaying our past history and traditions so effectively. Being Chairman of our museum is no easy task and Adrian has done an outstanding job. May I, on behalf of you all, say "Thank you" for a challenging job so effectively undertaken.

I am delighted to tell you that Adrian has agreed to become a Trustee of our Regimental Charity. Colonel Nicolas Davies, who started his military service at Stoughton barracks, has very kindly agreed to take over from Adrian. You can be assured that the continuing management of the museum is in good hands. Our thanks also to Ian Chatfield, our museum curator, for organising such a excellent museum Open Day on 26th March when the Surrey Army Cadet Band and the "Second of Foot" Peninsular War re-enactors added to a very successful day. I do urge associations/branches or even individual groups to organise visits/meetings/reunions at our museum. It is a great location and Ian Chatfield will make you most welcome.

The Regimental Charity Trustees are also pleased to welcome Major Mike Jarratt as a Trustee. Mike was one of the last officers to be commissioned into The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. He has been acting as Honorary Legal Advisor to the Trustees for a number of years.

Those of you who know our Regimental Chapel at Guildford Cathedral will be pleased to read that we have recently had all the Colours cleaned and repaired by the Royal School of Needlework. The Trustees have also agreed to pay for two more stained glass windows in the Chapel; one showing the badge of The Queen's Royal Regiment and the other that of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. These will complement the badges of The East Surrey Regiment. We are also having one of the floor slabs engraved to commemorate all who have made the supreme sacrifice whilst serving in The Queen's Royal Regiment, The East Surrey Regiment and The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. We are awaiting the ecclesiastic authority and agreement before the work starts.

I have much enjoyed over the past year attending the many reunions and events held by the Association/branches. Thank you to all the organisers who help to maintain the spirit and comradeship of our Regiments. Lastly, I have come across quite a number of our former members who find themselves in difficulties. Please remember that the prime purpose of our Association is benevolence and we are not poor! If you know of any friend who is finding problems do persuade him or her to ask the Association for assistance.

Best Wishes

Tony Ward

### The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment



The hectic pace of life within the Regiment continues unabated. The regular Battalions are on the move again and demands on the TA are never ending or decreasing.

The Colonel of the Regiment recently had his book 'Dusty Warrior - A Modern Soldier' published. This is a very accurate account of the 1st Battalion's Battle Group actions in Iraq in 2004. Copies are available from RHQ PWRR (*and also from the Regimental Museum at Clandon*).

Pte Beharry VC continues to receive medical treatment for his wounds and is still Y listed. He works, at present, for The Prince of Wales's Trust, which is deeply involved with today's youth.

The 1st Battalion deployed to Iraq on OP Telec 8 on 1 May 06 and return 1 Nov 06. They had an intensive training build up for their deployment. This involved all aspects of combat preparedness at all levels. This was completed at various training locations in Germany, sometimes in snowy, extremely cold conditions. The rear party remains in Paderborn. We wish them a successful tour. The Colonel of the Regiment visited them live firing the Warrior main armaments at Hohne Training Area.

The 2nd Battalion is now well established in Ballykelly, Northern Ireland. They are accommodated in a new modern barracks and are collocated with HQ 8 INF Bde. This latter HQ will cease operational control on 1 Aug 06 as part of the troop level reduction now that the province is apparently returning to normal! A Company will deploy to the Falkland Islands for a short 3 months tour this summer. The Corps of Drums will be visiting the IOW to complete some adventure training and ceremonial duties including visiting the Regimental Sailing.

The 3rd Battalion under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Adam Edmunds is in the middle of an interesting programme of expansion with now taking on C Company of the RRV (Portsmouth based), which will become D Company 3 PWRR, and also the Battalion will create a new company in the Medway Towns. It's good news for the TA.

B Company The Londons still continues wearing our cap badge but is now closer aligned with the Guards who have taken administrative control of the London Regiment.

The Regimental TA units still continue to support the Regular Battalions with manpower and the 1st Battalion has benefited from this manpower and in some cases individuals' previous experience of Iraq. So far this year 24 will have deployed to Iraq and one to Afghanistan.

The Regiment continues to be in fine form and the Regimental image has been strengthened with all the publicity surrounding the awards from Iraq and the follow up lectures, articles and profile of the Colonel of the Regiment. Recruiting numbers are a cause for concern as by June this year every single infantry battalion in the British Army will be under strength. This single feat was achieved by the Staff (seeking financial savings) by imposing a moratorium last year on recruiting! – need I say more.

We are now fighting back and will after a great deal of effort and money hopefully regain our numbers.

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### The Regimental Museum

Last Autumn's Notes were written a month before the end of the 2005 season; these are being penned a week after the opening of the new season for 2006. The new season started quite literally with a bang as, with the kind co-operation of the National Trust and Lord Onslow, Ian Chatfield had arranged for our local Surrey Cadet Force Band and Drums and the 2nd of Foot Re-enactment Society to play and demonstrate outside Clandon Park's front door during the afternoon. This seemed to be much enjoyed by the visiting public (if not entirely by Lord Onslow's horses), although we were all reassured to be informed that the rounds being fired from the replica Brown Bess muskets were blanks! Opening day was also the Museum's Open Day for members of the Regiment – an experimental break with the tradition of holding this in the Autumn. There was a good turn-out, but comments on preferred arrangements for future years would be welcome.

As usual, the intervening Winter months were occupied with the slog of cleaning everything in preparation for the new season and making some improvements to the displays. There has been a substantial re-ordering of the VC and GC displays to show them to better effect, and to give more details of the circumstances of their award and of the heroes who won them. This has also given the opportunity to re-instate displays of the Museum's fascinating collection of Regimental trinkets, ranging from sweetheart broaches to presentation watches and many other intriguing knick knacks.

The Winter period also saw completion of our agreement with the new Woking Galleries (who have now changed their trading name to "The Lightbox") for displays of part of the Museum collection in Woking town centre for a period of fifteen years from 2007. Construction of the new galleries building, alongside the canal by Chertsey Road bridge in Woking, is now well in hand, and we are starting to look at the detailed design for the new displays.

Looking to the year ahead, special displays are planned to mark the 90th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme in July, and the 150th Anniversary of the institution of the Victoria Cross later in the year. Ian Chatfield has plans for more "Outreach" talks, for which we are now fully equipped with a laptop computer and projector, thanks to some welcome grant-aid. Other grants have helped produce two children's trails (for 5-8 and for 8-14 year olds), with the aim of making visits by children more interesting and (in the case of schools' visits) more relevant to their learning. These activities are all parts of the Museum's "Education initiative" which, after a hesitant start a few years ago, is now well under way.



Adrian Birtles gives his last Museum Christmas party address as Chairman



To conclude, my term as Chairman of the Museum Trustees came to an end in March, so this is my final issue of Museum Notes. At their meeting on 30th March, the Trustees appointed Colonel Nicolas Davies to be Chairman, and he is now in the hot seat. May I finish then by saying that, while my years as Chairman have included a few challenges, they have been very enjoyable and rewarding, all made possible by the terrific support and comradeship of all the many people who make up the Museum Team. Long may it continue to prosper!

Adrian Birtles

### Benevolence

We are most grateful to Major John Rogerson at RHQ PWRR for his continuing hard work in administering our Regimental Charity's individual benevolence support.

During 2005 a total of 118 cases were investigated and 78 individual grants-in-aid were approved; of these eight were to former embodied TA personnel. In the majority of cases the grants were for household expenses, debts and rent arrears. The Association helped to provide 13 further electrically powered vehicles, 11 orthopaedic chairs/beds and contributed to two convalescent holidays. The Charity paid out £27,792 as individual grants-in-aid through RHQ PWRR and made a donation of £5,000 to The Army Benevolent Fund (ABF). A further £375 was spent to purchase vouchers as Christmas gifts for deserving cases including annuity holders. The ABF provided £1,929 in General Grants. Of the 40 cases not receiving a grant, local Councils/Charities or other Regimental Charities assisted 32 after we had contacted them. Twelve cases were not receiving such allowances as attendance, mobility, pensions credit or rent rebate.

Fourteen ABF Annuities were administered; the ABF generously contributed £55 per month per case. During this period we had renewed or arranged for four Nursing Home Fees grants, each of £1,040 from the ABF and £350 from the Regimental Charity per year, to be paid for our old soldiers or their widows to be looked after. The Charity Trustees have decided to increase the Regimental fees grant for 2006 to £500 per case. We had one resident, on respite stay, in Gifford House. The ABF total grants in support, including Nursing Home Fees and annuities, were £14,469.

The Regimental Charity Trustees would again like to pay tribute to the ABF which is always helpful with prompt action and advice. They are also most grateful for the part played by Branch Secretaries. 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.

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 below.

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**A SSAFA Caseworker writes:** Thank you for your letter and the enclosed cheque which will contribute to the cost of Mrs A's bed. I have told Mrs A that the donation comes from The Queen's Royal Surreys Regimental Charity.

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Thank you for your advice about the RBL When I have received replies from the other charitable funds I shall, probably, approach them. Lastly, thank you for your prompt and generous help in this case.

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Please accept our sincere thanks for the recent grant that you helped to obtain for us towards the cost of the building and electrical work needed at our home. Once the building work is complete and we receive the new wheelchair it will be great for us both to be able to get out and enjoy the summer. Once again we both thank you for your assistance and support.

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Thank you so much for your generous donation towards a stairlift for my mother; it has truly made my mother very happy as she is no longer a prisoner in the bedroom. On behalf of my mother and my family and in my dad's memory we thank the Regiment and keep you all in our prayers.

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I thank you very much for your kindness in contributing to my Sennheiser hearing aid equipment. It is lovely to be able to hear things clearly at last. Wishing you the compliments of the season with grateful thanks.

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I want to thank you very much for your kind gift of the Debenhams voucher in the presentation box. It will be very useful. I am 91 and now cannot walk. I have to be pushed in a wheel chair and only have a little sight left. I wish you all a Happy New Year in 2006.

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Another year has gone by and Mrs B continues on into her 90's. She has asked me to thank you and your association for your generous support towards her expenses that enables her to stay in her care home.

May I say that without your support it would prove almost impossible to keep my mother-in-law in her home. Thank you once again.

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Thank you for all your help towards the getting of a scooter for me. I am now able to go to the shops and also get some fresh air. Its great to feel free when I'm on it; just to sit on it feels lovely.

Sorry about the writing but rheumatism gets a lot of us older folk, so I must finish now. Thankfully yours

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## The East Surrey Regiment Officers' Reunion Lunch

Held on Thursday 20th April once more in the Officers' Mess of The London Regiment by kind permission of the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel "Greg" Truman, the reunion got off to a good start. This was due to the first "round" being on Peter Bruckmann, who, living in Spain, was unable to attend but wished his spiritual presence with us to be made manifest. Peter had served with 2 SURREYS and subsequently THE BRITISH BATTALION in Malaya in 1941 and '42 and, alas, subsequently for three and a half years as a PoW of the Japanese.



Posing for the camera!

Thirty five signed up for the lunch, but unfortunately Derek Conran and Les Wilson had to drop out. However, unlike Arsenal Football Club, our substitutes bench includes the odd Brit and "Jasper" Gray of Salonika and Athens vintage was an eleventh hour addition to our number. This was fortunate, for our numbers included for the first time Mark Stent, who was also of Salonika vintage.



Have you heard the one about?

Toby Taylor, presiding, said in one of his little anecdotes "I was serving with the first battalion in the Sudan in '38". This got the lamps swinging !! In fact that anecdote involved Brigadier George Roupell VC, who at the time was commanding the battalion. One wonders if it was the

first time that Peter Roupell, who was at the lunch, had heard it.

Geoff Strong said that with the inevitable decline in numbers resulting in overheads, such as insurance and rental, having to be shared by a smaller number, it was possibly time to have another look at the way ahead, as had been done in 1999, when we moved from biennial dinners at Simpson's to annual lunches at Clapham. He will shortly send a letter to the "Hard Core" of some forty members with possible alternatives and seeking views.

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### Reunion: 46 Years On (by Geoffrey Mason)

Forty six years after serving together in Mukeiras, Aden, fifteen men of 'B' Company, 1 QUEEN'S SURREYS, accompanied by their wives, held another of their three-yearly reunions at the Holiday Inn at Farnborough, Surrey, over the weekend 4th-5th February 2006.

In all, twenty seven sat down to dinner which was followed by a most enjoyable evening reminiscing about the times spent together in Aden. Sadly, there were a few of our old comrades who could no longer be with us. Foremost amongst these was Cpl Jim Matthews, the founder and organizer of our Reunions.



Ken and Eve Hone (foreground) enjoying the reunion dinner with (in the background L-R) Daphne and Geoffrey Mason, Carol Mould, Eric Lockwood, the back view of Rob Bevan facing his wife Connie.

However, we were very pleased to have with us as our guests his widow, Pam, and their three grown up daughters. Also Roger Mould's widow, Carol, who came all the way from Cornwall to be with us. The wife of Sgt Lockwood, Desni, and the wife of Michael Clark were also remembered amongst those who could no longer be with us. The organization of our three yearly reunions is now in the very capable hands of Maurice and Ann Tyson and we are grateful to them for organizing such an enjoyable weekend reunion this year. The next, marking almost fifty years since we all first met, will take place in February 2009. 'B' Company members please take note.

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## Soccer on the Somme

The 1916 Battle of the Somme started on 1 July 1916 and was to continue through until mid-November 1916. During those 4½ months there were to be actions subsequently commemorated in battle honours and days of heavy losses. By the end of the battle the British Army casualties totalled over 500,000. The French Army, while suffering heavy losses at Verdun, also suffered almost 200,000 casualties during the Battle of the Somme.

Many of the Commonwealth fallen are buried in graveyards so carefully tended by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Some 73,000 officers and men of the land forces of the United Kingdom and South Africa who fell between July 1915 and 20 March 1918 and who have no known resting place are commemorated on the panels of the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing; the majority of those whose names are inscribed fell during the Battle of the Somme.

However 1 July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme, holds its own dreadful place as the worst single day in the British Army's history in terms of casualties; almost 60,000 men were killed, wounded or missing, of which about one third were fatalities.

The British losses were sustained by Kitchener's Army, largely composed of volunteers, most of the professional soldiers of the original British Expeditionary Force (BEF) having previously been either killed or rendered unfit for service by the wounds they had suffered. The following battalions of the Regiment were to take part in the battle over the coming months: The Queen's - 1st, 2nd, 6th, 7th, 8th, 10th and 11th Battalions; The East Surreys - 1st, 7th, 8th, 9th and 12th Battalions. Names from the 21st, 22nd and 24th County of London Regiments also appear on the Thiepval Memorial.

General Sir Douglas Haig had succeeded Field Marshal Sir John French as Commander-in-Chief of the BEF at the end of 1915 after the Battle of Loos. His original plan envisaged an attack preceded by 6 days of preliminary artillery bombardment; however two days of wet weather resulted in a decision to postpone the attack by 24 hours, so the bombardment went on for a week. To the waiting British soldiers this artillery bombardment seemed impressive. In reality on 1 July the advancing British troops were to find that much of the German barbed wire remained uncut. The battered German trenches were not abandoned but were still occupied by resolute groups; and the German artillery remained capable of inflicting heavy losses.

Amongst those British units waiting to attack in the misty early hours of 1 July was the 8th Battalion The East Surrey Regiment. B Company was commanded by Captain Wilfred Percy Nevill (known as "Billie") and it was that Company's actions that were to capture the public imagination.

Billie Nevill had attended Dover College before going on to Cambridge, however his academic studies came to an abrupt end in 1914 when he volunteered for the Army and became a twenty year old 2nd Lieutenant in the 8th (Service) Battalion The East Surrey Regiment. In June 1915 the battalion crossed to France as part of 55 Brigade, 18th Division; the brigade also included 7 Queen's. Billie Nevill (pictured right in early 1915) applied for a Regular Commission; he was gazetted into the East Yorkshire Regiment, however he never served with them remaining with the 8th Bn The East Surrey Regiment. The Regimental History account of 1 July notes that "Captain Nevill had provided each platoon of B Company with a football, which was to be kicked across No Man's Land, subject to the proviso that proper formation and distance was not to be lost thereby".

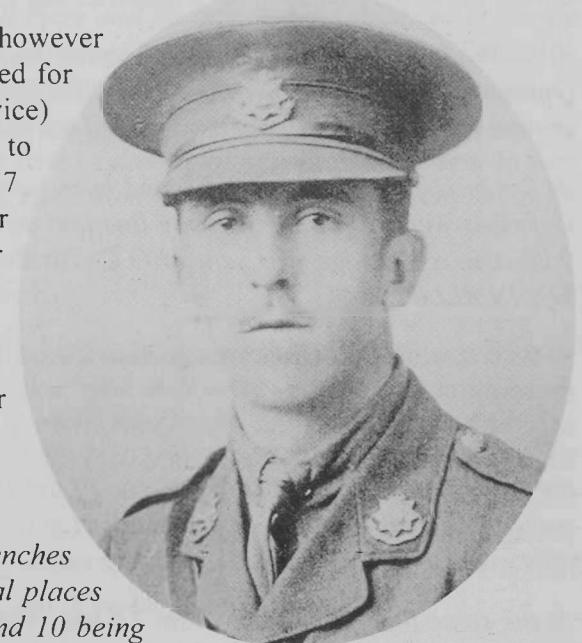
The Battalion War Diary records the events of 1 July:

*"From midnight on the enemy shelled our frontline and the assembly trenches mostly with 10.5cm and 15 cm shells knocking in the trenches in several places and several small dugouts, causing a total of 13 casualties, 3 killed and 10 being wounded.*

*Enemy artillery was less active from about 5 a.m. until 6.30 a.m. when he started an intense but distributed bombardment, a large amount of which fell round the Right Battalion Headquarters.*

*At 5.30 a.m. Companies reported that they were in position and that all the necessary stores etc. had been issued.*

*At 7.15 a.m. Adjutant left the Headquarters Dugout to observe the attack from our parapet.*



At 7.27 a.m. "B" Company started to move out to their wire, Captain Nevill strolling quietly ahead of them, giving an occasional order to keep the dressing square on the line of advance. This Company took four footballs out with them which they were seen to dribble forward into the smoke of our intense bombardment on the Hun Front line.

The first part of "B" Company's advance was made with very few casualties, but when the barrage lifted to the second Hun trench, a very heavy rifle and machine gun fire started from our front and left, the latter apparently coming from the craters and high ground immediately behind them.

At 7.50 a.m. the Adjutant reported that the Battalion was in the German trenches. Hand to hand fighting went on for a long time in the German trenches and news received that both Captain Flatau and Pearce had been killed and later it was known that Captain Nevill, Lieuts Soames, Musgrove, and 2/Lieuts Kelly and Evans had also been killed.

At 8.05 a.m. the Battalion Bombing Section was sent forward and at 8.07 a.m. 2/Lieut P.G. Heath i/c two Stokes Guns was sent out with orders to proceed as far as he could with reasonable safety, and report to the nearest East Surrey officer and find out how best his guns could be used.

At 8.10 a.m. and again at 8.25 a.m. the Adjutant returning from our front line trenches reported heavy machine gun and rifle fire from the left and that apparently the craters and high ground immediately behind them had not been successfully dealt with by the Battalions on the left. Owing to the reports of heavy casualties the C.O. sent to O.C. 7th Buffs for reinforcements.

At 8.40 a.m. the Adjutant again reported heavy fire from the left causing us a large number of casualties. O.C. 7th Queens was asked whether the craters had been taken, and the reply received at 8.47 a.m. was that he believed that the craters had been taken, but as it turned out later this was not the case.

At 9 a.m. 2/Lieut Stimson, who had been wounded in the arm reported at Battalion Headquarters. He said that the Germans were along the railway line and advancing along the Valley Trench and VALLEY SUPPORT TRENCH. At 9.08 a.m. a message was sent to O.C. 7th Buffs asking him to send 2 Platoons to proceed along the Valley and into TRAIN ALLEY.

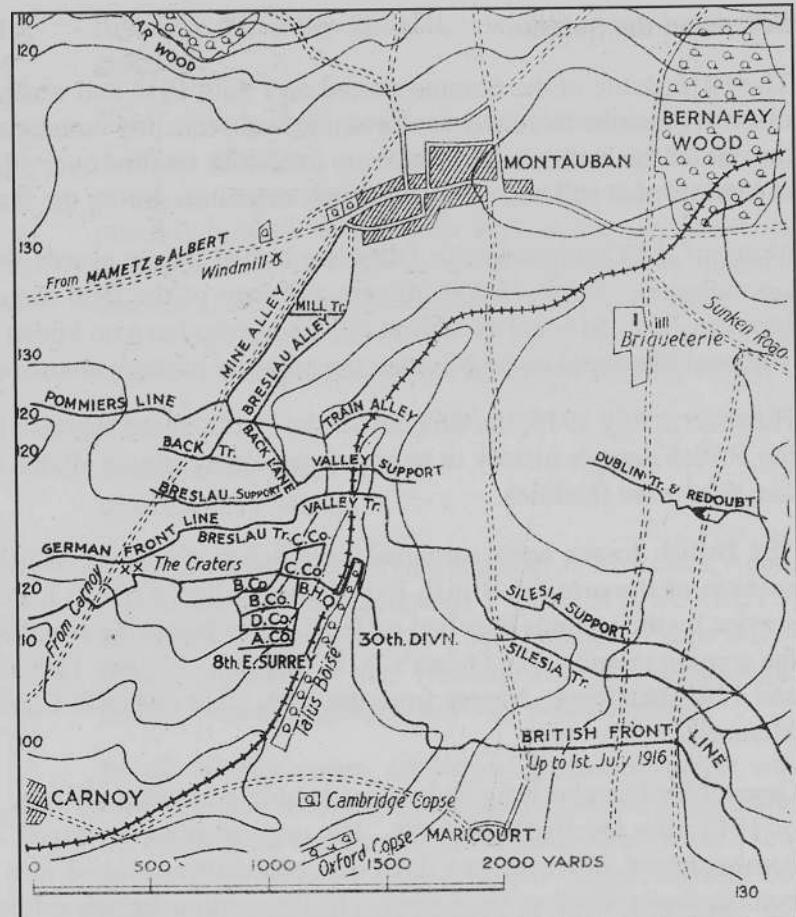
At 9.20 a.m. this message was acknowledged O.C. 7th Buffs sending one Platoon forward and keeping one Platoon in reserve.

At 9.21 a.m. an intercepted message on the telephone told us that the Queens were held up in BACK TRENCH, and at the same time, Private BILLSON one of the Battalion Orderlies, who had been sent forward to remind Companies to wave their Artillery flags returned with the report that our men were now in the POMMIERE LINE, and a few minutes afterwards information was received from the F.O.O. that the Surreys were in TRAIN ALLEY.

At the same time an Orderly from 2/Lieut Wightman brought in a report that the Brigade on the right were getting up reinforcements splendidly, and going ahead well.

A few minutes earlier 2 Huns ran into the Trench near our Battalion Headquarters crying for mercy.

At 9.44 a.m. Major Irwin handed over command at Report Centre to the Adjutant, and went forward to ascertain and if possible bring back, news as to the actual position. At 9.49 a.m. a message was intercepted from the craters that the enemy was still holding out in the craters and the high ground.



Section of a map of the Somme battlefields (from the History of The East Surrey Regiment volume 2) showing the 8th Battalion formed up to attack at 7.27 a.m. on 1 July 1916

At 9.55 a.m. the Commanding Officer and Adjutant 7th Royal West Kents, and a numerous staff, reported at Battalion Headquarters. The Adjutant sent 2/Lieut Wightman forward with 2 Signallers and a telephone line to proceed to POMMIERE and try and get into touch with Major Irwin.

At 10.10 a.m. Lieut Thorley reported that the Brigade on the right were advancing well, but that nothing could be seen on our front.

The Adjutant reported the position to the Brigade which was that we had taken POMMIERS, but had suffered extremely heavy casualties in doing so and that the line was too weak to advance without reserves being put in. Thereupon at 10.23 a.m. a message from the Brigadier ordered 3 Companies 7th W. Kents to advance and push the line forward. Their position in A.1. Subsector would be taken by the Suffolks. The 7th W. Kents to detail 1 Company to consolidate the POMMIER LINE.

At 10.30 a.m. a message was received from Lt. Griffin F.O.O. through Lieut Carver, Liaison officer, that the enemy were leaving MILL TRENCH and MINE ALLEY and converging on the MILL and the ORCHARD, also that they were seen to have machine guns with them. We ordered an immediate intense bombardment on these two points, and this was done practically at once.

At 10.45 a.m. the Adjutant with the remainder of Headquarters left Battalion Report Centre to find the wire which had been laid forward, and to establish a forward Report Centre. Some difficulty was experienced in finding the wire and it was not until 10.45 a.m. (sic) that the forward end of the wire in the German third line Trench was found. The Signallers here reported that Major Irwin was in the POMMIERE LINE, and that he would be returning to the telephone shortly. From this point a splendid view of the whole slope of MONTAUBAN could be obtained and the dispositions of our troops could be clearly seen. They have advanced from POMMIERE and lined the parados of BRESLAU ALLEY.

The position was reported by telephone to the Brigade, and also the urgent necessity for hurrying the West Kents and pushing the attack home. At about noon the 1st of the West Kents appeared in BACK TRENCH. Major Irwin returned to the telephone at 12 noon and gave orders for 2/Lieut Wightman to see Capt Bowen who was still engaged on the left, and tell him if possible to disengage and go forward with all men he could collect. The Adjutant was ordered to carry the line on from BRESLAU ALLEY to MILL TRENCH and either consolidate there, or carry on to MONTAUBAN as he thought best, according to the situation.

The bombardment of the MILL and the ORCHARD continued most satisfactorily, and when the line went forward from BRESLAU ALLEY and MILL TRENCH at 12.10 p.m. not a shot was fired from our immediate front, and it was decided to carry on from MILL TRENCH to MINE ALLEY, and after a short halt there and finding that the Artillery evidently having seen our men go forward had lifted, the whole of the East Surreys advanced to the Road West of MONTAUBAN, which they reached at 12.22 p.m. with their right resting on the two Westerly houses of MONTAUBAN, their left about 100 yards East of the Orchard. There was no sign of any troops on the left so Sgt. Willis was sent with a dozen men to the WINDMILL to watch the left flank, and as other men came up from time to time reinforcements were sent to him until the line stretched from the Windmill across the road and along the road from the small copse to MONTAUBAN ALLEY.

When Sgt. Willis first got to the MILL he took prisoner 1 Officer and 2 men.

At 12.35 p.m. Major Irwin arrived with Headquarters and took command of all troops of the 55th Brigade West of MONTAUBAN. A number of Buffs and West Kents had arrived by this time and were ordered to hold on in MONTAUBAN ALLEY with the E. Surreys in close support. When Lieut Heaton, 7th Queens arrived he was ordered to extend the line to the left so that the whole Brigade objective was reached by 1.30 p.m. Captain Gimson had arrived close behind Major Irwin, and later L/C. Brame turned up with a bottle of champagne to be drunk in MONTAUBAN "ON DER TAG". This bottle was sent round from Officer to Officer, those who shared in it being Major Irwin, Captain Gimson, Captain Bowen, 2/Lieut Derrick, 2/Lieut Janion, Lieut Thorley, 2/Lieut Wightman, 2/Lieut Alcock and Captain Clare, in fact all the East Surrey Officers engaged in the attack who had not been killed or wounded.

Major Irwin having fully reported the position to the Brigade, and having satisfied himself as regards the dispositions moved Headquarters and B and C Companies down MINE ALLEY, putting Headquarters in MILL TRENCH and B & C Companies in MINE ALLEY, either side of MILL TRENCH where they would be able to resist any counter attack from the left, where our flank was still in the air.

Headquarters Officers and 2/Lieut Janion put their kit on the firestep in MILL TRENCH, and had only just finished tea when the first of a large number of 5.9 shells landed almost in MILL TRENCH. A rapid decision was arrived at, and Headquarters were moved further away to the right. One of the next few shells landed plumb on the firestep on which all the officers had been sitting.

The shelling was also on MINE ALLEY. At the junction of MINE ALLEY and MILL TRENCH where the Brigade had ordered a strongpoint to be made we suffered several regrettable casualties, both Sgt. Simons and Sgt. Abrey being killed, and a number of men wounded. It was hard to know where to put the men for safety, but as the top of MINE ALLEY seemed to be suffering somewhat less all men were moved forward.

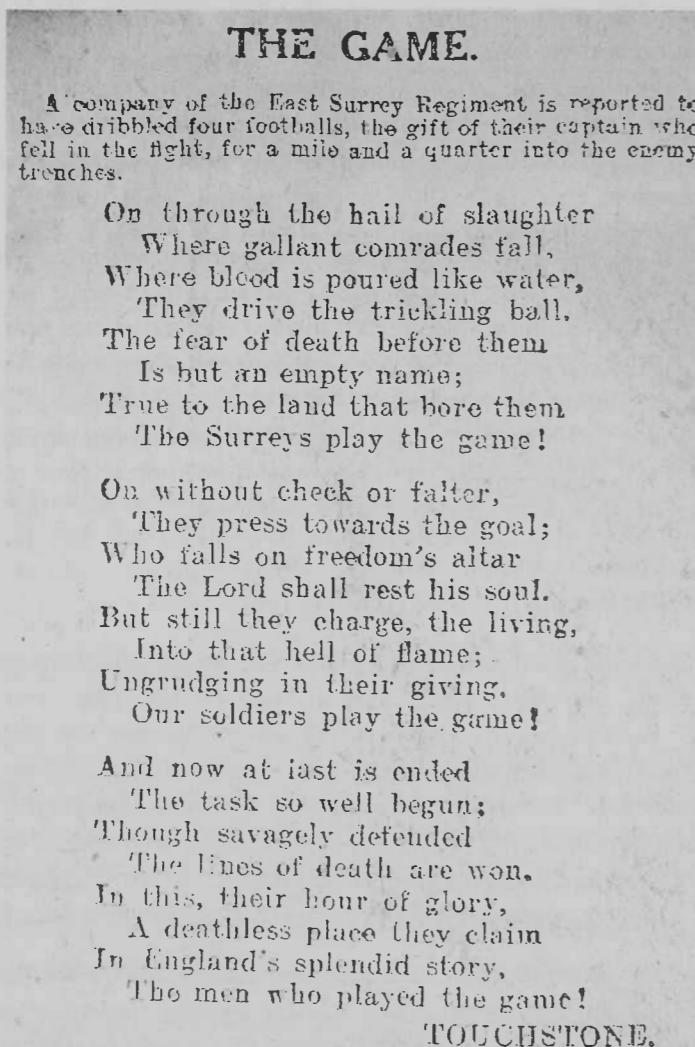
At 9 p.m. a party of Suffolks reported with 25 canvas buckets of water, which were most welcome.

Major Irwin left for a conference of Commanding Officers with the Brigadier at No. 2 strong point where POMMIERE LINE joins MINE ALLEY and returned later with the news that the Battalion would be relieved at daylight, but must remain till then in a position forming a defensive flank on the left.

At midnight 2/Lieut Derrick was carried down from the front line a large piece of shrapnel having torn through his right foot. There was great difficulty in attending to this and all other casualties in the crowded communication trench and Captain Gimson got no rest that night."

The Battalion remained in Montauban, with 7 Queen's to its left, until it was relieved at dawn on 2 July and after a somewhat hazardous journey down Mine Alley, reached the comparative safety of the Pommiers Line. The Regimental History records that the casualties included 7 officers and 140 other ranks killed, 7 officers (1 mortally) and 272 other ranks wounded and 20 missing. The battalion's determined execution of its allotted task was recognised by the award of two D.S.O.s, two M.C.s, two D.C.M.s, one bar to M.M., and 8 M.M.s.

National public awareness of the East Surreys' footballing attack was raised by a poem "The Game" which was published by the Daily Mail on 12th July 1916.



Subsequently an illustration of the event "The Surreys Play the Game" by R Caton Woodville appeared in The Illustrated London News on 27th July 1916. A version of it also appeared in The War Illustrated on 19th August 1916.

The picture (below), although reputedly based upon information supplied by an officer present at the action, was in fact incorrectly captioned as showing the East Surreys charging towards the German Trenches at Contalmaison rather than Montauban.



Some other details of the event are shrouded in the fog of war and mists of time. Although some accounts (including the War Diary) say there were four footballs with B Company, the Nevill family maintained that there were two. It was widely reported that B Company dribbled the footballs for a mile and a quarter into the enemy trenches; in fact the distance across No Man's Land to the first German trenches was in the region of 400 yards.

The short history of The East Surrey Regiment by Michael Langley (one of the Famous Regiments series) says that one football was kicked off by Nevill and the other by Pte AA Fursey of 6 Platoon. Correspondence in the Regimental Archive offers alternative names. A letter from 2nd Lieutenant C W Alcock to one of Nevill's sisters says that Nevill and Lieutenant Soames kicked off the company footballs. In another letter Captain C Thorne (having become OC B Company), writing to Mrs Richardson about the death of her son on 1 July, says that "Captain Nevill (who was killed) himself kicked off one of the footballs which the Company dribbled across, and you will be proud to hear it was actually your son who kicked off the other one on that historic day, the memory of which will live for ever in the records of the Regiment, and indeed of the British Nation."

Two footballs were retrieved from the German wire. It is uncertain whether the inscriptions 'The Great European Cup – The Final – East Surreys v. Bavarians. Kick off at Zero' and 'NO REFEREE' were inscribed beforehand or after the event when the press coverage started.

The first ball was returned to the East Surrey Regimental Depot on 21st July 1916 where its arrival was marked by a well reported parade. Private Draper, who had been wounded on 1 July, was present and invited to inflate the ball. The Regimental Archive also includes newspaper photographs and accounts of it being subsequently displayed at a number of fund raising events.



Press photograph of Private Draper with the football

One ball is now on display at the Regimental Museum at Clandon Park, and the other at the PWRR and Queen's Museum, Dover Castle.



*The football now at the Regimental Museum, Clandon Park*

Captain Nevill is buried at Carnoy but the story of B Company's football charge has lived on outside the Regiment. In 1986 ex Sgt Leonard Baldwin M.M. 8th Bn The East Surreys, a veteran of the Somme, was interviewed by Sir Harry Secombe for the TV programme 'Highway' which was broadcast on Remembrance Sunday that year. The Imperial War Museum has a large collection of "Nevill" papers, primarily letters written by Billie Nevill and by his elder sister Amy who nursed with the Voluntary Aid Detachment. The letters were the basis for the 1991 book "BILLIE The Nevill Letters: 1914-1916" by Ruth Elwin Harris.

The Regimental Archive includes a copy of a purported telegram from the President of the Argentine Football Association congratulating the 8th East Surrey Regiment on "... the happy result of its football match at Montauban".

The story remained in the German memory as well; the Regimental Archive holds a copy of the picture of the football charge with a caption in German which was removed from a magazine in the waiting room of the German Dental Centre at Reichenberger by Pte T Wheatley of the East Surrey Regiment whilst a prisoner of war in April 1945.

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#### **7th (Service) Battalion The Queen's**

7th Queen's fought alongside 8th Surreys as part of 55 Brigade on 1 July.

The museum at Clandon also contains a picture (right) of the Battalion on that date; it shows Lieutenant Heaton in action. The Battalion was held up by accurate machine gun fire and sustained heavy casualties. Lieutenant Heaton organised a bombing party and led it up a communication trench with such dash that the enemy line was cleared and 163 prisoners taken. Lieutenant (later Captain) Heaton was wounded but remained at duty and was later awarded the DSO for outstanding gallantry in this action.

The Regimental History records that 7th Queen's losses on 1 July were 7 officers and 174 other ranks killed, 9 officers and 284 other ranks wounded, and 58 missing.



*The grave of Captain W P Nevill*

#### **Burial of the Remains of a Queen's Royal Regiment Soldier (by Colonel John Francis)**

I was very privileged to represent The Regimental Association at this most moving event. The remains, consisting of a skull, ribs, vertebrae and a femur, were found by an archaeological team working in the area of the airfield at Meaulte, a few km south of Albert. With the remains were QUEEN'S shoulder flashes and a small disc with 'A COY DINNER' inscribed, spoon, gas mask, water bottle, buttons, trenching tool and bullets.

The Burial Ceremony was most dignified and quietly impressive, conducted by the Reverend Canon Ray Jones of the Diocese in Europe and Vicar of St George's Memorial Church Ypres.



There were about twenty people present, including, Brigadier Tim Gregson British Defence Attaché Paris (late LI), the Chairman of the Somme Branch Royal British Legion plus their Standard and Bearer, two from the War Graves Commission, one of whom was the Assistant Regional Director, the Reverend John Porter (ex King's School Canterbury) Anglican Chaplaincy in the Pas-de-Calais, two of the archaeologists who found the remains, my wife Penny and myself, as well as several others.



*Colonel Francis lays the Regimental wreath*

The Service consisted of an Opening Prayer followed by the ceremony proper in which there were responses from us present, a reading from the Gospel of St John, Chapter 14, read by Brigadier Gregson; I then read the Regimental Collect, we then each laid our Poppy Wreaths (mine was a Queen's Royal Regiment Wreath on behalf of the President and the Association), followed by the Exhortation read by the Assistant Regional Director. The whole way the service was conducted would have been a great comfort to our unknown soldier and his relatives should they ever be established. However much the War Graves Commission costs, it is worth every single penny.

Unfortunately the weather was not kind; it was bitterly cold with a fine drizzle; typical Somme autumn weather.



The remains were buried at Plot 1 A 15 of Grove Town Cemetery, located in the middle of farmland, made even more difficult to find because of road closures: even the War Graves party got lost and delayed the start!

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#### **The East Surrey Regiment Reunion 2006**

The 31st Annual Reunion of the East Surrey Regiment (All ranks – all battalions) will take place at the New Drill Hall, St John's Hill, Clapham Junction on Saturday 7th October 2006 from 1300 to 1800 hours (wives and guests are always welcome). Tickets (£5 each which include buffet and must be shown at the door for entry) can be obtained from: J Broom, 11 Sayerland Road, Polegate, East Sussex BN26 6NU. Cheques should be made payable to "East Surrey Regiment Reunion Association" and accompanied by a stamped self addressed envelope.

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Museum Open Day 26th March 2006



Left: Marching on.



Right: Preparing to frighten the horses.



Left: Ian Chatfield attempts to keep the ladies under control.



Regimental Association Reunion, Union Jack Club, November 2005



Right: The reunion commemorated the 60th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Amongst the veterans attending was John Wyatt, pictured with the Association President. John was held as a prisoner of war by the Japanese.



Left: A display from Regimental Archive photos of the Second World War.



Left: Comparing memories.

## 1/7th Queen's Royal Regiment

The annual Reunion lunch was held on 4th March and was well attended. A number of guests were welcomed by the President. These included members of councils from Sint Niklaas and Heel together with officers of the Royal British Legion Club (Southwark). Donations were made by guests and included photos of the renewed Market Square Sint Niklaas, a painting of Heel and a Plaque from the British Legion; a Floral Tribute was laid by John DE Cyper of Sint Niklaas.

The usual Royal Toasts and that to absent friends were drunk and a very pleasant meal was served and much enjoyed by all. The Reunion was organised and supervised by Mr Joe Rowe M.M. ably assisted by members of his family who are congratulated and thanked for their efforts which produced a well organised party that was appreciated by all. It will be repeated in 2007.

## The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Golf Society Autumn Meeting 2006

Woking Golf Club was again the venue for our Society's Autumn meeting on Wed 5th October. Twenty one members enjoyed the customary excellent facilities on offer, including the luxury of a "Starter" provided by the club to ensure we all started at the right tee at the right time. The weather was dull but remained dry which encouraged some very creditable scores and everyone, except the captain, seemed satisfied with their achievements.

With members all changed and clubs safely stowed away an excellent lunch was enjoyed by all and the socialising began. Unfortunately photographic evidence of the day is limited because the Society's photographer ran out of film! (*Actually the camera jammed - still no excuse!*: Ed)

Close scrutiny of the sometimes strange entries on score cards resulted in the following awards being made:

The Autumn Bowl: M J Power Esq. - 69 net.

The Glasgow Grey's Cup: Major VD Ebbens - 71 net.

The Petri Plate: MJ Power Esq.

The Heales Memorial Trophy: CC Surtees Esq. - 33 points

The Veterans Halo: Colonel JW Sewell

(One minor disagreement was successfully settled by the two players concerned)

After prizegiving, ideas were sought as to what should be the done with the, now redundant, "Marines Cup". Members were requested to give some thought to the

matter and air their views at the AGM at the Spring meeting.

## PAY ATTENTION CAN YOU HELP?



**Neil Grantham, the Manager of the Skipton Building Society branch in Kendal, writes:** We recently had some work completed on our building, and under a floor board was found a Forces letter, postmarked 12th October 1945.

The sender is a M Jackel, Cliffs End Lane, Cliffs End, Ramsgate.

It was sent to L/Cpl L G Jackel, (although this is not so clear)

East Surreys  
4th Train Escort Grp  
APC/E.A  
M.E.T

Service number as best as I can see is 1594949.

The gist of the letter is from a family member to him describing life at home, news in the papers, and how another member of the Jackel family is due home on leave shortly, who is called Pat.

The sender is upset that they will miss him as they have to go away the day he comes back, as his leave was delayed. It looks like the L/Cpl is guarding trains from Palestine to Egypt, and the sender is very concerned for his safety.

The end is to wish that God look after him and that he comes home safe.

My wish is try to somehow trace the owner or the family so that we may send back the letter. My marketing dept has sent me the address of the most local papers in the Ramsgate area, and I will get our local paper to put in an appeal in the Kendal area, and I will also contact the addresses you gave me. Thank you for agreeing to put this in your Newsletter.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

(*Anyone able to assist in this quest is asked to contact the Editor*)

**Mrs Lisa Mattinson** (née Cullen) would like to hear from anyone who remembers serving with her father, Timothy Cullen, who did his National Service with the Queen's during 1955 and 1957. His regimental number was 23161358. He did 10 weeks training with Corunna Company and then on to HQ. He was mainly in Malaya and Germany. She can be contacted at: 30 Twenty Second Avenue, North Hull, HU6 9LR East Riding of Yorkshire.

**Peter Randall** is trying to piece together his father's war experiences in Italy. His name was Private Harry Randall and he mainly served with the 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment in 1944. It is believed he joined the regiment in mid April 1944. It is not known for certain which company he was in, but Mr Randall believes, by reading the Surrey's War Diary, that it was D

Company. One story his father related was that he was unable to go on patrol one night, and that patrol went out and came back on its own lines, and the Lieutenant was badly wounded by friendly fire.



Two of his father's friends (pictured above) were Frederick Page, killed in September 44, and Wally Nash, who was captured in August 44 approximately. Mr Randall hopes this information may spark a memory in contemporaries in the regiment, especially as Frederick played the accordion and must have been noticed in the Battalion.

Mr Randall would like to hear from anyone who knew his father, or Frederick, or Wally, or has any other particular information about the Battalion from April 44 through to the end of the war. He can be contacted at: 10 Manstone Mead, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 9RX

**Mrs S Black**, 2 Lewis Court Drive, Boughton Monchelsea, Nr Maidstone Kent ME17 4LQ would like to contact anyone who served with her father Colin Douglas Green. Born 25th January 1924, he enlisted with the East Surreys at Canterbury 16th July 1942; he was at that time living at 17 Reginald Road, Maidstone, Kent. His subsequent service included Anzio, Salerno, Monte Cassino and Rome. Particular friends were believed to be Bill Fox, Jim Lord and Ray Church, as well as Luckett who is believed to have received an award for bravery, and Shapell (or Chapell) from Twickenham whose Christian names are not known.

**Mrs Muriel Wilson-Skaalen**, Apartment 404C, 997 North River Road, Ottawa, Ontario K1K 3V5, Canada would like to correspond with any surviving officers of 1/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment who remember her brother, Lieutenant Richard Wilson (CANLOAN), who was killed in action at Nijmegen on 2nd October 1944.

**Clair Titley writes:** We are producing two TV documentaries. The programmes are part of a series for The History Channel in the US and will be shown here on Sky's History Channel and possibly on Channel 4.

In the first programme, we will tell the story of the Battle of Monte Cassino using a combination of aerial photographs taken at the time and veterans' testimony. The second programme will use the same techniques to tell the story of the Tunisia Campaign, from Operation Torch to the surrender of German forces in May 1943. FLASHBACK has a long history of making World War Two programmes which have been shown throughout the world. Our long-running series BATTLE STATIONS, for example, has been shown in the US and here in Britain and has won numerous awards.

For the current programme, we would love to hear from men and women who served during the Battle of Monte Cassino or in the Tunisia Campaign. I am hoping that some of your members will not mind getting in touch to tell us about their experiences. I am very keen to hear from as many people as possible in the course of my research and would be ever so grateful if they would write to me at the address below, or email me at clairtitley@flashbacktv.co.uk.

Many thanks in anticipation of your kind assistance.

(*Contact at: Clair Titley, Assistant Producer, Flashback Television Ltd, 9-11 Bowling Green Lane, London, EC1R 0BG*).

## Buried Battles and Veterans' Voices

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has just awarded a grant of nearly £48K to Surrey History Centre, in partnership with the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum and the National Archives, to capture the reminiscences of veterans of the regiment and its predecessors The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) and The East Surrey Regiment.

The project, which will start this summer and run for 13 months, will record for posterity the experiences of veterans of the regiments who experienced not only some of the defining moments of the Second World War such as Dunkirk, the fall of Singapore, Cassino and the D-Day Landings but also vital but less well-known post-war operations in Palestine, Malaya, Korea, Berlin and Northern Ireland. A 'virtual archive' of clips from the veterans' interviews, photographs and documents will be available on the internet, along with a definitive catalogue of the great regimental archive which dates back to the 1660s and currently occupies 45.5 linear metres in the History Centre's strongrooms.

Mike Page, head of acquisitions at Surrey History Centre, who co-wrote the bid, said: "We are thrilled; this is fantastic news for us and for the hundreds of family and military historians who contact us every year. Tens of thousands of men from Surrey and elsewhere served with the regiments and this grant will allow us to preserve the experiences of some of the veterans before they are lost forever".

Through the Regimental Association, some veterans willing to have their experiences recorded have already been identified but volunteers are also needed to help catalogue photograph albums in the collection. Anyone interested should contact Mike Page on 01483-518756. Details of the regimental archive can be found on the History Centre website [www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyhistoryservice](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreyhistoryservice) (Follow the link to 'Highlights of our Holdings' then the link to 'Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment').

1/6th Battalion  
The Queen's Royal  
Regiment,  
Pte Johnson  
nr. Anzio, Italy,  
1944



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**Debby Scaife** writes from Australia: My father, Dennis Scaife, receives your Newsletter twice yearly and really looks forward to it. When he has finished with it I get to read it, but must return it (it is a great newsletter, well done!).

My father was an East Surrey lad. He was with the 78th Div (Battleaxe) and he fought in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. I am very lucky to be hearing dad's war stories: I have heard about Sangro, Monte Cassino, Longstop etc.

I have not come across anything in the Newsletters about my father's 'battle patrol'. Their lieutenant, a Dorset man, John Woodhouse, called for volunteers to form a second battle patrol, as the previous patrol never returned; my dad, his mate Reg Cambridge, Eric Munze, Johnny Varney and a few others, eight in all, obliged. I have heard about a three legged pig they tried to catch while out on patrol and about my dad and Reg deciding to climb Mount Etna, until it started getting a bit warm underfoot. I have heard some sad stories too.



John Woodhouse and the Battle Patrol

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When dad was taken PoW at Monte Cassino he tells me of waking up in a make-shift hospital being treated for his wounds (grenade). One day the place seemed extra jovial and cigarettes were being handed out so dad called out for one but was told a firm "NO": he later discovered they were celebrating Hitler's birthday.

After mum passed away in 1999 I decided to go looking for dad's mate Reg and his former lieutenant John; unfortunately Eric and Johnny did not survive the war. I searched the internet, sent emails, made phone calls and finally found both Reg and John still living in the UK; sadly John has Parkinsons and now resides in Castleview Residential Home. After 60 years they both remembered my dad very well.

Dad (then 80) went over to UK to reunite with them both the following year. He first went to see 'his old mate' Reg, then they both traveled together to see their former lieutenant: apparently John looked at them both and after 60 years of them not seeing each other, said "why is it you two are always together"? Dad then told them both he was taken PoW and then John announced he was also taken PoW a month after dad.

Dad remembers his former lieutenant as both an officer 'and' a gentleman. I have some photos of their reunion and have also enclosed a photo of them during the war. This year John is 84, Reg will be 83 and my dad has recently turned 82.



Visiting John Woodhouse

I am very proud of my father: I am proud of them all.

(Dennis Scaife can be contacted at: 33 Stevens Drive, Angle Vale, South Australia 5117, Australia).

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**Malcom E Barker** writes from 1621 Second Street Apartment 3, San Rafael, California 94901-2706, USA: I served with The Queen's Royal Regiment from July 1952 through 1954, first at Iserlohn then at Maidstone, Kent. For most of the time I worked in the Officers' Mess. I did my basic training with the Royal Sussex Regiment at Chichester (beginning May 1st, 1952) and was transferred from there to the Queen's at Guildford. If I

remember correctly, those of us who did not go to the Queen's were transferred to the West Kent Regiment in Malaya.

I now live in California and am planning to fly over to attend the Regimental Association reunion on November 3rd. I am particularly anxious to link up with any of the men or officers I served with during my National Service.

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**J W Rutherford** writes from 24 Dalveen Avenue, Urmston, Manchester, Lancs M41 7DP: There must be only a handful of men still around, I think, who were drafted into the 2/7th Queen's along with me in January 1940 down at St Leonards on Sea. I have kept in touch with a number of the signal platoon until one by one they have finally left us.

What has crossed my mind recently is a question which probably records or individuals cannot answer – what happened to men in the Battalion who were unfortunately captured, particularly in France in 1940 and at Anzio?

The chance of them still being with us and reading the Newsletter is no doubt slim but to hear from them would be fascinating.

Thank you to all concerned meanwhile for keeping the flag flying.

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### Jock Stewart writes:-

South West Branch members who attended the last Branch Luncheon may remember that one of the guests was John Mitchell MBE. Sadly John passed away on the 21st November 2005 aged 88. John was the sound technician on the 1939 film The Four Feathers directed by Alex Korda who was able to use the East Surrey's as the soldiers in the film. A silver cigarette box presented by the film company on completion of the film can be seen at the Museum at Clandon.



The cigarette box was one of a number presented to officers who took part in the film. Within the box are contained four white feathers and a photo taken whilst filming.

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John went on to be the sound man in a great number of feature productions working with many famous names in the film industry including Sir John Mills CBE, Sir Anthony Hopkins CBE and Sir Alec Guinness CBE. John recently made me a gift of a signed copy of his book "FLICKER SHADOWS".

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#### Mike Bailey writes:-

I am terminally ill with Motor Neurone Disease and writing to thank you for the donation from the Benevolent Fund towards the purchase of a disability hoist.

I joined The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1958 as a band boy, playing the trumpet, cello and double bass, and was stationed at Canterbury. I then joined the 1st Battalion in Aden after they had become The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. I played in the Regimental and Dance Band throughout my service and became known to many members of the regiment. I then went on to serve in Hong Kong and in Munster, West Germany until 1966 when I transferred to the band of the Welsh Guards as the band cellist. I was generally known as 'Bill' Bailey.



The Dave Irwin Quintet in the Sergeants' Mess at Stanley Fort, Hong Kong, September 1962. Jeff Reynolds (trumpet), Jeff Lemon (drums), Dave Lemon (alto sax), Myself (double bass) & John Imeson (piano).

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#### Doctor Gordon Paul Charkin writes:-

I have received a very nice compliment in a letter from the Palace following the occasion when Anne, HRH Princess Royal unveiled the new Animals in War Memorial in Park Lane, as our Royal Patron, and when she was presented with my poem called 'Animals in War', later on display at Dover Castle's PWRR Museum.

More recently the Imperial War Museum asked for two of my books for their display collection; 'Tales of the Indian Raj' also my 'All our Yesterdays (1939-45)'. A Burma Star Assn. Branch is publishing 'Tales of the Indian Raj' in serial form. Whilst another book 'Britain at War' Anthology has been given to a Wartime Charity for sale to raise funds.

At 85 years that makes me very happy.

*Could you this once  
On Remembrance Day  
Remember us, before you pray?  
For we were soldiers too  
The animals who died for you.*

*Dogs and mules and horses  
Some carried you in war  
And as the shells and bullets flew  
It filled us all with terror too  
For we are flesh and blood like you.*

*Dogs under fire took messages  
Though one in six got through.  
And no one gave a second thought.  
Most never even knew.*

*And dogs to save the human lives  
We searched for buried mines  
Thus dying opened up the road  
So you could cross the Rhine.*

*We dogs were sacrificed, 'we had no choice'  
For we were sent to war which then sufficed.*

*We long eared chums in Burma  
In Wingate's teams of mules,  
We climbed the stone on mountain tracks  
To carry loads of guns and tools upon our backs,  
Then wounded still we carried on.....Anon!*

*Some died of cold in Flanders Fields,  
Or drowned in mud at Passchendaele  
It happened 90 years ago, remember, tell our tale.  
And now in War we serve you still  
You have our trust to see us through.*

*BUT, NO POPPIES FOR US?*

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*Thanks are due again to  
Major J L A Fowler TD  
for generously providing the paper  
for the Newsletter*

#### First World War Commemoration Plaque

The Regimental Museum displays include the plaque pictured here in memory of Captain T A Flatau who was amongst those of 8th Battalion The East Surrey Regiment killed during the early stages of the attack on the German trenches on 1st July 1916.



This plaque was known as the "dead man's penny" or "death Plaque". It was issued by a grateful Government to the next of kin of those who lost their lives.

In most cases the bronze plaques were displayed by the relatives on a wall or a mantelpiece, but they were sometimes used in another way. Some, who could not afford the cost of an inscription, had the plaque fitted to a family gravestone. Lieutenant Colonel Les Wilson researched the origins of the plaque.

In August 1917 the Government announced plans for an open competition to design the plaque and offered the considerable sum of £250 as a first prize. Entrants were issued with guidelines by the War Office and told that the design should incorporate a symbolic figure and bear the inscription "He (or She) died for Freedom and Honour".

An outline of the rules published in the Times provoked such strong interest that the closing date had to be extended.

Then it was announced that in addition to the plaque a scroll would be issued to the next of kin.

In March 1918 the winner of the competition to design the plaque was announced as Mr E Carter Preston of the Sandon Studies Society, Liverpool, who later designed the DFC, DFM, AFC, the General Service Medal 1918-62, the 1939-45 War Medal and the Korea Medal.

The plaque depicted Britannia, her left arm extended over a blank tablet on which the name of the fallen would be inscribed. Before her stood a lion described as "striding in a menacing attitude". Above is the inscription "He died for Freedom and Honour" and the other side showed a lion slaying an eagle which represented the destruction of the Central Powers. Plaques and scrolls were issued to next of kin from 1919 onwards. Each of the 1,150,000 which eventually went out was accompanied by a letter from King George V which read: "I join my grateful people in sending you this memorial of a brave life given for others in the Great War, George R I".

The bronze plaques were manufactured in Acton before production was switched to Woolwich Arsenal and other former munition production centres.

## Regimental Deaths

**Ainger** - On 25th January 2006, Simon Ainger who completed National Service with The Queen's Royal Regiment 1954-56, serving with the 1st Battalion in Malaya.

**Ashby** - On 5th January 2006 aged 86 years, Major Stuart Sidney Ashby, who served with The East Surrey Regiment during the Second World War. He retired from the Army in 1969 after 29 years commissioned service with the Regiment, becoming first a personnel officer and then a highly regarded water-colour artist.

**Barlow** - On 9th December 2005, Mike Barlow who served with The East Surrey Regiment.

**Bennett** - On 3rd November 2005, Alan Bennett (see obituary).

**Boxall** - On 9th March 2006, William John Boxall who undertook national service with The East Surrey Regiment.

**Brinkley** - On 6th February 2006 aged 86 years, Cecil Percy Brinkley who enlisted into 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in January 1939. His service prior to discharge in August 1947 included North Africa, Ceylon, India and Burma.

**Brown** - On 25th November 2005, Corporal Stanley Charles Douglas Brown.

**Browning** - On 15th March 2006, Stuart Browning BEM (see obituary).

**Butler** - On 4th February 2006 aged 76, Colour Sergeant Albert Robert Ernest Butler, who served with REME, The East Surrey Regiment, The Special Air Service, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and The Queen's Regiment.

**Byatt** - On 11th October 2005 aged 89 years, Fred Byatt. He was drafted into 2/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1940 with a large contingent of The Suffolk Regiment. He served with the Battalion through to demobilisation. Sadly he lost his sight in later years but was cared for by his devoted wife Evelyn with whom he celebrated their diamond wedding in 1999.

**Caudell** - On 30th October 2005, David Caudell who served with the Corps of Drums, The East Surrey Regiment 1951-1953.

**Clark** - On 19th February 2006, Major Charles Willis John Clark The East Surrey Regiment (see obituary).

**Clark** - On 23rd January 2006, Captain John Arthur Clark The Queen's Royal Regiment (see obituary).

*Coleman* - On 11th February 2006 in St Willfreds Hospice aged 60 years, Corporal Clifford James Coleman. He enlisted into 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment in February 1961. He subsequently served as a bandsman with 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment before his discharge in January 1979.

*Farrant* - On 1st April 2006 aged 98 years, Victor Matthew Farrant. Victor Farrant re-enlisted in February 1940. He held the rank of captain with the Home Guard. He subsequently served with 11th Bn and 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Goff* - On 24th March 2006 aged 82 years, William James Goff. After his enlistment in February 1942, he joined D Company 2/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. Prior to his discharge in December 1945 his service included North Africa and Italy. He took part in the Salerno landings and was wounded at Anzio.

*Insoll* - Major Richard Hallam Insoll who, having enlisted into the Welsh Guards in July 1944, subsequently served as an officer with 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1945 until discharged in April 1948. He then joined the Royal Artillery (TA) with which he served until 1964 reaching the rank of Major.

*Jackson* - On 14th July 2005 aged 85 years, John Harold Jackson. He enlisted into 2nd Bn Somerset Light Infantry in April 1939 and was transferred to The Queen's Royal Regiment in April 1940. He was taken prisoner on 21st May 1940 by the Germans while serving with C Company 2/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in France. He was a PoW in Holland and Poland before being exchanged in Switzerland in February 1945 by which stage he had lost most of the fingers on his right hand. He was discharged in May 1945.

*Medhurst* - On 29th January 2006 aged 88 years, Arthur Henry Medhurst. He enlisted into 6th (Bermondsey) Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in April 1939 and was posted to 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment on its formation. In 1942 he was transferred to REME as a radio mechanic. He served in France, Algeria and Italy before his discharge in December 1945.

*Morris* - On 6th March 2006 aged 90 years, Frank Morris who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment during the Second World War and was a member of 1/7th QRR OCA.

*Owen* - In February 2006, Raymond Trevor Owen who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment during the Second World War, including at Dunkirk.

*Paskins* - On 9th January 2006 aged 90 years, Major Allan William Frank Paskins MC The East Surrey Regiment (see obituary).

*Rouppell* - On 29th May 2006, Lieutenant Colonel Peter George Francis Mowbray Rouppell (obituary in November 2006 edition).

*Simpson* - On 4th February 2006, John David Simpson who enlisted into 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in January 1953 where his service prior to being discharged included BAOR and Malaya. He was recalled to The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment during the Suez crisis.

*Strong* - On 6th June 2006, Colonel Geoffrey George Strong (obituary in November 2006 edition).

*Sweasey* - On 9th January 2006, Colonel Denis Sweasey OBE JP DL (see obituary).

*Teale* - On 2nd January 2006, Michael Leslie Teale The Queen's Royal Regiment (see obituary).

*Watson* - On 13th February 2006 aged 86, George William Watson. He enlisted into 11th Bn The East Surrey Regiment in February 1940 and served with the battalion until 1944. Wounded by shell fire he was posted to a holding battalion and then the RASC before being discharged in May 1946.

*Watson* - On 13th April 2006 aged 79 years, Roy Watson who served with 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment.

*Webber* - On 12th March 2006 aged 82 years, Sergeant Graham Bernard Webber who enlisted into The Queen's Royal Regiment in March 1941.

*Winfield* - On 15th January 2006 aged 91 years, Ronald Winfield who served with The East Surrey Regiment January 1944 to May 1946, having previously been with the Oxs and Bucks.

## Regimental Families

*Cahill* - On 11th January 2006, Violet Cahill, widow of the late Thomas James Cahill who served with The East Surrey Regiment and was held as a prisoner of war by the Japanese.

*Dando* - In September 2005 after a short illness, Doris Dando, widow of the late CSM Tom Dando of 6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*Nason* - Suddenly on 28th February 2006, Pearl Lily Nason, much loved wife of Major Maurice Nason TD of 6th (Bermondsey) Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment and 3rd Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

*Pratten* - Suddenly after a short illness on 15th December 2005 aged 89 years, Edith Pratten, widow of the late RSM Sid Pratten of 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

*White* - In April 2006, Joy White, widow of the late Major General G A White MBE.

## Obituaries

### Major A W F Paskins MC



Members of the Association will be sorry to learn of the death of Allan Paskins on 9th January 2006 but to quote his own words he had "had a good innings with no regrets". He was born on 27th October 1915 and was 10 years old when his father died. Having two younger siblings it may be presumed that this bereavement coupled with Allan's natural sense of responsibility did much to develop the leadership skills that were to stand him in good stead throughout his later life.

Leaving school in 1933 he joined Barclays Bank and after absence on War service rejoined the Bank and served it with loyalty and much hard work. He became Manager of one of the Bank's largest and most prestigious Branches and was later appointed General Manager and Director (Staff) before retirement in October 1975.

In December 1938 the war clouds were gathering so he joined the TA as an Anti-Tank Gunner in 57 (East Surrey) Anti Tank Regt. RA(TA). On the outbreak of war he was mobilised for full time service and after Officer training at Sandhurst Allan was commissioned into The East Surrey Regiment and posted to the 1/6th Battalion. After training for desert warfare (mostly in the Highlands of Scotland!) the Battalion sailed to Algiers in March 1943 where as a Rifle Platoon Commander Allan took part in several skirmishes and hand to hand fighting for which he was Mentioned in Despatches. After playing a full part in clearing the Nazis from North Africa, the Surreys were sent to Italy. In May 1944 they forced a crossing and created a bridgehead over the heavily defended and fast flowing River Rapido thereby playing a key role in the capture of Monte Cassino, a prominent feature overlooking the road to Rome and whose defenders had thrice previously repulsed all attempts at capture. By then Allan was Adjutant of the Battalion and as such played an important part in the planning and execution of the Battalion's part in this vital battle.

Allan was promoted Major in May 1944, was wounded at Tuori but took part as a Company Commander in most of the several battles in which 4th British Division was involved until it was pulled out of Italy and sent to Greece in November 1944. Of its involvement in the Italian Campaign arguably the most significant, certainly the most memorable of the many actions in which the

Battalion was heavily involved, included the crossing of the Rapido, the holding of the Cassino bridgehead and the capture of Forli airfield. For his gallant leadership in this last action Allan was awarded the Military Cross.

In Greece the Battalion carried out duties in aid of the civil power from November 1944 until it returned home to UK in February 1946 when Allan was demobilised and returned to civilian life.

Allan had a strong Christian faith, was a member and sometime Treasurer of his Parochial Church Council in Boldre and for some years delivered the Parish Magazine on foot to a widely spread rural community until his health started to fail. His devoted wife Muriel who had married him just after the outbreak of war, who had borne him four children, and who shared his love of gardening, sailing, and the sea, died in 1988. It was a manifestation of his commitment and belief that he then set up the Oakhaven Hospice in Lymington in her memory, and worked tirelessly as Treasurer for its cause.

Allan was a warm and friendly man of self-deprecating humour, strong principles and self-discipline. He took pride and delight in the company of his large family. He was also proud of his Regiment and its achievements but always reluctant to discuss his own part in those achievements. He combined greatness with humility, and will be greatly missed by his family and wide circle of friends.

WEM

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### Alan Bennett

Alan Bennett was born on 19 March 1936, one half of twins the other being his sister Audrey. They were born into a Thames Lighterman's family who could trace their roots back to the boatmen of Henry VIII so it was inevitable that he would follow the family tradition. He joined The Queen's Royal Regiment for National Service at Stoumont, Guildford on 19 August 1954. After basic training he joined the Battalion in Malaya and became 9 Platoon Signaller and later was on the launches.

After leaving the Regiment he returned to the river Thames and gained his Masters Certificate. Then off to Egypt where he took the largest barge in the world on the longest tow ever undertaken - 2500 Km down the Nile. Another record to his credit is that of pushing three barges in line up the Thames navigating all the bridges fully loaded. His sons purchased an old tug while he was away and on his return he joined them and together, under his guidance, they built one of the largest businesses on the river. With the success came tragedy when his eldest son Steven was killed in a freak accident followed soon after by the passing of his wife Linda.

Eight years ago he met and married another Linda, who lovingly looked after him and in the latter years nursed him through his illness.

Alan loved his family, his country, his Queen, and his Regiment and his comrades, and from the number that attended his funeral he was held in great esteem by them.

On behalf of all his old comrades I send his wife Linda, son Wayne and daughter Tracy and all his family our sincere condolences.

Alan constantly kept in touch via his mobile which he used like a third lung and I understand it was buried with him so I expect to get a call from him any day now.

RFH

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#### Colonel Denis Sweeney OBE JP DL

Denis Sweeney was born in 1931. He was educated at Surbiton Grammar School 1942-49, where he was in the cadets, and subsequently went to the University of London. He was on the TA General List with The East Surrey Regiment from 1950 before being commissioned from Eaton Hall as a National Service Officer in December 1953; he extended into a Short Service Commission. He served with the 1st Battalion in the Middle East, including in the canal zone where he earned the Suez Campaign Medal.

He left the Regular Army in 1955, subsequently serving with the TA until 1958 and the ACF until 1984. Having shot for the Regiment at Bisley in 1955, he was in the TA National Smallbore Team in 1961, 1962 and 1963. He was instrumental in introducing orienteering and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme to the Cadets, as well as supporting all out-door pursuits. He became Commandant Surrey ACF in 1980, retiring in 1984 with the award of the OBE (Military Division).

After regular military service he became a research biochemist, initially at the Laboratory of the Government Chemist at Teddington and then at the Central Veterinary Laboratory in New Haw. He was subsequently Chief Safety Officer MAFF prior to his retirement in April 1993, and was co-author of over 20 scientific papers.

He played an extremely active role in community matters, both in Surrey and subsequently in Wiltshire. He served as a magistrate for nearly twenty years, including as Chairman of Chertsey and NW Surrey Bench, and was also Chairman of the Surrey Magistrate Courts Committee 1993-98. He was vice-chairman of the Surrey Police Committee and served on the Magistrate Courts Committee Central Council. He was appointed to the Surrey Lieutenancy in 1983.

He joined and subsequently chaired Surrey Army Cadet Force Association, and he was also a supporter of the

Scout movement. After moving to Pewsey, Wiltshire in 1999 he became a panel member of the Wiltshire Youth Offending Team and was recognised as an ally and spokesperson for restorative justice. He also joined the Parish Council.

Denis Sweeney died on 9th January 2006. We offer our sincere condolences to his widow Diana and to their two sons.

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#### Major C W J Clark

John Clark, who died 19th February 2006, was a gentle giant - a man of direct character who inspired immediate trust and liking. He enjoyed life to the full and had a great sense of humour - something he certainly needed to cope with some aspects of his life, particularly his gambling ventures.

John came from an army family. His father had been a much respected officer in The East Surrey Regiment and was awarded the DSO and MC in the First World War. John was made of the same stuff.

He was commissioned into The East Surrey Regiment in 1944 and sent to Italy. Manning needs caused him to be posted to 5 Bn The Sherwood Foresters with whom he served for a year. During the latter part of this, the Foresters formed part of the British force that liberated Greece and put down the Communist insurgency of 1945. John then left them to join 2 SURREYS in Palestine where he served for two years, inter alia representing the battalion as a heavyweight boxer. He then spent a year as an instructor at Mons Officer Cadet School before joining 1 SURREYS in Greece where he once again entered the boxing ring, unfortunately losing to a naval stoker, the heavyweight champion of the Mediterranean Fleet.

When 1 SURREYS were subsequently posted to Italian Somaliland, John was detached to serve as ADC to GOC East Africa - to the amusement and jeers of his brother officers who accused him of outrageous smoothness. The GOC was General Sir Arthur Dowler, who was also Colonel of The East Surrey Regiment. John returned to 1 SURREYS with many amusing tales of the iron grip exercised by Lady Dowler on the staff.

John's subsequent regimental service included spells in Barnard Castle, Egypt and Brunswick. His final job, before retiring from the Army in 1960, was as Adjutant of the Army School of Physical Training Aldershot, where the CO for part of his time there was another East Surrey officer Lt Col Clive O'Neil Wallis MC. John's sense of humour was tested to the full during this period. He bought an old Mercedes 170V in Brunswick and crashed it on leave in England. He was then given a bill by HM Customs for importing scrap without a licence! He bought a similar model in Brunswick and took it to his

Aldershot posting. He found a reliable source of spares at a Farnham garage and after a while wondered why it was so easy to get spares for what was a rare car in England. The garage proprietor took him to a back workshop where John met the wreck of his first car which he had been buying back bit by bit.

John settled in Kingston and then worked for 25 years on the sales staff of Kalamazoo, a business systems firm. He would have hated a foot-in-the-door sales job, but Kalamazoo sensibly employed him to deal with institutions such as public authorities and hospitals, something that John enjoyed a great deal.

John was a keen gambler and his friends nicknamed him "Fingers" and "Gaylord". He was up to all the gambling and competition wheezes, but Lady Luck was rarely on his side. A newspaper stunt, Rouge et Noir, promised much, took much but gave nothing. His English and Australian football pools coupons were so much waste paper. His horses tended to develop gout halfway round the course and his greyhounds were withdrawn with chronic asthma. There was one temporary shaft of fortune: John invested all he could raise in Channel Tunnel shares. They quickly trebled in value. John resisted all advice to take at least part of his profit. The share price crashed and he was left with little more than his free Tunnel car pass. However, he continued to use this to good effect to the end to keep himself and his friends supplied with duty free. A second shaft of fortune was more enduring: John won a car in a newspaper competition and used it until he had to give up driving through ill health.

John kept in close touch with the Regiment, was on the Officers' Club Committee and a keen attender at Reunions. In recent years he became increasingly debilitated by a series of strokes and death finally came as a friend. John had many attractive lady friends during his life but never married. Our deep sympathy goes to his sister Joan who was always close to him and who provided much support in his final years.

DRB

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#### Captain J A Clark

John Clark, after the Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun, joined the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment at Poona in February 1946. He served with the battalion in India and then in UK and BAOR until he was appointed Adjutant of No. 6 Lumber Group in Germany. Following an accident and medical down-grading he left the Army in 1948. In civilian life he worked in the insurance industry, retiring as Director of Pensions for the Prudential Insurance Company.

John Clark was a good games player, particularly as a cricketer and as a golfer. He was a member of Walton Heath Golf Club and was a committee member of the Surrey Golf Union, becoming Vice-President in 1985. He was a regular and popular member of the Regimental Golf Society being a frequent winner of various competitions over the years.

JWS

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#### Lieutenant Michael Leslie Teale



Michael Leslie Teale, an active member of the British Veterinary Association who completed his National Service with The Queen's Royal Regiment in the early 1950's, died 2nd January 2006 after a bad fall at his home in Flushing, Cornwall. He was 75, and had been in ill health for some time.

Mike was born 7th November 1930 in Coventry, the son of Clifford Teale, a water engineer. He was educated at Worksop College, Nottinghamshire, where he played rugby and ran for Nottingham County.

On the 6th May 1950 Mike became 410261 2nd/Lieutenant M L Teale, holder of an Emergency Commission (National Service) and was posted to the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment, stationed in Iserlohn, then West Germany. The Battalion had recently returned from a tour in Berlin during the Air-Lift and was retraining. During this period drafts were despatched to other units in the Home Counties Brigade serving in Korea, Malaya and the Canal Zone.

During his tour with the Battalion, Mike regularly represented the Battalion at Rugby.

On conclusion of his full time obligation as a NS officer he was attached to 6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment where, after a period he became signals officer.

He studied at the Royal Veterinary College, where he also played rugby, and qualified in 1956, joining Charles Foden and Richard Hartley in Petersfield, Hampshire in the late 1950s.

In 1960 he married Christina Sawtelle, of Freeport, Maine, USA, who had studied at the University of Edinburgh and was working with the Fulbright Commission in London. They had three children, Sarah, Kate, and Alistair. His son-in-law, Gordon W. Chaplin, an American author who married his daughter Sarah, is the great nephew of Captain R F S Stanley-Creek, who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment's First Battalion

during World War I, was awarded the DSO in the first battle of Ypres, and commanded the battalion in the absence of senior officers until killed 29th October 1914.

Mike became a senior partner in his practice in 1973, which was then called Teale and Partners. He pioneered the technique of routine dairy herd health visits, and the practice grew to be one of the largest in southern England.

He was an active member of the British Veterinary Association, as trustee for its Animal Welfare Foundation and chair of the Overseas Committee, where he organized charitable distributions of veterinary textbooks to the third world.

He retired from practice in 1991, and formed a meat inspection service which he operated until 1996, when he retired fully and moved from Petersfield to Flushing in Cornwall.

Throughout his life, Mike was an opera enthusiast, singing baritone with the Alton Choral Society and in the Petersfield Music Festival. He was known to sing his favourite arias in the field while ministering to livestock, and raised eyebrows once by placing an ad in The Veterinary Record that included the words "tenors particularly welcome." Political correctness did not sit easily with him. Colleagues remember him stripping down to his red underwear to perform surgery in the field.

He was also known to shout "you're all crazy" at long lines of traffic, and once emerged from his office at the end of a hard day with a cardboard box over his head, saying "thank God I'm normal." Many clients likened him to Siegfried Farnon from the James Herriot stories.

At Mike's funeral service in Flushing, his daughter Sarah chose one of W.S. Gilbert's Bab Ballads -The Yarn of the Nancy Bell- to be read rather than a suggested passage from the Bible. Mike was a long-time aficionado as well as a gourmet.

He is survived by his wife Christina, of Flushing, Cornwall, two daughters, Sarah and Kate, both of New York, USA, a son, Alistair, of Bath, and two grandchildren.

GWC & LMBW

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### Stuart Browning BEM

*The following tribute was paid by Lieutenant Colonel Foster Herd at the funeral:*

I am honoured to have been asked by Audrey and Wendy to say a few words about Stuart. We all have our own memories of Stuart through the many organisations that

he was involved with, supported, and are represented here today.

I would like to pay my tribute to him as a fellow soldier and friend of 48 years. We first met in 1958 when I joined A Coy 5th Bn Queen's Royal Regiment in Woking. He was already established in the Company as a L/Cpl, a fine rifle shot and a member of the Bn Rifle Team who were Divisional Champions. He was also an outstanding driver of any vehicle, being at that time a car salesman with Wadham Stringer.

On re-organisation of the TA we became the Recce Platoon 3 Queen's Surreys; a select band of men, we were, and still are, like a band of brothers; none more so than Stuart who made it his business to recruit new members. He was also Chairman of our very successful Social Committee organising our dances and Annual Dinners. In latter years he organised Recce Platoon reunions so that we could reminisce about the old days.

In 1966 the Platoon entered the Courage Trophy for the 3rd time. This was the premier tough training weekend in the TA, dominated until then by 10 Para. Stuart commanded the chuck wagon section of the competition which involved setting up a bivouac area, cooking a meal to a set formula, driving tests and vehicle rally. His section won this part of the competition and, on the arrival of the remainder of us at the night stop, he said to me with that smile of his "Now it's down to you SIR". Needless to say we won; the only team in the history of the event to win both sections. I will never forget Stuart's pride in the Platoon as we received the trophies with all the wives and girl friends present.

We enjoyed many successes as a Recce Platoon - the eyes and ears of the battalion, and none more so than Stuart who was always out in front enjoying the job in hand whatever it might be.

On further re-organisation of the TA he joined A Coy 5 Queen's at Guildford, now a full Cpl in the MT Section, a key member of the company, as we had men stationed at Kingston and Hounslow who had to be collected and returned on drill nights and weekend training. Stuart was always the first in, last back, well after the rest of us had left. He was also involved in organising social functions, which was his particular forte.

I am reminded of an incident which took place after a weekend exercise, which I know Stuart dined out on for many years, and I am sure he would not mind my relating.

He had been charged with a misdemeanour; he appeared before me as Company Commander, pleaded guilty, and I fined him a day's pay. After the drill night it was customary for us all to adjourn to the bar and have a drink. Having bought Stuart a drink, he turned to me with a wry smile and said "That was a bit harsh Foster, but I

deserved it". We shook hands and the matter was forgotten. That was Stuart's strength, he never held a grudge.

After a long career in the TA his dedication was recognised in January 1976 by the award of the British Empire Medal, the first to be awarded to a member of A Coy. On retirement from the TA he joined the Surrey Army Cadet Force and served with them for a further 2 years.

When his service days finished he became an active member of the Service organisations, an Honorary member of the Normandy Veterans Association, Aldershot Branch, and as a Committee member of 5 Queen's OMA. He was always recruiting new members, supporting other branches of the Regimental Association, writing reports on Branch events for the Press, looking for ex soldiers who were in need of benevolence, visiting War Graves in France and of course his legendary visits to Albuhera in Spain with his Middlesex Regiment friends from Hounslow. He was also a keen supporter of the Regimental Museum at Clandon, a willing helper and volunteer.

Throughout his service career and many other activities he was always supported by his family - Audrey, Wendy and Paul, and I am sure Stuart would be the first to acknowledge that without their love and support he would not have been able to achieve all he did.

He was a man of many talents, an expert in quietly persuading people to see things his way, to get them to support him in whatever project he was planning.

There cannot be anyone here today whose life has not been touched in some way by Stuart's friendship. Audrey and Wendy have lost a husband and a father, Mildred and Graham a brother. I have lost a friend of 48 years, but we can all look back on a life well and truly lived to the full, always mindful of the needs of others less fortunate than himself.

Stuart we lament your passing. Gone but not forgotten, we will remember you.

God bless you and keep you.

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### Branch Secretaries

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MAY 2011

# THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION



NUMBER 89

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## NEWSLETTER





## Forecast of Events

2011

1st August	MINDEN DAY.
9th September	SALERNO DAY
10th September	6th(Bermondsey), 2/6th and 2/7th Queen's Royal Regiment OCAs Combined Reunion.
22nd September	Golf Society match against The Royal Hampshire Regimental GS - High Post GC.
1st October	East Surrey Regiment OCA Reunion – Ewell TA Centre.
3rd October	The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Officers' Club Ladies' Luncheon - Clandon.
5th October	Golf Society Autumn Meeting – Woking.
14th October	350th Anniversary of the First Muster on Putney Heath.
4th November	The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association Annual Reunion - Union Jack Club.
20th December	BRITISH BATTALION DAY (1941).

### Covers:-

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Albuhera; an account of the battle and a report on a recent visit to the battlefield appear in the Newsletter. Many will be familiar with the picture "Steady the Drums and Fifes" by Lady Butler showing the 57th Regiment drawn up under fire on the Ridge of Albuhera on 16th May 1811. The front cover of the Newsletter is a section of a less widely known picture by the prolific artist Harry Payne showing the 2nd Battalion 31st (Huntingdonshire) Regiment (later The East Surrey Regiment) at the battle. Harry Payne, often collaborating with his brother Arthur, produced many military illustrations for books and postcard series, and also painted several battle pictures in oil. The original purpose (and current whereabouts and copyright status) of the 2nd/31st Payne picture are unknown. It does, however, bear striking similarities to a watercolour by the same artist, which very recently came up for auction, showing the 57th Regiment at the Battle of Albuhera; that painting was the original used to produce a card.

The back cover shows some of the new displays at the Museum at Clandon Park. The top photograph is of the new display telling the story of the early years of the Regiments. The centre photographs show a tableau of a barrack room in India and a tableau nearing completion of a WWI trench. The bottom photograph is of the Museum Curator Ian Chatfield showing the Victoria Cross display to L/Cpl Beharry VC at the relaunch of the Museum during a reception on 23rd May 2011.

### President's Notes

How very fitting, in this our 350th Anniversary of the formation of our forebear Regiment, The Tangier Regiment, that our successors The 2nd Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment should have been on parade for the Royal Wedding. How steady and well turned out they all were.

This will be the penultimate Newsletter. At the Association Trustees Meeting in March the Trustees confirmed their decision to hand over their responsibilities at the end of the year. Like all good regimental wives, we have been busy ensuring everything is in good order on "March Out".

Although the outcomes of the effects on infantry regiments as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review are currently unknown, there has over the winter been a whole series of studies. The conclusions of the Army Museum Study are awaited but we do know that our Museum at Clandon has been shown to be one of the most cost effective. There has also been a study into Regimental Headquarters; again the conclusions are unknown although we are led to believe there will be no major changes until 2015.



Our Regimental links to the county of Surrey remain strong. The Boroughs of both Waverley and of Epsom and Ewell have granted the Freedom to The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. These will be exercised on 14th June at Epsom and 15th June at Farnham by the 2nd Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. The battalion will also exercise the right in Kingston upon Thames (first granted to The East Surrey Regiment in 1944) and on 25th June (Armed Forces Day) in Reigate.

During the winter months your museum has been transformed thanks, in part, to the generous grant of £48,700 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The story of our Regiment has been explained in greater detail and both The Queen's Regiment and The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment given greater prominence. We have renamed the Museum "The Surrey Infantry Museum". My thanks and congratulations to both Major Tony Russell and Ian Chatfield for so much hard work resulting in a museum that ensures our Regimental history is well displayed in Surrey. Both Tony and Ian would want me to thank all the volunteers who willingly gave up so much time and effort. Without them the project would not have been possible. Do try and visit the Museum. Also included with this Newsletter is an insert asking you to join FOSIM (Friends of Surrey Infantry Museum). Please consider supporting this initiative. You will also need to fill in another insert cancelling your Association Newsletter subscription.

Thanks to Les Wilson's sterling efforts the website has been updated and Les has now put on The Regimental Marches.

As explained elsewhere in this Newsletter the governance of the Museum will change from 30th June when it will merge with The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and Queen's Regiment Museum Trust. May I, on all your behalf, pay tribute to all those who have contributed so much to the museum over the years especially: Colonel Toby Sewell, Colonel Mac McConnell, Colonel Peter Durrant and of course Lieutenant Colonel Les Wilson – and in more recent times Colonel Nicolas Davies.

By the time you read this Newsletter, we will have had our main 350th Anniversary Service at the Cathedral on 5th June. You will see in this Newsletter another article reminding us that we are the Oldest Infantry Line Regiment of England. I might also add that our successors have richly deserved the title of: The most decorated Regiment in the Army. Also as part of our 350th Anniversary, we have arranged for the monument on Putney Heath marking the spot where the Earl of Peterborough first paraded the Tangier Regiment on 14th October 1661 to be cleaned and to have The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment badge inscribed on it.

Recently, The PWRR Regimental Support Team have been giving excellent presentations in various parts of Surrey on recent action by the regiment in Iraq and Afghanistan. At the same time they have been raising funds for ABF The Soldiers Charity and The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment Benevolent Fund. If you know

of an event or location within Surrey that would justify such a presentation do contact them on: [rstcomdpwrr@hotmail.com](mailto:rstcomdpwrr@hotmail.com)

I mentioned at the start that the Regimental Association would be handing over its responsibilities at the end of the year. How will matters be handled in future? First, we will hand to the Trustees of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and Queen's Regiment Museum £300,000 as an endowment to look after the Surrey Infantry Museum at Clandon Park. Secondly, we plan to give £50,000 each to Guildford Cathedral, Holy Trinity Guildford and All Saints Kingston upon Thames for the long term maintenance of our Regimental Chapels. We also plan to give at least £100,000 to our Territorial Trustees so they can assume some of the responsibilities of funding branches, maintenance of the website and considering other requests.

But our overriding consideration has been to ensure that that requests for benevolence continue to be granted in the same generous manner as in the past. We therefore, plan to pass £1,000,000 to The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment Benevolent Trustees with the wish that the prime purpose is your benevolence. Lastly, as you will see elsewhere, FOSIM will try to issue a Newsletter to those who join. Regimental Headquarters The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment as long as there is demand will assume responsibility for our Union Jack Reunion and I hope Surrey Royal British Legion will continue to hold a service at Guildford Cathedral (linked to Armed Forces Day?) annually.

Lastly, The 1st Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, currently stations in Paderborn Germany, deploys to Afghanistan in late September. They will be reinforced by many TA from our 3rd Battalion. I know all of you will wish them the best of luck, support them and pray for God's protection.

Tony Ward

President

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### The Regimental Charity and Benevolence

The total mid-market value of the Regimental Charity's portfolio and cash holdings at 31st December 2010 was £1,924,269; this compared with £1,912,370 at 31st December 2009.

Benevolence remains the Regimental Charity Trustees' highest priority. Major John Rogerson, based at RHQ The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (PWRR) at Canterbury, continues to administer the Charity's individual benevolence cases, albeit he has officially retired as a civil servant.

During 2010, 51 cases were investigated and 42 individual grants-in-aid were approved (of these 10 cases were to former embodied Territorial members). In the majority of cases the grants were for household expenses, debts

and rent arrears. The Association helped to provide nine further electrically powered vehicles, two orthopaedic chairs/beds and contributed to seven disabled home adaptations. Of the nine cases not receiving a grant, local Councils/Charities or other Regimental Charities assisted five after we had contacted them. Four cases were not receiving such allowances as attendance, mobility, pensions credit or rent rebate. The Charity paid out £31,280 as individual grants-in-aid through RHQ PWRR and a further £200 was spent to purchase vouchers as Christmas gifts for annuity holders and one Royal Hospital Chelsea in-pensioner. The Regimental Charity also made a grant of £6,000 to the Army Benevolent Fund the Soldiers' Charity (ABF).

The ABF provided General Grants totalling £2,679 during 2010. Seven ABF Annuities were administered; the ABF generously contributed £65 per month per case. During this period we have renewed or arranged for four Nursing Home Fees grants, each of £1,560 from the ABF and £1,000 from the Regimental Charity per year, to be paid for our old soldiers or their widows to be looked after. The ABF total grants in support, including annuities and Nursing Home fees, were £14,379.

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## The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

By Major A J Martin

### General

We are all in rough waters with countless studies progressing to bring forward ideas to balance the books. There are definite changes on the way, some of which will not be pleasant or sensible but the scramble to provide savings sometimes leads to decisions that defy logic.

The Regiment has been out of combat (as formed units) from the latter part of 2010 and will be until 1 PWRR deploy to Afghanistan in September 2011. This may be interpreted as a time for quality of life to be restored, in reality with commitments and training requirements it would appear that life continues at its normal hectic pace. There is now a system which records "nights out of bed" for all ranks and if this reaches a lunatic number the chain of command is obligated to right it.

We are still fully recruited (just). You will recall that we put much time, effort and money over a two year period to achieve this. With the onset of financial cut backs, which started last year, the Regiment was restricted to a very low intake of recruits irrespective of whether we recruited them or they wished to join us. They were channelled off into other Regiments in the Queen's Division who had not been so diligent as us in recruiting. Undaunted we continue with our excellent recruiting teams spreading the regimental word. Retention is now the buzz word to avoid black holes appearing in the rank structures in these uncertain times, made all the more difficult with pay freezes and a reduction in allowances.

### 1 PWRR

The Battalion is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel James Coote DSO who took over command in September 2010 from Lieutenant Colonel Charlie Sykes. The Battalion is still based in Paderborn (Germany) and is in the Armoured Infantry role. Last year the Battalion went on exercise to BATUS in Calgary, Canada as part of 20 Armoured Brigade. This was a tough 6 weeks, building up the armoured infantry skills in preparation for Afghanistan in 2011. Certain areas showed that a skills increase was required but in general it was an excellent few weeks and an opportunity to get away from Paderborn.

Life up to deployment will involve many courses and cadres for all ranks. On deployment the Battalion will provide various teams/groups for various tasks. Which will include:

- Police Mentoring and Advisory Group (PMAG). This will include deployment of small groups to train and advise the Afghan National Police (ANP) at all levels.
- Rifle companies. Three rifle companies will be exported to other battle groups with each company consisting of 6 officers and 104 all ranks.

The PMAG role is high profile and often high risk. Teams operate alongside the ANP in isolation and are difficult to reach if an incident happens. This will provide a great opportunity for all ranks to display their skills and leadership.

The Battalion team was very successful in the Cambrian Patrol Competition where they achieved Gold standard.

The Battalion provided groups of soldiers in uniform at the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Albuhera in Spain.

### 2 PWRR

The Battalion is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Adam Crawley. It is based in Woolwich in the Public Duties role and is under command London District. The Battalion moved from Cyprus to Woolwich in August 2010.

The Battalion moved into a new re-instated Woolwich Garrison. Accommodation is new and very plush although modernisation is still required in the Officers' and Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. Their tasks include mounting guard at Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, St James's Palace and the Tower of London. These are called 'Blue Line' commitments as all ranks wear No 1 Dress (Blues). 2 PWRR are knocked over in the rush by the Foot Guards when high profile duties are needed (i.e. State Visits) but they hold the line together for normal guard duties. This is very high profile and all ranks have risen to the occasion and produced a high standard of drill which, as usual, is equal or better than the Guards!

In addition to the Public Duties task they have the Falkland Islands Duty from May to October 2011; this will involve the deployment of 150 strong company groups. This deployment provides an excellent opportunity for joint co-operation with the other services and live firing with the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

The Battalion was heavily involved with the Royal Wedding and provided route liners and the Corps of Drums.



Commanding Officer 2 PWRR on horseback for the Royal Wedding



The Colour Party 2 PWRR on Parade for the Royal Wedding

Two Buglers attended the Albuhera 200th Celebrations in Spain and were a great success.

The Battalion will complete Freedom Marches in June as follows:-

14 June - Tuesday	-	Epsom
15 June - Wednesday	-	Farnham
16 June - Thursday	-	Crawley
17 June - Friday	-	Kingston - upon - Thames
19 June - Sunday	-	Tonbridge
22 June - Wednesday	-	Brighton
25 June - Saturday	-	Reigate

These Marches will include the Battalion's Corps of Drums and the Minden Band of The Queen's Division. All are planned for morning (lunch time).

In addition to all of the above we are very fortunate to have a battalion on the mainland and they are called upon to complete many regimental tasks – a luxury we have not enjoyed for many years.

### 3 PWRR

The Battalion is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Geoff Minton MBE who took over command from Lieutenant Colonel David Mogg TD in August 2010. Last year they went to annual camp at Warcop. In spite of the snow a very successful Christmas Carol Service was held in Canterbury Cathedral. In addition to the band of the PWRR, the Fijian Choir from 2 PWRR added another dimension to the evening and was very popular with the congregation.

This year will involve an operational deployment and two annual camps. The Battalion has a commitment to support 1 PWRR's deployment to Afghanistan with 50 all ranks. They will be mobilised in June and then complete a pre – deployment Training Camp in Cyprus and go on operations in August/September. The remainder of the Battalion will complete annual camp in Cyprus later in the year. It will be busy year for the whole Battalion.

### B Company – The London Regiment

The Company is commanded by Major Richard Tuke who is well supported by the PSAO Captain Gary Anglin. The Company is the strongest in the London Regiment but needs at least two more officers.

The London Regiment formed a composite company, known as Amiens Company, and it returned from a 6 month deployment to Afghanistan last November. B Company contributed a platoon to the ORBAT. Future deployment will be on Op HERRICK (Afghanistan) in 2011 and 2012 with 30 men deploying on each operation. For those who did not deploy in 2010, annual camp was in Cornwall (St Mawgan Camp) and this year will be split between Thetford and Warcop.

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### The Museum

By Colonel Nicolas Davies, Chairman of the Museum Trustees.

You will have read about the changes to the Regimental Association and Regimental Charity in the President's notes; he has also outlined changes taking place to the Regimental Museum at Clandon. The Museum will in future be known as 'Surrey Infantry Museum' and the governance of the museum will be undertaken by the Trustees of the Museum of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and Queen's Regiment at Dover. At Clandon day to day matters will be overseen by a small management committee chaired by Colonel David Dickins who has been appointed as a trustee of the museum at Dover.

There have already been some significant changes to the museum at Clandon. The President of the Association and I have felt that we could update and improve the telling of

the story of the Surrey Infantry Regiments and the three and a half centuries of their history. In agreeing to a new lease of 25 years at Clandon the National Trust asked that more prominence could be given to the Onslow connection and to the military at Clandon. This has been done alongside enlargements to the displays relating to The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, The Queen's Regiment and The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

The Regimental Charity Trustees and the Territorial Charity Trustees have been most generous with grants towards this refurbishment and we have also been successful with a bid for Heritage Lottery Funding. From December 2010 to reopening to the public on 13th March 2011 the Museum underwent major refurbishment and changes, and its Trustees will hand it over to the new Trustees on 30th June 2011 confident that it is in good order.

It only remains for me to thank the many Trustees and Advisory Committee members over the years for their dedication and work. I also pay tribute to our Curator Ian Chatfield and his band of volunteers who help, and I am sure will continue to help, keep your museum up to the high standard it is.

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#### A History of the Museum at Clandon

After the formation of the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment in 1959, the ownership and management of the Regimental Museum artefacts and archives were vested in a charitable trust, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum Trust. In 1978, after the closure of the Regimental Headquarters and the Museum at Kingston upon Thames, the then Chairman of the Museum Trustees, Colonel J W Sewell, entered into negotiations with the National Trust for a new home for the Museum, and was offered a lease on generous terms on four derelict rooms in the basement and two attic store rooms at Clandon Park House, near Guildford, formerly the seat of the Earls of Onslow, which had passed to the National Trust in 1956. The Onslow family had strong connections with the Regiment, making this a particularly appropriate as well as convenient site for the Museum's new home.

After a great deal of work by the Museum Trustees, Regimental volunteers and the National Trust, the new Museum opened to the public in April 1981. The Museum told the story of the Regiment and its people through the displays of historic artefacts, paintings and medals and, equally important, provided a first class research service for scholars and for people investigating their family history. The Museum sponsored the writing of several books and supplements on Regimental history and organised occasional exhibitions both at Clandon Park and at various towns in the County. During this period, the Museum gained Ministry of Defence support as a recognised military museum and subsequently accreditation under the national Museums Registration Scheme, both requiring high standards of operation and conservation.

In 1997, however, the National Trust informed the Museum Trustees that they intended to terminate the Museum's lease as the rooms were needed to expand the National Trust's commercial activities which provided financial support for the upkeep of Clandon Park. A search for new premises was started by the then Chairman of the Trustees, Colonel Peter Durrant and carried on by his successor, Colonel "Mac" McConnell; many sites were inspected, but all were either impractical or beyond the Museum's financial resources. At this stage, Brigadier Bob Acworth, then President of the Regimental Association, reopened negotiations with the National Trust which culminated in the agreement of a new lease for the Museum up to 2011, with provisos that use of one of the Museum rooms be shared with National Trust to expand their commercial activities, and that the Museum would refurbish its by now somewhat time-worn displays and furnishings.

The Regimental Charity agreed to provide financial support for the refurbishment, and Captain Adrian Birtles became Chairman of the Museum Trustees to carry it through. Fortunately, at this time the National Trust needed to replace wiring, lighting and ceiling panels throughout the Clandon Park basement, and the Museum closed for the 2001 season to allow this work and the refurbishment to be carried out.

The refurbished Museum opened to the public in March 2002, and was formally inaugurated by the Chairman of the National Trust, Mr. Charles Nunneley, in the presence of Mrs. Sarah Goad (Lord Lieutenant of the County of Surrey), Brigadier Bob Acworth (President of the Regimental Association) and numerous civic dignitaries and members of the Regimental family. The Museum now had completely new showcases, with the displays re-arranged, some modern electronic equipment, a new shop and information point and improved facilities for research. Some further improvements were made in subsequent years. During this period also, increasing integration of the Museum's activities into those of the National Trust at Clandon was achieved.

As the end of the Museum lease in 2011 approached, the National Trust again indicated that they would wish to put the lease on a more commercial basis if it was to be renewed. In the preceding article Colonel Nicolas Davies outlined recent events which led to the modernised Museum reopening to the public in March 2011 under its new title, "The Surrey Infantry Museum", with improved and re-ordered displays and more use of electronic equipment.

#### The future

Our Museum has long been our focal point and this will continue as we introduce the new Friends of Surrey Infantry Museum (FOSIM). As you will see elsewhere in our Newsletter, with the closure of our current Regimental Association and the end of the Association Newsletter, payment of an annual Newsletter subscription will cease. However it is hoped that all of you will consider becoming a Friend of the Museum. This carries a subscription of

£10.00 per annum. The money collected from subscriptions will be used to maintain the Museum and to help acquire additional artefacts as well as providing a number of benefits to the Friends.

The Chairman of FOSIM will be Colonel Tony Ward. Members of FOSIM will receive Newsletters, a 10% discount in the Museum Shop, early notification of artefact disposal as well as priority to attend listed events. You are all invited to join – see the FOSIM membership application form and the accompanying standing order enclosed with this Newsletter.

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## 2011 - A Regimental Year To Celebrate!

by Colonel Patrick Crowley

### 1661 AND ALL THAT

**The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (PWRR)** is England's senior infantry regiment – Why? 350 years ago, in 1661, **The 1st Tangier Regiment of Foot**, later 2nd Foot, was raised on Putney Heath, London, in order to help provide a garrison for Tangier. This fortress on the northern coast of modern-day Morocco, then known as Barbary, in North Africa was part of the dowry of Donna Catherina of the House of Braganza, Infanta of Portugal, who was married to King Charles II the following year. The Regiment was to be later designated *the Queen's* after Queen Catherine - on its return to England it was re-titled 'our dearest consort, the Queen's Regiment'. The 1887 Regimental History commented that, '*Catherine was not a great beauty, but she had pleasing features*'.



Charles II



Catherine of Braganza

#### Putney Heath

One thousand men, nine companies, were said to have gathered at Putney Heath on the 14th October 1661 and a monument still stands there to mark the original event (It was erected in 1961 and the author last stood there in 1981, when a significant memorial ceremony took place with the Chief of Defence Staff present). The command of this Regiment was conferred on Henry, Lord Mordaunt, (Second) Earl of Peterborough. A letter was sent to him by the King:

*'My Lord Peterborough: I am very well satisfied of your care and diligence in the employment you are in, for which I thank you very heartily. And assure yourself I have seen just a sense of this and all your other services, as you shall find upon all occasions how much I esteem and value all those who serve me faithfully. I have no more to add at present only to desire you to let those honest men know who are along with you, they shall always be in my particular care and protection, as persons who venture themselves in my service. And so wishing you a good voyage I remain'*

Your very affectionate friend  
Charles R'

The Earl had previously raised and financed a regiment for King Charles I during the English Civil War and had helped an attempted rescue of the King when he was imprisoned by Cromwell. As a result, he lost his estates and was declared a traitor by the Commonwealth Government. The 1837 Regimental History notes that he was 'deservedly conferred' with the Colonelcy of the Queen's and the Governorship of Tangier - '*a nobleman who, under the severest trials of his fortitude and consistency, had shown himself a constant and zealous supporter of monarchical government*'. Ironically, most of the soldiers in his new regiment would have been ex-'roundheads' of the disbanded New Model Army. The Earl had clear orders (here in old English) for the Tangier assignment, which included,

*'And them to fight, kill and slay and subdue to our obedience, and to invade surprize and reduce such Townes, Forts, Castles, or Countreys as shall declare or meinteine anie hostilities against us, or that may indanger the peace or securtie of our Cittie or territories aforesaid, and to possesse and strengthen them with Forts or garrisons, raze, dismantle, or disable them as to you shall seeme expedient, and to arme, discipline, and to enterteine into your service all such as you shall think fitt to receive under your comaund....'*

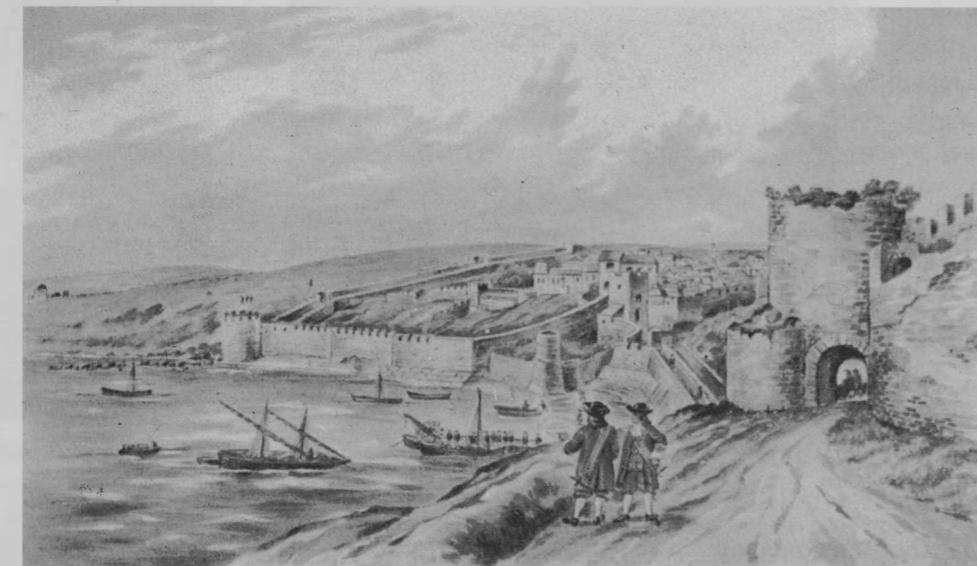
The officers of our new Regiment were recorded as:

- Colonel - The Right Honourable the Earl of Peterborough.
- Lieutenant-Colonel - Sir James Smith.
- Major - Roger Johnson.
- Seven captains - Ambrose Blake, Palms Fairborne, Francis Aunesley, Humphrey Colls, Stephen Belletore, Cuthbert Car and John Clerke.
- Quartermaster - Captain John Nevil.

## TANGIER

The Earl of Peterborough embarked with his Regiment and a troop of cavalry, arriving at Tangier on the 29th January 1662. Also on the ships were a few hundred wives - the first official movement of accompanied personnel to an overseas garrison! The Earl was appointed '*Captain General, Chief Governor, and Vice-Admiral of our City of Tangier, and of the ports and coasts adjacent, and any of our dominions and territories, castles and forts, in or near the kingdom of Tangier, Fez and Morocco, in Africa*'. Three other battalions, who had fought for King Charles I in the English Civil War, were sent to Tangier from Dunkirk and were added to the 'Queen's Tangier Regiment' in 1663 by Earl Peterborough's successor, Lieutenant-General Andrew Rutherford, Earl of Teviot.

The Regiment was to defend Tangier from the Moors for the next 22 years. It was an important port, commanding the entrance to the Mediterranean and it was a useful trading centre. During most of the Regiment's period of garrison duties, a new mole was constructed, mainly by the garrison, to protect the harbour from the Atlantic weather. The initial challenge was to quarter the defenders as there was only room for about a third of the force. There were also concerns amongst the inhabitants about the English soldiers' discipline and their fraternisation with the local women. Even Earl



Peterborough complained about the officers arguing and neglecting their duties. The local Portuguese were not happy with the new arrangements and most left Tangier in the British fleet. Maintaining this garrison was expensive. It cost £75,388 12 shillings and 6 pence a year in 1662, so as the Regiment's tour continued many short cuts were taken to cut down this expenditure, including reducing the size of regiments. Terms and conditions of service were not great and as the years passed, many of the troops succumbed to wounds in action and disease.

The Moors outnumbered the 3000 man garrison by 3:1 and they also received regular support from the Spanish Navy which helped them by isolating the port at times. Truces were made with the enemy commander, Abd Allah Ghilan, known as 'Gayland' by the troops and described as a 'bold and ambitious man', but these were frequently ignored by the Moors. The first serious clash with the enemy was in May 1662 when a sally of about 500 soldiers attacked an enemy force close to the walls, however, heavy friendly casualties were sustained. There were frequent but intermittent clashes

and one ambush, in 1664, succeeded in killing the Regiment's Colonel, the Earl of Teviot, along with 10 officers, 5 reformadoes (reformed officers) and 396 men. By the time of this action, half of the original garrison was dead.

Duties were hard, pay was always in arrears, food was poor and there was no R and R. Childs described the garrison's officers as 'a mixture of old royalists, ex-Cromwellians, Scots, Irish, English, drunkards and men too old and lazy to do their duty'. Apparently, there was no shortage of drink, women and venereal disease. Samuel Pepys, the famous 17th century diarist recorded how a girl of 16 'had given her disease to 400 of the soldiers'. This was a tough 22 year posting!

## BRITISH ARMY REGIMENTS RAISED BY 1661

Apart from our own 1st Tangier Regiment of Foot, the other British Regiments officially raised by 1661 were:

<b>His Majesty's Own Troop of Lifeguards.</b> (Later The Lifeguards, now the Household Cavalry Regiment). Original Lifeguard of Charles II in exile during the Commonwealth. Raised 1658.
<b>His Majesties (or 1st) Regiment of Horse.</b> (Later The Royal Horse Guards, then The Blues and Royals, now The Household Cavalry Regiment). Originally Berry's Horse in Parliamentary New Model Army. Raised 1650.
<b>His Majesties Foot Regiment of Guards.</b> (Now Grenadier Guards). Originally a royal regiment of guards. Raised 1656.
<b>Duke of Albemarle's Regiment of Foot Guards.</b> (Now Coldstream Guards). Originally Monck's Regiment of Foot in the Parliamentarian New Model Army. Raised 1650.
<b>The Royal Regiment of Foot.</b> (1st Foot The Royal Scots, the senior infantry regiment of the Line - now part of The Royal Regiment of Scotland). Independent companies raised 1633.
<b>The Scots Regiment of Foot Guards.</b> (Scots Guards). Royalist Regiment raised 1660.
<b>The Tangier Horse.</b> (Later 1st of Dragoons, now The Household Cavalry Regiment).

## BATTLE HONOUR 'TANGIER'



- 1st (Royal) Dragoons now the **Household Cavalry Regiment**.
- Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment now PWRR.
- **Grenadier Guards** ('1680' only).
- **Coldstream Guards** ('1680' only).
- Royal Scots ('1680' only) now The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

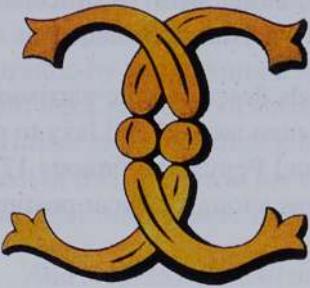
## REGIMENTAL INHERITANCE

**General.** The PWRR, as the successor of 12 regiments of foot, has many traditions inherited from its forebears. The main ones related to Tangier and Queen Catherine are mentioned below.

**The Paschal Lamb.** The paschal lamb was worn as the cap badge of The Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment and has been adopted as a key emblem by its successors. It still features on all PWRR buttons and, of course, the Regimental Colour. It is an ancient Christian emblem and, at one time, it was falsely thought that it may have been a badge belonging to the House of Braganza. It is unlikely to have been worn in Tangier, but its origins as a badge for the Regiment is not certain and it was only identified as a unique Regimental badge in 1715. The 1967 Regimental History states that:

*'The Paschal Lamb is the oldest of all regimental badges. It is known to have been worn by the Queen's before 1685 and may have been adopted as a Christian emblem in their fight against the Moors in Tangier'.*





**Cypher of Queen Catherine.** Queen Catherine is still remembered in the Regiment by her cypher, the entwined 'Cs', displayed on the Regimental Colour and The Colonel's or Third Colour.

**Regimental Marches.** At one time, there was a Tangier's March, played by the Tangier Garrison between 1670 and 1684 and only re-discovered by Lieutenant-General J P Riley in 1985. However, the more well known 'Braganza' was the name given to the Regimental March of The Queen's Royal Regiment adopted after 1881 from a Portuguese tune. With the Regiment's close Royal Navy ties, the Gunnery School at Portsmouth also adopted the march which still features in the PWRR repertoire of forebear regiments' marches.

**Nickname.** The nickname of 'Tangerines' was applied to The Queen's for their service in Tangier.

#### UNIFORM

There were no Dress Regulations in 1661, much to the chagrin of a modern Quartermaster! The Government did not pay for regimental uniforms as the Colonel of the Regiment was expected to finance and supply the clothing. Most regiments wore red, but standardisation did not officially arrive until 1708.

The 1st Tangier Regiment of Foot eventually wore a red jacket with sea-green facings, the colour of uniform at the cuffs and collar which distinguished regiments from each other, and a white neck cloth. The green was said to be the colour of the House of Braganza and is still seen today as the background of The Colonel's or Third Colour of the PWRR. Baggy breeches and long stockings were worn on the lower body. Most soldiers would have worn a hat or a helmet/pikeman's 'pot', whilst officers wore hats with large plumes! Hair was worn long, though normally cut just below the height of the collar.

A regiment would normally form up in 3 divisions, one with pikes in the centre and one on each flank armed with swords and muskets.



An Officer wearing lightweight clothing for a hot climate; in Regimental dress he would have worn a crimson coat richly laced and buttoned.

The Sergeant is wearing a hat similar in style to the officers and he is armed with a halberd.

(All three drawings by Bryan Fosten)

#### 1811 – THE BATTLE OF ALBUHERA

200 years ago, on the 16th May 1811, forebears of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment served in the bloody battle of Albuhera, Spain, during the Peninsular War.

#### THE PENINSULAR WAR 1808-1814

There was a brief 14 months of peace after the French Revolutionary War before Napoleon declared war on Great Britain in 1803. At Trafalgar, in 1805, Nelson removed the threat of invasion to our country, but the Napoleonic War would continue until Bonaparte was finally defeated at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. Other countries, including Austria, Prussia, Russia, Sweden and the Neapolitan Government of Sicily fought a series of battles with France across the breadth of central and eastern Europe. The main British contribution to the War was in Portugal and Spain, in what was called the Peninsular War.

In 1807, Marshal Junot led a French Army which invaded Spain and Portugal. The Portuguese Regent escaped the invaders by sailing for Brazil on British ships, whilst, in 1808, the King of Spain was replaced as the Spanish monarch by Napoleon's brother, Joseph. Both countries' populations were incensed, rose against the French and appealed to the British for help. The French Army was impressive and they had 65,000 troops in Portugal with a further 80,000 in Spain, however, they were widely spread in difficult and hostile terrain. The Spanish, in particular, made good use of guerrilla tactics and this was an opportunity for a British professional expeditionary force to achieve a significant effect against 'the Monster's' forces.

Following initial allied success against Junot in Portugal in 1808, Napoleon intervened personally, compelling the force under Sir John Moore to withdraw to Corunna, on the north-west coast, for evacuation by the British Fleet. The French Marshal Soult was defeated in January 1809 and the troops successfully withdrawn, despite the death of Moore. The action allowed the Spaniards to build up their strength elsewhere and, in April, Sir Arthur Wellesley, later to be known as the Duke of Wellington, arrived in Lisbon, Portugal, and took command of the allied force.

The historian, Napier, described British achievements in the Peninsular which,

*'won 19 pitched battles and innumerable combats, had made or sustained 10 sieges and taken 4 fortresses; had twice expelled the French from Portugal, once from Spain; had penetrated France and killed, wounded or captured 200,000 enemies-leaving of their own number 40,000 dead, whose bones whiten the plains and mountains of the Peninsula.'*

Eight of the PWRR's 12 forebear regiments of foot fought in the Peninsular campaign. They earned the battle honours of Vimiera, Corunna, Douro, Talavera, Barrosa, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz, Almaraz, Salamanca, Vittoria, Pyrennes, Nivelle, Nive, Orthes, Toulouse, Peninsula and, most significantly from our perspective, Albuhera. It is not surprising that Albuhera is one of the PWRR's Regimental Days.

#### FOREBEAR REGIMENTS

Three PWRR forebear regiments were to fight at Albuhera. They were still known by their seniority numbers as regiments of the Line, though in 1782, county titles had been allocated:

- The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). (Later The Buffs (The Royal East Kent Regiment)). The Buffs' Grenadier Company had fought with Moore at Corunna. With Wellington, they had taken part in the Passage of the River Douro and the Battle of Talavera, where Wellesley became Viscount Wellington. At Albuhera, they were to fight under Lieutenant-Colonel William Stewart in the 1st Brigade of Lieutenant-Colonel John Colborne within the 2nd Division of Major-General William Stewart.
- 2nd Battalion 31st (Huntingdonshire) Regiment. (Later The East Surrey Regiment). This battalion was only raised in 1805. The 2/31st were also at Talavera, which was the second bloodiest battle of the War after Albuhera. They earned great praise as part of Mackenzie's Brigade, but lost 250 men killed in the 2 days of fighting. At Albuhera, they fought under Major Guy L'Estrange alongside The Buffs in the same 1st Brigade.
- 57th (West Middlesex) Regiment. (Later The Middlesex Regiment). The 57th joined the allied force after the Battle of Talavera, landing in Lisbon in July 1809. They were bystanders in the Battle of Busaco. Lieutenant-Colonel William Inglis commanded the battalion within the 3rd Brigade of Stewart's 2nd Division.

#### THE BATTLE OF ALBUHERA

Having defeated Austria, Napoleon planned, in 1810, to finish Spain. However, as Napoleon started to gather resources and troops for potential action against Russia his 2 armies were obliged to withdraw from Portugal at the beginning of 1811 and no more French reinforcements were available. Marshal Massena faced Wellington on the Portuguese/Spanish

## Relaunching of the Museum at the President's Reception, May 2011



Left: In the Marble Hall during the Reception:  
(L-R): Colonel Patrick Crowley,  
Lance Corporal Johnson Beharry VC,  
The Chairman of Surrey County Council,  
and The Association President



Right and below: Museum volunteer staff showing guests around the new Museum displays



Right: Major General Mike Reynolds presents the President with a Northern Ireland rubber bullet for the displays,  
under the close supervision of  
Brigadier Tony Ling

## The Spring Golf Society Meeting



Colonel Tim Trotman receives the Dodgson Trophy

Mike Power receives yet another trophy

## The Regimental Association Annual Reunion, November 2010



border in the region of Almeida, Fuentes De Onoro and Ciudad Rodrigo, whilst Marshal Soult's army was deployed further south, in an area east of Elvas, Badajoz and Albuhera.

In April 1811, Wellington besieged Almeida and had to deal with Massena's attempt to relieve the town. A confrontation took place at Fuentes De Onoro between 2nd and 5th May 1811. The result was indecisive, though the French failed to advance into Portugal, they managed to extract their Almeida garrison. Meanwhile, the allied army, 120 miles further south, commanded by General Beresford, had been besieging Badajoz since 5th May and then had to prepare to withstand Marshal Soult's French relief force, coming from the east. This clash occurred at Albuhera (now called Albuhera).

The allied army at Albuhera was approximately 33,000 strong, mainly consisting of about 9,000 British troops, 9,000 Portuguese and 15,000 Spanish. They faced 25,000 Frenchmen. The main allied formations, supported by 7 cavalry regiments and 6 gun batteries, were

- 2nd Division of three brigades:
  - Colborne's (which included The Buffs and the 2/31st).
  - Abercrombie's
  - Houghton's (which included the 57th).
- 4th Division of three brigades:
  - Myer's Fusilier Brigade.
  - Kemmis's.
  - Harvey's.
- Hamilton's Portuguese Division of four brigades:
  - Foseca's.
  - Campbell's.
  - Alten's Independent German.
  - Collin's Independent Portuguese.
- Combined Spanish Armies: The 4th (Andulucian) Army Expeditionary Corps under General Blake and 5th (Extremaduran) Army commanded by General Castanos:
  - Three Infantry divisions and one brigade, supported by cavalry and 2 gun batteries.

Marshal Soult's French Expeditionary Force, supported by more skilful and numerous cavalry and artillery, were divided into:

- Girard's Division.
- Pepin's Division.
- Werle's Brigade.
- Godinot's Brigade.
- Latour -Mauberg's Reserve Cavalry.

Beresford reached the battleground on the afternoon before the action, but his combined force only came together, finally, to resist the French during the morning of the battle, deploying just to the west of Albuhera on raised ground. The Spanish were on the right of the line, the British in the centre with the bulk of the Portuguese on the left. Alten's Germans were placed in the village.

The French assaulted on the morning of the 16th. They appeared to be threatening the village, as Godinot's Brigade moved north-west towards it and, consequently, Albuhera was reinforced by 2 Spanish battalions. Beresford believed that he was being attacked in the centre and that the French would approach from the east against his right. Soult's feint worked as, suddenly, French cavalry were seen approaching from the south, supported by 19 battalions of French infantry.

Blake was ordered to face south, but he only partly obeyed as he still believed that the bulk of the French would come from his east. Thus the defence facing south was too weak and it ended up confronting what was, arguably, the strongest French attack of the War – 8,400 men in two divisions, which would start to roll up the allies' right flank.

The Spanish stood and fired bravely, helping to slow the enemy's momentum. Meanwhile, Stewart's 2nd Division - Colbornes' Brigade in the lead – came up on the Spanish right flank. Colborne's troops fired and launched a bayonet attack into the west flank of the French, Girard's Division, as the enemy pushed north and seemed to be achieving good results. The allied force was, potentially, regaining the initiative when, suddenly, a thunderstorm ensued.

Under the cover of the bad weather, which put many muskets out of action, two regiments of enemy cavalry, Polish lancers and French Hussars, tore into the flank of Colborne's troops, almost annihilating three of his battalions, including The Buffs, which was the most exposed unit. Confusion created by the bad weather, poor clarification of orders and slow identification of the enemy led to a desperate situation for The Buffs. One soldier's experience,

*'I was knocked down by a horseman with his lance, which luckily did me no serious injury. In getting up I received a lance in my hip. And shortly after another in my knee, which slightly grazed me. I then rose, when a French soldier hurries me to the rear a few yards, striking me on the side of my head with his lance.'*

The Buffs suffered a staggering 85% casualties on 16th May 1811 and lost the Regimental Colour to the enemy. 16 year-old Ensign Thomas was carrying it and shouted, *'Rally on me, men, I will be your pivot'* when he was struck down, crying, *'Only with my life'*. The lancers duly obliged, as their commanding officer's brother rode off carrying their prize. Meanwhile, an injured 15 year-old Ensign Walsh clutched the King's Colour which was then gathered by Lieutenant Latham. An enemy Hussar sabre blow slit Latham's face almost in two and severed one of his arms yet he still managed to retain the Colour close to his body, screaming, *'I will surrender it only with my life'*. An unrecognisable, barely alive, Latham was found after the battle, covered in blood, but still clutching the King's Colour.

Only the 2/31st, who were the furthest away from the charge, managed to form square and repel the enemy cavalry. Major L'Estrange had maintained a disciplined battalion in good order and his 'Albuhera Square' continued to be practised by the Regiment until 1856. Wellington later commented,

*'There is one officer, Major L'Estrange of the 31st, whom I must recommend in the strongest manner for promotion in some way or other. After the other parts of the same brigade were swept off by the cavalry this little battalion alone held its ground against all colonnes en masse.'*

The two other brigades of the 2nd Division now came into play, as six battalions, including the 57th, formed up in line behind the Spanish facing south, linking up with the 2/31st. A tricky passage of lines took place as the British battalions now found themselves facing the French, who were also regrouping. Both sides were attempting to occupy the ridge that the Spanish had just vacated, as the British two-ranked line faced the French columns and vicious volley fire ensued. The brigade commander was an early victim who had to be carried from the field and replaced by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Inglis, of the 57th who had already had his horse shot

dead under him. The British infantry were able to focus more of their musket fire on the French because of their chosen formation, but the French returned fire and had additional artillery support. This was, arguably, the bloodiest clash of fire during the Peninsular War. An account referring to the 57th,

*....our ranks were at some places swept away by sections... Our line at length became so reduced that it resembled a chain of skirmishers in extended order; while from the necessity of closing in towards the colours, and our numbers fast diminishing, our right flank became still further exposed.'*

The 57th had already earned an unenviable nickname of 'The Steelbacks' because of the use of frequent flogging to maintain discipline. However, at Albuhera, they were to earn one of the most famous nicknames in the British Army – The 'Die-Hards'. Modern historians dispute the exact origin of the nickname, but it has been long-recorded in Regimental histories as the cry of the 57th's commanding officer, Inglis, as he exhorted his men with 'Die Hard 57th! Die Hard!'. At least 19 musket holes were counted in the Regimental Colour after the battle and there were 66% casualties in the battalion. The Regiment was, eventually, to gain the unique distinction of having the name 'Albuhera' placed within its cap badge.

As stalemate occurred between the two foes, the balance of victory was left to one final assault. Lieutenant-Colonel Hardinge, a staff officer who was also a 57th man, controversially seized the initiative, rode to General Cole's 4th Division and persuaded the commander to advance against the enemy and relieve the 2nd Division. Without any orders from Beresford, Myer's Fusilier Brigade and the 4th Division's Portuguese Brigade were to break the stalemate as they took the flanks of the French columns. Despite French doggedness and another attack by their lancers, victory went to the allies after further heavy casualties.

The day was Beresford's, though the cost of the 4 hour-long battle had been extremely high. British casualties were mainly amongst the infantry and amounted to 39%, whilst the French suffered 26%. However, the French had failed to relieve Badajoz. Marshal Soult was to comment,

*'There is no beating these troops, in spite of their generals! I always thought them bad soldiers, now I am sure of it! For I turned their right, pierced their centre, they were everywhere broken, the day was mine, and yet they did not know it, and would not run.'*





Albuhera was awarded as a battle honour to the following regiments:

Previous Name	Current Name
3rd (The Prince of Wales's) Dragoon Guards	The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys)
4th (Queen's Own) Regiment of Dragoons	The Queen's Royal Hussars
13th Regiment of (Light) Dragoons	The Light Dragoons
<b>3rd Foot - The Buffs</b>	<b>PWRR</b>
7th Regiment of Foot (Royal Fusiliers)	Royal Regiment of Fusiliers
23rd (Royal Welsh Fusiliers) Regiment of Foot	The Royal Welsh
28th (North Gloucestershire) Regiment of Foot	The Rifles
29th (The Worcestershire) Regiment of Foot	Mercian
<b>31st (Huntingdonshire) Regiment of Foot - Later East Surreys</b>	<b>PWRR</b>
34th (Cumberland) Regiment of Foot	Duke of Lancaster's
39th (The Dorsetshire) Regiment of Foot	The Rifles
48th Foot (The Northamptonshire)	The Royal Anglians
66th (Berkshire) Regiment of Foot	The Rifles
<b>57th (West Middlesex) Regiment of Foot</b>	<b>PWRR</b>
60th (Royal American) Regiment of Foot	The Rifles

#### REGIMENTAL INHERITANCE

**The Regimental Day and the Silent Toast.** Albuhera is a key PWRR Regimental Day. It is said that after Albuhera, the 57th's survivors inaugurated the Silent Toast to the 'Immortal Memory'. Since that time, on 16th May every year, officers and SNCOs have stood intermingled within a circle and individually drunk out of a 'cup' to the 'Immortal Memory', usually following words by the senior officer present. This is to remember those who fell at the battle and those who have fallen since. The original silver cup is reputedly made from the 57th's officers' silver accoutrements, such as their gorgets, and has the medal of the longest-living survivor, Colour Sergeant Henry Holloway mounted within it. He was a drummer aged only 11 at Albuhera.

**Nicknames.** Whilst the 57th earned the nickname 'Die Hards', The Buffs became known as the 'Resurrectionists' because of the speed with which they recovered after the battle, despite their casualties.

**The Latham Silver Centrepiece.** Each of the PWRR battalions has a very poignant and popular silver centrepiece. It shows Lieutenant Latham's defiance as he defends The Buffs' King's Colour against the French Hussars.

**Steady The Drums and Fifes Picture.** One of the most famous of Lady Butler's paintings is 'Steady the Drums and Fifes'. This is another popular heirloom with the Regiment which portrays the 57th Drums and Fifes with part of the rest of the Regiment and their Colonel in the distance. They are waiting, under fire, for the order to advance. It was painted in 1897.

**Affiliation with The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.** It was a sergeant of The Royal Fusiliers, Sergeant William Gough, who regained the Regimental Colour of The Buffs; he was commissioned for this action. Our affiliation with the modern day Royal Regiment of Fusiliers comes from this event.

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#### Visit to Albuhera 13-17 May 2011

By Major Paul Gray

As you will have read in Colonel Patrick Crowley's article, The 2/31st Regiment fought at the Battle of Albuhera. The 31st Regiment (Huntingdonshire Regiment) later became the East Surrey Regiment. RHQ PWRR organised a visit to Albuhera to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Battle, and 97 of us enjoyed three days of wreath laying, commemorations, battlefield tours and parades. There were large parties of Buffs, Middlesex Regiment and Fusiliers (both Royal and Royal Welsh); sadly no one from the East Surrey Regiment was able to come, so I represented the East Surreys, having served with 1 Surreys for six months in 1958 in Cyprus and Benghazi, when 1 Queen's in Germany, sent a Company to join 1 Surreys.

We first visited the English Cemetery at Elvas, just over the border in Portugal. General Houghton, who commanded the Brigade in which the 57th Regiment fought, was very badly injured at Albuhera, and died of his wounds; and General Beresford asked the Governor of Elvas if they could bury General Houghton there. Two other officers who died of wounds in the Battle are also buried there; and there is one other English grave of a much later date.

The Cemetery occupies a lovely place in one of the Bastions on the Eastern wall, overlooking the plain of Badajoz, and not far below the Castle. Just below the cemetery is the Hermitage of St. Joao da Corujeiro, founded by the Friars of St John's Hospitallers in 1228, and subsequently rebuilt after an earthquake in the 18th Century. The cemetery and Hermitage, now a Chapel, are maintained by The Friends of the British Cemetery. Major Ian Holden who served with 1 Surreys in Tel e Kebir, had joined us at the Cemetery, and having more claim to have been an East Surrey, laid a wreath from the East Surrey Regiment at the memorial to those Regiments who fought at the Battle. After the ceremonies we had lunch provided by The Friends of the Cemetery in the cloisters of an old monastery, later a barracks for the Portuguese Army, and now a military museum.

The next day was for the battle field tours. In the morning we went around the walls of Badajoz, and were shown the places where the attacks had taken place, and where the final entry was made, on 6th April 1812. In the afternoon we went to the site of the Battle of Albuhera. The ground is now vineyards and one field is much like the next one! However we were shown the area where it is likely that the 2/31st Regiment, on the left of Colborne's Brigade, was able to form square against the charge of the Polish Lancers, which had so badly cut up the Buffs. On return to Badajoz we had a grand dinner to which the Regiment had invited a number of guests including the representative of The Colonel-in-Chief Queen Margrethe, and the British Ambassador.



Major Paul Gray by the Albuhera Memorial

The final day, 16 May, the day of the battle, we attended the special ceremonies in the village of Albuera. (This is the correct spelling of the Spanish village). The Spanish Army was on parade, with members of a military re-enactment society (British and Spanish) and many dignitaries. After speeches, wreath laying, flag raising and local girls dancing, we moved down to the Regimental memorial which had been opened at a similar ceremony ten years before. Wreaths were laid on behalf of PWRR, The Buffs, The Fusiliers, The East Surrey Regiment (by me) and the Middlesex Regiment.



Canon Christopher Tuckwell at the service

It was an excellent visit; everything went well and we were very lucky with the weather which was hot, dry and with the occasional gentle breeze. (The presence of Canon Christopher Tuckwell probably had much to do with the good weather!).

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## The Surreys' Debt to the RAF's Desert Air Force

By Bryn Evans

While undertaking research for my book on the East Surreys in WW2, "Fighting for Every Mountain", I was troubled to understand a recurring conundrum throughout the Tunisian and Italian campaigns. Despite the German forces and their defences being favoured by the mountainous terrain, from late 1942 until the final victory in May 1945, the Allies continually won every major battle. Yet it seems that histories of that time and campaign veterans speak consistently of the German soldiers' professionalism and training, and of their superior weapons and equipment. Most problematical of all is that the Allied armies hardly ever enjoyed a 2:1 advantage in ground troops, and were often outnumbered.

After Cassino the Allies' 5th and 8th Armies even lost some of their best divisions, transferred to the north west Europe front. It can be argued that the Allies in both Tunisia and Italy, through the breaking of the Germans' Enigma code, had better intelligence, and overall employed greater flexibility and innovation in their tactics. Certainly the Allies' offensive strategy, compared with Hitler's 'defend to the last man' mindset, put Allied troops on the front foot. But to explain the repeated successes over two and half years, was there something else?

That something else was Allied air support, particularly the RAF's Desert Air Force (DAF). The Luftwaffe, first in Tunisia then in Italy, was largely driven from the sky. Many of the Allies' anti-aircraft units became near superfluous. Some never saw a Luftwaffe plane in their time in Italy, and were redeployed to use their guns in artillery support. Air superiority gave Allied troops a fire power edge, which their numbers on the ground so often lacked.

By the later stages of the Tunisian campaign, Allied air power had near destroyed the Luftwaffe in North Africa. Commenting on the final offensive to take Tunis, Roderic Owen of the DAF said, "By May 8 the enemy had only two aerodromes left in the Cape Bon peninsula. Throughout the day they could fly a mere sixty sorties over Tunisia....", while the Allies' DAF and Tactical Air Force bombers and fighter-bombers were flying around 2,500 sorties a day. Within a day or two there were no Luftwaffe planes in the air.

In Sicily the mountain town of Randazzo, a lynchpin in the German lines, felt the full impact of a combined onslaught by the Allies' artillery and air strikes. The Surreys' Lieutenant Woodhouse wrote in a letter home, "The devastation is absolutely staggering, the Luftwaffe is a child's toy compared with the Allied Air Forces out here."

In his history of the Surreys' 78th Division in the Italian campaign, Cyril Ray described the aerial bombardment which preceded the third battle for Cassino:

"For over three hours the machines went over in waves – Fortresses and Liberators, in formations of eighteen and

thirty-six.....over a thousand aircraft ...blasted Cassino with 1,100 tons of metal, while 300 fighter-bombers, with as many fighters as cover, attacked targets immediately nearby. There was no such opposition from either enemy aircraft or flak."

On 9 April 1945 8th Army's battle for the Argenta Gap and the River Po commenced at 1.50 pm, when the Allied Strategic Air Force, and the RAF's Desert Air Force (DAF), began an unprecedented bombardment of the German defences. For more than an hour and a half, 825 heavy bombers dropped 175,000 fragmentation bombs, 1,692 tons of explosives, on enemy gun positions, and on defences which blocked 8th Army's planned attack points. Simultaneously a thousand fighter-bombers carried out pin-point, low level strikes on machine gun and mortar positions, ammunition dumps, and anything trying to move.

An artillery bombardment followed for 42 minutes, which was a normal pre-cursor before a ground attack, which the Germans would have been expecting. However before they could emerge from their dug-outs, they were immediately hit for a further 10 minutes by another wave of fighter bombers, flying so low they barely appeared to clear the flood-banks and dykes. Without a pause four more identical waves of artillery bombardment, followed by fighter-bomber strikes in similar duration, went in. From beginning to end the battering lasted around five and a half hours. It was what we now term 'shock and awe'.

The commander of the German 98th Division, General Reinhardt, a veteran of the Russian Front, said it was the worst bombardment he had ever experienced. Planes peeled off in turn from their 'sky cab-ranks' to strike anything they could see, a vehicle, a tank, even a single German soldier.

The Allies' air bombardments in the Italian campaign became increasingly brutal, massive and incessant. Neither were they inhibited by the present-day emphasis on striving for precision strikes on military targets only, and avoiding civilian casualties. Infrastructure such as roads, bridges, rail tracks, trains, ports, factories etc were systematically targeted.

So how did the Allies' air superiority equate to an equivalent number of divisions on the battlefield? On this there were differing opinions, but it was clearly significant. One conclusion is certain. Without this overwhelmingly dominant air support, the Surreys and other Allied forces would have incurred many more losses.

A fascinating account by someone who served with the DAF throughout North Africa and Italy, Roderic Owen, can be found in the book "The Desert Air Force", the first authoritative history of the DAF (Hutchinson & Co Ltd, London, 1948). My book on the Surreys in the Tunisian and Italian campaigns, "Fighting for Every Mountain", is currently with publishers, and is planned for publication later this year.

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## Regimental Golf Society Spring Meeting

We were blessed with good weather for the 81st meeting at Sudbrook Park, Richmond where, once again, we were very well looked after by the Club. This year's meeting attracted 18 playing and four non playing members, including Chris Reeves who had just arrived from Australia. We have changed timings so that those coming from a distance can have a later morning start thereby avoiding rush hour traffic and the early indications are that this new format seems to be well received. Having gathered at 1100 we held the AGM and this was followed by the putting competition. After a good lunch, and liquid sustenance, the serious business of negotiating the delights of Sudbrook Park commenced. Results were as follows:

Challenge Cup		
M J Power	76 gross	
Dodgson Trophy		
Col T L Trotman	73 net	
Heales Memorial		
C M Howard	28 pts	
Veterans Halo		
M J Power	44 pts	
Harry Adcock Putting Trophy		
Col J G W Davidson	-2	
Sweep		
1st H P Mason		
2nd Col J Holland		
3rd Col J W Sewell		

The Society's Autumn Meeting will take place on Wednesday 5th October 2011 at Woking Golf Club, and the 2012 Spring Meeting will be at Sudbrook Park on Thursday 10th May.

The annual match against The Royal Hampshire Regimental GS will take place at High Post GC on 22nd September 2011.

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## Calling all Queen's Royal Surreys to the Marne!!

By Richard Adams

Ask anyone these days what they know about the First World War and they will say the trenches, Somme, Ypres, Gallipoli, Paschendale etc. Few know much about the 1st Battle of the Marne in 1914 fought by the British Expeditionary Force. Both the 1st Bn Queens (Royal West Surrey Regiment) and 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment were part of the BEF and fought in this great battle and it is a well earned battle honour.

Would you like to join a party of Royal Fusiliers on our annual trip to commemorate the battle from 1st to 5th September? You would be most welcome together with

wives and friends. We have been going for a number of years as ambassadors of our Regiment and you would be acting in the same capacity for yours. Based in Epernay we always enjoy an absolutely cracking trip to the beautiful Champagne region of France, being a part of the Western Front seldom visited by others.

A bit of history to whet your appetites. After the BEF deployed to France in August 1914 – in the war that was going to be over by Christmas remember! – it first engaged the enemy at Mons. The German thrust through Belgium was numerically huge and part of their plan to knock the Western Allies swiftly out of the war before turning east to concentrate on the Russians. The French and us were unaware of this but were nevertheless surprised to be facing two large German armies.

The BEF while small comprised entirely regulars and recalled reservists who man for man were the best soldiers by far in the war at that time. The Germans received a severe bloody nose at Mons due to the high standard of British musketry causing the enemy to believe they were facing machine guns rather than rifles. Nevertheless weight of numbers forced the allies into the long retreat from Mons.

Back they went in a hot late August fighting holding actions at Le Cateau and elsewhere before reaching the Marne to the east of Paris. Superb discipline held the BEF together as reinforcement and resupply were stretched to the limits. The German armies swung north rather than south of Paris contrary to what it was believed they intended. They blundered in this respect but themselves were running out of steam as their rapid advance stretched their lines of communication and supply. The French commander Joffre also realised that the two German armies had allowed a gap between them to form.

After an emotional plea to the initially hesitant BEF CinC French, to turn with the French armies and attack the enemy this is what happened and the Germans were driven back to the Aisne. There they dug in and trench warfare as we know it began. It was a close thing. Had we broken through the war might have been won then and there. On the other hand the early stages of the Marne battle were touch and go and had it been lost France would have fallen and the war doubtless lost also. Whether the remains of the BEF could have been extricated who knows?

So when we commemorate this battle we also celebrate an outstanding military success of which there were precious few in WW1. We are invited by the French to attend every year as brothers in arms. Obviously a battle that saved their country means a lot to them and they truly appreciate the part played by the BEF all those years ago.

There are ceremonies we attend including the main one on Sunday 4th September which is followed by an excellent lunch. There remains ample time though to enjoy what lovely Epernay has to offer in good company.

If you would like to come or have some questions please contact Richard Adams the Royal Fusilier co-ordinator

whose contact details are below. Briefly we leave Balham by luxury coach on Thursday 1st September at 0800 picking up at the Tower, Holiday Inn on the A2 and at Dover harbour before crossing to Calais on the noon ferry, arriving in Epernay late afternoon/early evening. The return journey on Monday 5th September sees the coach back at Balham early evening.

The cost is £325 per person which includes coach and ferry, four nights B&B in the Hotel Ibis and the aforementioned Sunday lunch; indeed everything bar beer money and evening meals.

It is repeated that this is a first rate trip in all respects. As you will be able to honour the achievements and sacrifice of former members of your Regiment it is very much hoped you will be with us on the Marne.

Contact: Richard Adams, 46, Hawthorn Way, Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4FD. Tel: 01608 662328 - richardadams5@hotmail.com

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### **The 36th Annual Reunion of The East Surrey Regiment.**

*By John Broom*

The 2011 Reunion will be held at Ewell TA Centre, Mercator House, Welbeck Close, London Road, Ewell KT17 2BG on 1st October 2011 starting at 1300 hours. Although at a different venue it is hoped that all those who attend the Reunion regularly will be able to join us and enjoy the afternoon with us – there will be a warm welcome for any who have not been to our Reunion before. The nearest station for those travelling by train is Ewell West.

For further details contact John Broom; tel 01323 498262.

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### **You may be entitled to the ACCUMULATED CAMPAIGN SERVICE MEDAL (ACSM)**

*By Colonel David Dickins*

Anyone who served 1080 days (just under three years) aggregated (i.e. not continuous) service in any theatre for which the GSM (General Service Medal) or the Iraq Medal was awarded is entitled to and can claim the ACSM from the Army Medal Office. Thus tours for Queens in Malaya, Queen's Surreys in Aden and Queen's in Northern Ireland (either 4 month or two year tours) all count. Fuller details are on the MOD Veteran's website, along with full instructions on eligibility and how to apply.

[www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/DefenceFor/Veterans/Medals/Acsm](http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/DefenceFor/Veterans/Medals/Acsm) will get you there.

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## **Regimental Deaths**

*Brydges* – On 10th December 2010 aged 91 years, Thomas Brydges. Born in 1919, Tom Brydges joined 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment on Christmas Eve 1934. As a boy soldier he served in India from February 1945, playing the flute and piccolo in the Band. After nearly three years in India, Tom served in the Sudan before serving with the RASC during WW2 with the BEF, in North Africa and in North West Europe, holding the rank of Staff Sergeant (A/SQMS). While in the Army he continued with his studies which he had begun as a boy soldier and, following his discharge in 1949, he eventually became an accountant.

*Dunkeld* – On 5th February 2011, WOII Bruce Watson Dunkeld (see obituary).

*Fancett* – On 28th April 2011 aged 88 years, Corporal Bertram Charles Fancett. Having initially enlisted into the Royal West Kent Regiment in February 1942, after training he was posted to 2/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. His service prior to discharge in March 1947 included North Africa and Italy.

*Farrow* – On 2nd July 2010 aged 89 years, Lieutenant Colonel William Langdon Farrow. Bill Farrow joined 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in April 1939 and served with 2/5th Bn with the BEF in 1940. He left the battalion in September 1940. He was commissioned, joining 1st Bn 11th Sikh Regiment and went on to reach the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 5 years. He was one of the very few King's Commissioned Officers who experienced active service with the battalion in 7th Indian Division throughout the 1945 Burma Campaign, and he was Mentioned in Despatches. He returned to England in 1948, leaving the service in August 1948. He went on to have a very successful career in the oil industry and held a number of senior management positions in both English and American companies. He was the last President of the Farnham Branch of the Burma Star Association.

*Flack* – On 31st December 2010, Stanley John Flack whose service with 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment during WW2 included Dunkirk, North Africa and Italy.

*Gray* – On 16th May 2011, Martin Gray, a National Service officer who served with 1 Surreys in North Greece 1948/49. His slightly lugubrious appearance, which earned him the nickname 'Jasper', hid a good sense of humour. He was a good judge of people and events. After leaving the Army he had a successful career with the London Life Insurance company.

*Halliday* – On 18th January 2011 aged 90 years, Harold Gordon Halliday who enlisted into 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in September 1940. His service prior to discharge in August 1946 included Syria, the Western Desert, Tobruk, Burma and the Army of Occupation in Germany.

*Hibbert* – On 18th March 2011, David Peter Hibbert who served with The East Surrey Regiment and subsequently worked as an architect for Kent County Council until his retirement in 1997.

*Holmes* – On 30th April 2011, Brigadier Edward Richard Holmes CBE TD JP (see obituary).

*Jefferies* – On 28th January 2011 aged 81 years, Patrick Jefferies who served with 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from March 1948 until January 1950.

*Jones* – On 4th March 2011, Colonel Alan Godfrey Jones. Having served with the Grenadier Guards from September 1945-January 1946, Alan Jones attended OCTU and was commissioned into The Queen's Royal Regiment in June 1946. His service with the 1st Bn included BAOR and Malaya, where he was mentioned in despatches, as well as an LO appointment with HQ 5 Inf Bde before becoming Adjutant of the Regimental Depot. He subsequently held two staff appointments before returning to serve with 1st Queen's Surreys from February 1963 until October 1965. After another staff appointment and Staff College he commanded the Depot from May 1969 until October 1970. He was promoted to the rank of Colonel at the end of 1974 and retired from the Army in March 1982. He subsequently held RO appointments at HQ UKLF and then SW District from where he retired in 1992.

*Keyes* – On 26th July 2010 at the age of 92 years, Patrick Terence Keyes, who served in The Queen's Royal Regiment 1938-1940. The son and grandson of generals in the Indian Army, he was educated at Stowe School and briefly at King's College, London. After witnessing Hitler's invasion of Austria in 1938, he abandoned his university degree in journalism and enlisted as a private soldier. After recruit training at Stoumont Barracks, he joined B Company of the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment and went by troopship to Palestine, taking part in operations against Arab terrorists.

In 1940, because of his excellent knowledge of German, he left the Regiment, having been recruited for intelligence duties into the RASC, and joined the newly-formed Intelligence Corps in 1942, rising to the rank of Sergeant. He worked in the Y Service, attached to the 8th Army in North Africa, Sicily and Italy, landing at Salerno. He worked mainly in a radio lorry with forward troops, decoding German voice messages – on one occasion in Italy decoding an artillery fire mission only to find the target was his vehicle, yelling at the driver to drive on just in time before the shells fell. At the end of the war, he was posted to a Field Security unit in the occupation force in Germany, where he was involved in preparing agents, mostly Germans or displaced East Europeans, for espionage inside the Russian sector. Demobilised in 1946, he worked in Switzerland in the travel business, then joined a group of provincial newspapers based in Fleet Street, and spent his last ten working years in the Foreign Office.

*Letts* – In February 2011 Corporal James Letts who served with the Drums Platoon of 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment.

*Meardon* – On 9th February 2008 aged 71 years Lance Corporal Edward Thomas Meardon who served with 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment from March 1955 until March 1957.

*Meanley* – On 29th October 2010 Dr Terence H Meanley.

*Metcalfe* – On 7th January 2011, aged 93 years, Malcolm Metcalfe MC DL who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment during WW2. He was awarded the Military Cross for his actions on 1st September 1944 at Capello, North Italy.

*Morris* – In November 2010, Bernard Reginald Harry Morris. Having initially enlisted into the General Service Corps in October 1942, he was subsequently posted to 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment in Scotland and sailed with the battalion for North Africa in March 1943. He was subsequently posted to 2/6th Bn for the Salerno landings. He went on to serve with other units including the Royal Engineers prior to his discharge in 1946.

*Mumford* – On 2nd March 2011, Percy Samuel Willy (John) Mumford who served with The East Surrey Regiment.

*Pitman* – In January 2011, W R Pitman who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment during WW2.

*Sime* – On 29th December 2010 Colonel D A H Sime OBE MC TD (see obituary).

*Squire* – On 15th December 2010 Lieutenant Colonel G A Squire MC TD (see obituary).

*Wellbelove* – On 19th September 2010 aged 90 years, Sergeant Leslie Wellbelove. He enlisted into 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment in May 1937. He went on to serve with 1/6th Bn and finally 4th Reconnaissance Regiment. Having served in France, Belgium and North Africa, he was wounded at Castel Forte Italy in 1944 and medically discharged in March 1945.

*Williams* – On 8th March 2011, Sergeant Arthur C Williams who served with 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment 1961-66 and subsequently with The Queen's Regiment until 1970. His service included Aden, Hong Kong, Germany, Bahrain and Northern Ireland.

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## **Regt Family**

*Humphrey* – On 24th January 2011 aged 89 years, Mrs Doreen Humphrey, widow of the late Ron Humphrey.

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# Obituaries

## Brigadier E R Holmes CBE TD JP



Brigadier Richard Holmes was educated at Cambridge, Northern Illinois and Reading Universities.

He enlisted into the Essex Yeomanry in 1964 and was commissioned from Cambridge UOTC two years later. He spent much of his TA career with 5th Volunteer Battalion The Queen's Regiment, commanding its Guildford Company for four years. He attended the TA Command and Staff Course in 1980 and then served as SO2 G3 Trg (TA) at HQ South-East District.

After transferring to 2nd Battalion The Wessex Regiment as second in command, he commanded the battalion in 1986-88. He was appointed OBE in 1988. He became TA Colonel at HQ South-East District in 1989, taking over as TA Colonel Southern District on the reorganisation of the district structure three years later. He was TA Colonel Doctrine at HQ UK Land Forces prior to taking up the appointment as Brigadier TA at HQ Land Command in February 1993. In November 1997 he became the Director Reserve Forces and Cadets in the Ministry of Defence, the first Territorial officer to hold that post from which he retired in 2000. He was appointed CBE in the 1998 New Year's Honours list.

He was appointed Colonel of the Regiment of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment in September 1999, an appointment which he held until 1st February 2007. He was for a number of years President of 5 Queen's OMA.

Away from his service with the Army, Richard Holmes was a military historian, author and broadcaster. In 1969 he became a full-time lecturer at the department of war studies at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, rising to deputy head of the department (1984-86). In 1989, he became the director of the Security Studies Institute, a department of Cranfield University based at Shrivenham, Oxfordshire, and became Professor of Military and Security Studies in 1995. He retired from both posts in 2009.

Richard Holmes wrote more than 20 books, including "Redcoat: The British Soldier in the Age of Horse and Musket", "Tommy: The British Soldier on the Western Front", and "Dusty Warriors" which told the story of 1 PWRR's 2004 tour of Iraq. He was known to a wider audience as a broadcaster having presented a number of BBC 2 TV series over the years.

Richard Holmes, who had suffered from cancer for some time, died on 30th April 2011. He is survived by his wife Liz and two daughters to whom we offer our sincere condolences.

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## Colonel D A H Sime OBE MC TD



Colonel David Sime commanded the Surrey Yeomanry TA during the early 1960s and through them had close links with the Queen's Surreys and with the Museum at Clandon. He was a member of the Regimental Association.

He had a distinguished war, during which he won the MC, serving with 178 Regiment RA, the Lowland Gunners, initially a Field regiment but later a Medium Regiment – they were fully engaged in North Africa from El Alamein and then in Italy finishing at Lake Garda.

As a post war TA soldier he was awarded the OBE and promoted to the rank of Colonel, also being Chairman of the National Artillery Association for 10 years. In civilian life after the war David Sime qualified as a chartered accountant. He joined Glover and Main, which manufactured gas cookers, and was managing director for some years; at the same time he became a farmer at Steep near Petersfield where he had his home.

In addition to his other activities David Sime was an active member of the Livery of the Haberdashers Company, with their special relationship with the Queen's Regiment and now with The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. He was Master of the Company on three occasions, a rare distinction.

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## Lieutenant Colonel G L A Squire MC TD



Graham Lyall Anson Squire was born on 22nd December 1914 and was educated at Allhallows School. In 1934 he was appointed to the staff of the Corporation of London at Guildhall and joined the City Solicitor's office. In 1936 he was commissioned into 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment, TA. He served in that battalion until the Territorial Army was doubled in 1939 when he joined 2/6th Bn. On 24th August 1939 the battalion was embodied. He commanded the Training Company which consisted of the first intake of militia men. Later having been away on a course he missed service in France in 1940 and rejoined the battalion at Haltwhistle, Northumberland in July 1940. In September 1943 he was posted to Egypt and eventually joined the 1st Bn in Italy in December 1943. He served with that battalion until December 1945 when he left it in Vienna on demobilisation. He had been wounded in 1945 and had been awarded the Military Cross in 1945.

In March 1946 he rejoined the Corporation of London and was employed in the then amalgamated office of The

Comptroller and City Solicitor until he retired in 1979. In May 1947 he joined the reconstituted 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment and served successively as company commander, second in command and Commanding Officer. After completing his tour of command he retired from the Territorial Army on 30th April 1960. The following year he was elected as a councillor of Walton and Weybridge Urban District Council but did not seek re-election in 1964.

On 15th January 1962 he married Phyllis Anne Gauge (nee Liley) the widow of the actor Alexander Ralph Gauge. She died on 29th October 1984. In 1985 he joined the team of volunteers at the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment at Clandon Park; his main interest there lay in the collection of photographs which he did much to organise and catalogue. Jointly with Major Peter Hill he wrote booklets for the museum recounting the exploits of The East Surrey Regiment in various WW2 campaigns.

Lieutenant Colonel Anson Squire died on 15th December 2010.

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## WOII Bruce Watson Dunkeld



Bruce Dunkeld was one of three brothers educated at the Duke of York Royal Military School, Dover. The eldest, Malcolm, joined The Queen's, transferred to Airborne Forces and was killed in Sicily. The other brother, Ian, joined the Royal Sussex Regiment and on several occasions tried to 'claim' Bruce into the Royal Sussex Regiment, (Bruce had enlisted in 1947 and joined 2 Queen's in Dortmund). Bruce refused to go, he said then that he was happy in the Queen's and that was where he wanted to serve.

After training he went into the gymnasium after completing a PTIs course. This suited Bruce; he had been headboy at The Duke of Yorks, played most games and had been captain of football, cricket and hockey. He boxed for the battalion and was firstly middleweight champion and later light-heavyweight champion.

After a number of years in the gymnasium he was transferred to D Company and remained in a rifle company for a period. He continued to play and represent his regiment in sports throughout his service. Whilst in Malaya he was sent on a Signals course at Hythe and returned to Malaya and became the Second Sergeant in the Signal Platoon.

After the return of the battalion to Germany, Bruce was posted to the 3rd Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey

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Regiment. He served as a PSI of 3 Queen's Surreys Drill Hall, Guildford where he is remembered with much affection. He had served with 1 Queen's Surreys in Aden and Hong Kong. Whilst in Hong Kong he was appointed Officers' Mess caterer, and was highly regarded by all the officers. On return to the 1st Battalion he was promoted Warrant Officer; later he was selected for the appointment of RQMS and was posted to the 2nd Bn The Queen's in Hong Kong. This was his last service posting and he was discharged having completed his tour of twenty-two years with an exemplary character.

After his discharge he served for a time in the Prison Service, but later left to work with a building firm in Eastbourne. He then worked in the Bursars department at Eastbourne College where he was very highly regarded for the way he carried out his duties both by his superiors and the staff who worked under him.

Bruce Dunkeld was held in high regard throughout his army service, he was a very fair disciplinarian and ran a good company as Sergeant Major. Throughout his service he was always keen on sport and always showed a keen interest and was always willing to encourage young soldiers in sporting activities and their careers; he was always a very loyal supportive member of the Sergeants Mess and above all his Regiment.

He was a great personality within the battalion, always ready to help and advise the young and not so young, and was always smart and well turned out with a very good sense of humour.

Bruce was happily married for 57 years, devoted to his wife Betty, sons Kevin and Marcus and grandchildren Charlotte, Callum and Rebecca. To them all we send our sincere condolences. He will be sorely missed.

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The Regimental Association is  
extremely grateful to  
Major J L A Fowler TD  
who has once again very  
generously provided the paper for  
the Newsletter.

