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# THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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## NEWSLETTER







## Forecast of Events

### 2007

1st August	MINDEN DAY.
8th September	6th(Bermondsey), 2/6th and 2/7th Queen's Royal Regiment OCAs Combined Reunion.
9th September	SALERNO DAY.
20th September	The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Charity Trustees Meeting.
27th September	The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum Trustees Meeting - Clandon (change of date).
1st October	The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Officers' Club Ladies' Luncheon - Clandon.
6th October	The East Surrey OCA Reunion - Clapham.
10th October	Golf Society Autumn Meeting - Woking.
2nd November	The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association Annual Reunion - Union Jack Club.
20th December	BRITISH BATTALION DAY (1941).

### 2008

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).

#### Covers:

*In June 1948 the Malayan Communist Party commenced a guerilla war to end British rule in Malaya (since incorporated in Malaysia), and the Colonial government declared a 'State of Emergency'. Operating from the jungle and supported by some members of the Chinese community living mainly in squatter camps, the Communist terrorists, or 'CTs' as they were known, carried out ambushes and assassinations, attacked Police Stations, road & rail communications, tin mines, and plantations usually termed 'estates'. British and Commonwealth Armed Forces together with the Malayan Police responded with ever increasing effectiveness and, in a campaign lasting twelve years, progressively defeated the terrorists. In 1960 the 'Emergency' ended.*

*The 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment played its part in this campaign. The Battalion arrived at Singapore in February 1954 and after intensive jungle warfare training deployed on operations. The last man from the battalion left the jungle in February 1957 after the Battalion had been operational for approaching three years. The photographs on the covers, a number of which were provided by Roy Harding, give a flavour of operations in the jungle. An account of the Battalion's three years in Malaya appears elsewhere in the Newsletter.*



## President's Notes

Whilst I was on holiday, I read "Days from a Different World" by John Simpson (BBC Foreign Editor) in which he describes how his Uncle Harold was both mentally and physically scarred by his experiences during the First World War. Harold enlisted into The East Surrey Regiment in 1914. When he was commissioned his parents demonstrated their pride by giving him a beautiful silver Longines wristwatch. At the Battle of Somme in 1916 he led his platoon through the wire and through the German first line and onto the second line. At this time the Battalion had had 120 killed including all the captains. Harold was the only officer alive in his company. The Commanding Officer promoted him to captain in the field and Harold led the remaining men of his Company onto and captured the Third line of German trenches. The Company was now down to 20 men. Unfortunately, he had got ahead of the Artillery fire plan resulting in most being killed. Harold had a gaping wound to the head and was sent back to England.

In 1917 he insisted on going back to France and was posted to The Queen's Royal Regiment. He was morose and silent and made no friends. At the Third Battle of Ypres he again led his Company bravely until he was hit in the head by shrapnel and was unconscious for several days. He was now very disfigured and suffering from what we now term Post Traumatic Distress. A mental and physical wreck, he subsequently made no contact other than to scrounge money for drink. He never spoke about his experiences. He never had help or support and turned to alcohol to relieve the pain. Thirty years after the end of the War he died on a bench at Waterloo Station - his home. His sole possessions were: a pipe, a little tobacco and two pence and ha'penny and his Longines watch.

This tale well illustrates what our Association is all about and the need for all of us to be on the lookout to help former comrades who are going through a bad patch. You find your real friends when the going gets tough. It is therefore very encouraging that last year 25 individuals re-established contact and joined the Association which currently has over 1,400 members. This is a remarkable number for a Regiment that became The Queen's Regiment over 40 years ago, and that after the amalgamation of The Queen's Royal Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment coming up to 50 years ago. Do continue to make contact with your old comrades and encourage them, if they have not already done so, to join the Association.

Lastly, I do urge you to look at our excellent website on which accounts of the last operational tours of the East Surrey's in Cyprus and Benghazi in 1958 and The Queen's Royal Regiment 50 years ago in Malaya have just been added. Who knows, you may find your name or even worse a photograph.

Best wishes

Tony Ward



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

On the 1st February 2007 Brigadier E R Holmes CBE, TD, JP handed over as Colonel of the Regiment to Major General P R Newton CBE. Brigadier Holmes' tour of duty had lasted eight and a quarter years. We were greatly privileged to have such a man as Colonel of the Regiment.

Major General Newton is a Regular Serving Officer. He commenced his career in the Royal Hampshires and is the first Major General in the PWRR. Having just taken over, he has been posted to Iraq for six months so pressure will now fall on the Deputy Colonels to assist RHQ in the administering of the Regiment.

The period of these notes covers a time when both Regular Battalions were back in home base.

### The 1st Battalion

The 1st Battalion returned from Iraq in November 2006 and are back in Paderborn (Germany). The list of awards for Iraq was announced in December 2006. The Battalion were awarded the following: -

Conspicuous Gallantry Cross  
- C/Sgt J R Harkness

Military Cross  
- Major M A P Nooney  
- Cpl S P Izard  
- Pte R J Copping  
- Pte M S C Norris (RAMC att 1st Bn)

George Medal  
- Cpl M P Caines

Mention in Despatches  
- Lt K J Lyons  
- Sgt A P J Pepper  
- L/Cpl P Bains  
- L/Cpl S Wells

A good batch of awards.

The battalion is now organising itself into a well-deserved period (one year 2007?) of settled life. This includes sending soldiers skiing on Ex Snow Warrior (used to be called Snow Queen!), entering teams in all sporting events and trips. The overriding training aspect is the BOWMANisation of the Battalion. This is training and preparing for the final transfer from Clansman radios to the Bowman system, which involves converting all the vehicles.

### The 2nd Battalion

The 2nd Battalion is still based in Ballykelly (Northern Ireland) with the draw down of Op Banner (i.e. official



peace on 1st August 2007). The Battalion, along with two other infantry Battalions, will be the only land-based troops in Northern Ireland. The past 12 months have seen the Battalion involved in the closure of several landmarks, including the closure of Lisanelly Barracks in Omagh and the closure and dismantling of Golf and Romeo towers on the South Armagh border. Crossmaglen, Bessbrooke Mill and V7 Masonic (Londonderry) will also close in the near future.

Amongst the occasional operation or duty standby, the Battalion has had the opportunity to conduct a whole host of varied activities including field firing exercises, cadres, adventure training, sports and traditional Regimental associated activities.

The Battalion will Arms Plot in March 2008 to Dhekalia in Cyprus. In between now and then preparation must be made to hand back Ballykelly and train for the Light Role to be prepared to take on any task in Cyprus.



Drums Platoon 2 PWRR at the Lord Mayor's Show

**The 3rd Battalion**

The 3rd Battalion attended a very good annual camp at Okehampton where all military skills were finely tuned and, also, adventure training over Dartmoor tested map reading skills. Cadres are held at weekends and drill nights, with emphasis on support weapons (Javelin and Mortars). The issue of Javelin is good for the TA as some Regular Battalions haven't even been issued with this new good weapon. An excellent weekend was spent at Sandhurst to commemorate Sobraon Day – this included the Band. Members of the Battalion are deployed, some currently serving with 2 R. Anglian in Afghanistan. It is of interest to note that about 60% of the Battalion has seen active service over the past few years. The Battalion is in fine form.

**B Company of the London Regiment**

B Company has been busy. Annual camp was spent in France where the unique experience of travelling abroad linked with adventure training sharpened everyone's senses and military training. At present the company

have 15 All Ranks serving in Afghanistan with 12 Mech Bde. Annual Camp in 2007 will be in Scotland.

The Regiment is in fine form. Recruiting and Retention is a problem with the Regular Battalions, but is now being worked on by an energetic recruiting team.

**PAY ATTENTION  
CAN  
YOU  
HELP?**

*All responses via Association  
Secretary*



**Bob Edwards** is seeking any information about his uncle William Arthur Doncaster who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment. Having initially served from 1930 to 1937, he was transferred to the reserve as a corporal. He was recalled to the colours in August 1939 and it is about his WW II service prior to demob in 1946 that information is sought. Having joined the 2nd Bn in Palestine, moving to Egypt he was taken on strength of No. 102 Military Mission in February 1941. In March 1941 he was posted to 2nd Bn Libyan Arab Force, and confirmed in the rank of WOII in July 1942. In August 1943 he was posted to the Ethiopian Rubber Development Unit where he appeared to have stayed until embarking in September 1944 for the UK Operation Python, arriving TOS 13 Hldg Bn checking in at Infantry Records Ashford in January 1945 before posting to HQ 1 Corps. Any information about his WW II service, or on what a CSM of the Queen's would be doing for over a year with the Ethiopian Rubber Development Unit, would be welcome.

**Becky Makaruk** would like to hear from anyone who remembers her grandfather Private Henry Thomas Dalton. He served with The Queen's Royal Regiment during the Second World War and is buried in Tauukyan War Cemetery.

**Brian Rogers** is trying to trace a relative John Charles (Stephen) Leadbetter who is believed to have been based at Canterbury in 1961.



**Benevolence**

During 2006 89 cases were investigated and 68 individual grants-in-aid were approved (of these 11 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 15 further electrically powered vehicles, 13 orthopaedic chairs/beds and contributed to four convalescent holidays. The Charity paid out £28,509 as individual grants-in-aid through RHQ PWRR and a further £475 was spent to purchase vouchers as Christmas gifts for annuity holders. The Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) provided a further £2,400 in General Grants. Of the 21 cases not receiving a grant, local Councils/Charities or other Regimental Charities assisted nine after we had contacted them. Eight cases were not receiving such allowances as attendance, mobility, pensions credit or rent rebate.

Fifteen ABF Annuities were administered; the ABF generously contributed £60 per month per case. During this period we have renewed or arranged for three Nursing Home Fees grants, each of £1,300 from the ABF and £500 from the Regimental Charity per year, to be paid for our old soldiers or their widows to be looked after. We had two residents on a short respite stay in Gifford House. The ABF total grants in support, including Nursing Home Fees and annuities, were £19,130.

We are extremely grateful to other organisations such as the ABF, SSAFA Forces Help and the Royal British Legion for all their assistance with our benevolent work. Regrettably on occasion our and their work has been complicated by retrospective applications for financial assistance towards the purchase of items that might have been available at little or no charge through the NHS or other sources. In other cases individuals have purchased items such as powered wheelchairs from commercial sources without first seeking advice; subsequently the item has proved to be unsuitable and we or another organisation are then approached for assistance.

We and they are here to help, but can only do so if asked. The service is free and, whilst we cannot guarantee that you will be given financial assistance, at least you should receive informed advice that could save you money and help ensure you have whatever is most appropriate for your needs.

Finally, a special word of thanks to Major John Rogerson at RHQ PWRR for his continuing hard work in administering our Regimental Charity's individual benevolent support. John will be retiring later this year and will be sorely missed. His responsibilities, including benevolence, will be reallocated within RHQ PWRR.

The following extracts from a few of the letters received over recent months give a sense of how much that benevolence assistance is appreciated.

**Mrs A writes:** Thank you for your generous donation towards a rising chair for my husband. It is a great help as his mobility is so bad now.

**Mrs B writes:** Mrs C kindly copied your letter to her when you sent her cheques totalling £2150 to cover the fees for my mother until January 2008. I cannot tell you how grateful we are to you for your efforts on our behalf in contacting the Army Benevolent Fund, Queen's Royal Surreys and Queen's Own Buffs. I shall most certainly write to the Grants secretary of the ABF. Our lack of resources to pay these fees in future has been of great concern to us as a family..... Thank you for your kindness. You have our eternal thanks.

**A SSAFA Forces Help Officer writes:** I am writing on behalf of Mr D to thank the Benevolence Committee of the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Charity for the very generous grant towards the costs of the urgent repairs needed on Mr D's property. I will be passing on the copy of the Association Newsletter to Mr D, but in the mean time I am finding it very interesting. I have informed Mr D about the grant and SSAFA Forces Help will ensure that it will be used for the purposes approved by the Committee.

**A SSAFA Forces Help Officer writes:** Thank you for your generous donation towards the cost of Mr E's level access shower. I thank you on behalf of myself and the ex-Service community for taking the time to consider the needs of this client.

**A SSAFA Forces Help Officer writes:** Thank you very much for your letter enclosing a cheque towards replacement windows for Mr F. Your Committee's generosity is much appreciated.

**A SSAFA Forces Help Officer writes:** Thank you so much for your generous support to G. She really is so grateful for your assistance and was so pleased when I telephoned her with the news this morning.

**HM Armed Forces Veterans Badge**

Currently a Veterans Badge can be issued to:

- Men and women who served in HM Armed Forces up to and including 31 December 1984.

- The following groups who served during World War II are also eligible: Polish Forces under UK Command, Cyprus Regiment and Home Guard.

The Veterans Badge can only be issued posthumously to either War Widows or Widowers receiving a War Widows or Widowers pension from Service Personnel and Veterans agency. The deceased must have served before 31 December 1984.



A copy of the application form is enclosed with the Newsletter; completed forms must be returned to the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency and **NOT submitted via the Regimental Association.**

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### Aden Revisited (by Major Paul Gray)

The First Battalion The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment was stationed in Aden from November 1960, when B Company under Major Geoffrey Mason took over from 1 RHF at Mukeiras, until February 1962 when we sailed on the Oxfordshire to Hong Kong.

On 3rd April 2007, while on a cruise, we called in to Aden and I was able to have a brief look around. By an extraordinary coincidence on the same cruise was Dr Malcolm Davies, who had been RMO of the Battalion in Aden and had sailed with us to Hong Kong. Malcolm remembered Lt Col Lowry, Oscar Palmer and Keith and Elvie Bumett. Sadly we did not recognise each other. Also on the cruise were some 26 people, including wives, who had been in Aden in the 1950s and 1960s, including several BP staff and widows. We tried to organise an extended tour of Aden and Little Aden to cover our old stamping grounds, but owing to the incompetence of the agent and the unwillingness of his staff to cooperate we were not able to see as much as we wanted to.

Shamsan is still there. Some readers may well recall climbing Shamsan. Our Padre, Nick Dixon took a party of us by night so we could see sunrise from the top. Peter Roupell made all of us in his Company climb Shamsan on Boxing Day 1961.

But I digress. What we did see on 3rd April was rather depressing. RAF Steamer Point is in ruins. Old barrack blocks have been vandalised and are derelict. Waterloo and Singapore Lines, where the Battalion was stationed, have been pulled down; Malcolm and I walked to the foreshore and looked along to where the barracks had been.



Paul Gray (left) and Malcolm Davies on the foreshore. Waterloo Lines was beyond the fence towards the large building in the centre distance

Even the three radio masts outside the Officers Mess have gone. (I believe Stephen Petzing and two other officers climbed one mast after dinner). Apparently you can see the location on Google Earth, and the foundations of the masts are still visible.

We visited the area of the Tarshine Club. One beach (WOs and Sgts ??) is now for The Sheraton Hotel. The other (where was, I think, the Officers' Club) is now a public beach.

RAF Khormaksa is now Aden International Airport, but an old barrack block lies derelict outside the modern car park. It would appear that the authorities have done nothing to make use of accommodation left behind when we pulled out.

Ma'alla Straight is still there and recognisable, but now sprouting satellite TV aerials.

The Prince of Wales Pier (the old passenger terminal) still stands but is no longer used as such because cruise ships can now tie up alongside in the new harbour about half a mile beyond Steamer Point. The Admiral's House (completed amid much controversy over costs while we were there) still stands.

I seldom visited Crater while we were in Aden, and recognised nothing on my visit.

There has been enormous development. The island fort is now connected to Crater by a causeway; and a dual carriageway connects Crater round the headland to the foreshore, eventually leading to our barracks. Did any reader ever visit the Tanks in the hills (NW) of Crater? These had been built in the 11th century(?) to catch and hold water for the town, and were only discovered in 1854.

It was interesting going back. It had been 45 years since I left and hardly surprisingly, so much has changed even if I could remember what it had been like. I was surprised that the authorities had not made use of the Services accommodation left behind. However Queen Victoria still sits on her throne in a central ill-kept garden near Ma'alla Straight.

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### East Surrey Regimental Reunion

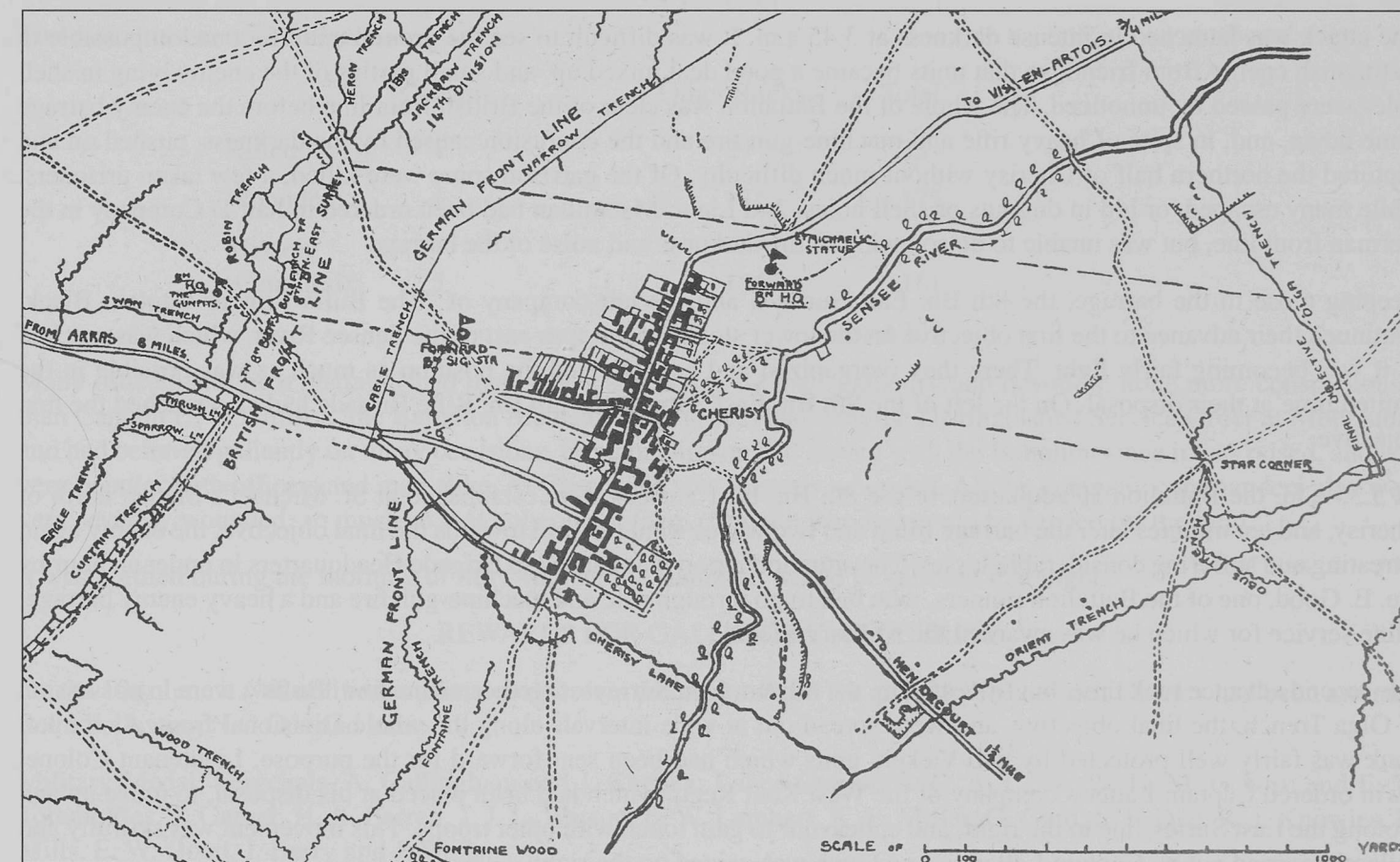
The 2007 Annual Reunion of the East Surrey Regiment (all ranks, all battalions) will be held at the Drill Hall, St John's Hill (opposite Clapham Junction Railway Station) on Saturday 6th October 2007 from 1300 to 1800 hours. Admission and buffet £5: wives and guests are always welcome.

Tickets from J Broom, 11 Sayerland Road, Polegate, East Sussex BN26 6NU.

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### The Battle for Cherisy (by Ian Chatfield)

(The following describes the part played by the 8th Service (Football) Bn. The East Surrey Regiment in the Third battle of the Scarpe May 1917. As on the 1st July 1916 at Montauban on the Somme the Battalion achieved all the objectives asked of them although suffering horrendous losses.)



Sketch map showing the action on May 3rd 1917

In the evening of May 1st the Battalion left Telegraph Hill Trench and relieved the 7th Bn. "Queen's" in the front line, half a mile west of Cherisy. One man was killed and four were wounded during the relief. On May 2nd orders were received for the coming battle, and Cherisy amongst other places was shelled by our heavy guns. Preparations for the attack were made during the day, and at 10 p.m. Battalion Headquarters moved forward from the Quarries known as "The Rookery" to the Gun Pits near the front line. One man was killed and one wounded during the day.

The attack on the 3rd May, 1917 was launched on a front of over sixteen miles extending from Fresnoy, north-east of Arras, to Bullecourt in the south-east. Cherisy was somewhat south of the centre of the battle. The village lies on the western slope of the valley of the Sensee River, which at this point is only two or three yards wide, and runs roughly north-east. The slopes on either side rise to about 100 feet above the river. Before the action the British front line, which was roughly parallel to and 1200 yards west of the river, was just below the western crest of the intervening ridge, and the German front line (Cable Trench) lay a short distance below the eastern crest of the same ridge, so that one line of trenches could not be seen from the other. The width of No Man's Land was about 300 yards. The ground had been but little cut up by shell fire and afforded only slight cover, as the slopes were very gradual. The weather had been dry for some days and the going was good.

In the attack the 18th Division had the 14th Division on its left and the 21st Division on its right. The attack of the 18th Division was carried out with the 54th Brigade on the right and the 55th Brigade on the left. The 54th Brigade was held up at the German front line, and did not break through, with the exception of a small party of the 7th Bn. Bedfordshire Regt., which reached Fontaine Wood. The 55th Brigade attacked with the 7th Bn. "The Buffs" on the right and the 8th Bn. East Surreys on the left, each having two companies in front line, one in support and one in reserve. The 7th Bn. Royal West Kent Regt. was in support, with one company (under Captain Latter) detailed to act as "moppers up" for the northern half of Cherisy, for which portion only of the village the 55th Brigade was responsible. The 7th Bn. "Queen's" was in reserve.



The 8th Bn. East Surrey Regiment attacked with A and B Companies, under Captain Rhodes and Captain Ackerley respectively, in the front line; C Company, under Captain Lonergan, in support; and D Company, under 2nd Lieut. Macmillan, in reserve. The night of the 2nd May was fine and clear, with a brilliant moon, and the task of forming up for attack was carried out without a hitch. The assembly tape was laid out by Captain Rhodes and Captain Ackerley at midnight and all companies were in position at 2 a.m. on May 3rd, by which time the moon was just setting. The men were in boisterous spirits, and there was very little hostile shelling.

The attack was launched in intense darkness at 3.45 a.m. It was difficult to see the ground underfoot and impossible to distinguish enemy from friend, so that units became a good deal mixed up, and small parties of the enemy lying in shell holes were passed by unnoticed. The whole of the Battalion was clear of the British front line before the enemy barrage came down, and, in spite of heavy rifle and machine-gun fire and the confusion caused by the darkness, pushed on and captured the northern half of Cherisy without much difficulty. Of the garrison some were killed, a few taken prisoners, while many escaped, or hid in dugouts or shell holes. 2nd Lieut. Macmillan had been ordered to halt D Company in the German front line, but was unable to do so owing to the darkness and noise of the barrage.

Keeping close to the barrage, the 8th Bn. East Surreys, and the left company of "The Buffs", under Captain Black, continued their advance to the first objective on the lower slopes of the spur east of the Sensee River, which was reached as it was becoming fairly light. There they reorganized and consolidated the position as much as was possible in the limited time at their disposal. On the left of the 8th Bn. East Surreys the 8th Bn. Rifle Brigade had also reached the first objective.

At 5.35 a.m. the Battalion Headquarters of the 8th Bn. East Surreys were established at St. Michael's Statue, north of Cherisy, and ten minutes later the barrage lifted and two waves went forward towards the final objective, the enemy again retreating and suffering considerable losses. The situation report was carried to Brigade Headquarters in under an hour by Pte. E. Good, one of the Battalion runners, who had to go through rifle and machine-gun fire and a heavy enemy barrage: a fine service for which he was awarded the Military Medal.

The second advance took time, but by 8.45 a.m. the 8th Bn. East Surreys, together with a few "Buffs", were in possession of Olga Trench, the final objective, and were spread out at wide intervals along the whole Divisional front. As the left flank was fairly well protected by two Vickers guns which had been sent forward for the purpose, Lieutenant Colonel Irwin ordered Captain Latter's company of the West Kent Regt., which had been placed at his disposal, to move up and prolong the East Surrey line to the right, and endeavour to gain touch with other troops. This movement was skilfully and gallantly carried out by Captain Latter, but no touch was gained on the right.

The position was now a most extraordinary one. With some of the 8th Bn. Rifle Brigade on the left, some "Buffs", and Captain Latter's company of the 7th Bn. Royal West Kent Regt. on the right, the 8th Bn. East Surreys had penetrated to a depth of about a mile and a quarter into the German position, carrying out its programme with punctuality and precision. The left was only prolonged by a very weak line of the 14th Division, and the right was entirely in the air. The northern half of Cherisy was quite clear of the enemy, who, however, had not been attacked at all in the southern half of that village. Lieutenant Colonel Irwin sent frequent situation reports to Brigade Headquarters, and orders were given to the 7th Bn. Royal West Kent Regt. to send up their second and third companies to support the East Surreys. Unfortunately, however, the Officer Commanding the West Kents had been severely wounded, which probably accounts for the fact that the orders were not carried out. Thus for four hours the few troops who had reached the final objective were completely in the air and a mile and a quarter in advance of the remainder of the attack. It was evident that they must either be supported by other troops on the flanks or withdraw, as they were in danger of being cut off by the German infantry, which, skilfully aided by their artillery, gradually reoccupied the whole village of Cherisy.

By 11 a.m., however, it was clear that no support was coming, and Lieutenant Colonel Irwin decided to withdraw from the advanced position and take up a line along the northern and western outskirts of Cherisy. The Battalion had successfully driven off several weak counter-attacks, but at the moment that the retirement was contemplated a fresh attack was made on the front and left of the weak line. The enemy being in force on the right, and also in the village in their rear, the companies began to retire slowly, the enemy following close upon them. On the right the losses were heavy, and but few men escaped. None can have got through the village of Cherisy or past its south side; on the left the few remaining officers endeavoured to rally the men on the new line west and north of Cherisy, but with only a partial success. The morale of the men was not shaken, but owing to the noise of the artillery and rifle fire it was impossible to make orders heard.

Eventually the whole of the 55th Brigade retired to its original position, in which it was established by noon, the Germans making no attempt to advance beyond their original front line in Cable Trench. At 7.15 p.m. an attempt was made by two other battalions to recapture Cable Trench, but after severe fighting and heavy loss the attack failed. The 8th Bn. East Surreys remained in their trenches facing Cherisy during May 4th, and the enemy being comparatively inactive,

the companies were reorganized and the losses checked. In the action at Cherisy the losses of the 8th Bn. East Surrey Regiment were very heavy, as were those of all units of the 55th Brigade. The Battalion, as will be seen from the above narrative, was admirably handled by Lieutenant Colonel Irwin, whose initiative and skill were subsequently recognized by the award of a clasp to his Distinguished Service Order, an honour rarely granted. The conduct of the officers and men of the Battalion was also worthy of all praise. The men went into action with great cheerfulness and retained their steadiness in the most trying conditions.

The casualties were as follows:—

	Officers.	Other Ranks.	Total.
Killed:	4	29	33
Wounded:	4	171	175
Missing (Captured):	5	156	161
			Total 369

Many officers and men distinguished themselves at Cherisy by their gallantry and devotion, none more conspicuously than Captain E. C. Gimson, the Battalion Medical Officer, who had won the Distinguished Service Order at Montauban and had behaved gallantly on many occasions. Captain Gimson had served with the Battalion since it was raised, and was very popular with officers and men alike. At Cherisy he was severely wounded. All the company commanders also were very severely wounded; so much so that only one of them (Captain Rhodes) could be carried off the field.

It was notified during the morning of May 4th that the Battalion would be relieved that night.

REWARDS FOR GALLANTRY AT CHERISY

On the 10th June it was notified in Divisional Orders that decorations for gallantry in action at Cherisy had been awarded to the following N.C.O.'s and men:-

Military Medal: Sergeants. A. Callingham and J. Cheney; Lance Corporals. G. A. Crick, W. H. M. Osborn and E. W. Totem; Ptes. T. Garner, H. A. Barrett, J. J. L. Watson, E. W. Lambert, K. E. Miller, G. Curd, S. F. Dye, R. J. Knowles, H. Mills, E. W. Good, J. Berry and J. Wells.

Bar to Military Medal : Sergeant. J. Stacey; Lance Corporal. A. Walker.

2nd Bar to Military Medal: Pte. J. J. E. Bagg.

It was also notified later that Sergeant. P. Conquest had been awarded the Medaille Militaire, and Lance Corporal. A. Walker the French Croix de Guerre.

On June 19th the following extract from Divisional Orders was notified to the Battalion, the honours being awarded for the operations at Cherisy:-

"The F.M. Commanding-in-Chief, under authority granted by His Majesty the King, has been pleased to award to the under mentioned officers for gallantry and devotion to duty in action:

Bar to D.S.O. Lieut.-Colonel A. P. B. Irwin.

Bar to M.C. Lieut. E. G. Gaywood (attd. 55th T.M.B.). M.C. Captain C. R. Holms, Captain G. G. Morse, 2nd Lieut. E. M. Dove."

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Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Percy Bulteen Irwin who died in April 1976 at the age of 88 was the only officer in The East Surrey Regiment ever to be awarded three DSOs. Commissioned in 1909 he was posted to the 2nd Battalion. He was appointed to the 8th Battalion in the early days of the war and served with it, almost unbroken, throughout the campaign. In June 1916 he was appointed to the command of the Battalion and, save for a short break while wounded and several spells as Brigade Commander, he commanded the 8th Surreys until its disbandment commenced. As well as gaining the DSO and two bars he was also mentioned-in-despatches four times. Like so many he did not come through unscathed. Twice in France he was badly wounded and sent home for



hospital treatment and he was again wounded in North Russia in 1919.

The museum at Clandon has in its collection the Medals of Lt. Col. A. P. B. Irwin DSO, Capt. E. G. Gaywood MC, L/Sgt W. H. M. Osborn DCM, MM, Pte. H. A. Barrett MM, and Pte H. Mills MM.



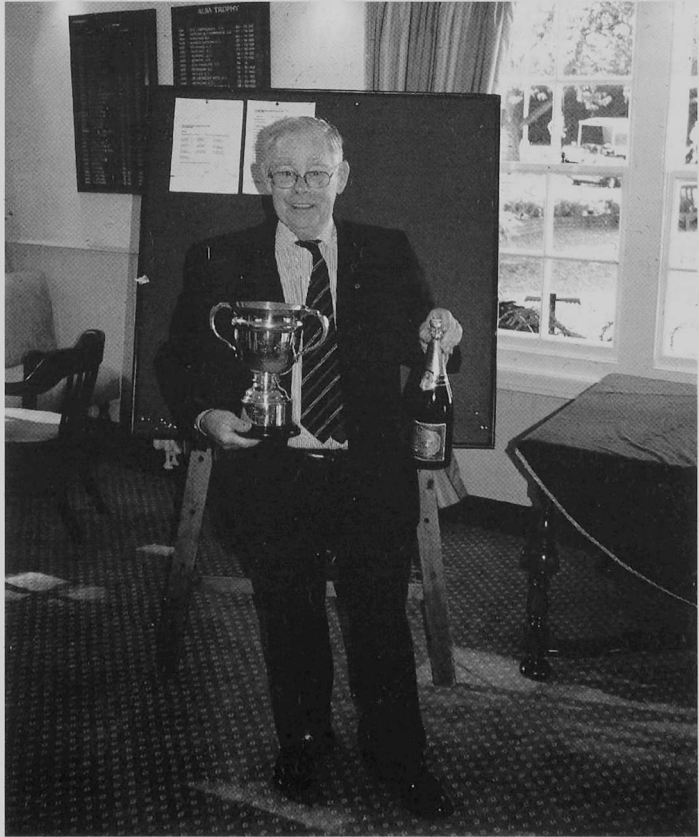
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**The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Golf Society:**

**Autumn Meeting 2006**

The Autumn Meeting was held on Wednesday 4th October 2006 at Woking Golf Club. The 17 members taking part in the various competitions enjoyed playing on a course which was in excellent condition on a bright sunny day.

The Captain, Col DJC Dickins, on behalf of the Society, presented the past Royal Marines Cup (the final RMGS v QRSRGS match was played in 2005) to the Secretary Lt Col FB Herd, together with a bottle of champagne.



Foster Herd after the presentation

This was in recognition of his 15 years' service as the Society's Secretary and Treasurer; the cup had been suitably inscribed.

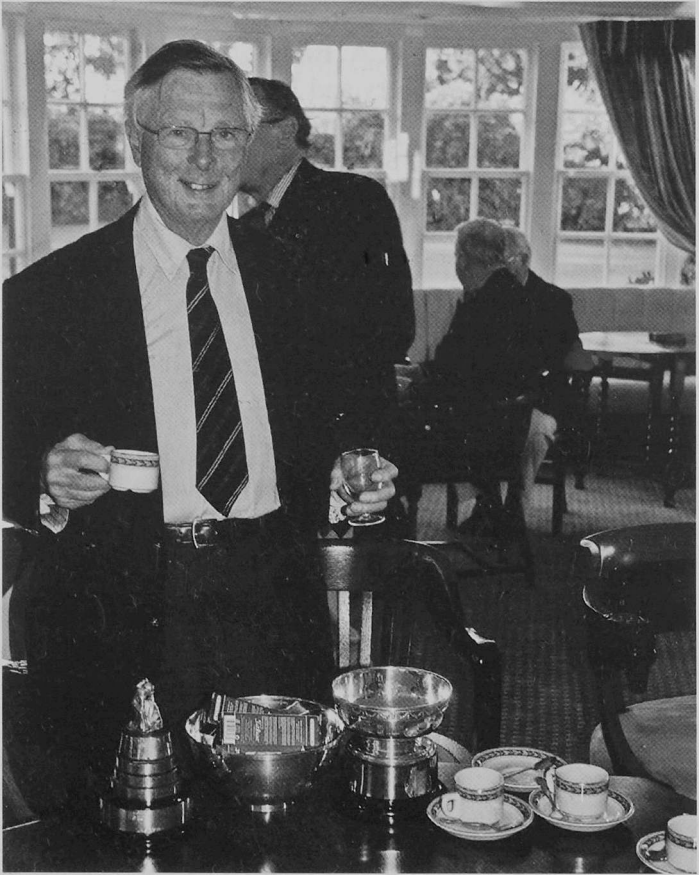
Prizes were presented at the close of play by the President MJ Power. Col Toby Sewell was congratulated in particular for his first time win of the Petri Plate.

**Prize Winners:**

Autumn Bowl	
Col JGW Davidson	Net 65
Glasgow Greys Cup	
Col JW Sewell	Net 75
Petri Plate	
Col JW Sewell	158
(Aggregate Spring & Autumn Meetings	83:75)
Heale's Memorial Trophy	
CM Howard	36 pts
Veteran's Halo	
Col JGW Davidson	44 pts

**Sweep**

Winner HP Mason  
2nd Lt Col JW Sherrard  
3rd Maj P A Gray



John Davidson after yet another successful day on the golf course

Autumn Meeting 2007 will be played on 10th October at Woking Golf Club

o o o

**The Stuka Attack**  
( by John Mouncey )

*(The article is an account of life in N Africa and of a stuka attack, written by a cook from 131st Queen's Infantry Brigade who had been sent up with rations and hot food to the Brigade HQ command post. This attack took place in the desert about two weeks before the battle of El Alamein.)*

On Monday, October 12th, 1942, I made a quick scribbled entry in my diary. Here it is:

"Our command post had a nasty day today. We were dive-bombed by Stukas just after midday, a big bomb falling right amongst our slit trenches, which we had dug in the soft sand. Sammy Cohen and Stan Bucknell were killed. The pit with the rations was left intact; although I was nearly buried when my slit trench caved in on me. Nearly all the kit laying around was damaged, a jeep and truck ruined."

That's how the entry reads, but there was more to it than that.

To give more background, I should tell you I had just returned from a week's leave in an Alexandrian rest camp. Alexandria was only about forty miles from the Alamein Line, where the 131st Infantry Brigade was part of the defence on the southern flank engaged in gaining a tactical position before the Battle of Alamein.

I was one of the lucky ones to get a week's leave in Alexandria, because later on, as we advanced, the distance became too far to travel back; so only a few of us managed the break. It was a great week in a good rest camp with lots of creature comforts, and right beside that lovely blue Mediterranean. There was plenty to see and do in Alexandria; but after the past few months of desert sun and sand, not to mention the flies and dust, I practically lived on the beach and in the sea.

Whilst I had been on leave the Brigade had been in action and had had a rough time, taking some heavy losses. My old Company B in the 1/6th Queen's had once again suffered badly, with casualties amongst some old acquaintances.

As I had just had a week's leave, and so missed all the fireworks, when I eventually got back I was nominated a couple of days later to take food up to a forward command post. I was a cook with the 131st Queen's Infantry Brigade H.Q. I should tell you that Brigade was usually split up into three echelons when moving up for attack, or when held up by a strong German line of defence - B echelon (base), well back behind the lines; A echelon, the main H.Q., and Tac H.Q. (or command post) where one assumed the Brigadier was in close contact with his three battalions.

I was sent up to the command post on October 9th, 1942, with a hot meal for fifty men, mainly the Tac H.Q. defence platoon; and as the area was under observation by the Germans, we moved up in lorries under the cover of darkness. The food was in six gallon insulated

containers - heated tins of meat and veg, and hot sweet tea; it could get very cold in the desert at night. All I had to do was serve it and send back the empty containers. Subsequently, the food would be prepared at A echelon and sent up after dark. There were some tinned rations and enough equipment to make tea, which I did, then served it to the men, who had previously been issued with hard tack rations; probably soya sausages, bully and biscuits.

We were warned to dig a slit trench before first light. I dug a shallow trench and unrolled my bed, which consisted of two blankets rolled in a ground sheet (not everybody had the luxury of two blankets) and I settled in the sand. It was a fairly quiet night - a few distant shells and the occasional chatter of machine guns and rifle fire from our Infantry, who were just to our front, but nothing to really worry us.

When it was light I could see Mount Himeimat in the distance. The desert in this area consisted of numerous small ridges with a low, flat area between us and Gerry. We were warned to be careful of our movements as they were quite near, less than a thousand yards away, and had us under observation. I was concealed behind a small ridge, where I set up a petrol burner (cooker) mainly for tea making.

There was not much activity the next morning, only one or two shells landing close by, and we watched two Stuka attacks nearby; but we had a very shaky hour in the afternoon when the Germans spotted some movement and concentrated on shelling our little area. By this time, however, we were well dug in, so there were no casualties.

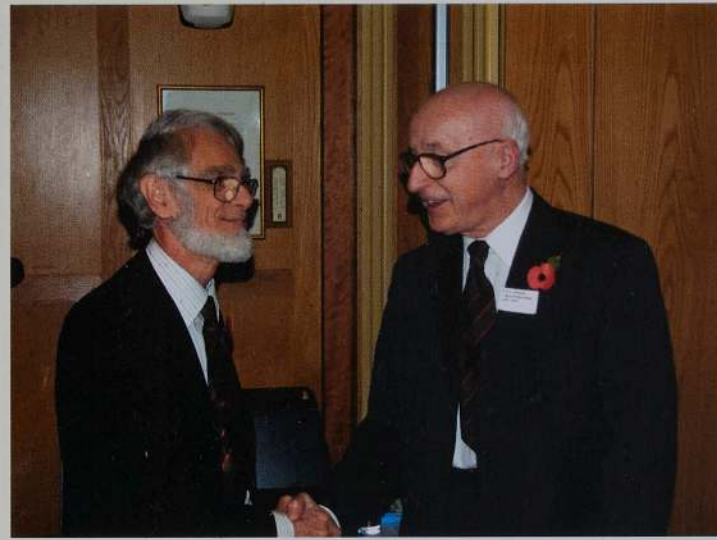
Although there was still plenty of sun during the day, the weather had turned colder during the past couple of weeks, and there had been some rare rain. The water rations, which came up in gerry cans with the food, was in short supply - one water bottle per man, perhaps twice a day; but I had been given sufficient to make tea for all, with a little to spare.

It poured with rain during that night and everyone was soaked; but next morning the sun soon removed all trace of the rain. The following day, Sunday, remained quiet, until the evening when the cook's wagon came up in half-light. The Germans spotted it, and once again our area came in for another short but nasty barrage, shells and shrapnel making a mess of equipment and small trucks, which we had thought well concealed. Miraculously, there were no casualties; though a corporal, Bill Steele, was knocked out by the blast of a shell, luckily, he did not catch any shrapnel and soon recovered.

The morning of Monday, October 12th was relatively quiet. Everyone was warned against any unnecessary movement, so we lay doggo. Occasionally, when a jeep or lorry created the slightest dust trail, the Germans were quick to send over a few shells. It was a really hot day; avoiding the sun and flies was a problem. In the afternoon, I had very little to do, as the pre-cooked meal would not be arriving before dark. So I decided to catch up with some overdue correspondence. I settled down in my slit trench. Since I had been constantly jumping in



## Association Annual Reunion November 2006



Malcolm Barker (left), over from America,  
with Darcy O'Farrell



As recorded in the pictures on this page and on the top half opposite, the reunion offers an opportunity to exchange reminiscences and to renew friendships.



"Time gentlemen please"  
The evening winds down

## Museum Open Day April 2007



The Museum Chairman receives the medals of the late Vic Aukett



The re-enactors persuade the audience it is time to leave



Adding to global warming



and out of the soft sand trench and deepening it, it was by now some three feet deep and wide. I sat at one end, back to the sun, and started to write, when in jumped my friend, Oliver, with a shower of sand - and a bit more of the trench collapsed. He sat opposite.

We must have been there for ten minutes, daydreaming as to where we would rather be. For a plunge into that cool, blue Med we were prepared to give an extra month of service in the land of sun, sand and flies. Then we heard that drone, sounding ominously like German bombers. I felt a nervous quickening of excitement. They were coming in with the sun behind them, so we could not be one hundred per cent sure what or whom they were. They circled around for a few minutes, no doubt searching for their target.

We were arguing as to whether they were “ours” or “theirs”. But the next moment left no doubt. The Stukas dipped their noses and came screaming down. There was no mistaking a Stuka. Apart from its wing shape, it was equipped with a siren that screamed as it dived and was quite terrifying. I had seen a few dive-bombing attacks in the desert and in France in 1940 - some had been quite close. But this time they were coming for us. We could not see the planes because of the sun behind them, and this made the screech of their siren even more intense. Every rifle, machine gun and Bofors within a mile opened fire. The sky became a mass of blue-black puffs of exploding ack-ack shells. It was hard to believe there were that many guns in the area. Amidst the terrific din of anti-aircraft fire we lay side by side in the trench - judgement day passing by. As I lay there on my back, three Stukas suddenly broke into sight, still diving, and now very low.

As they came out of the sun, the anti-aircraft fire built up to a crescendo of rifles, machine guns, exploding shells and bombs. Absolutely deafening. Now I could see them release their bombs, which came screaming down straight for us, many landing amongst our trenches. We were fortunate they landed mainly in soft sand; but the blast of the bombs caused the sand to heave - and our trench caved in. We were almost buried in sand. Although the Stukas were no doubt peppered with holes, they seemed to emerge from their dive unscathed. Amazing! Then they were gone. We emerged from the sand, our faces covered in thick dust, looking like zombies, shaken and dazed, relieved to be still in one piece. A minute later three or four Hurricane fighters appeared and gave chase.

We began surveying the extensive damage to jeeps, lorries and equipment, which we assumed had been well camouflaged and out of sight, and checking that no one had been hurt. But the area was in such a shambles - dust and churned up sand - it was difficult to find the trenches. Then someone realised that Sammy Cohen and Stan Bucknell were missing, and so was their trench.

The awful thought struck us that they were buried some feet under the sand. Everyone started to dig like mad in the area where their trench had been. Then we found them, about four feet down. The sand was pulled from their mouths, but it was too late; for although only minutes

had elapsed, they were dead. They had dug their trench quite deep, then burrowed into the side at the bottom for extra protection. They were probably squeezed in there when a bomb landed a few feet away, and the whole lot had collapsed on them.

At dusk the evening meal arrived, and I issued it to a very quiet crowd of chaps, subdued by the loss of two of our mates. The Germans must have spotted some movement and lobbed over a few stray shells; so everyone dispersed.

The next day began quietly. Later, I lay concealed on a ridge, watching the Germans in the distance through the Sergeant’s binoculars. They were on the receiving end of our shelling this time. We could hear the guns of our own artillery coming from the rear, the shells whistling overhead; the German lorries zig-zagging wildly to avoid being hit.

We were relieved, and moved back during the night without any further incident, arriving at A echelon about 3a.m.; it was a pleasant, quiet spot, some miles from any trouble, which gave us the chance to relax a little and clean ourselves up.

In the distance I could still see Mount Himeimat.

With hindsight, I wonder at the sadistic mind of the designer who conjured up the Stuka. Was his mind as crooked as those crooked wings, which gave an impression of a giant bird of prey - which it was? When it dived and released its bomb load, it set off a screaming siren. It had been designed before WW2, and first used against defenceless civilians in the Spanish Civil war. But they were relatively slow planes; so let’s hope the Hurricanes caught up with them and gave them something to scream about.

The Stuka, with its crooked wings,  
A Vulture,  
A giant bird of prey.

□ □ □

Congratulations  
and  
Best Wishes



Congratulations to Doug and Margaret Mitchell who celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversary on 12th April 2007.

□ □ □

1st Battalion The Queen’s Royal Regiment: Malaya 1954-57

The 1st Battalion The Queen’s Royal Regiment spent almost three years on operations in Malaya during the State of Emergency. The Battalion disembarked from the troopship Georgic at Singapore on the 12th February 1954, and staged in Selarang Barracks. After intensive jungle warfare training in South Johore, the Battalion moved to the Malacca area, taking over from 1st Gordons.



It was widely scattered, with Battalion HQ, Support and HQ Companies at Tampin, ‘A’ and ‘B’ Companies at Rompin about 30 miles NE, ‘C’ Company at South Johol between Tampin and Rompin, and ‘D’ Company at Ayet Tekah about 50 miles away in the foothills of the 4,000ft Mount Ophir, a centre of terrorist activity. Soon ‘A’ Company moved on to Bahau, another terrorist trouble-spot 10 miles NW of Rompin. The ‘Dog Platoon’, a new unit, with 14 Patrol and Tracker dogs plus handlers, joined Support Company.

A Communist terrorist (CT) surrendered to ‘B’ Company the first day the Battalion became operational. On the 12th April, the Battalion’s first successful operation was a night ambush by a patrol of ‘B’ Company under 2/Lieutenants M J Doyle and M C Greenleaf. When fire was stopped, a search party found one body and two packs; a first-light search disclosed another body and a third blood-stained pack.

Meanwhile ‘D’ Company was engaged in numerous ambushes and patrols both on Mount Ophir and among tidal swamps. Two CTs surrendered to 11 Platoon, and four days later 2/Lieutenant J G W Davidson’s 10 Platoon ambushed two CTs in the marshes, killing one; the other escaped wounded.

At the end of April, a tactical Battalion HQ with ‘D’ and ‘C’ Companies mounted an operation in the Mount Ophir area. The target was a supposed Communist State Committee Meeting. Nothing was found, but tragically during this operation Sgt Jones, Ptes Fisher and Braybrook, and a local tracker lost their lives.



'C' Company now moved to Fort Iskander, a police post in deep jungle NW of Bahau, to protect and gain the confidence of the friendly Semalan aborigines. Supply was entirely by air-drop, which worked well. 9 Platoon remained at the Fort as supply link and carrying out local medical patrols, while the other platoons patrolled the swamp and jungle round the Tasch Bera Lake.

On the 7th May, while 'D' Company was operating round Mount Ophir, 10 Platoon killed two CTs. On 6th June five CTs were contacted by 2/Lieutenant Greenleaf's 5 Platoon of 'B' Company; Corporal Sibley was wounded by a grenade and his water-bottle (now in the Regimental Museum) shattered. The patrol then charged, killed two CTs and wounded a third who got away.

'C' Company operated for a month in deep jungle supplied by air, while 'A' and 'B' companies took part in a combined operation between 13th/17th June, when an unoccupied CT camp was found. On the 20th, 4 Platoon ambushed four CTs, killing three. On the 23rd 2/Lieutenant M J Foster, attached to 10 Platoon for experience and on his first patrol, shot dead a CT. The CT, a State Committee Member carrying valuable documents, was the most important kill in the area for years. Another was wounded and captured but died later. On the 30th, a patrol of 'C' Company's 9 Platoon under Cpl Furlonger killed two CTs near South Johol.

On the 1st July the Battalion came under command 63 Gurkha Infantry Brigade with the aim of attacking (in conjunction with 2/6 Gurkha Rifles) the CT 'Border Committee' which operated mainly in the Mount Ophir area. However 'A' Company was detached to 1st Somerset Light Infantry at Kajang, 100 miles North; that area had already been thoroughly patrolled and no CTs could be found. On 24th July, 3 Platoon moved SW to deal with a CT camp which had been detected in the swamps West of Sepang. The camp was found empty, but the Platoon lived there for four days during which a patrol under Cpl Banks shot one CT. Tragically 2/Lieutenant R M Townsend was killed during the operation. At the month's end, 'A' Company rejoined the Battalion at Bukit Serimpan near Mount Ophir, with 'B' at Tanam Merah and 'D' at Ayer Tekah; all were involved in constantly patrolling the precipitous slopes and surrounding swamps. 'C' Company remained at South Johol, also patrolling. On 19th August 2/Lieutenant Doyle's 4 Platoon killed two CTs.

This persistent patrolling had collected much information, and on the 27th August the mountain was subjected to a week's continuous harassing mortar and artillery fire and bombing from the air. Millions of leaflets were dropped urging the CTs to surrender; to facilitate their doing so, all military movement was banned between the 4th and 6th September when the operation ended. Only three surrenders took place, but later 2/Lieutenant B D Bartlett's 1 Platoon of 'A' Company ambushed and killed two CTs.

'B' Company now moved East to Labis, and 'C' North to Gemas where they lay-up in local 'gardens' suspected as a source of food supply for CTs.

On the 27th September and throughout October, Operation 'Trapper' was ongoing on Mount Ophir, where it was believed an important CT Committee Meeting was to be held. A jungle base 'Braganza Camp' was maintained on the mountain by 'D' Company; platoons of other Companies were attached from time to time. Despite patrolling and protracted ambushes, no CTs were killed, but the mountain had been made so uncomfortable for them that the Committee Meeting and the whole mountain was abandoned, the CTs moving to the more unsavoury swamp-lands below. After 'Trapper' one platoon, frequently rotated, was always maintained on the mountain.

In late November the North-East monsoon broke. It was the worst in many years and all Companies were engaged in flood relief. Nevertheless, patrolling continued and five CTs were killed during the month.

Christmas was celebrated in full operational state. Additionally, the Battalion was preparing for 'Petard', a joint Army, RAF and Police operation. It had been reported that over a ton of food was stored in Keban Bahru 'new village' (the inhabitants of which were mostly Communist sympathisers), and that CTs were planning to move this in one lift. On Christmas night 'D' Company moved to a hiding place a mile from the village, where they lay up for eight days.

On the night of 3rd January it was reported that the CTs were going to move the food. 'Cut Off' parties stood by, and at last light 'D' Company, the main assault party, went forward to the food dump. The moment firing was heard, 'A', 'B', and 'C' Companies moved into position, while two armoured car troops of the 4th Hussars and Federation Armoured Car Regiment together with the Battalion's own MMG and Mortar Platoons brought fire to bear on the one area, a large swamp, not covered by the cordon. RAF Sunderland flying boats were called in and dropped flares for the rest of the night to illuminate the scene in conjunction with two RA searchlights. Only two CTs, fortunately the most important ones, were killed, and four surrendered later, which eliminated that particular CT Branch.

In January virtually the whole Battalion was in the jungle. At the end of the month 2 Platoon of 'A' Company and 5 Platoon of 'B', located a terrorist camp on Mount Ophir; two CTs were killed.

In February and March attention was increasingly switched to the Malacca area, which had been proclaimed the first 'White Area' as the result of a progressive policy to 'normalise' civilian activity in areas where terrorist influence had been greatly curbed, but to which CTs were transferring their activities due to the unrelenting pressure on Mount Ophir. Reacting to this development involved constant patrolling and one combined 'C' & 'D' Companies' operation.

By 25th March, at the end of the Battalion's first operational year, twenty-eight CTs had been killed, and nineteen caused to surrender.

In April, Operation 'Mentor' involved encirclement of Sagil, a 'new village' South of Mount Ophir where it was known a terrorist store of food had been collected. One CT Committee Member was killed. Further incidents occurred, and the Battalion's Companies were out frequently but caught no terrorists.

At the end of April, 'A' and 'C' Companies moved South to Kota Tinggi and Pengerang respectively, and were immediately involved in a combined Services Operation against 'CTs' in the Pengerang peninsular - thick jungle and swamp, and wide open to illegal emigration and food running from nearby Singapore Island; there were virtually no roads so the two Companies were moved and supplied by launch, and supported by RAF bombing and fire from RN and Royal Malayan Navy ships.

At the end of May the rest of the Battalion, relieved by 2nd Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers, moved to the Kluang area, to be rejoined six weeks later by 'A' and 'C' Companies. The new area was even more active than the previous one but the CTs were elusive, and only one was killed in the first month of operations.

'A' and 'C' Companies were deployed with a platoon each in six of the most uncooperative 'new villages', keeping in check Communist influence and gaining the confidence of the villagers. 'D' Company was flown into deep jungle to ambush 'CTs' in jungle cultivations, while 'B' Company patrolled in the Rengam area achieving the one 'kill' of the month.

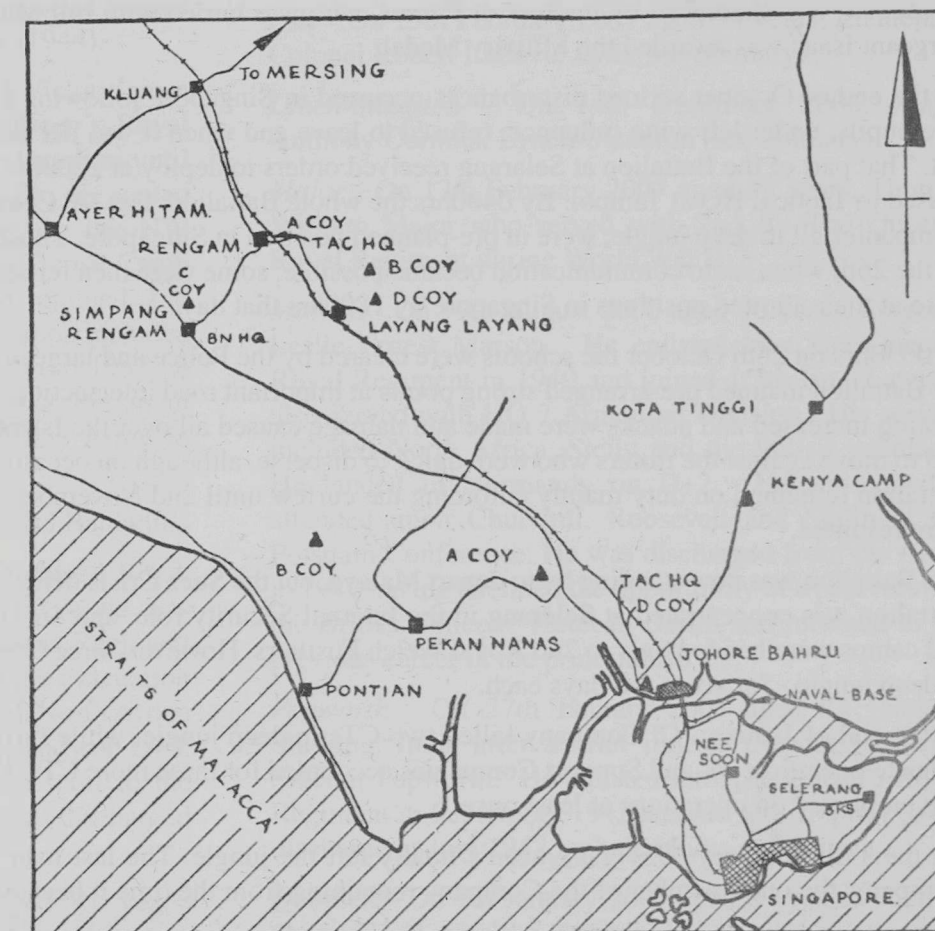
At the end of June the Battalion moved to Selerang Barracks to retrain and to take over Internal Security duties in Singapore. This phase lasted through July and August.

On the 9th September the Prime Minister of the newly elected Government of Malaya declared an amnesty for the CTs on most favourable terms, and military activities were drastically reduced. However, very few Communist surrenders took place and in some areas hostile incidents actually increased. A strong concentration of troops was ordered to confront them. 1st Queen's was to operate in the Rengam area, in cooperation with other units, including 1st Northern Rhodesia Regiment commanded by Lieutenant Colonel G H W Goode (Queen's). The two Battalions had a common tactical boundary, the Queen's operating in the estates and the Northern Rhodesians in the jungle.

The Queen's were responsible for five 'new villages', a large number of estates, and patches of jungle between. This involved long patrols, perpetually checking workers and villagers, searching vehicles and buildings for surplus food, and dealing with incidents often at night. These activities successfully sapped the strength of the Rengam Communist Branch. There were vast oil palm estates in the south of the Battalion area near Layang Layang, and as far as possible these were denied to the CTs by mortar and MG fire on the approaches, and by constant patrolling.

In January and February, Company patrolling continued plus several large sweeps in estates conducted as Battalion operations - two CTs were killed, and one member of 'D' company wounded. A 'C' Company patrol had a contact in thick oil palms, and a female armed CT was captured by an English planter with his two Malayan Police escorts after an exchange of fire. She gave much useful information resulting in the surrender of three more CTs and the virtual elimination of the Rengam Communist Branch. The Malayan Government amnesty had ended on the 8th February. Battalion HQ, which had been based at Kota Tinggi, now moved to join Tactical HQ at Simpang Rengam.

In April the Battalion was ordered to Singapore at short notice, in anticipation of civilian rioting. First based at Nee Soon Garrison, later when riots failed to materialise the Battalion was ordered to move to Selerang Barracks and to take over permanent Internal Security duties from 1st King's Own Scottish Borderers. In mid-June, as the situation was quieter



South Johore and Singapore Island  
(not to scale)



in Singapore, the Queen’s were authorised to deploy three Companies in South Johore for counter-CT operations. A Tactical HQ and ‘D’ Company were established at Tampoi, ‘A’ Company at Linden Rubber Estate, and ‘B’ at Pekan Nanas Pineapple Estate.

On 6th July a six man patrol of ‘B’ Company under Sergeant Isaac, had a major success. In the thick undergrowth of a rubber estate, L/Corporal Hughes who was leading indicated that CTs were ahead. Sergeant Isaac quietly deployed the patrol into extended line and ordered ‘Charge’. Four CTs started to run away firing as they went. Sergeant Isaac, ignoring their fire, halted his men 20 yards from the CTs and ordered ‘Fire’. One CT fell but appeared to be about to throw a grenade so was dealt with by Private Cooper. The patrol continued to advance firing at intervals, and had killed three more CTs when there was a shout that Private J A Purves had been hit. He and Private Millhouse had pursued and shot a fifth CT, who in falling had shot Purves who later died. By resolute and skilful action this small patrol had killed five CTs, but its success was shadowed by the loss of Purves, who was buried with full Military Honours in Singapore the next day. Sergeant Isaac was awarded the Military Medal.

At the end of October serious disturbances occurred in Singapore following Government closure of two large schools. The pupils, under left wing influence, refused to leave and when it was decided to turn them out by force rioting broke out. That part of the Battalion at Selarang received orders to deploy at 2200hrs on 25th October, and the same order was passed to Tactical HQ at Tampoi. By 0400hrs the whole Battalion, less ‘A’ Company and one platoon each of ‘B’ and ‘D’ Companies all in deep jungle, were in pre-planned position in Singapore. Those in the jungle were contacted at first light on the 26th when radio communication became possible; some were then ferried out by helicopter and some marched: all were at their allotted positions in Singapore by 1800hrs that day.

At 0630hrs on 26th October the schools were cleared by the Police and large unruly crowds appeared on the streets. Half the Battalion manned pre-arranged strong points at important road intersections, while the remainder was held in reserve. Rioting increased and attacks were made and damage caused all over the Island. Several times Companies and Platoons had to move against the rioters who were quick to disperse, although on occasion it was necessary to fire a few shots. The Battalion remained on duty mainly enforcing the curfew until 2nd November, and shortly afterwards Johore operations were resumed.

The Battalion was now standing by to depart Malaya, but the Suez Crisis delayed the sailing date. At Christmas the whole Battalion was concentrated at Selarang in the Internal Security role, and on 31st December the Johore operational area and camps were handed over to 2nd Royal Welch Fusiliers. However, three Companies at a time were sent for operations in deep jungle - for six to ten days each.

At the end of January ‘C’ Company killed two CTs in deep jungle, while further south in the Geylang Patah area, in a Brigade operation, ‘A’ and Support Companies accounted for three more CTs. During the last few weeks every Company was employed on operations at least once.

On the 14th February 1957 1st Queen’s finally left the jungle. The last man to do so was Sergeant Isaac MM of ‘B’ Company, the only member of the Company remaining from the time it became operational three years earlier.

Over the three years 46 CTs had been killed, and many surrendered as a direct result of the Battalion’s operations, but figures give little idea of the vast effort to which all ranks contributed. All were essential parts of a cohesive and very effective whole. This was against a background of heat and humidity alternating with the contrasting chill and saturation of tropical downpours, the considerable discomfort of vicious insects including malarial mosquitoes, voracious leeches, and other less than friendly flora and fauna, all of which placed a premium on maintenance of full physical fitness. Nevertheless with leadership and good training, morale was high, and demands and hazards surmounted.

It is remarkable that throughout the three years, a large proportion of the Battalion had been National Service officers and men, and short-term (3 years) Regulars, who conducted themselves with credit, endured the hard conditions with courage and cheerfulness, and accepted responsibilities well beyond what might have been expected of them. An important operational factor in Malaya was the continuing change-over of officers, NCOs and men, which made the high all-round standard maintained all the more creditable. This was largely due to the care taken in training drafts from the United Kingdom. They did not join their Companies for six weeks, two of which were spent in acclimatization, two learning to live and shoot in the jungle, and two on long patrols under instructors in quiet areas.

However, the Battalion’s success would not have been possible without the dedicated service of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants, who bore the brunt of operations, frequently exercising independent command when no Officer was available, and providing also the essential continuity as Company and Platoon Commanders, National Service men and short-term Regulars came and went.

Such achievement was not without its cost, and a memorial plaque originally installed in St George’s Church, Tanglin Barracks, Singapore, but now in Holy Trinity Church Guildford, records seven Battalion members Killed In Action, and three who died on Active Service.

# Regimental Deaths

*Arnold* - On 1st May 2007 aged 88 years, WOII Ernest George Arnold. Having attended the Duke of York’s Military School and very briefly been with the Queen’s Bays, he joined The Queen’s Royal Regiment as a Territorial in 1938. He initially served with 5th Bn before becoming a member of 1/5th Bn in 1939. He was for part of 1940 an instructor at Stoughton Barracks. Prior to his discharge in February 1946, his service included France (1940), North Africa, Italy and Normandy (1944).

*Aukett* - On 7th November 2006, WOII Victor James Aukett. He enlisted into 2nd Bn The Queen’s Royal Regiment in July 1935, serving with the battalion until November 1937 when he moved to the 1st Bn. He served with it until September 1944, including on the NW Frontier and in Burma. Having served on Transit Camp staff following repatriation in 1944, he rejoined 2nd Battalion in 1946. His service with the Battalion included Dortmund, Berlin, Iserlohn and Malaya. From 1957 he was with 6th Bn (TA) The Queen’s Royal Regiment as WOII (PSI). He was discharged from the Army in November 1960.

*Baldwin* - On 8th March 2007, Edward David Baldwin.

*Boyd* - On 14th January 2007, Sergeant Kenneth Boyd. Having enlisted into the Territorials in 1937, he was mobilised into 1/5th Bn The Queen’s Royal Regiment in September 1939. His service included the evacuation from Dunkirk in 1940 and also operations in North Africa and Italy. He subsequently landed in Normandy on D+3, serving through to Berlin where he was Escort to the Colours on the Allied Victory Parade. He was discharged in November 1945.

*Burgess* - On 22nd November 2006 aged 71 years, David Clive Burgess FCA. Having served as a Volunteer Reserve with the Royal Marines 1957-59, he was a National Service Officer with 1st Bn The Queen’s Royal Surrey Regiment 1959-61. He had qualified as a chartered accountant before National Service and he returned to that profession on leaving the Army. Prior to his final retirement in 1993 he also worked as a management consultant. He was a keen sailor and a member of the Army and the Royal Navy Sailing Associations.

*Caffyn* - On 30th November 2006, Major William Douglas ‘Bill’ Caffyn (see obituary).

*Howard* - On 15th April 2007 aged 89 years, Major Eustace Aubrey Francis ‘Effy’ Howard. Effy Howard joined 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment from Sandhurst briefly in 1937, before moving to the 1st Surreys in Sudan for about 8 months. He rejoined the 2nd Bn in August 1938 serving with it in Malaya. Held by the Japanese as a PoW, after release in 1945, he served briefly with 12 ITC before holding a number of staff appointments between 1946-52, during which time he also attended the Staff College, Camberley. He served again with 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment 1952-54, and with 6th Surreys 1954-56. He retired from the Army in 1958;

he subsequently worked in manufacturing, in marketing and consultancy, and as management and investment consultant before retiring in June 1995.

*Jelley* - On 19th January 2007 aged 87 years, WOII Leonard Henry Jelley. He enlisted into 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment in April 1936 and was discharged after 12 years service in 1948. He joined 23rd London Regiment in May 1957 and was then a member of 4th Bn The Queen’s Royal Surrey Regiment before finishing his service in March 1967.

*Lyle* - On 15th February 2007 aged 94 years, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Ludovic Lyle (see obituary).

*Lynch-Staunton* - On 14th December 2006, Major Anthony Cormick Lynch-Staunton (see obituary).

*Major* - On 12th February 2007 aged 88 years, Thomas William Major who served with 2nd Bn The Queen’s Royal Regiment during World War II.

*Marson* - On 19th August 2006 aged 90 years, Sergeant Leslie Ernest Marson. He enlisted into The Queen’s Royal Regiment in 1940 and joined 1/5th Bn. Later he also served with HQ 7 Armoured Division. His service included North Africa, Sicily and the Italian mainland. He landed in Normandy on D+2. He subsequently attended upon Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin at the Potsdam Conference. He was discharged from the Army in 1947 having declined the opportunity of a post running the British Officers’ Hotel in Berlin and returned to his previous career in the print industry.

*Papworth* - On 27th January 2007 aged 83 years at Shillong, India after a brief illness, Dermot Frederick Sinclair Papworth. He enlisted into The Queen’s Royal Regiment in September 1942 and his service prior to his discharge in July 1947 included India and Burma.

*Quinnell* - On 7th January 2007 aged 87 years, Thomas Quinnell. A pre-War Territorial at Farnham, he served with 1/5th Bn The Queen’s Royal Regiment in France (1940) and subsequently with the 1st Bn The Queen’s Royal Regiment in Burma and in India. He was for many years a prominent member of local Dunkirk and Burma Star Associations.

*Rice* - On 24th February 2007, Reginald George Rice who served with The East Surrey Regiment.

*Salter* - On 11th April 2007 aged 93 years, Sergeant William James Salter. He enlisted at Edgeware in November 1939 joining 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment. His service prior to his discharge in October 1945 included France, Belgium, Algeria, Tunisia, Sicily and Malta.

*Theobalds* - On 12th November 2006, Captain Henry George Theobalds. Having originally enlisted into The Hampshire Regiment he was subsequently commissioned into 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment. His service included Italy and Greece. He was wounded at San Fortunato and again whilst serving in Greece; he also served with War Graves registration and was discharged in February 1947.



*Ward* - On 17th January 2007, Raymond Ward who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment.

## Regimental Family

*Hill* - On 30th January 2007 aged 87 years, Mrs Daphne Hill, widow of Major PGE Hill (see obituary).

*Jones* - On 7th December 2006, Mrs Doreen Jones, widow of Terry Jones of 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment and 6th Queen's OCA.

*Roll* - In November 2006, Mrs A (Chris) Roll, wife of John Roll of 2nd Bn and 6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

## Obituaries

### Major WD Caffyn (Major Toby Taylor writes)

Those of us who served in the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the war are getting scarce, but those of us who remain will always remember that great character, 'Bill' Caffyn. He was a pre-war Territorial and one of the first non-regular officers to join us in France in 1939.

During the withdrawal to Dunkirk he soon found himself commanding 'C' Company, a position he held until taken prisoner-of-war in Tunisia in April 1943. During the night attack the fighting was somewhat confused, and after the war he told me that he was suddenly surrounded whilst attending some wounded.

Being a prisoner-of-war was not for 'Bill' Caffyn, and when the Italians called for an armistice he escaped from a POW camp in northern Italy and for many weeks dressed in old civilian clothes worked his way south to meet the advancing Allies. After many adventures and great help from Italian villagers he met up with French/Moroccan troops. Later he told me that this was his most difficult time as the Moroccans could not understand English and he appeared to be a scruffy civilian, and not an English army officer! Eventually a French officer who spoke English appeared and understood who he was.

After the war he returned to his civilian career as a chartered surveyor. Not being one for formal regimental occasions he and his wife 'Pru' for many years organised re-unions for former 1st Battalion war-time officers. These were well attended and continued until a few years ago when there were not many of us left! Much of his retirement was devoted to charitable work such as helping pensioners with tax returns and other financial problems.

He was a great sportsman and lover of the countryside. Built as a second-row forward, he was selected in France in 1939 to play rugger for the British Army against the French. I believe he first met his wife 'Pru' playing in a tennis tournament. As a skilled fly-fisherman we spent

many happy days together after the war in this pleasant pursuit. In civilian life as in the army he was always held in the highest esteem. A man of the highest integrity he will be greatly missed by those fortunate enough to have known him.

He died last November at the age of 94 and our thoughts are with 'Pru' and the family.

### Mrs PGE Hill (Colonel Toby Sewell writes)



Mrs Daphne Hill who died on 30th January 2007 at the age of 87 was a remarkable and much admired Regimental wife. She married Major PGE Hill, then Assistant Secretary of the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association, in 1973.

This was 35 years after they had first met on board on a Troopship when 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment was returning from Khartoum, after the tour which had included the Battalion starring in the film of "The Four Feathers", and she was returning from India, where her father Major-General Sir Leslie Phillips KCB MC, late Royal Signals, was serving.

In 1977 the Queen's Surreys Museum was required to be moved to Clandon Park, at the invitation of the National Trust. Major Peter Hill became a member of the Committee, and his wife came too. She threw herself into the practicalities of the Museum, establishing a key position, enthusiastic and inspiring, and the setting up of the Museum at Clandon owed a great deal to Peter and Daphne.

Then for twenty years or more they both came over from their home at Heathfield every Wednesday and worked tirelessly. Daphne was a continual positive critic and proposer of improvements and innovations for the Museum itself, and also for the Museum publications and booklets.

Even when increasing disability prevented her from coming to the museum Daphne Hill retained her detailed interest, with a final special work the production of an extensive booklet to cover all aspects of the East Surrey Regimental Chapel at Kingston-Upon-Thames.

For the last two years of her life she was a resident at the Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond but still continued to attend Association events.

During the 1939-1945 War she was an officer in the ATS serving for some time as a D A P M in Cairo. Later in 1953 she joined the W.R.A.C. TA and served for twelve years, retiring as a Major. During this time she qualified

as a member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists. In retirement she became a very active member of the W.R.A.C. Association.

Daphne Hill was a great servant and friend of the Regiment and this was recognized by her being elected to membership of the Queens Royal Surrey Regiment Association in 1985.

### Major Anthony Lynch-Staunton

(Lieutenant MA Lowry MBE MC writes)



Tony Lynch-Staunton and I first met when I joined him and The 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment in India in September 1939. He was exactly a year senior and older than me.

His father was in the Indian Army in the Baluch Regiment and Tony was born in Quetta (now in Pakistan) on 5th January 1918. In 1935

Quetta suffered a devastating earthquake, resulting in thousands losing their lives; a minor tragedy for Tony was that his birth certificate was lost: in due course the local Government produced a piece of paper which says: "...it was presumed that Tony ... was born ....."! He was educated at Stowe School from 1931-1936.

Tony was in the Army Supplementary Reserve between March 1938 and January 1939 serving with the Highland Light Infantry. He received a regular commission in that January into the 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment in the Fort in Allahabad in India. It was here that he was asked by the Commanding Officer to take me under his wing, show me around the Battalion and explain how things worked! I quickly learnt through him that the Regiment did not suffer fools gladly.

In 1940 the Battalion moved to Razmzk on the North West Frontier Province of India: Tony spent about two years commanding 'B' Company on operations on that Frontier. I was one of his three platoon commanders. Tony's commonsense and laid back approach to his responsibilities were ideal for me; his replies to my queries were invariably given with an upbeat twist of humour which disarmed any anxieties I may have had.

Operations on the Frontier involved road opening days to enable the various Forts to receive supplies of food, ammunition and reinforcements, and for backloading casualties, soldiers going on leave and so on. Very importantly, during Tony's time there were two major operations: one in the freezing winter, which was due to be completed in twelve days, but owing to the tribal opposition took us seven weeks! The summer operations

involved marching 500 miles through the mountains at 7,000 feet down to some 200 feet into malaria country: this operation took nearly two months.

Tony picked up some bug and was evacuated to England in 1942, when he joined the Commandos and became Staff Captain to a Commando Brigade. He went with them to serve in Italy throughout most of 1944, and for a time in Albania, where he was awarded a Mention in Despatches; before the end of 1944 he rejoined The Queen's and served with the 2nd/5th Battalion.

After the Second World War he was posted to Washington to become the Military Assistant to the General Commanding the British Army Staff; he held this appointment for two years until the end of 1947.

He returned to the 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1948 in Berlin, where he commanded a company and was captain of the Battalion cricket team. His final army posting was as a Grade 2 staff officer (Major) at the Joint Concealment Centre at Netheravon, and he retired from the Army in 1958.

He became a Stockbroker until 1970 when he joined a Building Society firm until retirement in 1981.

In the winter months he much enjoyed shooting and used the occasions to teach his young sons the safety factors such as taking the corks out of their pop-guns when walking to the next stand!

Tony had always been an enthusiastic cricketer with considerable style and an accomplished batsman. There were many happy occasions when he opened the innings with the writer, in particular on our annual two-day Regimental match against the Royal Navy's HMS Excellent team at Whale Island and Guildford. A cricket story he told against himself related to an occasion when he was umpiring at square leg. A batsman hit a ball to square leg, Tony went into instinctive overdrive and stuck his arm out and caught the ball. But of course there is nothing in the rules of cricket which says that a batsman is out if caught by the umpire!

We shall miss Tony, a man of considerable charm who brought happiness to many. Our sympathy goes to Mary his wife, and his children Victoria, Diana, Anthony and Charles.

### Lieutenant Colonel R L Lyle OBE

Robert Lyle came to The East Surrey Regiment from a war time Emergency Commission in the 8th Punjab Regiment, Indian Army at the end of World War II. He had been Staff Captain of the 6th Indian Infantry Brigade in Malaya when The East Surrey Regiment were the British Battalion of that Brigade and said that was the reason he chose the Regiment when granted a Regular Commission in the British service.

He had been fortunate to escape, with considerable help from the Royal Navy, from Singapore when it fell to the



Japanese although he was sunk about a hundred miles south of Singapore. From there he had spent a month hopping from island to island by various means until reaching Sumatra from where an elderly Dutch Coaster took them to Ceylon. After a period of medical treatment he was appointed DAAG of the newly set up Ceylon Command. From there he was selected to attend the 6th War course at the Staff College in Quetta. After this he returned to Ceylon as DAQMG. Here he met a WREN, Monica, and they were married a few months later. He was then posted to Trincomalee as DAA&QMG where Monica was able to join him.

After VJ Day they returned to England on leave; he had been overseas for nine years! There was then a spell in Burma as DAA&QMG of an Indian Infantry Brigade. Some six months into that posting Monica joined him on a thing called Operation Union and their daughter was born in Burma under pretty primitive conditions. While in Burma his Regular Commission came through but he continued to serve in Burma until the Political unrest was at its worst. He was then ordered to return to England to take up his Regular Commission. However, he could not join The East Surrey Regiment as they were abroad so was posted to The Queens Royal Regiment in Dortmund, Germany.

Later the Battalion was posted to Berlin and Robert was sent with his Company as Advance Party. They went by road but the Russians stopped them at the Magdeburg bridge with the excuse that the bridge was unsafe. Eventually the convoy crossed the Elbe on a cable ferry, one vehicle at a time, and as a result the convoy was very late arriving in Berlin. It had almost caused an international incident since the convoy had had no means of telling Berlin what had happened and it was thought that it had been put "in the bag". The convoy were the last vehicles into Berlin by road until after the Airlift was over.

Towards the end of the Airlift he was posted as MA to the Governor of Trieste Free Territory where he remained for three years. He then joined The East Surrey Regiment in Tripoli, North Africa. A spell of Regimental duties followed with some desert training and a journey in a Tank Landing craft with an Advance Party en route to Egypt. They got no further than Tobruk where they were held up for a month or more before returning to Tripoli and thence to Derna, a little nearer Egypt. After a few months in Derna he was sent with an Advance Party consisting of Headquarter Company to Tel El Kebir in Egypt to relieve a Battalion of the Foresters. Here he was stuck as Egypt 'blew up' again and it was some two months before the Battalion arrived.

His promotion to Lieutenant Colonel led to an appointment of AA&QMG in England followed by a similar appointment in Nigeria. Here he saw through the Nigerianisation of the forces. He retired from the army in 1959, the same year in which he was awarded the OBE. Shortly afterwards he became a Regimental Trustee, an appointment which he held for almost thirty years.

He joined the Central Office of Information looking after foreign guests of the Foreign Office, and remained in that department for over twelve years. He was able in his spare time to indulge in his passion, sailing small cruisers; he finally gave up sailing having reached his ninetieth year.

Robert Lyle died on 15th February 2007 aged 94 years; we offer our sincerest condolences to his family on their loss.

Regimental Memorial, Rangoon

At the request of the Regimental Association, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Director for the region inspected the Queen's Royal Regiment Memorial, Rangoon, which was reportedly in need of refurbishment, during his recent visit. In the Director's opinion the memorial was structurally sound and required no more than cleaning and the replacement of the lead filling of a few of the letters in the commemoration panel on the front face of the memorial.

He has instructed their regional manager based in Rangoon to have the whole memorial, including the concrete surround, scrubbed clean, and then to have the rendered surface of the obelisk re-coated with lime wash. The Director had also asked the local manager to attempt to locate a craftsman capable of repairing the lead lettering, although it was not certain he would succeed. Assuming he found someone willing to undertake the job for an acceptable price they will engage him to do so. The Regimental Charity will pay for the cost of the work.

Infantry Junior Leader Battalion (IJLB) Association

The IJLB was formed at Tuxford, Nottinghamshire in 1952, initially being called the Infantry Boys Battalion. Subsequent moves were to Plymouth, Oswestry and then Shorncliffe. There has been an IJLB Association for some years but it has recently undergone a major relaunch and has a new website and forum ([www.ijlb.co.uk](http://www.ijlb.co.uk)).

Those without internet access and wishing to join should contact Dave Midcalf, Membership Secretary, The Maltings, Pound Street, Warminster BA112 8JR Tel: 01985 300919.



Anne Roupell for Mrs Peter Roupell is most grateful for the kind letters of condolence which were sent to her after the sudden & unexpected death of her dearly loved husband Peter. Unfortunately she was unable to answer them all but they were much appreciated. Please accept her belated but most sincere thanks to all.

On behalf of all the late Daphne Hill's family, her daughter Mrs Jayne Sherwood would like to express their thanks for the very kind expressions of sympathy and condolence that were received following their sad loss.

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

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