

MAY 2011

# THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION



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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....'*

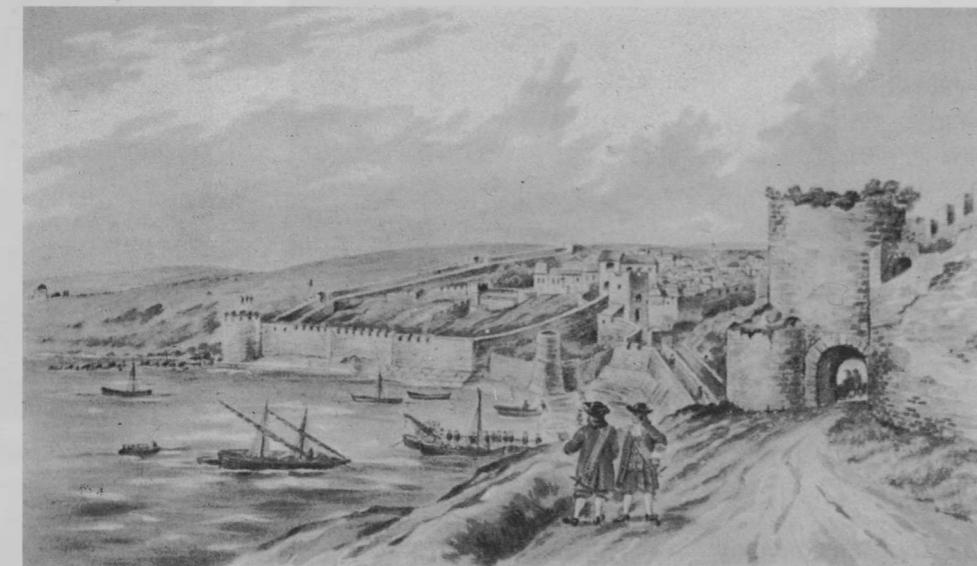
The officers of our new Regiment were recorded as:

- 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.

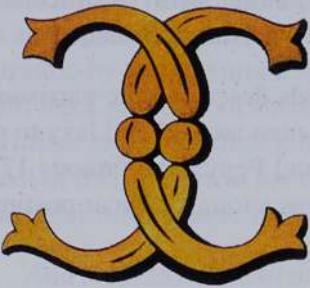
## REGIMENTAL INHERITANCE

**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



Mike Power receives yet another trophy



Colonel Tim Trotman receives the Dodgson 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.

JWS

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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

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.

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NOVEMBER 2006

# THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION



NUMBER 80

President  
Colonel A. C. Ward OBE

Chairman  
Lieutenant Colonel F. B. Herd TD JP DL

Association Secretary and Editor  
Major A. W. Russell MBE

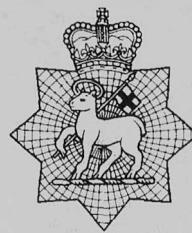
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## NEWSLETTER





## Forecast of Events

2006

20th December

BRITISH BATTALION DAY (1941).

10th February

SOBRAON DAY (1846).

18th March

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum Re-Opens.

19th March

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association, Charity Trustees and Officers' Club Meetings – Clandon (change to forecast date).

29th March

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

22nd April

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum Open Day for Regimental members.

23rd April

YPRES DAY (1915).

26th April

The East Surrey Regiment Officers' Club Lunch.

3rd May

Regimental Golf Society Spring Meeting – Sudbrook Park.

16th May

ALBUHERA DAY (1811).

21st May

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

(date tbc)

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

1st June

THE GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE (1794).

17th June

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association Annual Church Service - Guildford Cathedral 1130 a.m.

1st August

MINDEN DAY.

9th September

SALERNO DAY.

1st October

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

10th October

Regimental Golf Society Autumn Meeting - Woking.

October (date tbc)

The East Surrey OCA Reunion.

2nd November

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

20th December

BRITISH BATTALION DAY (1941).

## President's Notes

The end of 2006 will be the 40th Anniversary of the formation of The Queen's Regiment. I well remember the day in Munster when the 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment paraded for the last time. It was bitterly cold and as we marched off parade we noticed that the Assault Pioneers had changed all the signs to read 1st Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Surreys). Thus the title The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment only existed for some 7 years. That such strong bonds exist even forty years later owes much to the leadership of many. Some of those leaders are no longer with us and though always invidious to name individuals (for fear of offending those not mentioned) tribute must be given to Colonel Toby Sewell and Lieutenant Colonel Les Wilson. Both over the years have done so much to keep our Regimental family together, and our history and traditions alive, not to mention the establishment of our museum.

Your Association seeks to preserve our unique family spirit. We are more fortunate than many other Regiments who were amalgamated at that time in that financially we are not poor – the Regimental Charity has investments worth some £2.1 million. It is the Trustees' objective to ensure that our top priority is benevolence. Elsewhere in this Newsletter is an article reminding how your Association can assist any of you who find yourself, or your dependant, in difficulties.

The second objective of the Trustees is arranging opportunities to maintain comradeship and friendship. Friends are one of the most important things in life. Do make every effort to come to the various reunions and our Cathedral Service. Perhaps branches could arrange a coach? Your Association can also consider helping with the branches' travel costs. Do contact the secretary. The sermon at the June 2007 Cathedral service will be given by Colonel Rev Peter Hewlett-Smith who I first met nearly 50 years ago when Hugh Greatwood was our platoon commander and Paddy Hanagan was our platoon sergeant!!

Gill and I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy 2007.

Tony Ward



2007

## Benevolence

Each edition of the Newsletter reports on the benevolent support which has been provided by the Regimental Charity and from other sources. In the first nine months of this year RHQ PWRR disbursed over £20,000 in benevolent support to individuals on our behalf.

However, it is apparent from time to time that not all who could be eligible are aware of the support which may be available.

### WE ARE HERE TO HELP

Please remember and tell your dependant that there are many Service Charities, including your Regimental Charity, that are available to help if you, or your dependant, are in any kind of difficulties. Don't be hesitant to ask for advice or help; after all most of you will have contributed to Service Charities and even if you haven't you may still be eligible for help if you have served for more than one day, including the Reserve and TA.

Assistance can be provided in a wide range of circumstances: help with Care Home fees, small annuities (including £12 p.w. RBL widows allowance), stair lifts, electric buggies, holidays, funeral expenses, debts and debt advice, help obtaining State benefits, legal expenses, housing advice, new cookers, fridges and other white goods, care phones and many other eventualities.

To get help you should contact either:

our Secretaries, John Rogerson 01227 818053 or Tony Russell 01932 344150, or,

your local SSAFA or British Legion Branch (telephone number in phone book or ask at your local Citizens Advice Bureau).

They will arrange for your local SSAFA representative to visit you, who will confidentially complete a report detailing your circumstances. He/she will then approach your Association and other Service Charities to provide the assistance identified. Help can be arranged very quickly. Even if you don't require help now keep this article handy and ensure your dependant sees it; a leaflet is also enclosed with this Newsletter.

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## Museum News

(by Ian Chatfield)

During the past year the Museum has received some really interesting medal groups very kindly donated by the descendants of the recipients. These groups include a Military Medal and WW1 trio awarded to L/Cpl H C Mills of the 8th Bn The East Surrey Regiment awarded for action at Cheras in May 1917 donated by his nephew Mr David Mills.



Presenting the medals of L/Cpl Mills



L/Cpl Barrett MM in 1917

A third Military Medal group was donated by the two daughters of Arthur Moss another East Surrey soldier who was awarded the MM for repeatedly risking his own life to deliver messages and saving wounded comrades whilst under fire.

Another interesting group donated by the recipient's son are from a local man, Arthur Hayden who volunteered for The Queen's Royal Regiment and served first in India then on to South Africa for the Boer War. Arthur took his discharge in 1908 having served nine years but was recalled to the colours in 1914 and served until 1916 when he lost an arm and was medically discharged: but Arthur made little of his disability and continued to lead a normal life as a gardener and gamekeeper. We have also

received the medals of Lt R Edwards (Queen's), Cpl H W Smith (East Surrey and RAF), Pte F Matthews (East Surrey), L/Cpl Eatwell (East Surrey), Pte J Wright and Pte J O'Donnell (East Surrey), Lt B L S Rich TD (Queen's), Pte E J Scriven (Queen's), and Sgt F W Griffin (Queen's and RASC).

To discover the stories behind the award of these medals please visit the museum where we will be pleased to see you and tell you all we know about the recipients and their medals.

The Museum closed for the winter on 29th October but we are still in attendance should you need items from the shop. "Open Day" for Regimental Association members and their families next year will be on 22nd April when we very much hope you will be able to come to visit your Museum.

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## THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT

(by Major A J Martin)

With battles raging on two fronts with Iraq and Afghanistan, the services are rarely off the front pages of all newspapers. With our scarce resources, limited manpower and failing equipment it is amazing how efficient we are proving. The resourcefulness and bravery of the British soldier has always won the day and this seems to be evident. At last the senior officers also seem to be supporting the soldiers where in this open society the press run rampant over every day actions, sometimes supporting us, other times not too complimentary. We wait and see how the recent turmoil reflects in deployment and senior managerial skills!

The 1st Battalion is in Iraq. They deployed in May 2006 and return in November 2006.



The tour has been characterised by change. Op Telic 8 was advertised as the tour that would realise force level reductions and this would be achieved through transition in the provinces to Iraqi control. Al Muthanna province

was transferred in July 2006. Dhiqar transferred in September and Maysan will eventually be handed over to Provincial Iraqi Control (PIC). It is a difficult period and is by no means completely successful. Force levels reductions have not been achieved. The Battalion has conducted border operations, escort duties and even rescued an Iraqi Army Battalion that was mutinying and disintegrating. After a short time the backbone was put back in them. Operations continue in Basra City: in one contact for 3 hours – 3000 rounds were expended – unaccountable numbers of enemy killed.



On return the battalion will move back to Paderborn and hopefully have a quiet 2007 – no tours are planned (at present!).

The 2nd Battalion is in Ballykelly (NI). HQ 8 Brigade moved out in August 2006 and now the battalion is under command 39 Inf. Bde. Force levels have reduced and by 1st August 2007 the war will be officially over. No more medals (GSM), no more extra finance. The province should revert to pre 1969 force levels and life??!

The battalion obviously continues at a high state of readiness, manning a permanent post in Londonderry and always on standby. They sent a company group to the Falklands Island in July/August, which made an interesting break.

They have recently trained as a battalion at Stanford Training Area – a rare feat in today's overstretched army.

Ballykelly is an old air force base – called Shakleton Barracks after the Shakleton aircraft which was based there during their Submarine Atlantic Search Missions during the Cold War. It was with surprise that they saw a Ryan Air passenger plane land on the closed airport one morning. The pilot had confused the airstrip with Londonderry. After an amusing scene the passengers were bussed out and the plane removed by a different pilot!

The battalion will remain there until the end of 2007 and then move to Cyprus for a 2-year tour.

The 3rd Battalion has increased in size. They have now inherited the Company at Portsmouth, which is now called 'D' Company. This Company has lost the IOW platoon to the RLC. The Battalion has also been authorised to form up a new Company in Rochester. This is excellent news but it will all take a bit of time to consolidate. The Battalion had a very successful annual camp in Okehampton and have at present up to 30 All Ranks serving with 1 PWRR in Iraq. There are constant manpower demands on the Battalion, which is coping very well and recruiting well.

'B' Company the **London Regiment** is now administered and run by the **Guards Division**. They are still capbadged PWRR but sport the Guards Divisional Flash on their uniforms. It seems to be working and poaching has not taken place! Annual Camp this year was in France at La Courtine in the Massif Central. This was training for Somme Company, which will be a composite Company that will deploy with the 12 Mechanical Brigade to Iraq in Spring 2007. Members of 'B' Company will be part of that Company.

The Regiment is in good form. Recruiting is a problem and everyone is working at it. We are under strength along with everyone else. A strong effort is being made to make up the shortfall.

Pte Beharry VC is now an L/Cpl having been promoted in October 2006. He is still Y listed and will soon commence work with the Central Recruiting organisation in London. He recently published his own book, which is good reading.

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## Presentation of Colours: 22nd April 1960

(The following extract from the historical report of 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment describes the day; photographs are from the Regimental Archive)

A glorious sunny spring morning dawned for a day looked forward to for so long by everyone concerned in the preparations. Some 1500 guests were expected and began to arrive about 0930hrs. Thanks to the RAC's road signs and the police, traffic to the four car parks flowed easily; once cars were inside the camp, the many ushers took over and guided guests quickly from their cars to the parade ground. A large seating stand had been erected by the Assault Pioneers from materials supplied by the REs. His Royal Highness Prince Philip arrived by Heron at Honington at 1015hrs and with a police escort reached camp at about 1040hrs. Most of the guests were already seated by this time and at 1045hrs the senior guests arrived: these included:

General & Mrs Riches

General & Lady Dowler

General & Mrs Hobbs

General & Mrs Hughes  
General & Mrs Talbot  
General & Mrs Vesay  
General & Mrs Kendrew  
General & Mrs Whitfield  
Brig & Mrs Roupell  
General & Mrs Batten  
Capt & Mrs Dalgleish RN  
Lt Col Davies – Queen's York Rangers  
Major Ray – South Alberta Lt Horse Regt

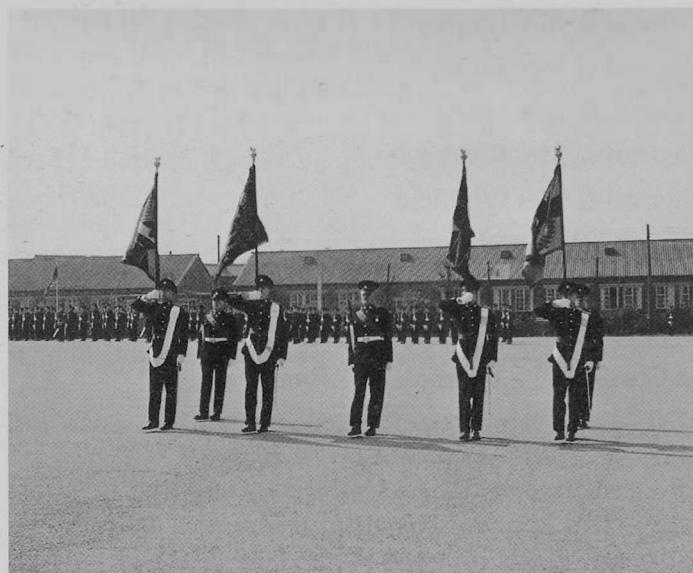
The last two mentioned, Col Davies and Maj Ray, had come from Canada specially for the parade. They are members of the affiliated Regiments, the Queen's York Rangers and the South Alberta Light Horse Regiment respectively.

Just before 1100hrs Gen Lathbury, the Army Commander, came on parade. He was greeted with a general salute. At exactly 1100hrs HRH Prince Philip came onto parade with Gen Metcalfe, the Colonel of the Regiment.



Still in sunshine, the parade, the men in No 1 Dress blues and white buff, the Sgts with their crimson sashes and the Officers in ceremonial, were called to attention by the Commanding Officer for the Royal Salute. After an inspection during which HRH spoke to a few of those on parade, the four old Colours were trooped and it was a sad and moving experience, a few minutes later, to watch them march off parade for the last time.

It was the simplicity of the farewell which made such an impression: the band playing Auld Lang Syne and the four subalterns, completely alone, slow marching away to join the escort.



*The Old Colours are slow-marched off to "Auld Lang Syne"*

It was a most telling moment when suddenly the sadness at seeing the death of two Regiments became joy as the New Colours were uncased for the first time. They were consecrated by the five Chaplains, the ACG, Rev HLO Davies & Revs Bown, Barrett, Houghton and Wade. These last three are the Bn Chaplains resident in Bury.

Prince Philip then handed the Colours to Lts Trotman and Ridger who rejoined the parade for the March Past.



Prince Philip then spoke to the Parade.

It was generally agreed that the parade was of the highest standard and amply rewarded everyone for their hard work.

As soon as the parade ended, Prince Philip returned to the Officers' Mess with the Senior Guests and then, at his request, drove in an open Army Champ to the town for lunch at the Athenaeum. A huge number turned out to cheer him, en route, and were well rewarded when HRH stood up in the Champ to wave to them.

On arrival at the Athenaeum, the Officers of the Bn were presented to Prince Philip as were many other guests, both civil and military. Lunch for HRH was arranged upstairs with the Colonel of the Regiment, the Commanding Officer and the senior officers of the Regiment with the Generals who attended the parade. Prince Philip left about 1415hrs and returned to Honington.

During the remainder of the afternoon, preparations were made for the Sgts Mess Ball and the Beating of Retreat. The latter took place at 2015hrs on Angel Hill and was really the Regiment's farewell to Bury. It was an exceedingly fine performance, though the Band & Drums now numbering 72 must have been very short of room. Once the performance was over, guests went to the Athenaeum once again transformed to a Ballroom. This was the end of a most memorable day – enjoyed by all who had a hand in making it such a success.

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### Recollections of the Battle of Medenine

*(Medenine, 140 miles from Tripoli, was described by Field Marshal Montgomery as a model battle. Between 4-7th March 1943 the Queen's Bde supported by 22 Armd Bde, both of 7th Armd Div (Desert Rats), fought off a series of determined German counter attacks.*

*At first light on 7th March the ground before the infantry positions was littered with wrecked enemy tanks. There were 27 alone in front of 1/7th Queen's. The infantry anti-tank crews, unprotected by either mines or wire, had fought with great valour. No. 5 gun of 1/7th Queen's (Sgt Andrews) claimed eight tanks and No. 7 gun (Sgt Crangles) fourteen. Both NCOs were awarded the DCM. The outcome of the battle allowed the 8th Army to secure the approach to the Mareth Line.*

*Harry Odgaard, who died on 9th July 2006, was a member of the crew of No. 7 gun. After the war he changed his name from Odgaard to Peterson (his father Hans Peter Odgaard was from Norway) when he became distressed at continually being accused of being a German. The following passage was his recollections of the action at Medenine.)*

### MEDENINE 6 MARCH 1943

#### Number 7 gun

- No. 1 Sgt J (Paddy) Crangles
- No. 2 Pte Harry Odgaard (Peterson) - Loader
- No. 3 Pte Noel Falls-Phillips - Layer
- No. 4 Pte Spreckley - Ammunition
- No. 5 Pte Smith (Smudger) - Ammunition & Bren Gun
- No. 6 Pte Chadwick - Driver

We had been told the previous night that we could expect a German attack the next morning and accordingly we stood-to earlier and did not stand-down, although Paddy Crangles sent Smudger and Spreckley to brew up and cook the burgoo whilst Paddy, Phil and I remained by the gun. Jerry started shelling, not heavily and not particularly close to us but enough to confirm that something was going to happen.

I think that a platoon, or what was supposed to be a platoon (I think there were about 18 men) was dug in just to our left and a few yards forward: presumably the right flank platoon of 1/6th Queen's. Sergeant Vincent's gun was on top of the wadi to our left and rear. I expect this was to cover our right flank because although we had a good forward field of fire we did not have a full traverse to our right and ultimately this proved to be our undoing. Anyway, to proceed, the shelling became steadily heavier then tanks could be heard approaching. (I must point out at this stage of the proceedings that we still had the camouflage net on the gun and were well concealed as the net was a very fine sand coloured net and our emplacement was very sandy as we were to experience to our cost later).

At this juncture Smudger Smith shouted "Burgoo's ready". Paddy said "Sod the burgoo - get to the gun". We removed the net, loaded and waited not long and then we joined action.

Paddy was great, he let the tanks come very close then we fired the first round — the gun roared in a cloud of sand and the trails dug in well.



We continued to fire and then the tanks got onto us and we were blown out of the gunpit. I received a small but very painful wound in the inside of my left thigh. We got back into the gunpit; the gun was undamaged but the shield had several holes and it was being nibbled away just like a mouse nibbles cheese — it fascinated me.

Now our troubles really began: I was finding it harder to load because, as I said previously, it was very sandy and the breech was very difficult to open and close. In fact, to close the breech I had to lie on my back and kick it

like hell; added to which I had to get more ammunition from the ammunition pit as Smudger and Spreckley were otherwise engaged.

We were again blown out of the gunpit and again the gun was still able to be fired but I was finding it harder to close the breech and the strange thing is that I was cursing and shouting at the bloody breech yet I couldn't hear a word I said nor did I hear what Paddy or Phil were saying at any time.

I think I saw Sgt Vincent's gun fire once or it may have been a shell exploding by his gun, at any rate time was running out for us.

Now came the moment of truth. As I have said earlier we did not have a full traverse to our right as the ground rose and although I think we were able to get round we could not depress the gun low enough to engage a tank which had come along a track practically on top of us - there was a tremendous explosion and we received a direct hit on the recuperating springs and again we were blown out of the gunpit; fortunately none of us was hurt (I think Sgt Crangles would be able to tell what happened when we were knocked out but I think if Sgt Vincent's gun had been in action he would have covered our right). We dived into an ammunition pit with our rifles and every time we moved this tank opened up with its machine gun.

What happened after that is just a haze. I remember being blown up - my trousers torn from me in the process - gushes of blood - Phil putting my First Field Dressing on a huge hole on the inside of my right thigh and a numbness round my genitals and me thinking that I had lost my manhood and then being with the Jerries and in the bag - which is another story.

I would like to say that I think Sgt Crangles was magnificent - I understand he got the DCM: it should have been the VC. Old Phil, he kept going as dependable as ever; I never saw Smudger or Spreckley during the action but from the accounts I have read elsewhere they did some handy work with the Bren.

You know, considering we were infantrymen with a gun we had only once fired in practice, we didn't do too bad but I think that the discipline which we had instilled in us enabled me personally to overcome the fear barrier and kick hell out of that bloody breech.

*(Despite his injuries, as a PoW Harry made constant efforts to escape, finally crossing over the mountains in Austria. He was to suffer for the rest of his life as a result of his injuries and experiences.)*

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## Surrender in North Africa

(In 2005 Maureen Creek edited and published "John Creek's Story" based on a manuscript written by her late husband who had died in March 2001. The book covers his life prior to retirement to Italy and includes a number of reminiscences about his experiences in the Army. After finishing in a "reserved occupation", John Creek had been called up in 1941 as a private soldier.



*He was subsequently commissioned into The Queen's Royal Regiment and for a time served with 2/7th Battalion. He was demobbed in early 1946 as a Lieutenant Colonel and went on to have a successful business career. The following passage from "John Creek's Story" recounts the surrender in N Africa in May 1943; he was Adjutant 2/7th at the time.)*

The campaign in North Africa was now clearly drawing towards its close. At the time we had on our left General Le Clerc's Senegalese troops, tall, muscular, black and shiny. They were collectors of wrist watches and many of them had four or five on each arm which they had taken from enemy they had killed or taken prisoner. Their arrival in our area of operations had led to my being called upon to furnish a French speaking Lieutenant to serve as a liaison officer between General Le Clerc's troops and our Divisional Headquarters. I had such a Lieutenant available, a quiet Cambridge graduate, who jumped at the job with visions, I believe, of drinking wine in the evenings and perhaps even sharing a little foie gras and so on in the Mess. When he came back from the assignment, however, he was nervous and quite pale. He did not say much about the Senegalese but we gathered he had been living on things like lizards and nuts and other rather esoteric dishes and that French wine had been notable for its absence.

Behind us was the splendid 4th Indian Division, with two British Brigades and two Indian Brigades. It was from this Division that I was informed that a Gurkha fighting patrol would pass through our battalion one night at exactly midnight and return exactly two hours later. The forward companies had to be warned not to fire on them or interfere with their passage. The Gurkhas certainly passed through us that night, outgoing and again in return; but not a single officer or man in our battalion reported seeing anything of them on either journey. Further back, returning to their unit, they displayed quite a collection of

enemy heads that they had kukried off and carried back as evidence that their fighting patrol had been successful.

We thought that these particular Gurkhas might have been the reason for the remarkable message which passed between the German High Command and the Eighth Army Command during the next forty eight hours. My battalion was involved in two message carrying incidents between the opposing Forces. The afternoon after the Gurkhas had passed through our lines, I was rung up from Brigade and told to expect a liaison officer from Division to deliver to us a German POW during the afternoon. He was carrying a message from Army Headquarters to the Axis Command proposing that they should accept surrender terms.

The German private duly arrived, surly to a degree. He had been given a white flag and was to be put through our forward company at first light and headed out through the minefield in the wadi in front of us towards the Axis lines.

The early morning part of the exercise was carried out without any problem. But there was a hazy mist over no man's land at first light and the German wandered far off his line. Not long on his way, he stumbled across a British sergeant of a neighbouring Brigade who had taken part in a recent attack on that flank and who was now lying out in a shell hole with a badly damaged leg which had not even allowed him to crawl in alone. The sergeant pulled the unarmed German messenger into his shell hole as he was passing by with his white flag held up high and held him there at Tommy gun point throughout the day until evening, when he made the German pull him back into the British lines. Some time during the long hours there had been something of a skirmish and the German POW had a black eye to show for it when he was eventually taken back to Brigade and then to Division.

The following morning another instruction came down to us from Brigade. Another attempt was to be made to get the message through, this time with two message carriers, the same German and an Italian POW. They were delivered to me again at Tac HQ by mid afternoon, the German surlier than ever but the Italian highly delighted about the whole affair and full of smiles. I took the opportunity of practising my fairly elementary Italian on him and that amused him still further.

At first light next day they were both put through our forward lines but this time two of our Intelligence Section accompanied them into no man's land for a short way, after steering them through the minefield in the wadi. At that point a German machine gun opened up on the party, which scattered. Our men headed back to our own lines, but one of them perhaps too quickly: he stood on an S-mine in scrambling to avoid the machine gun bursts and was killed.

As we learned later, this time a message did come back. The German Commander of the Axis Forces replied that

as a professional soldier he could not and would not surrender. But he would at the same time ask that the Eighth Army Command would ensure that their coloured troops desisted in future from mutilating Axis troops. This could have been a reference to the Gurkhas' highly effective fighting patrols, which were clearly making the enemy more than nervous.

Whatever the effect of these interchanges of notes by hand of the enemy POWs ferrying back and forward, there was no doubt that surrender was imminent.

At ten o'clock on 13th May 1943 the Brigade Major, Desmond Gregory, rang me. "John, it's all over. Surrender today. Do you know how to take a surrender?"

"Exactly when is it all over?" I asked.

"From three o'clock this afternoon. No military action by the enemy or by us after that time. They will have to use the road, so they will be surrendering on your 'B' company front. I gather Chippy" (our CO's nickname) "isn't with you at the minute, but you've no problems about it, have you?"

"OK, Desmond. But how do you take a surrender?"

A silence. Then, "Oh, look it up in your Field Service Pocket Book, John. It will all be there."

The FSPB was a remarkable affair, a collection of clear, concise and painstakingly detailed pamphlets on any of a hundred or more situations in which one might find oneself in the Army, written to be clearly understood by the slowest moving mind of the most modest private soldier. I had pamphlets on how to strip a Bren gun; how to deal with a dead soldier's identity disc, pay book, private possessions if any; how to dig a latrine in boggy, rocky or sandy ground; and on scores of other military situations: a splendid 'vade mecum' – but no pamphlet on surrenders, offered or taken.

I rang Desmond at Brigade. "I know, I know," he said immediately. "I've been through it too. There isn't a pamphlet. I imagine what we should do is this ...." And we decided together how to make this a sufficiently important and effective if not exactly a festive occasion.

We set up posts on each side of the road a little ahead of our forward company and, fifty yards ahead of those, down the road towards the enemy, two similar posts; and fixed a Bren gun at each of the four posts. Between the forward and the second posts we marked out large squares with marking tape, where enemy troops would leave arms or other junk they might be carrying in.

The CO now showed up and together we reckoned that from our side we would probably be wise to expect, in rising order of importance of rank: our Brigadier; the Divisional Commander; the Corps Commander; and the Eighth Army Commander, Lieutenant-General Sir Bernard Freyberg VC, of the New Zealand Forces,

who was temporarily in command of the Eighth Army in General Montgomery's absence on the First Army front. Add a staff officer in support of each on the list and including the CO and myself, as we were the hosts on the ground, we looked like being a reception committee of, say, a dozen, of whom I would once again be the only non-field officer on parade.

Between eleven and twelve in the morning flights of American light bombers, nine at a time, had rained down hundreds of bombs along the top ridges of the escarpment, where so many 88mm guns were dug in and behind which mortars and some medium guns were in position, which had been lobbing over disconcerting stonks from time to time.

By ten minutes to three everybody was assembled and then just before three o'clock silence fell across the whole front except here and there in the hills where spasmodic explosions made it clear that, in defiance of the surrender document that had been signed, Axis formations were spiking their guns and making them unfit for any further use. In our reception area there had been some necessary salutes, some introductions and hand shakes. Then our party stood about in silence, a little on one foot and then on the other, watching a small black patch at the far end of the road from us, downhill to where it reached the foot of the escarpment. The black patch became bigger and bigger and then could be identified as a continuous stream, as the enemy troops started to march up the road towards us.

Suddenly the silence was broken, and alarmingly, by the sound of a shot from our left, inland and almost, it seemed, on a level with the line of our front. A gun had been fired, and no sooner had we heard the muzzle discharge than the shell went streaking over our heads, across the road and our front line on the right of the road, and landed in the sea. In a split second, the dozen members of the reception committee were all flat on the road on their stomachs; and then slowly and rather shamefacedly getting to their feet and dusting down their uniforms. The Brigadier bore down on the CO and me and wanted to know what the hell had happened: and hadn't I better find out, and quickly?

I commandeered a platoon commander and a posse of men from the flanking company and sent them off into the middle distance on my left. There were no more shots or alarms and excursions; and a lot of surrendering had been going on before we got any details of what had startled the reception group. Away on the left beyond our furthest company was a German 88mm gun emplacement whose crew wanted to get into the surrender act when they saw the troops marching up the road towards our front. But their gun emplacement was surrounded by minefields from which, since they knew they would never advance again, all their markings had been taken up so that anyone from our side making their way across that territory would be in trouble. The gun crew might perhaps have safely made their way to the rear, but they

wanted to come across more directly to join the surrender. They were not prepared to risk walking onto their own unmarked minefield and so they had put a round of solid anti-tank shot into their gun and fired it over the reception party's heads to draw attention to their plight.

They had succeeded. But they nearly got the CO and myself into hot water for insufficient security; and when these enemy gunners were eventually traced and brought in they were given a chilly reception.

When the approaching column was a short distance from our first reception set-up they halted and figures at the head of the column re-formed themselves before moving forward again. It then became clear that there were four or five in the van, General Messe, senior officer of the Italian troops, and General von Arnim, Commanding Officer of the now much reduced German element in the Axis forces still in North Africa, together with their supporting staff officers. In the past fortnight or so, with the Eighth Army holding the line beyond Enfideville and the First Army squeezing the Axis forces from the west, there had been mass enemy evacuations and attempted evacuations up northwards towards Tunis and Bizerta. The Germans had unhesitatingly evacuated their own troops and armour to the virtual exclusion of the troops of their partners, the Italians.

General Freyberg received the two Axis leaders, talked briefly with them and introduced some of the reception committee. Then the first surrendering group and some more senior Axis officers were moved back to transport that would take them away, first to interrogation and then to internment.

Before night fell thirty eight thousand prisoners passed along the road through our company lines, around ten thousand of them Germans and twenty eight thousand of them Italians. The number of surrendering senior officers reached a total of nearly forty. Officers of lower rank were separated out and escorted away in their turn. Non-commissioned officers remained with the Other Ranks and when later we accepted responsibility for them in prisoner of war cages these enemy NCOs were responsible for taking command and ensuring order.

All officers had been disarmed before being escorted away. Men dumped arms they carried into the areas we had laid down for them. For the most part that dealt with the German element; not a few Italians on the other hand brought in not only arms but ammunition boxes and all sorts of other carriers stuffed with food and sometimes the most curious personal kit with which they were often very unwilling to part.

The Germans were unemotional and accepted the whole operation as a military necessity. To many of the Italians, this was a much longed for end of the war. By the time they had got rid of their rifles they were already starting to see themselves no longer as serving soldiers but rather as out of work civilians, looking for food and medical

services. There was no actual singing but many of them were smiling broadly or laughing.

What impressed me perhaps most of all was the complete absence of any ill feeling towards the Germans and Italians by any of our officers or men, as far as I could see. Some wounded limped in, perhaps leaning heavily on a colleague, and immediately someone intervened and saw they were taken away carefully and handed over to the medical staff on duty. A few Italians gave a little trouble, but only because in their simplicity they feared they were going to be ill treated, perhaps shot out of hand. They were quickly reassured by the obviously non-hostile reception that awaited them.

To many of us it was a great mental relief. Whether we had been fighting only a short time, as in our case, or for many months, like the 4th Indian Division and the Highland Division and many scores of Eighth Army Armoured and other units, it was a moment when one could take off a steel helmet without feeling that one was perhaps taking a risk and when one did not have to wonder whether the aeroplane up above was ours or theirs. It was a moment when, however hard and long the struggle to come was to be, it was later and not just round the corner. It was a time for easing springs and for sitting back thankfully.

Steel helmets were off and more comfortable headgear was being worn. There was time for swimming and relaxing, but we immediately had two urgent tasks to carry out. One was the organisation and looking after some of the thirty eight thousand who had surrendered; the other was battlefield clearance.

The Geneva Convention, it appeared, called for prisoner of war cages one hundred metres square and surrounded by a two metre high barbed wire fence. We had the land area – a lot of it, desert on all sides – but not a foot of barbed wire for building cages. So we marked out squares one hundred metres each side by digging a little ditch with entrenching tools and at each of two opposite corners we put two Bren guns, as it were back to back, each covering one side of the perimeter. Into each square we put and held four thousand men: crowded, not luxurious, but room enough, and undoubtedly healthier than Belsen.

The cages were within reach of the sea, and every morning the enemy NCOs marched their men out to bathe. The Germans marched as they had fought, smartly, regularly in rank or file, obedient to the NCOs' commands. On the beach they faced the sea in long ranks, stripped off and marched into the sea in order, eventually coming out in reasonably orderly ranks when called upon to do so. The Italians were quite different. They had to have a section of the beach far enough from the Germans and they made their way down to the sea from their cages rather like a school crocodile, not particularly in step, not particularly taking any notice of the NCOs in charge of them, often holding hands and chattering like magpies. In the sea they were clearly there not so much to wash off dirt as to have a rollicking time knocking each other down and

generally making the best of the occasion. The crocodile back to the cages was even more disorganised.

One day the CO thought we had better give them something more to do and which would take them away from us and the area for a little longer time. They were all issued with haversack rations and the NCOs in charge were given a compass and instructions: leaving camp, they would march on a compass bearing for two hours and then on another bearing for another two hours, and so on. They would eat half way round the circle, as the compass readings were calculated to bring them round after eight hours' march in a circle back to the point from which they had left. They went off at staggered times and on differently plotted circles in the cool of the early morning and we looked forward to meeting them in at mid afternoon.

In the event, when the CO and I posted ourselves to watch them come in out of the desert so that the CO could take the salute from them as they went by, the first Germans were a little point on the horizon and marched in in good order virtually to the minute they were expected. Once again, the Italians were another matter. When first sighted they were something over half an hour behind their set time and they did not look much like a military unit. The NCOs completed the march and handed over their compasses but brought in very few men marching steadily in file. Fortunately the desert here was flat with no undulations for many miles around, so that those Italians who were a quarter of a mile or more behind at least knew in which direction to march, or amble, or stumble.

Even so, in the end it became something of a preoccupation for us, as there was a risk that some who had set out would not come back. If they did lose contact, the odds were not much in favour of their knowing well enough where to head for before nightfall. The Germans had all answered to roll call immediately they arrived back. But the Italians were reporting a few missing until the following morning, when two or three groups of two or three men came slowly back to the lines. We did not dare risk sending them out a second time: clearly the desert was too much for them.

Battlefield clearing was dangerous, with so many unmarked minefields all over the area, but it had its compensating interest. We captured a mobile bath unit which was an Italian issue. The tubing was of light gauge aluminium and the whole set-up could be carried by relatively few men and put together in half an hour. Any similar unit that we had come across from WD stores comprised heavy gauge galvanised steel tubes, massive joint pieces and fixtures, which needed considerable squads of men to tote round and various heavy keys and gadgets to assemble and hold the unit together.

In German lines we found some very fine advanced surgical kits apparently capable of making possible a range of operations in the field which were beyond the

means of our own medical services. A welcome find was an enormous stock of Westphalian cigars, thin little stinkers, but enough of them to supply every member of the battalion with a couple of cigars a day for two or three weeks. These, plus red wine which we managed to 'find' in a Tunisian village, enough to give each Other Rank half a pint a day to keep his cigars company, gave the troops the feeling that now there was no immediate fighting to be done they could live it up splendidly.

In an officers' mess emplacement we found a huge stock of excellent liver sausage paste, a welcome addition in our officers' mess. But the find which perhaps made us twitch more than anything was in a supply formation supporting a crack tank regiment. There were loaves of bread packed in greaseproof paper with each slice individually wrapped. These were a godsend to officers who were being victualled from India and Australia and who were not unaccustomed to getting the odd issue of weevil filled biscuits as standard rations. Lucky Strike Indian cigarettes had already succeeded in stopping some troops from smoking, perhaps for the rest of their lives, and Corio whisky from Australia had certainly turned many officers for life off any whisky which did not have its Scottish ancestry clearly marked on its label.

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## The Courage Trophy

(by Lt Col Foster Herd)

Tony Russell asked me to write an article for the Newsletter about the Recce Platoon exploits in the Courage Trophy Competition. My recollections of the competition some 40 years ago are a little hazy, but still fill me with pride for the team I was lucky enough to lead on that weekend.

In 1961 London District decided to promote a Tough Training Competition in late March for all Territorial units within the London District, the Home Counties and East Anglia. The form of the competition changed little between 1961 and 1967, but in 1964 became known as The TA Marathon or The Courage Trophy on account of the trophy being presented by Courage Brewery. At the same time a new trophy was presented for the Chuck Wagon Competition by Home Counties Dairies.

Most of the teams taking part were either company teams or composite teams drawn from a battalion. In the early years the Competition was dominated by 10th Bn Parachute Regiment, but by 1963 the 3rd and 4th Bns Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment were becoming a major force, the 3rd Bn securing 4th place in 1963, and 2nd place in 1964. In 1965 the Competition was won by B Coy 4th Bn led by 2/Lt Omar Bhur, with the HQ Coy team led by Lt RM Arnold in second place. 10 Para's stranglehold on the Competition was finally broken!



2/Lt Bhur receiving the trophy

This account is about the Recce Pln, B Coy 3rd Bn Queen's Royal Surrey Regt. The Platoon team had been placed 13th out of 50 in 1963, 10th in 1964, and 4th in 1965. These were all very creditable performances considering we had always been at a disadvantage in the competition by having to select a team from a platoon of just 20. In 1966 however, as part of B Coy we were able to strengthen the team by including three members from other platoons in B Coy.

The team of 10 had to include one officer and one sergeant. All members had to wear and carry the prescribed kit plus rifle. This was checked at the start and throughout the weekend, and anything amiss would result in the points being lost. The marching element of six included the officer and sergeant. The 3 ton vehicle driver with the three remaining members in an Austin Champ made up the Chuck Wagon party.

The team having been driven on Saturday morning in the 3 tonner to Biggin Hill, now split up. The Chuck Wagon element, joined by the 3 ton driver, moved to Mereworth Woods to set up the night bivouac area, cook an evening meal for ten to a prescribed menu, with raw ingredients supplied to the overnight venue by the Army Catering Corps. The Champ driver meanwhile was required to undertake a cross country driving test.

The marching section started from Biggin Hill on Saturday morning covering the 12 mile course in under 3 hours. We then fired the range course and marched a further 8 miles in under 2 hours to the night bivouac area. After the evening meal of brown stew and dumplings, followed by rice pudding, all ten competed in the night compass march, starting at 20.30 and finishing at around midnight.

Sunday morning saw an early start. The 3 tonner, carrying the marching element, plus the Champ with Chuck Wagon crew on board, undertook a vehicle map reading rally, passing through a number of check points, to Richmond Park.

The marching group then took part in another forced march across the Park to the Windmill on Wimbledon

Common. There we completed an assault course before marching on to Clapham Common where we made a water crossing in inflatable dinghies over one of the lakes. Having crossed the lake we were immediately involved in a two point stretcher suspension rescue operation from the top of a building. It was then on at full speed to the finishing line at the Duke of York's Headquarters in Chelsea. We completed the 12 mile march within the 3 hour limit, and were greeted by the Chuck Wagon crew whom we had last seen at Richmond Park.

The rest is history. The team won not only The Courage Trophy, awarded to the overall points winner, but also the HCD Cup for the best team in the Chuck Wagon Competition. The cups were presented to us by Field Marshal Lord Alexander of Tunis. To my knowledge we are the only team to date in the history of the Competition to win both cups.

Forty years on, my abiding memory of the event was of my Sergeant, Joe Nugent taking off his boots, full of blood, to reveal no skin on the soles of his feet. Plus the support of the wives and girl friends who followed us in a bus from Clapham Common, stopping at various points to cheer us on. It was a real family effort, which typified the esprit de corps of the Recce Platoon.



COURAGE TROPHY 86

Today's Territorials are asked to undertake long tours of duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia and other areas of the world. But 40 years ago it was a different world.

In 1966 that was One Tough Weekend.

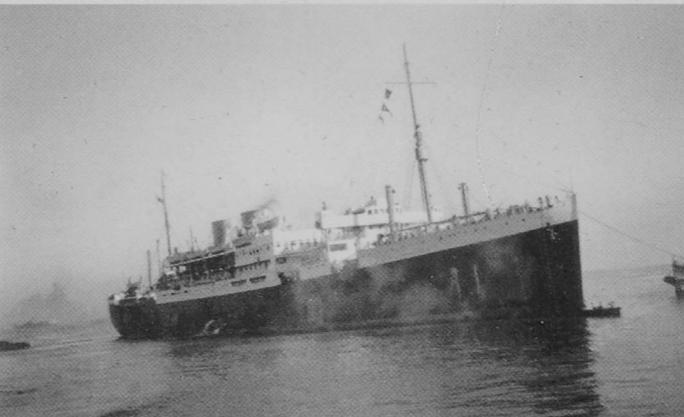
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Our thanks are due again to  
Major J L A Fowler TD  
for generously supplying the paper  
for the Newsletter

## Leaving India

*(John Stanley Murray, who will be 80 in January 2007, served from March 1945 to May 1948. He spent most of his time with 2nd Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment, initially in India and then in England and Dortmund. Below is his account of the return voyage from India to England. John would be delighted to hear from anyone who served with him and can be contacted at: 2up The Quadrangle, Morden College, 19 St Germans Place, Blackheath SE3 0PW)*

In January 1947 our Regiment was preparing to leave India and return to England on board the ship the 'Highland Princess'; one particular event is clear in my memory.



The Highland Princess in Bombay harbour

We were nearing home and entering the 'Bay of Biscay' when bad weather appeared to be heading in our direction. The sea had taken on a heavy swell and continued to get worse by the minute. It was not long before the full force of the storm hit our ship and everyone including the crew had been, or was being, sick.

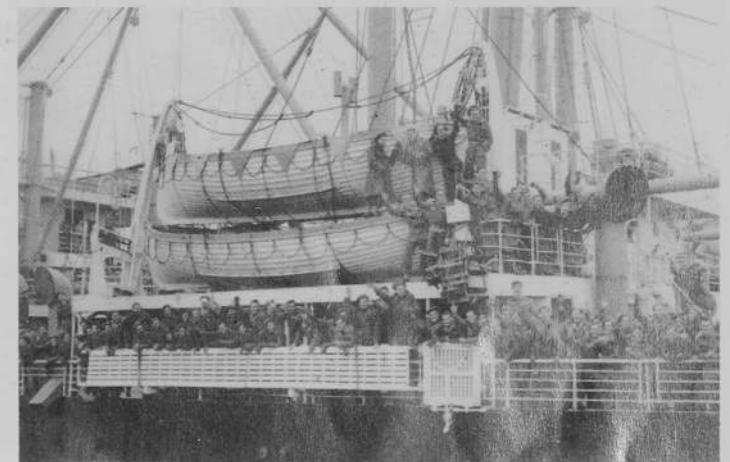
The sea was one minute towering above the ship some 40 to 50 feet and then sinking below to an equal depth. I looked to the bow of the ship and saw it disappear beneath the waves and the stern rising high with its propellers out of the water, making our 16,000 ton ship shudder from stem to stern. At this point, I decided to go below decks for a while. The sea was getting progressively worse and I was not feeling too good.

Below deck was awful. There was no escaping this storm, with the sea water slopping backward and forward across the lower deck into which everyone had been sick. Trying to reach the toilet meant sliding and falling into this mess, and getting into our hammocks was an absolute nightmare.

Once the storm subsided, the captain informed us that King George V, the Queen and the two Princesses had also been riding out the storm, some miles to our portside. They were now steaming toward Cape Town, South Africa, on board our newest Battleship, H.M.S. Vanguard, which was launched on the 1st December 1944.

Our arrival back in England in February was to coincide with the most severe period of cold weather which Britain experienced in that never-to-be forgotten winter of 1946/1947.

There were unabated frosts and blizzards combined with dwindling stocks of coal. This all led to great hardship at home for the British people, and to the discomfort of all our troops arriving home from India. The morning before leaving our ship, we had only freezing water in which to shave; needless to say it was the worst shave that I ever had.



Arriving home from India

Some leave was due to us at that time, which was given at Easter from the 2nd April to the 10th; after that we prepared for Germany.

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## East Surrey Regimental Reunion

This year's reunion was held at the New Drill Hall, Clapham on 7th October. There were just under 100 attending, with friends who have attended regularly over the years joined by others who were there for the first time. Col Bishop gave the President's speech this year, and Col Francis will be the President for next year. Mr and Mrs Daniels laid on an excellent buffet and bar facilities, and we all enjoyed the afternoon.

The Reunion is helped by a grant from the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Charity as well as by the raffle run at the reunion. Costs were higher this year, but we were able to keep the ticket price to £5 per head. Next year, however, it will need to be raised to £6. (photographs of the function appear on the centre pages).

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