

The
Regimental Association
of
The Queen's Own Buffs (PWRR)
The Royal Kent Regiment



THE JOURNAL



Number 25

Spring 2014

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THE PRESIDENT'S JOTTINGS



This is our first Journal since the very sad demise of Colonel Crispin Champion, our President for many years. He will be much missed and a hard act to follow, but I will do my very best.

The Association, overall, is in good heart and shape. Numbers are holding up, despite the aging process, albeit some Branches may have to merge in the next couple of years or so as numbers fall. That said, the advent of the Weald and the Maidstone Branches have been a great success – my congratulations and sincere thanks to all those involved in bringing this about.

Our funds remain secure and are now being administered by Barclays Wealth, who I will meet with twice a year, and I anticipate an increase in value year on year going forward. That is unless we decided to spend some of the accumulated cash on selected projects. The fund is such that it will enable us to keep the Association alive for the foreseeable future although the day will come when we have to bring it to an end. When that happens there will be sufficient monies in the account to ensure that any welfare needs are able to be met. On the welfare side, now that we have discontinued the automatic grant to Branches, any Branch that feels it has a special case should 'bid' to the Association Secretary and, if appropriate, assistance with funding will be provided.

We are faced with a busy, interesting and appropriate programme of forthcoming events in this anniversary year of the start of WW1 – Ypres, Canterbury, Folkestone – this is new – a 'National' event – we hope to have eight Standards on parade each with a double escort – it is likely that a 'Royal' will be present, then Tertre, London, Maidstone – and I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can at one or more of these occasions.

The Queen's Own Royal West Kent statue in Maidstone has met with universal acclaim and now we turn our attention to providing a similar one for the Buffs – hopefully to be erected in the grounds of Canterbury Cathedral or on Council property under the control of Canterbury City Council. Both are keen to have it but I, personally, favour the Cathedral option – it is secure, no fear of vandalism, and in keeping with The Warriors' Chapel. Importantly the Dean of the Cathedral sees it fitting in with planned services and Cathedral based events taking place over next four years marking the duration of WW1. Looking to the future I would like to see a Buffs memorial somewhere on the 'Western Front', in line with the excellent QORWK memorial at Tertre.

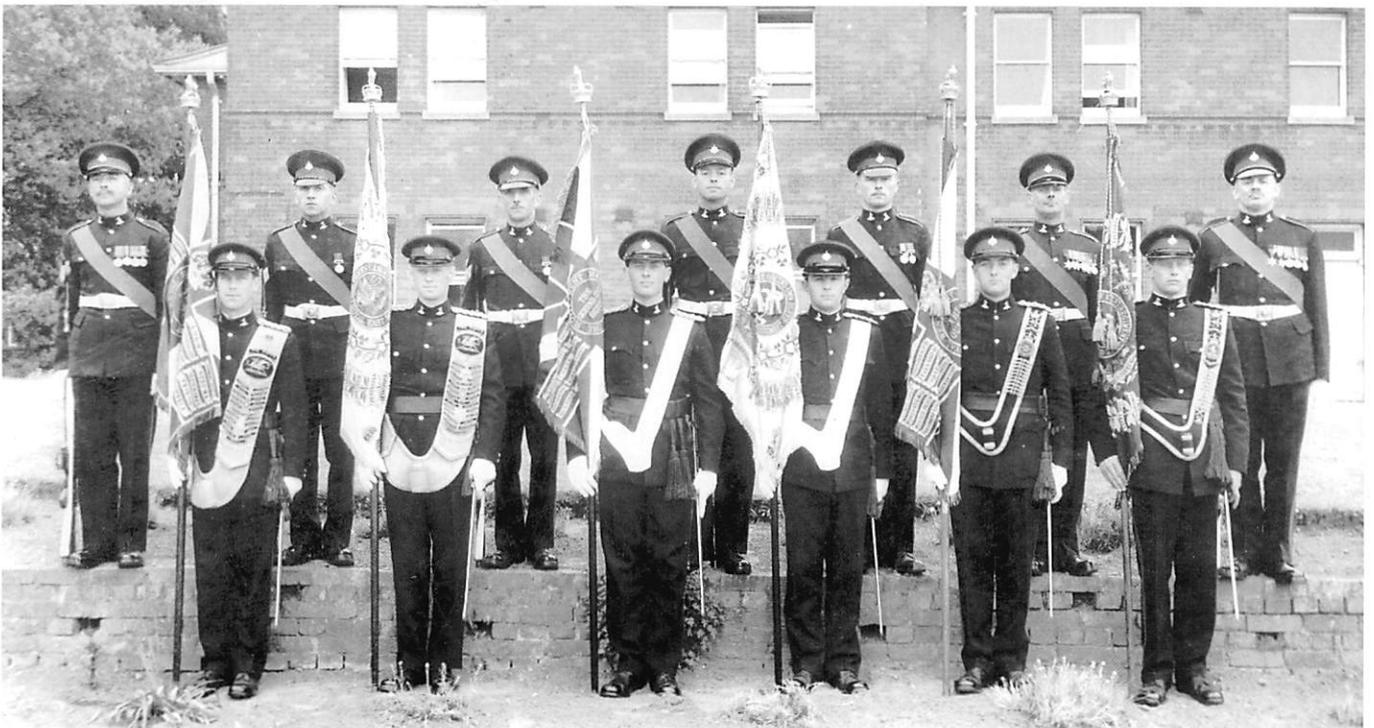
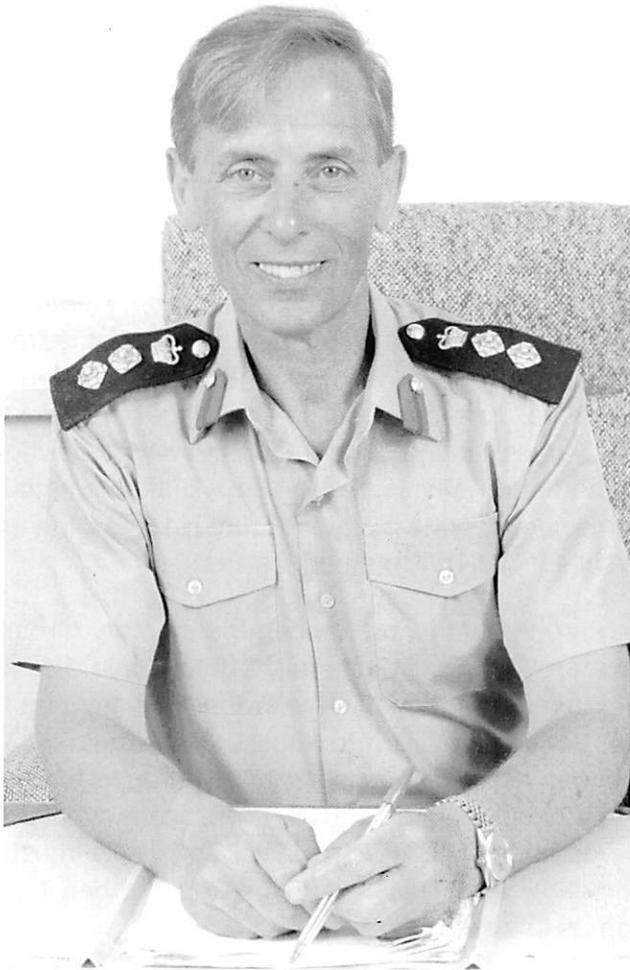
Beyond that, in trying to keep the memory of our two forebear Regiments in the public eye, I feel we should do something with the 'Latham' head stone which is unlikely to withstand the weathering process as the years pass by – perhaps this is something for 2015 or 2016. Then, finally, what do we do about The Queen's Own Buffs – we must, somehow, leave our mark in the County when it all comes to an end.

It has been a sad start to 2014 with a number of funerals which, regrettably, seem to be on the increase. As an Association we will always endeavour, subject to family wishes, to have a presence, with a Standard on parade, at any Members' passing. However, as we all know – old soldiers' never die, they only fade away – but their memory lives on with those of us that remain and that is as it should be.

I am well aware that I still have to visit some Branches and this I will do as soon as possible as and where I can find the time. Once I retire from the commercial world this will be much easier but, at the moment, I beaver on. On that note I am delighted that we now have Colonel Peter Cook as our Vice President and Major Richard Cast as an Assistant to our Association Secretary. This really does help to spread the work load!

COLONEL CRISPIN GEOFFREY CHAMPION

1936 - 2013



BRANCH NEWS

RAMSGATE BRANCH

SECRETARY: M. F. Milham. 185 Bradstow Way
Broadstairs, Kent. CT10 1AX

Tel: 01784 867786 Email: malcolm.millham@sky.com

MEETING PLACE: The Royal British Legion Club
Allenby House, 14/16 Cliff Street, Ramsgate

MEETING: 3rd Friday in the month, 19.45 hrs.

A warm welcome to everybody from the Ramsgate Branch.

As I sat jotting down my notes for this report from Ramsgate, I realised it was almost a complete rewrite of our submission for the summer journal. Then the phone started ringing and the reports of our branch losses over the Christmas, New Year period, started to roll in. For me personally that has also included the loss of several of my cousins, all around my age. It seems that the start of each year consists of various funerals, most certainly when our Standard Bearer, Alan Buddle, makes his monthly report.

The passing of our Association President, Colonel Crispin Champion, although expected, still left the branch members in silent shock when it was announced at the following branch meeting. A fair number of our branch members made their own way to Tenderden, for the memorial service held there and very much appreciated the Colonels daughter making time to come and talk to the lesser mortals, a very nice gesture.

Within our own branch the loss of Buggsy Wharram BEM, recently, although once again expected, left everybody silent with their own thoughts. His funeral at Margate Crematorium was very well attended, with the overflow of some seventy people listening to the tributes and singing on the road outside. I counted the ties of fifteen different regiments or corps, amongst those who attended. Ernie Overden, ex 5 Buffs and a POW, a long standing member of our branch, also passed away during January. Ernie used to bring in little parcels of groceries for the monthly raffle, something that still goes on today and I'm sure will continue as long as the branch continues.

One of our members, Norman Barth, had the misfortune of losing his son, Laurence, also one of our members. You do not expect your son to go before you and I watched Norman during the valedictory silence, a real soldier, strong and silent. The Ramsgate Ladies Guild lost Silvia Mitchell during this period. Our Standard attended her funeral, as she had paraded at the Tower of London with us since she was ten years old, going up with her father in the early days, this last year she was in a wheelchair. We felt it appropriate for our standard to honour her that day. The standard also attended Eric Deuters funeral up in Cambridgeshire, Eric was a great supporter of our branch and the last time came to the Canterbury Reunion he marched with branch despite being over 90 years of age. The branch thanks Alan Buddle for representing us with the standard at all of these sad events.

Even busier than our Standard Bearer is Bryan Hazard, our Welfare Officer, who visited Buggsy several times a week and not only Buggsy but Brenda, his wife, also on the serious sick list, Bryan is still supporting Brenda on behalf of the branch. Amongst his other visits are those to Asher Rose and Deric King, Deric still manages to attend the occasional branch meeting, a real trooper. Graham Thomas is about to go into hospital for a series of operations, we wish him well and look forward to his return back into the fold soon.

The branch members have attended most other events taking place within the Association over the last half of the year, including our Annual Dinner and Dance, where our guest was our new President, Colonel Peter Bishop with Margaret his lovely wife.

So from the Dhala S**** Hawks, as Peter called us, farewell for now and looking forward to meeting you all at this years events.

MFm

SITTINGBOURNE BRANCH.

SECRETARY: Major Richard Cast, 55 Longridge
Sittingbourne Kent ME10 4LN

Tel: 01795 474179 Email richardcast@btinternet.com

THE EDITOR'S PAGE



Without a doubt this last year has been a memorable year, a year of great sadness as we have said our farewells to so many friends and comrades including, of course, our late President, Colonel Crispin. A year also of considerable achievement too with the raising of the QORWK statue in Maidstone and the unveiling of the memorial to the Queen's Own at Tertre, erected on the very spot, where the Queen's Own went into action for the first time on 23rd August 1914, and where they suffered their first casualties of the Great War.

It was also a year which we saw changes in our organisation. In July Colonel Peter Bishop took over as President of our Association and we wish him every success in the years still to come. Furthermore, following the withdrawal of MoD support for regimental associations, we lost in April the services of our previous Regimental Secretary, Major Dennis Bradley.

Looking forward to the next 12 months, our diaries seem to be as full as ever in this the year of the 100th Anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War. It seems appropriate in such a year to launch the regimental and public appeal for funds for three projects: the unveiling of the statue to The Buffs; a memorial to The Buffs somewhere on the Western Front; and finally, before the Association itself marches into history sometime in the next few years, to replace the memorial headstone to Lieutenant Matthew Latham, in the churchyard at Blingel, near Hesdin, all of which the President has already mentioned.

So those are the three challenges. Challenges that I am sure we will rise to and I am confident that each and everyone of you will want to play your part with a donation, no matter how small, to ensure that, like that already achieved for the Queen's Own with their statue in Maidstone and memorial at Tertre, the name and proud history of The Buffs will be maintained for many years to come.

The two annual regimental reunions will follow much the same pattern as in previous years.

However at the Maidstone Reunion it is hoped that, once again, the parade will march along Week Street from Brenchley Gardens led by the band of course. Also there is a different venue for the reunion and lunch, which, this year will be held at Oakwood House Hotel, Oakwood Road, Maidstone, just 5 minutes drive from All Saints.

The re launch of the Maidstone Branch has proved very successful and it is great that Maidstone, the ancestral regimental home of the Queen's Own, once again has a Queen's Own Buffs Regimental Association branch. Our thanks must go to all those who have worked so hard to bring this about.

Despite the fact the The Journal is now distributed free of charge many of you continue to subscribe and for that the Committee of Management is extremely grateful. This year, for the first time, The Journal will be distributed to all members of the Association listed on our database. This will keep all members, no matter where they are, in touch with all aspects of our Association activities.

With the ever-increasing numbers of our members who pass on, the size of the Last Post section has increased quite dramatically and with obituaries reached an unprecedented 15 pages in the last issue. Consequently it has been decided only to print a notice of passing with a few brief details.

Finally, please note that the new address for all communications as under: -

Regimental Association Secretary
Queen's Own Buffs-The Royal Kent Regiment
Marlowe Innovation Centre
Marlowe Way,
Ramsgate, CT12 6FA

Tel: 01843 598615
email: qobassociation@gmail.com
Mobile: 07522 914562

Take care - We are looking forward to meeting you at the Canterbury or Maidstone Reunions, hopefully both.

The Editor

although we did have to compete with noise of a wedding party in the main bar, we still were able to enjoy ourselves.

A number of us were invited by our RNA members to join with them and attend the 25th Birmingham International Tattoo where we were able to see and hear a great night of Military Music, UK and Foreign Forces also youth events, combined with 70th Anniversary of the formation of the Royal Air Forces Association. On the Sunday we were able to spend some time at the National Memorial Arboretum as well as enjoy the delights of the Birmingham Christmas Market.

In February 14 we held our Annual Darts Evening of the Army via the Navy, this year the Navy took home the trophy although we have said we shall take it back next year.

As I write this having returned from the 2014 Association AGM on 22nd Feb I am pleased to report again that Sittingbourne Team won the Annual Darts Competition and were not fazed by the surprised entry of the Committee of Management Team, although next year they hope they might get the opportunity to play against them. Our friends from Ramsgate came second and the Weald of Kent joint third with the Committee of Management.

We also enjoyed our Buffet Dance following the AGM which may be our last unless we can encourage someone to take on the role of Social Secretary.

Events for the rest of this year have not been planned due to no Social Secretary although among the events for WW1 we have been invited by the Mayor of Swale, to attend the rededication of a Memorial Window in St Michaels Church on 27th April 14. We have also been contacted to attend an event in Rainham being organised by one of the History Groups which will be for a memorial of ex Buffs in November.

We shall also organise our attendance at Canterbury and Maidstone Reunions also be seeking some places on the Ramsgate Coach for the London Buffs if we can. Members are booked to attend the Association Trips to Ypres and Tere this year.

RCC

LONDON (BUFFS) BRANCH

SECRETARY: Mrs.. Betty Correa. 34 Homer Road, Shirley, Croydon, Surrey CR0 7SB.

Tel No. 0208 655 3040. Email jcorrea@talk 21.com

MEETING PLACE: The Union Jack Club, Sandell Street London -Opposite Waterloo Station

MEETING: 3rd Saturday in the month at 2 pm.

Sadly we have inevitably lost a few of our members due to the march of time.

Geoff Kirk 141 Regt RAC (The Buffs)

Henry Parker (Buffs)

Ray Baker (Buffs and former branch President) Ray was also one of the original founder members of the London Buffs forming 52 years ago and he was a branch President for 19 years.

Colonel Crispin Champion former Association President who ever supported the London Buffs.

All will be sadly missed and we will remember them as always.

The branch has however, continued to go from strength to strength over the past year and this is in no small way due to the efforts of everyone who has supported our events in particular the Tower Service.

I am delighted to announce that Neil Carey (Branch Chairman) represented the Buffs in a inter regimental golf tournament the first of its kind and Neil's team won and the name of The Buffs is the first name engraved on the silver salver being the future winning prize in future tournaments. The London Buffs are very proud of Neil.

The London Buffs has enjoyed several social events as a branch such as Hole Park Rolvernden Kent with its amazing display of bluebells which the park is noted for also an ancestor of the owners was a Buff and the park has a set of Memorial Gates showing a Buffs Dragon.

A visit to the Stevenson Brothers workshop Ashford Kent famous for its Royal Rocking Horse Collection.

It was an Honour for the branch to turn the page in Canterbury Cathedral and lays a wreath in memory of fallen comrades.

MEETING PLACE: The Ypres Tavern, West Street, Sittingbourne.

MEETING: 1st Tuesday in the month at 1930 hours..

Membership this year has seen the joining of Desmond Hughes former Queens, Brian McDonough a former QOB and Barry Mills former Queens. Although sadly we have said our goodbyes to members who have passed on, although like all good soldiers they have not gone just faded away. Jim Read served in the Buffs and was recognised by most for wearing his Green Beret on parade Jim was a former Chairman of Sittingbourne Branch. Len Fosbraey (known as Joe) the database showed him as a Fusilier although I have seen pictures of him wearing a Buffs Badge, Gordon Jemmett served with the Buffs, Sid Pepper served with the Buffs, and most recently Ron Warren who served with the REME, also Joe Chamberlain MM ex RASC who along with the Branch and Legion Standard was also preceded into Holy Trinity Church and Crematorium by the League of Military Medallist Standard. All of these were long standing members of the Branch. We shall remember them.

At our branch meeting in January 2014, it was decided that as our Ladies (Wives and Sweethearts) who support us and regularly attend our meetings, that we would allow them to join the branch as Branch Only Members we have already had nine sign up, two of whom have agreed to serve on the Branch Committee for the coming year.

Our AGM saw our Vice Chairman and Social Secretary Paul Fleming who has served the Branch and the Association through the Annual Darts Competition, step down from both roles this year. We would like to thank him for all he has done over the years and to say we shall miss him in running our events is not enough, Paul, you have left a big hole to fill but please accept our grateful thanks for all your past efforts.

During 2013 as usual following the Association AGM and Dart Match held our supper dance we were able to again celebrate with our Darts Team the winning of the Association Darts Competition prior to supper dance with the cup being prominently on display during the evening.

A large party travelled by coach on the Eurostar to Ypres for the weekend of 8th- 9th June the

weather was excellent and we had a good time, sadly we had forgo our planned visit to the WW2 beaches due to very heavy traffic on the way in (It was at standstill) so while some spent an extra few hours in Ypres enjoying the sunshine and tasting the local brew, half the party went on to Tyne Cot Cemetery and paid tribute to the many graves and the memorial walls of the forbearers of the Regiment's. That evening following an excellent meal at the Sword we attended the Menin Gate Ceremony with our Standard and were given the honour of reciting the Exhortation prior to laying our wreaths.

The evening ending with a good number of the party retiring in the time honoured fashion to the local bars to try out some more of the local brew. On the Sunday we met up with our Tour Guide who took us out and about to number of the sights where it was no surprise that wherever you went you found graves or names of RWK and Buffs who died in the various battles in those locations. Our homeward trip found us with time on our hands at the Eurostar Services due to an earlier breakdown in the tunnel, however, we all arrived back safely.

We attended as a Coach party the Canterbury Reunion at which we again really enjoyed ourselves although the usual scramble for chairs and tables took place, the entertainment was good and some of our ladies did enjoy the opportunity to get up with the Lord Mayor of Canterbury and dance. Our visit to the Maidstone Reunion nearly didn't happen due to the Minibus we ordered not turning up, we considered 'Yomping to Maidstone' but decided that might take, not only all day but we might need to call on the NHS for revival. In the end we managed to get across but missed some of the activity due to mix up on timings.

Thanks must go to Ramsgate Branch who picked up some our members to go to the London Buffs Parade at Tower, it was a good parade and the return journey via Greenwich was a pleasant memory trip for me, Greenwich was somewhere as a youth I went to often and to see the changes was good. It was shame that the Market was no longer the massive event it had been in the past.

The Branch held a Dinner night only on September 21st rather than a Dinner and Dance, this year we also decided we would like an after dinner speaker and were given a talk on the History of the Buffs by Major P R White MM, the meal and company was excellent and the members enjoyed the talk,

for the return of the Sopwith Camel so we may have got away with it!

In August we visited the Kent & East Sussex Railway at Tenterden for the fish and chip trip. This was a doubly poignant visit as it had been our first ever away-day, and this had been a visit which Crispin Champion had wanted to join. They made us very welcome, and had placed a headboard on the engine for the day to commemorate Crispin. We were so glad that Dawn joined us for the day, and it turned out to be a joyful occasion.

We paraded the Branch Standard at Canterbury and Maidstone, and again at the PWRR Freedom Parade in Tunbridge Wells. At the Association AGM in February Colchester Branch presented us with the old Tunbridge Wells Branch standard so in 2014 we shall be making a serious takeover bid!

With such a busy year on the Association front in 2014 we have held back on the outings front, confining ourselves to a day at Chatham Dockyard – do you see a pattern emerging? Otherwise we will be well represented on both the Ypres and Tere visits. We also continue with our guest speakers; the 50th in New Zealand in March; flying with Bomber Command by Wng Comd Jack Harries who was one of them in May; and in July Mons, in time for the Tere visit. Members of all branches and none are very welcome to come along to any.

CANTERBURY BRANCH

SECRETARY: H. G. B. Delo. 38 Reculver Avenue, Minnis Bay, Birchington CT7 9NU.

Tel: 01843 842357 EMail: thedelos@idelo.freeseve.co.uk

MEETING PLACE: The Chaucer Club, Chaucer Hill, off Military Road, Canterbury.

MEETING: Last Thursday of month at 20.00 hrs.

Very sadly the Branch has lost four very staunch members, Reg Pattenden, Len Holman, Dick Hickott and very recently our Vice Chair, George Croxford., our thoughts are with their families.

We also have several members who are on the sick list, Harry Crooks, Brian & Vivienne Dudman and George Hadler and we wish them well.

We have had, as always, a very busy year with a wide range of activities, trips and events all of which have been very well attended. In April the branch, with two coaches, attended the Royal Albert Hall for the annual Royal Marine band concert It was a fantastic evening and, as always, we enjoyed front row seats thanks to the organiser Stan Wooldridge. The trip was repeated this year in March and once again a terrific evening was enjoyed by nearly 100 members and their families.

Later in April about 30 members enjoyed a guided tour of Hole Park, Cranbrook after which we adjourned to the New Chimneys pub in Ashford for a late cavery lunch. All in all a great day out.

In May we held our annual dinner at the Golf Club, Canterbury and later that month it was across the channel for a day trip to Bruges in Belgium .

In June a well supported trip to Chartwell, the home of Winston Churchill, A tour of the house was followed by a very enjoyable meal in the restaurant .

Moving on to August and the traditional parade through Canterbury followed by the Service of Remembrance, March past and the Reunion in Leros Barracks was blessed with good weather. This important event in the calendar was very well supported and a record number of raffle tickets were sold on the day thanks mainly to Janet Turney who sold the majority.

On 1st September we took a full coach to London to attend the London Buffs service of remembrance in the Tower of London and afterwards enjoyed a meal at The Mytre in Greenwich. Later that month we were once again off across the channel for a day trip to Sluice on the Dutch border.

The following week several of our members attended the Maidstone Reunion and the unveiling of the RWK Statue. In November a full coach of members and their families travelled to London to see the Christmas Lights followed by a Fish & Chips supper at our usual watering hole. Everyone enjoyed it especially the guided tour of London by Frankie Hills.

That was the last of our trips in 2013 and a big thank you is due to our Social Secretary Bernard Miles.

On December 8th the annual Branch Carol Service was held at the Franciscan Study centre. Our

A day visit to Chartwell Westerham Kent the former home of Sir Winston Churchill.

30 branch members also attended the Major General Review at Horse Guards Parade London the rehearsal to the Trooping the Colour.

The Tower Service and lunch was very successful again and would like to thank everyone for your support. THANK YOU.

The London Buffs also enjoyed the Regimental Reunions in Canterbury and Maidstone and look forward to the reunions and arranged trip to Ypres and Terte in 2014.

The London Buffs send their best wishes to all members of the Association and hope 2014 is good to us all.

BC

THE WEALD OF KENT BRANCH

SECRETARY: Capt Micky Gwilliam, 6 Fownes Street, Battersea, London SW11 2TJ

Tel: 020 7801 0316/ 07786 782041 Email: micky.gwilliam@gmail.com

MEETING PLACE: Royal British Legion Club, 26 Priory Road, Tonbridge, Kent

MEETING: At 12 noon on the second Wednesday of every other month starting from May.

2013 was a mixed year for Weald Branch. We lost three members to the grim reaper: Crispin Champion, always an enthusiastic Branch member though never one to put his loyalty to the Branch ahead of his wonderful leadership of the association; Mike Bolton, a founder member of the Branch (we are so pleased that his widow Heather is now an Associate member of the Branch); and Nigel Durdant Hollamby who was commissioned into QORWK although he spent much of his service life with the Camel Corps, giving it a bit of style, and then the Colonial Service in Tanganyika where he also gave it some style.

Nevertheless, our numbers remain at about 65 and we are starting to see younger members, newly retired and looking for somewhere to swing the odd lantern to an appreciative and convivial bunch of old sweats.

Our major visit this year was to the Historic Dockyard Portsmouth in June. En route we took in

the Submarine Museum (navy joke: there are only two types of boat, submarines and targets. O we fell about) and the D-Day Museum and Overlord Embroidery. This is the most extraordinary achievement and a highly recommended visit. Allow at least 50 percent longer than you think it can possibly take!



Jimmy Burr, Chair of Colchester Branch, presenting the old Tonbridge Branch Standard to the Weald Branch Chair, Captain Ham Whitty, supported by Captain Micky Gwilliam, Branch Secretary, for safe keeping.

A very comfortable hotel, sourced by Leo's Pride (the MT Section) had but one drawback – astronomical prices for drinks. Sighing deeply our Gallant Leader was driven back from the golf course with threats of being keel-hauled under Victory.

During a blisteringly hot day at the dockyard your scribe ate two ice creams, and other things. We were fortunate to meet a real enthusiast on board HMS Warrior who took some of us into off-piste areas of the ship, including the bit at the back (technical term) where the massive propeller was hauled out of the water when the ship was purely under sail. It was interesting to then visit HMS Victory and see how much AND how little things changed between the two ships.

The final visit was to the Mary Rose in its new building. It is fascinating but really, once you have seen one Tudor arrow you have seen all 500 of them; no real need to put them all on display. It seemed a bit like boasting.

In July a group spent a day at Duxford. It was enjoyed immensely, and to date no-one has asked

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION
of the
QUEEN'S OWN BUFFS, THE ROYAL KENT REGIMENT (PWRR).
MINUTES OF THE 45th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE UK PAPER &
LEISURE CLUB, SITTINGBOURNE ON SATURDAY 22nd FEBRUARY 2014.

Regimental Association President: Colonel P. Bishop OBE DL.

Regimental Association Secretary: Major P. R. White MM.

The meeting opened at 4.07pm.

The meeting opened with a prayer led by the President.

1. **Attendance:**
 - a. **Members present:** There were 32 Association members present.
 - b. **Apologies:** Apologies had been received from, Mr. Arthur Healey, Mr. Malcolm Milham and Mr. Peter Zieminski.
2. **Welcome & Opening Remarks:**
 - a. The President, Colonel Bishop, welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.
 - b. Colonel Bishop thanked Sittingbourne Branch for once again hosting the Annual General meeting and, in particular the social secretary Mr. Paul Fleming for making all of the necessary arrangements.
3. **Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting held on 24th March 2012:**
 - a. It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the above meeting were a true record of proceedings.
4. **Matters arising from those minutes: (Items not included on the meeting's agenda)**
 - a. There were no matters arising
5. **Investment Portfolio:**
 - a. The President explained that the investment portfolio held by Canacorde had diminished in value during 2013.
 - b. The Investment Fund manager had advised the President that fixed income bonds, in which the Association funds were invested, were likely to fall in value further in the short term.
 - c. It had been agreed by the Committee of Management to authorise the transfer of the investments to Barclay's Wealth.

Branch Chaplain, Revd. Keith Fazzani officiated and the Invicta Band helped us all keep in tune. Finally on 14th December our Christmas social was held at Canterbury Golf course bring an end to a very eventful year over shadowed by the loss of our much respected Association resident Colonel Crispin and the loss of our branch members. May they rest in peace.

HD

MAIDSTONE BRANCH

SECRETARY: Mr Peter Zieminski, Meadowcroft, 85 Heathfield Road, Keston, Kent BR2 6BB

Tel: 01689 858732 – Email: peterzieminski@aol.com

MEETING PLACE: Maidstone Working Mens' Club, 17 Brewer Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1RU

MEETING: The second Saturday at 2pm in February, April, June, August, October and December.

A warm welcome to all readers from the Maidstone Branch.

Following a very successful re-launch on the 22nd June 2013 the Maidstone Branch membership now stands at 53 and we would welcome anyone who may wish to join us.



Major John Barrell OBE TD, Chair of West Kent, passing the Maidstone Branch standard to Nigel Bristow the recently appointed Branch Standard Bearer

So far we have had three excellent speakers at our meetings: Mr Mick Mills who presented a brief history of The Buffs and the Great War, Mr John Bellingham who presented his personal reflections on his service in Malaya, and Mr Ray Bridges who treated members to an audio/visual extravaganza!

Other speakers planned for the year include Major Peter White who will give a presentation about the Zeebrugge Raid, at our next meeting on 12th April, Mr Nigel Bristow who will give a presentation about The Royal West Kent Regiment's first action during the Great War at Tertre on and Mr Jim Franklin who will give a presentation on the history and development of the Lee Enfield Rifle. at our meeting. All are welcome, you do not have to be a branch member, just come along.

PZ

SANDWICH BRANCH

SECRETARY: Mr. D. G. Hogben.
75 Burch Avenue, Sandwich, Kent CT13 0AN.
Tel: 01304 612920.

MEETING PLACE: The White Mill, Ash Road :
Sandwich : Kent : CT13 9JB.

MEETINGS: Bi-Monthly on 2nd Wednesday
(except August) at 12.30pm.

BROMLEY BRANCH

CHAIRMAN: Mr. A. Wright. 21 The Underwood,
Eltham, London SE9 3EP.

Tel: 0208 857 2043.

MEETING PLACE: Sundridge Park W. M. C.,
Burnt Ash Lane, Bromley.

MEETING: Last Monday in the month at 12.30
hrs. Except May, Aug & Dec

COLCHESTER BRANCH

SECRETARY: Mr. Chris Benham. 13 Princes
Drive, Highwoods, Colchester, Essex CO4 9YT.

Tel: 01206 845661

MEETING PLACE: Clovelly, Great Bentley,
Colchester, Essex C17 8PD

MEETING: 3rd Tuesday in the month at 14.00 hrs
at Clovelly, Great Bentley Nr Colchester Essex
CO7 8PD

- b. Maidstone Borough Council are being approached to seek permission for the Association to march along Week Street after the Brenchley Gardens Ceremony.
- c. Dr. Michael Nazir-Ali, the ex Bishop of Rochester, had agreed to be the guest preacher at the Service of Remembrance in All Saints Church, the Revd Tug Wilson to officiate.
- d. The Reunion would be held at the Oakwood House Hotel, Oakwood Road, Maidstone and not the Mercure Hotel at Hollingbourne. The Oakwood House Hotel is but 5 minutes drive from All Saints Church.
- e. The cost of the lunch tickets for the reunion would be £10 for members and their wives, partners or carers, £15 for Officers and £18 for Non Members.
- f. The Reunion lunch would be of three courses.
- g. The entertainment would be provided by the Band of PWRR followed by the Swingtime Sweethearts.

11. Buffs Statue:

- a. The President advised the meeting that the statue would be based on the painting by Lady Butler of Man of Kent.
- b. The statue would be 50 inches high, and would be sculptured by Peter Birkett who had produced the excellent, and highly acclaimed, Queen's Own statue. The statue would be cast in bronze and mounted on a stone plinth.
- b. As to the location, meetings were being arranged with both the Dean of Canterbury Cathedral to explore the possibility of erecting the statue in the Cathedral grounds and also with Canterbury City Council to investigate their reaction to the proposal to erect the statue within the city limits preferably the city centre.
- c. Once these initial meetings had taken place there would be the usual delay whilst the proposals were considered by both parties. Members would be kept informed of any progress.
- d. The Statue appeal leaflet would be ready for distribution by the end of March.
- e. It is also proposed to provide a limited number of a small 'table top' bronze model of the statue for sale.
- f. Following the provision of the statue in Canterbury the provision of a similar memorial to The Buffs would be investigated to be sited somewhere on the Western Front.
- g. The President advised that the headstone to Captain Matthew Latham had been badly damaged by weather over the years and now needs replacing. This project should be completed within the remaining life of the Association

12. Association Secretary's Administrative points:

- a. The Secretary advised that, with immediate effect, a Regimental Association office had been established and asked that members amended their contact details for the Secretary to: -

Regimental Association Secretary
 Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment
 Marlowe Innovation Centre
 Marlowe Way, Ramsgate, CT12 6FA
 Tel: 01843 598615
 Mobile: 07522914562
 Email: qobassociation@gmail.com

- d. Consequently authority had been given to Canacorde to liquefy the Association's assets and subsequently those funds, £495,000, had been reinvested with Barclay's Wealth.
 - e. The President explained that taking into account the cash balance held at the bank of £46,009 together with the value of the investment portfolio the Association's assets were greater than those held at the beginning of 2013.
6. **Accounts for the Period 01 January to 31 December 2013:**
- a. The Secretary gave an overview of the financial accounts for the year and made the following comments: -
 - (i) At the end of the financial year there had been a balance held at the bank of £46,009. Consequently there should not be a requirement for any drawdown from the investment portfolio during this financial year.
7. **Benevolence Review for the period of 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2013:**
- a. The Association Secretary explained the Benevolence grants made in 2013 and made the following comments: -
 - (i) There had been a marked reduction in the number of applications made and approved compared to the previous year, 2012. It was expected that the number of future applications would continue to decline year on year.
 - (ii) A total 35 applications for assistance had been received of which 30 were approved.
 - (iii) The grants made totalled £68,632 of which £10,330 had been made from Association funds the balance being paid from other sources.
 - (iv) A synopsis of the grants made in 2013 is available on request.
8. **Budget for 2014:**
- a. The Secretary briefed the meeting on the budget for 2013/2014 which had been agreed by the Committee of Management and approved by the Finance Committee of the PWRR Trustees. A copy of the budget is available on request.
9. **Canterbury Reunion 3rd August 2014:**
- a. The sermon would be given by The Very Reverend Dr Robert Willis DL, The Dean of Canterbury Cathedral.
 - b. The Parade and Service would follow the same format as in previous years.
 - c. The PWRR Band had been booked for the parade, service and for Beating Retreat.
 - d. The Invicta Concert band would play at the Reunion Leros Barracks.
 - e. A letter of Invitation has been sent to the Mayor of Canterbury.
 - f. The cost of the reunion ticket for a member and one guest i.e. wife, carer or friend will be £5.00 per person.
 - g. It was agreed that the Reunion Lunch would be based on a Hog Roast or Carvery.
 - h. A detailed Admin Order would be published in the next issue of The Journal (May) but distributed to all Branches in advance of publication.
10. **Maidstone Reunion 21st September 2014:**
- a. The format of the Brenchley Gardens Parade and Service to remain as in previous years. The Revd. Tug Wilson to officiate

- (ii) In response the Secretary advised that it was recognised that each Branch's requirement was different and consequently the making of blanket welfare payments to Branches, and the top up when necessary, had to change to ensure fairness. However, where there was an established need branches could apply for a grant in writing and invited an application from Colchester Branch.
- d. **Regimental Cricket Tent:** Colonel Peter Cook advised the meeting that the arrangements for this year's Cricket Week were still subject to negotiation with Kent County Cricket Club and also the Kent & Canterbury Club. Members would be advised of developments.
- e. **Remembrance Day Turning of the Page:** The President advised the meeting that the Dean of Canterbury Cathedral had expressed a preference that the annual Remembrance Turning of the Page should in future take place on the 11th November each year and not the closest Saturday to that date. The Dean had agreed to personally officiate at that ceremony. Consequently Colonel Bishop asked that the Association Secretary and Canterbury Branch make the necessary arrangements.
- f. **August 4th 2014.**
 - (i) The President explained that the UK's main community commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the 1st World War would take place in Folkestone on August 4th.
 - (ii) The event was being organised by Step Short Ltd, Folkestone and the event would include a parade along the The Leas to where the commemoration arch would be unveiled by a member of the Royal Family.
 - (iii) After the unveiling ceremony the parade would continue along the Road of Remembrance to the port area.
 - (iv) The Association had been invited to take part in the parade and it was proposed to provide several Branch Standards, each with two escorts, to represent the Association to march in the parade from the forming up point, adjacent to the Grand Hotel, to the Commemoration Arch unveiling ceremony.
 - (v) An administrative order would be published in due course and circulated to Association Branches etc.

19. Date and Venue of next Meeting:

- a. Members were advised that the next Annual General meeting would take place on Saturday 28th February 2015.

Action point: The Association Secretary to liaise with Mr. P Fleming re booking the UK Paper & Leisure Club.

There being no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 4.50 pm.

13. Association Journal/Web Site:

- a. The Journal: The meeting were advised that, in future, all members listed on the Association database as members or associate members of the Association would receive a copy of The Journal.
- b. Web Site: The Regimental Web Site was proving to be very successful and the number of visits has exceeded 11,500 in the 18 months that the new site had been open. The message activity through the Message Board had increased markedly.
- c. Membership: The meeting were advised that there were now 1,500 listed on the regimental database

14. Items submitted from branches:

- a. There were none to record.

15. Association Trip to Ypres 2014:

- a. The Association Secretary advised that the trip to Ypres would take place between 15th & 17th May 2014.
- b. There are currently 91 booked on the trip, final invoices had been sent out.
- c. A final recce would take place on 13th/14th March after which a detailed itinerary would be produced.

16. Association Trip to Tertre/ Mons 2014:

- a. The Association Secretary advised that the trip to Tertre would take place between 22nd and 25th August 2014.
- b. There are currently 93 booked on the trip, final invoices and itinerary would be sent out in June.

17. Association Forecast of Events:

- a. Details of very few events had been received to date. Branches will be contacted to confirm details of events and these will be collated and distributed. A full diary of events will be included in the next issue of The Journal.

Action Point: Association Secretary to progress this.

18. Any other Business:

- a. Appointment of an Association Vice President: Vice President: The President explained that it was necessary to appoint a Vice President and advised the meeting that Colonel Peter Cook DL would be Vice President of the Association with immediate effect.
- b. Deputy Association Secretary: To guard against any future eventuality and to ensure continuity the President advised the meeting that Major Richard Cast would act as Deputy Association Secretary with immediate effect and would shadow the Association Secretary in all major events.
- c. Welfare Payments to Branches:
 - (i) Mr. Burr, Chairman of Colchester Branch, asked for consideration to be given for a grant to be made to his branch to cover a considerable increase in the number of members who were ill and the required welfare visits from the branch Welfare Officer. He pointed out that Colchester Branch members came from a very wide area and welfare support for those members currently hospitalised or ill at home involved travelling considerable distances.

Breakfast Hotel accommodation in the 4 Star Hotel Mercure in Valenciennes.

REGIMENTAL REUNIONS 2014
CANTERBURY REUNION
3rd August 2014
&
MAIDSTONE REUNION

21st September 2014

Copies of the Administrative Orders with timings are published within the Journal and an application form for Lunch Tickets for both reunions is enclosed.

Please support these two very important Association events if you possibly can, we can only keep them going if sufficient support is forthcoming,

LONDON BUFFS BRANCH

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE
TOWER OF LONDON

Sunday 7th September 2014

This parade and annual Service of Remembrance, organised by the London (Bufs) Branch of the Regimental Association will be held on Sunday 7th September 2014. The parade will assemble at the East Gate of Tower of London at 10.15.

Should you wish to attend the service then please contact the secretary of London Branch, Mrs. Betty Correa, 34 Homer Road, Shirley, Croydon, Surrey CR0 7SB. Tel No. 0208 655 3040
Email jcorrea@talk 21.com

CANTERBURY BRANCH
ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE

The annual Carol Concert will be held in the Franciscan Study Centre on Sunday 7th December at 2 pm.

All are welcome.

ALBUHERA NOTELETS

There are Albuhera Notelets still available-order form enclosed.

QUEEN'S OWN BUFFS, BUFFS
& QUEEN'S OWN
ANNUAL OFFICERS' LUNCH.

UNION JACK CLUB, SANDELL STREET
WATERLOO

Wednesday 8th October 2014

This year will see for the first time a combined Queen's Own Buffs, Buffs and Queen's Own Officers' annual lunch.

The lunch will be held in the Gascoigne Room at the Union Jack Club on Wednesday 8th October at 12 noon for 1 pm.

The menu will be:-

Prawn & Crayfish Cocktail.

Best End of Lamb with Red Currant Reduction,
Chateau Potato, Carrot Pearls and Turned Turnips.

Panna Cotta with Poached Seasonal Fruits.

Tea/Coffee and Petit Fours

Port

(A vegetarian option for Starter and Main Course will be available - please indicate any such requirement on the attached form)

The cost of the lunch will be £37.50 per person and tickets can be obtained by completing the form enclosed and sent to: -

Major (Retd) P. R. White MM.

The Queen's Own Buffs Regimental Association
Secretary

The Marlowe Innovation Centre

Marlowe Way, Ramsgate CT12 6FA

Email: qobassociation@gmail.com

Tel: 01843 598615 Mobile: 07522914562

NOTICE BOARD

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following who have now joined the Regimental Association.

Mr. A. J. Burfoot	QOB/Qns	1962-70
Capt. P. Wood	Qns/PWRR	1988-93
Mr. K. Midmore	Qns/PWRR	1986-97.
Mr. L S Joyce	REME	1963-88
Mr. A Dutton	Qns/PWRR	1976-2010
Mr. R. Amber	2 Queen's	1967-73
Mr A W J Dyer	2 Queen's	1969-71
Mr T Lockyear	Bufs	1957-59
Mr D R Hughes	2 Qns/SAS	1980-2013
Mr. B McDonough	QOB/2 Qns	
Mr B V Arnold	2 Queen's	1964-87
Mr D Crayford	QORWK	1952-54
Mr. D Coups		
Mr A E Garrett	Bufs	1950-52
Mr C W Brown	QOB/2 Qn's	1963-72
Mr. M M Jones	QOB	1963-85
Mr P W Goodayle	QOB	1963-85
Mr S E Weller	Queen's RR	1954-56
Mr. T W Eastick	Queen's RR	1955-57
Mr W J Weston	Queen's RR	1954-56
Mr W Clarkson	Queen's RR	1954-56
Mr. C Rex	QOB	1960-62
Mr K Foster	QOB	1959-61
Mr. A Butt	QOb	1960-62
Mr. R Picton	QOb	1960-62
Mr D Paul	QOB	1960-62
Mr D Mutton	QOB	1960-62
Mr T Dibley	QOB	1960-62
Mr G Divall	QOB	1960-62
Mr C Brown	QOB	1960-62
Mr J Madgwick	QOB 1	960-62
Mr B Abraham	QOB	1960-62

Mr D Fitchett	QOB	1960-62
Mr C McSweeney	QOB	1960-62
Mr D Dell	QOB	1960-62
Mr B Payne	QOB	1960-62
Mr. M Terry	QOB	1960-62
Mr G Belsey	QOB	1960-62
Mr K Minnis	1 Qns/PWRR	1984-2006

MILITARY MUSIC OF THE HOME COUNTIES REGIMENTS

The Regimental Association recently paid for the production of a compact disc by the Band of the PWRR which includes forebear regimental marches and other popular items, titled Military Music Of The Home Counties Regiments .

The CD is now on sale at a price of £6.00 for a single copy and £5 for orders of 2 or more.

To purchase please use the enclosed Order Form and send to Major Alan Marchant, 9, Payton Mews, Canterbury CT11JW. Tel: 01227 458264 or email: alan.a.marchant@sky.com.

Cheques should be made out to PWRR Benevolent Fund (QOB (1)).

ASSOCIATION TRIP TO TERTRE/MONS.

22nd to 25th August 2014

There are still a few tickets available for the above trip. There will be two coaches travelling with pick up points at: - Tonbridge, Maidstone, Sittingbourne, Herne Bay, Margate, Ramsgate, Sturry, Canterbury and Dover.

The Committee of Management have agreed to subsidise the trip for Association Members and consequently the cost of the four day three night trip will be £135 per person for Association Members and their wives, partners or carers and £190 per person for Non Association members.

The price includes return coach travel from your selected pick up point, Ferry costs, Bed &

seen again. At the same time Major Joslin, who had commanded the Queen's Own attack, was also killed.

'A' & 'D' companies were brought up to assist the KOSB in holding the crown of the Hill but suffered considerable casualties from the shelling from heavy guns, howitzers, field guns and minenwerfers together with machine gun and rifle fire. At 08.30 hrs 2 DWR took over the defence of the Hill. The remainder of 'A' & 'D' Companies, together with their long time comrades from the KOSB, were withdrawn and by 5pm that evening were at Vlamertinghe to regroup and rest.

Between 17th and 19th April 13 Brigade casualties amounted to 1,362 of whom 300 were from 1 Queen's Own.

At 19.00 hrs on 22nd April, the Battalion was returning to Hill 60 when retreating French Colonial troops blocked the way, fleeing from the great German gas attack north of Ypres. The orders were cancelled and 1 Queen's Own, together with the three other battalions of 13 Brigade, KOSB, KOYLI and DWR were moved to a position near Pilkem to ease pressure on the Canadian flank. This had been brought about by the French whose line, which had borne the brunt of the gas attack, had been broken during the gas attack. The Brigade was ordered to counter attack along the line Ypres-Pilkem Road and were given just one hour from receipt of the order to the time of the attack.

Immediately on crossing the Yser Canal the Queen's Own deployed on the left of the Brigade along the canal. Formed into three lines, with a platoon of each company leading, the advance was commenced without artillery support. The KOSB suffered greatly advancing over open ground and it soon became apparent that the German positions were too strongly held. It would require an attack in greater strength with adequate artillery support to carry the German positions. The advance was halted and the two battalions dug in by which time the Queen's Own had suffered 105 casualties whilst 2 KOSB had lost over 200.

At 02.00 hrs the Brigade were relieved and withdrawn to the Yser Canal. In the late evening of the 25th April a very welcome draft of 379 men

of the Queen's Own reinforcements arrived. On 10th May, after various deployments, the Battalion was moved back to Vlamertinghe and enjoyed the first night's rest for 10 days.

Shortly after the initial capture of the Hill on April 17th, Sir John French paid a visit to 13 Brigade and addressed the troops as follows: -

"Officers and men of the Queen's Own, KOSB's, KOYLI's and Duke of Wellingtons: It is in some respects a sad sight I see before me, but it is still a greater and more glorious sight; sad, because I see you so few in numbers, compared with what you were a week ago, but a greater sight because I can speak of victory; a glorious victory.

Well men I come here at the first opportunity I could get to tell you in a few brief words how deeply and truly I appreciate your magnificent conduct.

The operation which you carried to such a glorious conclusion was one of great importance to us and the result will prove far-reaching. The operation that was planned fell to your lot to carry it out on the night of last Saturday 17th April. The officers and men of the Queen's Own and KOSB most gallantly and splendidly took that position and captured it. When you got there, you found that you had only done a small part of the task, Throughout that terrible long night you had to hold it under the most terrible fire. In the morning you had to throw back a series of the most violent counter-attacks of the enemy who knew the worth of that hill. Whatever we may accuse the Germans of, we shall never accuse them of cowardice. They are foemen worthy of your steel. If you look at the casualty lists, you will see the losses amongst the officers is proportionately very great. Those officers knew very well who they were leading-men who would follow them to the death. This confidence of officers and men in each other is the secret of our success. I believe that this campaign has brought greater honour to the rank and file than any other campaign that preceded it.

I can only give you my warmest and sincere thanks, and express my deep admiration for the magnificent devotion and glorious courage you displayed."

Since the capture of Hill 60 on 17th April, the Hill had been gallantly held by battalions from 5th

Hill 60

At the outbreak of the Great War Queen's Own formed part of 13 Brigade. The other battalions in the Brigade were 2nd Bn. King's Own Scottish Borderers (KOSB), 2nd Bn. Duke of Wellington's Regiment (DWR), and 2nd Bn Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (KOYLI).

After the initial engagements in the Tere/Mons area and subsequent retreat, followed by the battles of the Marne and Aisne, the Brigade were re deployed with the BEF to the Flanders area. On 13th November they arrived in the Ypres salient. By 10th April, 1915, 13 Brigade had reassembled at Vlamertinghe to the West of Ypres where they rehearsed for the forthcoming assault on Hill 60.

Situated about three miles southeast of Ypres Hill 60 was first captured by the Germans on 10 December 1914. It would be an exaggeration to refer to Hill 60 as a hill. Standing only 40 feet above the surrounding country, just to the South East of Zillebeke, it had been formed from the spoil produced during the construction of a railway cutting, some 20 feet deep on the Ypres-Comines railway.

Although of relatively insignificant height, Hill 60 offered a very significant tactical advantage to whichever side held it, providing as it did an excellent observation post from which movement could be seen and the ability to direct artillery fire over the flat land held by the Allies.

Early in 1915 the hill was held in strength by the Germans and it was resolved that it must be taken. To facilitate the task five mined tunnels were constructed under the German positions. Before dawn on 17th April, 1st Queen's Own had moved to the start line, a trench system just below the Hill, and within a short distance of the leading German positions.

At 19.05 hrs that evening the first of the mines were detonated and an artillery barrage opened with additional supporting rifle and machine gun fire from either flank. The remaining four mines exploded a few seconds later and 'C' Company, led by Captain Moulton-Barrett, rushed the Hill

supported by 'B' Company and two companies of 2 KOSB.

So sudden was the attack that the Hill was taken with relatively few casualties. However the same cannot be said for the defending Germans who lost heavily especially to the exploding mines which created several enormous craters and virtually decapitated the Hill. These large craters made it difficult subsequently to prepare defensive positions to resist the inevitable German counter attack. Over the next few hours the Hill came under increasingly heavy artillery bombardment from in excess of 50 German artillery batteries focusing on just 150 yards of defensive trenches. By this time 'B' and 'C' companies of 1 Queen's Own were deployed in the trenches at the top of the Hill whilst 'A' & 'D' companies were in support on the reverse of the Hill. The relatively inexpensive



cost in capturing the Hill was soon dwarfed by a dramatic increase in casualties suffered primarily from the artillery barrage.

Before dawn on 18th April it was decided to relieve 'B' & 'C' companies with two companies of 2 KOSB but before this could be completed a determined German counter attack was launched. At this time there were still two platoons one from each of 'B' & 'C' companies on the top of the Hill. Led by Lt. Walker and 2/Lt Poland respectively, who rallied to the defence in support of the KOSB companies. Neither of these gallant officers, the NCO's or the men of these two platoons were ever

mainly owing to the splendid personal gallantry and example of Second Lieutenant Geary. At one time he used a rifle with great effect, at another threw hand grenades and exposed himself with entire disregard to danger, in order to see, by the light of flares, where the enemy were coming on. In the intervals between the attacks, he spent his whole time arranging for the ammunition supply and for reinforcements. He was severely wounded just before daybreak on 21st April”.

After the war he was Ordained into Holy Orders and was at one time Chaplain to the Forces, but resigned to go to Canada where he became Sergeant-at-Arms in the Canadian Legislature. In 1939 he joined the Canadian Army as a Major. He died on 28th May 1976, at Niagara-on-Lake.

Lt. George Rowland Patrick Roupell VC:

1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment



“For most conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on 20 April 1915, when he was commanding a company of his battalion in a front trench on “Hill 60” which was subjected to a most severe bombardment throughout the day.

Though wounded in several places, he remained at his post and led his company in repelling a strong German assault. During a lull in the bombardment he had his wounds hurriedly dressed, and then insisted in returning to his trench, which was again being subjected to severe bombardment. Towards evening, his company being dangerously weakened, he went back to his battalion headquarters, represented the situation to his Commanding Officer, and brought up reinforcements, passing backwards and forwards over ground swept by heavy fire. With these reinforcements he held his position throughout the night, and until his battalion was relieved next morning.

This young Officer was one of the few survivors of his company, and showed a magnificent example of courage, devotion and tenacity, which undoubtedly inspired his men to hold out till the end.”

In addition to his Victoria Cross he was awarded the Russian Order of St George (4th Class) and the French Croix de Guerre, and was Mentioned in Despatches. Roupell, a regular soldier, survived the war and went on to command a 114th Infantry Brigade in the 2nd World War.

Private Edward Dwyer VC:

1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment.



“For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on “Hill Sixty” on 20th April 1915. When his trench was heavily attacked by German grenade throwers, he climbed on to the parapet and although subjected to a hail of bombs at close quarters, succeeded in

dispersing the enemy by the effective use of his hand grenades. Private Dwyer displayed great gallantry earlier in this day, in leaving his trench under heavy shell fire to bandage his wounded comrade”.

Aged 18 at that time, he was one of the youngest soldiers to win the VC in World War 1, he was promoted Lance Corporal in 1915, and was sadly killed in action at Guillemont on 4th September 1916, he was buried at Flatiron Copse Cemetery in France.

PW



War Illustrated 1915

Division over the ensuing fortnight, but on 5th May was retaken by the Germans using a concentrated gas attack. The 2 DWR were holding the Hill at the time and when the Germans took the Hill they found the Dukies still there in the trenches. However the trenches were manned by dead men for at that time there was no anti gas equipment to resist such an attack. They had stood their ground despite the choking clouds of poisonous gas.

The Queen's Own, after only 4 days rest, were ordered to Hill 60 for a counter attack. Following a failed counter attack by 15 Brigade it was determined that 13 Brigade would launch a night attack at 10 pm on 5th May. The enemy were apparently expecting the attack and despite a preparatory artillery bombardment to support the attack, the Germans rained a barrage of HE and shrapnel along the lines of approach. Over the next few days attack after attack was launched but to no avail and the losses of the Queen's Own steadily mounted to 110.

Hill 60 was eventually recaptured on 7th June 1917, the first day of the battle of Messines, but was again recaptured by the Germans during their last great offensive in April 1918. Finally this relatively small mound, which had cost both sides such an enormous number of casualties, many of whose bodies were never recovered and lie there to this day, was captured by the British on 28th September 1918.

During the battle to take and defend Hill 60, 4 Victoria Crosses were won: -

2nd Lieutenant Geoffrey Harold Woolley VC:

9th London Regiment (TA) known as Queen Victoria's Rifles (QVR). The citation reads: -

"For most conspicuous bravery on Hill 60 during the night of 20-21 April 1915. Although the only officer on the hill at the time, and with very few men, he successfully resisted all attacks on his trench and continued throwing bombs and encouraging his men till relieved. His trench



during all this time was being heavily shelled and bombed and was subjected to heavy machine-gun fire by the enemy."



Woolley was the first territorial soldier to be awarded the VC in WW1, he survived the war

After the war he was one of the VC holders chosen to form the Honour Guard at the funeral of the Unknown Warrior. He resigned his commission in 1923 and was ordained into the Church of England.

In 1940 he was commissioned into the Royal Army Chaplains' Department and reached the rank of Major and served in many theatres of war including the Western Desert during which time he won the MC and was mentioned in Despatches on 3 occasions. His son Rollo, a Spitfire pilot, died in the same year.

He passed away in 1968 in his 76th year.

2nd Lieutenant Benjamin Handley Geary VC:

1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment

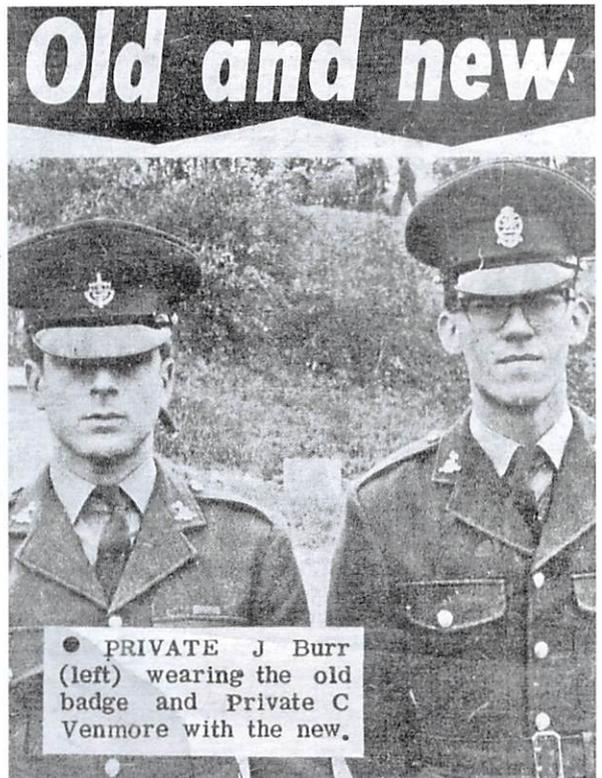


"For most conspicuous bravery and determination on Hill Sixty near Ypres on 20th and 21st April 1915, when he held the left crater with his platoon, some men of The Bedfordshire Regiment and a few reinforcements who came up during the evening and the night.

The crater was first exposed to a very heavy artillery fire, which broke down the defences and afterwards, throughout the night, to repeated bomb attacks which filled it with dead and wounded. Each attack, however, was repulsed,



Reculver Church of England Primary School, Remembrance Day Assembly.
Above: Rory and Ashton, two 9 year old pupils at the school who between them raised nearly £400 for the Poppy Appeal and below, the School's Wreath & Poppy Cross laying party.



PRIVATE J Burr (left) wearing the old badge and Private C Venmore with the new.
SOLDIERS of the 2nd Battalion, the Queen's Regiment, yesterday received their new cap badges in a ceremonial parade at their Gun Club Barracks.
The badges were presented by Lieutenant General Sir Richard Craddock, colonel of the regiment.

A 'young' Jimmy Burr, now Chair of Colchester Branch, wearing the very unpopular Saxon Crown cap badge with Pte Chris Venmore wearing the new 2nd Queen's cap badge.



Maidstone Branch.

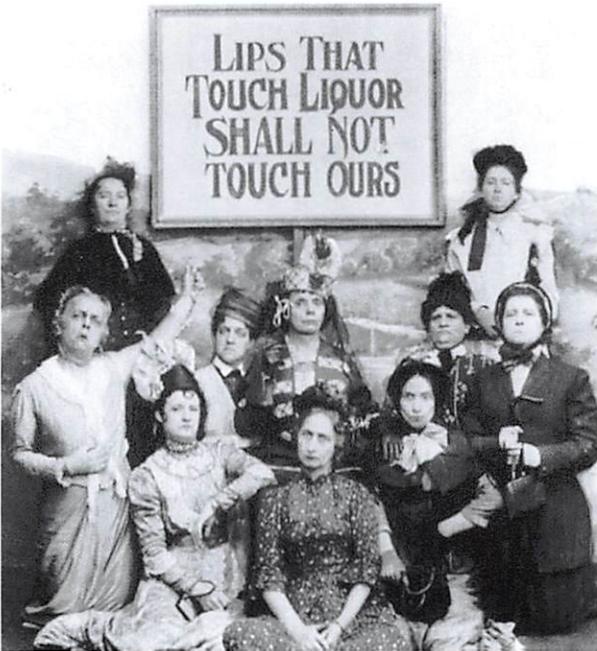
PHOTO GALLERY



Bromley Branch with full supporting cast of their ladies on the right.



Colchester Branch summer BBQ-2013.



For heaven's sake, please pass the port.



*QORWK Living History Group
'Uniforms through the ages'
Maidstone Museum 2013.*



Mortar Platoon, 2 Queen's Hong Kong 1965-67

*At left : Pln. shovelling party at the 'shun' under the supervision of an apple eating Bill Totterdell!
At right, part of the mortar line, New Territories, Hong Kong- A really great platoon - those were the days.*



**The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment's Band & Drums
Lord Mayor's Show 1948.**

Photo courtesy of Bill Franklin

WHY BRITAIN IS AT WAR

1.-TO SAVE HER GOOD NAME
As a result of the Munich Conference, Germany made that we were to attack France. France is our friend as we could not stand off by Germany and Britain had to try.

2.-TO SAVE HER LIFE & HER EMPIRE
The German Emperor wants to "open up" France, strip Britain of Trade and Colonies and through your rights and liberty into the world, to be his slave in the Balkans. In six months if you don't wake up you will be divided into slavery and have to take kindly and meekly to run the German Emperor rule on you.

3.-TO SAVE THE FREEDOM OF THE PEOPLE IN ALL EUROPE
In Germany the Emperor rules the people have no power there is no free speech. The military then show what it likes. If Germany wins, the progress of the people, the cause of freedom and world peace and fair play for you will be gone.

The Russian are helping us. But remember, Germany is very rich and strong and has made careful plans to crush first France and then Britain and defeat the Russian too. You can take too much for your "wired" and "children" sales. Our Colonies have more of men what this war means. They have few people but are sending large numbers of men, enough to do it.

Life perhaps seems to you as so usual. Do not be deceived, this is the most deadly peril Britain has ever met. You must strain every nerve as you will be crushed under the German boot.

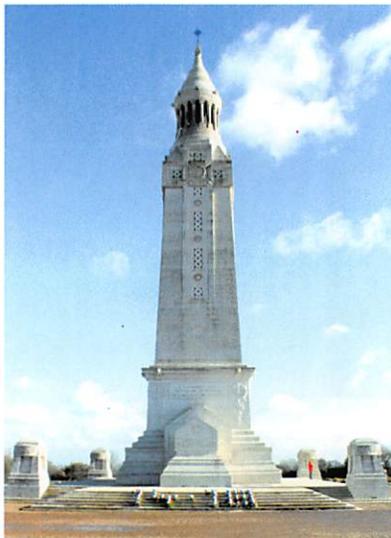
**FIGHT THEN - FOR YOUR LIFE
 FIGHT - FOR YOUR HONOUR
 FIGHT - FOR FREEDOM
 FIGHT - FOR MANKIND**

EXTRACTED FROM "THE TIMES"

The 'reason why'



*Left: "Well it was not like this when I signed for it"
Colonels Peter Bishop and Peter Mclelland standing by a bunker on the top of Hill 60 on a recent recce.*



Ablain St-Nazaire French Military Cemetery, is the world's largest French military cemetery. In total, the cemetery and ossuary hold the remains of more than 40,000 soldiers, as well as the ashes of many concentration camp victims of the Second World war.



Vimy Ridge

The Canadian National Vimy Memorial is dedicated to the memory of Canadian Expeditionary Force members killed during the First World War and to those that have no known grave, a total of 60,000. The monument is the centrepiece of a preserved battlefield park that encompasses grounds over which the Canadian Corps made their assault during the Battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917, fought as part of the Battle of Arras.



The Tertre Memorial

The memorial to those members of 'A' Company of 1 RWK who were killed on 23rd August 2014. The memorial also commemorates all of the men of the Queen's Own, 6,866, who paid the supreme sacrifice in WW1.



Left: The First: The grave of Pte John Parr, 4th Middlesex who was the first British soldier to be killed in World War 1.



Right: The Last: Major John Barrel placing a cross at the graveside of Private George Ellison, 5th Lancers, who was the last British soldier to be killed in action in 1918.

Editor's note: The graves of George Price, ex left, George Ellison and John Parr are all in the CWGC Cemetery at St. Symphorien. The graves of John Parr and George Ellison are but a few yards apart.

This cemetery will feature on the itinerary of the Association's Tertre Trip in August 2014.



Pictured left: The grave of Private George Lawrence Price who served with 'A' Company of the 28th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. George was the last soldier of the British Empire to be killed during the First World War.

Pictured right: The German memorial to those German and British soldiers who were killed in action between 23rd and 25th August 1914. The memorial is situated in St. Symphorien Military Cemetery in Mons, Belgium.



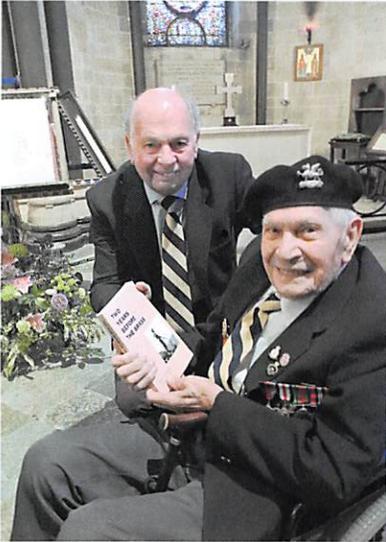


Above. Alf Baker Ex RN veteran of the Arctic Convoys, who 'Rings the Bell' every Monday and also on special days. Alf on behalf of all of us, many thanks indeed.

Above, centre and below: London Buffs 'Turning the Page' 1st May 2013



Turning the Page



In May to celebrate his 100th year, Bill Harrison of 141 Regt RAC (The Buffs) Turned the Page.

Left: Bill Adams presented Bill with a copy of his book "Two Years Before the Brass."

Below right: Bill with the Standard Bearers and Duty Chaplain



Above and below left: One of the Association's stalwarts, Sidney Pullman Turning the Page.. Below right: Some of Sidney's escort



THE QUEEN'S OWN BUFFS MAIDSTONE REUNION AND QORWK STATUE UNVEILING CEREMONY



The Parade formed up in Brenchley Gardens for the traditional Act of Remembrance.



Above: General Sir Geoffrey Howlett KBE MC and the Mayor of Maidstone laying wreaths at the Cenotaph.



Above right: The ever smart Ken Parker, Standard Bearer of Bromley Branch on parade.



The Band leading the parade to the Museum for the Statue unveiling ceremony.



The Branch Standard Bearers at the statue unveiling.

L to R: Ken Parker (Bromley), Jim Pledger (Sittingbourne), Cadet, Joe Correa (London), Barry Crocker (Weald), Nigel Bristow (Maidstone)



The Mayor of Maidstone and General Howlett with Colonel Peter Bishop, Mrs Dawn Champion & Mr. Peter Birkett the sculptor of the statue.



Above. The Turning of the Page ceremony on 11th November 2013 at which the Dean of Canterbury Cathedral officiated.

THE SOLDIER

***If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;***

***A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,
A body of England's, breathing England's air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.***

***And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.***

Rupert Brooke -1914

CANTERBURY REUNION AND SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 4TH AUGUST 2013



The Parade to the Cathedral



*Below: The Lord Mayor talking to RSM
Faulkner and Bryan Dudman*

*Below: Colonel & Mrs Bishop with the Lord
Mayor and escort*





Above and below: Just some of the many ex Queen's Own on parade.



Below: Arthur Healey, with ex members of 1 RWK band, presenting a QORWK Band Banner to the PWRR Band. L to R: Barry Knight, Eddy Renwick, BSM Gary George, Arthur Healey, Len Larkins and Ivor Thomas.



At the conclusion of the Service of Remembrance, Colonel Bishop presented The Revd Canon Christopher Morgan-Jones with a cut glass vase to mark his retirement and to thank him for his support of the Association over the years.

Below: Colonel Bishop and the outgoing Association Secretary, Major Dennis Bradley BEM DL, being presented with a silver picture frame on behalf of the Association members to mark Dennis's retirement.



Above: The Shorncliffe Military Wives Choir who entertained the reunion after lunch.



The Reunion



Two Drum Majors



A 'Knotty' situation

Above: The Lord Mayor of the Dance

Right: Eeee! we supped some ale!!

Below left: A "non regimental" hat for the hot weather.

Below Centre: "I'm Happy" and why not, it was great day.

Below right: Brian Hazard with Chunky Prudence





The Standards at the dip



Left: Bryan Dudman handing the Denmark Branch Standard and, at right, Jim Plegder handing the Sittingbourne standard to Cannon Claire Edwards.



Above: Colonel Bishop with the Lord Mayor and centre, John Phillips with Ken Hyam laying the wreaths. At right the Standards leading the congregation out of the Cathedral at the end of the service.



The March Past

LONDON BUFFS TOWER OF LONDON PARADE Sunday 1st September 2013



Above left: The march into the Tower.

Above: The Chairman of London Buffs, Frankie Hills, with the two Standard Bearers on parade, Alan Buddle of Ramsgate Branch and Joe Correa of London Buffs.



Left: The Inspection.



Colonel Peter Bishop OBE DL, Major John Barrell OBE TD, Joe Correa, Yeoman Warder, In Pensioner, Alan Buddle, Frankie Hills and Joe Correa



At left: The President presenting the CO of 3 PWRR with a donation cheque for £500 from the Association for the 3 PWRR Battalion Fund.



Right; Sgt Rob Phillips 3 PWRR, wearing the uniform of 141 Regt RAC The Buffs in memory of Geoff Kirk.



Very well deserved Meritorious Service Certificates.

The President, the Lord Mayor, Bob Cook, Jan Turney, Norman Shonk, BSM Gary George, the late George Croxford BEM, 'Scouse' Sturgeon, Bryan Dudman and Maurice Samson.



The Branch Standards on parade during 'Beating of Retreat'. A suitable finale to a great day.

INTER BRANCH DARTS MATCH

22ND FEBRUARY 2014



This year the Committee of Management fielded a team which added to the variety of styles that were on show. The C of M team lost two games to one in the first round to Sittingbourne. Just wait till next year, side bets are now being taken!



Above: The Captain of Sittingbourne Branch receiving the winners trophy from Colonel Peter Bishop.



Centre: Brian Hazard, Captain of Ramsgate, receiving the runners up trophy.



Above: The cup for the highest score was this year was won by Dave Brierley of Sittingbourne Branch.



Trophies and cups



Members of Weald Branch team with Paul Fleming of Sittingbourne Branch who organised the competition. Many thanks Paul, yet another success.



*Sittingbourne the winning team
Just checking!*



That's better- all members present



THE BUFFS STATUE



The project to provide the RWK statue was an undoubted success and was very well supported indeed. Now we turn our attention to the provision of a statue to The Buffs which will be sited either within the Cathedral precincts or in Canterbury City Centre.

A considerable amount of groundwork has already been undertaken:

The statue will be based on the painting by Lady Butler 'Man of Kent'.

Peter Birkett has been commissioned to produce the statue and has already produced a small scale model.

It has been agreed that the statue will be 50" high, cast in bronze and mounted on a stone plinth.

An appeal leaflet has been produced (included with this issue) and donations will be sought from both regimental and public sources.

All donations will be acknowledged and any made in memory of an individual or unit will have a separate page reflecting that donation in the Book of Remembrance.

An 8" table top replica bronzed statue will be available for sale. The final cost has yet to be determined but will be in the region of £250. There will only be a limited number of these cast and each will be numbered and have a certificate attached.

Meetings have already been held with The Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, The Very Reverend R Willis DL and also with representatives of Canterbury City Council.

The final siting of the statue will be determined once we have the agreement of either Cathedral authorities or Canterbury City Council or indeed both, in which case a choice will have to be made to determine its final location.

It is expected that the statue will be sited and unveiled sometime during 2015 and a firm date and details will be given in the next issue of The Journal and also on the website.

So now it is over to you. Whatever you can afford to donate will be gratefully received and as already mentioned if the donation is in memory of someone then a specific page will be included in the Book of Remembrance, similar to the one shown below.

Your contribution will ensure that the long history, service and sacrifice of The Buffs will be kept in the public eye and proudly remembered for many years to come.



*In memory of
Colonel F. C. R. Romer C.B., C.M.G.*

*Commanding Officer, 8th Buffs,
who fell leading the battalion at Loos, September 1915*

Veteri Frondescit Honore

London Buffs Past & Present Association.

6. COMPLIMENTS

Compliments are to be paid as follows:

- a. **Entry into the Cathedral.** On the March to the Cathedral 'Eyes Left' to be given at the War memorial in the Butter Market. Standards to be 'Let Fly'.
- b. **The Cathedral Precinct.** The Regimental Sergeant Major (R.S.M.) is to halt the Parade and to give the order to 'March Off the Standard Bearers'. The President of the Association will 'fall out' the officers and the R.S.M. will then 'fall out' the Parade. (Once fallen out the Standard Bearers are to report to the Canterbury representative at the West Door of the Cathedral).
- c. **Parade After the Service.** In the precinct a marker will be positioned on either side of the Saluting Base. The command 'Eyes Right' will be given at the first marker and the 'Eyes Front' at the second marker. Standards are to be 'Let Fly' between markers.
- d. The Parade will then March via the West Gate of the Cathedral up Burgate and halt at the Posterne Gate, Burgate, where it will be dismissed. Individuals are to make their own way to Leros Barracks for the Reunion.

7. SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE.

- a. The Service will be conducted on similar lines to last year. Those attending the Service but not marching are requested to be seated in the Cathedral by **12.45 hrs.**
- b. **Ushers.** To report by **12.30 hrs** to Mr Maurice Samson.
- c. Service sheets are to be distributed under the arrangements of Canterbury Branch.

8. DRESS.

- a. Serving Officers on Parade – No. 2 Dress and medals– no swords.
- b. Retired Officers: Lounge suits, bowler hat, umbrella and medals.
- c. Remainder: Lounge suits or blazers and Regimental ties with medals.

9. STANDARD BEARERS

- a. All Standard bearers are to report to Mr. Colin Smith at the Cathedral West Door at 11.50 hrs for a full briefing on the Parade Protocol.

10. REUNION. - LEROS BARRACKS, CANTERBURY

- a. The Invicta Band will play during the lunch period.
- b. There will be a raffle organised by the Canterbury Branch.
- c. Arthur James will provide entertainment during the afternoon.
- d. The Reunion will end at approximately **16.30 hrs** with a Beating Retreat and the playing of the evening hymn by The Band of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

11. MEALS.

- a. Lunch will be available at **£5.00** per person, and will be provided by the Catering Staff of 3 PWRR.
- b. This year the lunch will be a Carvery (choice of three roasts) with all the usual trimmings. A vegetarian option will be available. Ice Cream will be provided as a dessert. Lunch will be served between **14.00-15.00hrs** for ticket holders.
- c. Application for lunch tickets should be made using the Proforma enclosed to and sent with the required remittance (**along with a stamped addressed envelope**) to Mr H Delo of 38 Reculver Avenue, Birchington, Kent, CT7 9NU – Tel: 01843 842357, by no later than **18th July 2014**. Cheques/PO's should be made payable to

"PWRR Benevolent Fund (QOB1)".

THE QUEEN'S OWN BUFFS (PWRR)

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND ANNUAL REUNION,

CANTERBURY – SUNDAY 3rd AUGUST 2014

The Regimental Association thanks the Dean and Chapter for allowing our Association to hold their Remembrance Service in Canterbury Cathedral. We also thank the Commanding Officer of The 3rd Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment for allowing us to hold our Reunion in Leros Barracks, Leros TA Centre, Sturry Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1HR.

The following are the arrangements for the day:

1. **REFRESHMENT.** Tea and light refreshments will be provided from **10.45 hrs** until **11.45 hrs** in the Parish Centre of St Martin and St Paul Church Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1NH.
2. **MUSTER.**
 - a. This will be in the grounds of Canterbury Cathedral, Entrance will be via the Posterne Gate (Car park entrance) to the Cathedral at **12.30 hrs sharp**. There will be no admittance prior to **12.20 hrs**.
 - b. Branch Secretaries are asked to brief their membership not to muster outside of the Weatherspoons Public House and the Posterne Gate entrance.
 - c. Those members who are not marching are to enter the Cathedral via the West Gate (main entrance) and are to be seated within the Cathedral by 12.45 hrs. This will be ensured by stewards from the Canterbury Branch of the Association.
 - d. **Please Note: There is no car parking in the Cathedral grounds whatsoever, this also applies to Disabled Blue Badge Holders, this rule must be strictly adhered to.**
 - e. Smoking is prohibited anywhere within the grounds of the Cathedral.
 - f. **PARKING.** Details for car and coach parking are given in a later paragraph.
3. **PARADE DETAILS**

Parade Commander	- 3 PWRR (TBC)
Parade Marshal	- RSM 3 PWRR (TBC)
Assistant Parade Marshal	- Mr C. Smith
12.25 hrs	- 'Fall In' to be sounded
12.34 hrs	- Welcome by the President
12.36 hrs	- Move Off – route – Posterne Gate, Burgate Christchurch Gate, Cathedral.
4. **PARADE STATES.**
 - a. For security purposes Parade states are a vital part of the preparation for the Event as total numbers have to be submitted to the police and the Cathedral Administrator by the Regimental Association Secretary.
 - b. Branch Secretaries are requested to forward parade states to:

Mr H Delo – 38 Reculver Avenue, Birchington, Kent, CT7 9NU.

No Later than Friday 18th July 2014
5. **BAND INSTRUCTION.**

The Band will countermarch at the Christchurch Gate, Butter Market and then March into the cathedral at the rear of the parade. This should allow all on parade to hear the bass drum and therefore maintain the step.

**THE QUEEN'S OWN BUFFS (PWRR)
SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE
AND
ANNUAL REUNION MAIDSTONE
SUNDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2014**

1. General:

The Parade is to form up in Brenchley Gardens for a wreath laying Ceremony at the Cenotaph. The Revd 'Tug' Wilson will officiate.

After the Act of Remembrance in Brenchley Gardens the parade, will: -

Option A: Led by the Band of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, march along Week Street. The Mayor will take the salute in Brenchley Gardens and the parade will halt and fall out in Week Street just before the High Street junction.

(Note: Permission is currently being sought to march along Week Street from Maidstone Borough Council.)

or

Option B: Fall out in Brenchley Gardens and members make their way to All Saints Church.

The service of Remembrance will take place in All Saints Church. The Revd Tug Wilson will officiate and Dr. Michael Nazir-Ali, the former Bishop of Rochester, will preach the sermon.

The Reunion will take place at the Oakwood House Hotel, Oakwood Road, Maidstone, ME16 8AE

2. Parking:

Cars: Car parking is available in County Road (not to include the Invicta House) free of charge to all members of the Association in attendance. This has been kindly authorised by Kent Facilities Management a division of Kent County Council, for which we are very grateful. It is essential that you request a Parking Permit when you apply for your Reunion admission ticket. (see Annex A). There is sufficient parking for all attending the Reunion at the Oakwood House Hotel.

Disabled Parking: Those of our members who have disabled car parking permits they should make their way directly to Oakwood house Hotel and arrive no later than 9am. Transport will then be provided to transfer the party to Brenchley Gardens, All Saints and back to Oakwood House for the Reunion. It is essential that you indicate that you require this service, in the relevant section of the Application for Lunch Tickets.

Coaches: May be parked in Priory Road during the Service and can be brought to the large Lay-By at All Saint's Church at 12.00 hrs.

3. Arrival Facilities:

The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regimental Museum situated in Faith Street, Maidstone will be open from 0830 hrs to 1000 hrs. Complimentary Tea/Coffee and biscuits will be available to all visitors.

4. Parade States:

For security purposes Parade States are a vital part of the preparation for the day. Branch Secretaries are requested to forward their Parade State to the Regimental Association Secretary, Marlowe Innovation Centre, Marlowe Way, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6FA – Tel: 01843 598615 by Monday 8th September 2014.

- d. Tickets applied for in bulk by Branches will be sent to Branch Secretaries for distribution.
- e. **Please Note: No lunch tickets will be available for sale on the day.**

12. **BARS.**

- a. Bars will be open from 14.00 hrs until 16.30 hrs approximately.
- b. We are guests of the 3rd Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and great care is to be taken to ensure no damage is caused to the furnishings, carpets, etc. **There will be no smoking in any building whatsoever.** Dress must be appropriate for the day i.e. shirt collar and tie for entrance into the Officers' Mess and Sergeants Mess. Any persons deemed to be unsuitably dressed will be refused admission.

13. **SECURITY.** All those attending the reunion at Leros Barracks must carry their Association Membership card or some other form of identity. This will assist those responsible for Barrack security. **NO IDENTIFICATION – NO ENTRY. There will be no admission into Leros Barracks between 11.45 hrs and 13.30 Hrs.**

14. **CAR AND COACH PARKING.**

- a. **Cars.** Branch Secretaries are requested to consolidate bids for their members who will require a free car-parking pass for Longport Public Car Park. Consolidated requests are to be sent to the Secretary Canterbury Branch, 38 Reculver Avenue, Minnis Bay, Birchington Kent CT7 9NU (SAE is required).
 - (i) **Longport:** There are only 50 passes available, which have been kindly allocated free by the Canterbury City Council. Passes, see paragraph above, are available on a first come basis.
 - (ii) **Leros Barracks:** In order to offer a more convenient service to those who are disabled or have impaired mobility and to alleviate the lack of free car parking spaces at Longport, arrangements have been made for cars to be parked in Leros Barracks from 09.30hrs.
 - (iii) There will be a regular minibus shuttle service between Leros Barracks, Parish Centre of St Martin and St Paul, Church Street and the Cathedral starting from 10.00hrs. There will be a return shuttle service to Leros when the parade has fallen out after the March past.
 - (iv) Please note that the last minibus shuttle will leave Leros for the cathedral at 11.45 hrs after which time late comers will have to make their own arrangements to get to the Cathedral.
 - (v) Should you wish to avail yourself of the Leros car parking facility then you **MUST** indicate this on the Lunch Ticket/Car Parking application form whether you are lunching or not. A ticket will then be sent to you which will need to be shown to the minibus driver before boarding. No ticket no lift.
- b. **Coaches.** Kingsmead Coach Park. Similar to above please inform the Secretary of Canterbury Branch of your requirements. Stickers to be displayed on the coach windscreens will be sent to those requesting them.
- c. **Closing date.** Bids for the above are required by **18th July 2014.**
- e. **Leros Barracks.** The Gate Sentries will direct members to the designated car park. Please ensure these instructions are followed.

15. **CONCLUSION.** All members are asked to support this very special Regimental Day.

P R White MM Major (Retd)
Regimental Association Secretary
Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment
Marlowe Innovation Centre, Marlowe Way, Ramsgate CT12 6FA
Email: qobassociation@gmail.com - Tel: 01843 598615 - Mobile: 07792996860

THE WAR CORRESPONDENT IN WORLD WAR 1

War correspondents have existed in some form or other for nearly as long as the written word. From Herodotus's account, written second hand, of the Persian Wars (490 & 481-479 BC) which is still in print today; to Henry Robinson, who covered Napoleon's campaigns in Spain and Germany for The Times; to Winston Churchill who covered the Siege of Malakand, the Mahdist War and the Second Boer War; through to today's reports from John Simpson in Afghanistan for the BBC. The reporting of war in recent years has, with the advent of satellite links, mobile phones etc, changed dramatically and has now become part of our culture and entertainment.

You may remember a few years ago seeing on the television, US Navy SEALs landing on a Somalia beach in the middle of the night in what was supposed to be a surprise raid, to be greeted, not by any armed resistance, but a battery of TV cameras, flood lights and reporters all eager to get on the spot interviews. War today is brought, by such means, directly into our living rooms. The un-censored reporting of The first and Second Boer wars, warts and all as it were, brought about an accountability to, and criticism by, the general public of politicians, the War Office, the High Command and Generals etc. This did not sit comfortably with the leaders of yesteryear.

The considerable 'bad press' received by Lord Kitchener in the Boer War brought about hatred in him of all reporters and, on his instructions, at the start of the First World War rigid censorship was enforced and reporters were banned from the Western Front. Some such as Basil Clarke and Phillip, later Sir Phillip, Gibbs and others lived as fugitives, as close to the front as they could get, sending back their uncensored reports direct to their newspapers. Branded as outlaws, criminals and spies, they were threatened that if discovered they faced the possibility of imprisonment. In late 1914, Philip Gibbs was indeed found, arrested and immediately sent home.

Two Daily Mail correspondents, Hamilton Fyfe and William Beach Thomas, also took the risk of discovery and Fyfe attempted to overcome this problem by joining the French Red Cross. Recounting his experiences he wrote: -

"The ban on correspondents was still being enforced, so I joined a French Red Cross detachment as a stretcher-bearer, and though it

was hard work, managed to send a good many despatches to my paper. I had no experience of ambulance or hospital work, but I grew accustomed to blood and severed limbs and red stumps very quickly. Only once was I knocked out. We were in a schoolroom turned into an operating theatre. It was a hot afternoon. We had brought in a lot of wounded men who had been lying in the open for some time; their wounds crawled with lice. All of us had to act as aids to our two surgeons. Suddenly I felt the air had become oppressive. I felt I must get outside and breathe. I made for the door, walked along the passage. Then I found myself lying in the passage with a big bump on my head. However, I got rid of what was troubling my stomach, and in a few minutes I was back in the schoolroom. I did not suffer in that way again.

What caused me discomfort far more acute - because it was mental, not bodily - were the illustrations of the bestiality, the futility, the insanity of war and of the system that produced war as surely as land uncultivated produces noxious weeds: these were now forced on my notice every day. The first cart of dead that I saw, legs sticking out stiffly, heads lolling on shoulders, all the poor bodies shovelled into a pit and covered with quicklime, made me wonder what the owners had been doing when they were called up, crammed into uniforms, and told to kill, maim, mutilate other men like themselves, with whom they had no quarrel. All of them had left behind many who would be grieved, perhaps beggared, by their taking off. And all to no purpose, for nothing".

This article would never have passed the censor as it did nothing to enhance the vision of war so important in the recruiting process. After the war Fyfe enjoyed a very successful career in Fleet Street. He died in Eastbourne on 15th July 1951 aged 82.

In April 1915, the Government allowed some accredited reporters and this continued until the end of the War. This meant that the Government was able to control what reporters saw and how they reported it, to enforce censorship and to ensure the suppression of 'bad news' articles. The publication of 'good news' was of course encouraged as it would feed the national pride and in so doing aid recruitment as is amply demonstrated in the following article 'Heroic Men of Kent & Kentish Men', printed in the Daily Mail in 1915.

PW

5. **Brenchley Gardens Programme:**

- 08.30 hrs - Tea, Coffee and biscuits will be available in Museum
- 0945 hrs - The Band arrive.
- 1015-10.35hrs - Fall in and Inspection.
- 1040 hrs - The Mayoral party arrive.
- 1043 hrs - Act of Remembrance and wreath laying at the Cenotaph.
- 1055 hrs - Parade reforms and prepares for the march along Week Street
- 11.00 hrs - March past the Mayor within Brenchley Gardens.
- 11.15 hrs - Parade falls out just before the junction of Week Street and High Street.

6. **Service at All Saint's Church Maidstone:**

The service will start at 11.45 hrs, all those attending are asked to be seated by 11.15 hrs.

The Band of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment will play at the beginning of the Service inside All Saints Church.

The Guest Preacher will be Dr. Michael Nazir-Ali former Bishop of Rochester.

At the end of service members of the Association and guests are to make their way to Oakwood House Hotel.

7. **The Reunion**

The Reunion will be held at Oakwood House Hotel, Oakwood Road, Maidstone.

8. **Transport**

A coach will be provided to transport those Association Members/Guests who are disabled or not travelling by their own means from Brenchley Gardens to All Saints Church and from there to Oakwood House Hotel for the reunion. It will also return Members/Guests to Maidstone after the Reunion.

9. **Reunion Lunch**

A three course lunch of Soup, Roast Medallions of Pork with sauce and vegetables, Apple Pie followed by Coffee will be served at 13.00hrs

All those lunching are asked to be seated by 12.50 hrs.

PLEASE NOTE. No food whatsoever, other than that provided by the Hotel, may be consumed within the hotel. All attending the Reunion must have a Reunion Ticket.

10. **Tickets**

Lunch tickets can be obtained from: The Queen's Own Buffs Regimental Association Secretary, Marlowe Innovation Centre, Marlowe Way, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6FA – Tel: 01843 598615 at a cost of £10 for Association members £15 for Officers and £18 for non members. These costings apply to wives, partners and carers of members, officers and non-members.

11. **Reunion Programme**

- 12.30 hrs - Doors to the Dining Room will open at 12.30 hrs. There will be no entry prior to this.
- 1300 hrs - 3 Course Carvery Lunch– for those with tickets.
- 1330 hrs - Band concert by the Band of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
- 1500 hrs - Swingtime Sweethearts.
- 1530 hrs - Speeches and Raffle
- 1630 hrs - Bars Close
- 1700 hrs - Reunion ends.

They will do it. They never leave the trenches. It is certain that they will stick it out." The Royal West Kents had just been in the trenches near Neuve Chapelle for ten consecutive days, and had not had a single man missing. Sir John French and General Forestier-Walker eulogised them also, the former epitomising his opinion in the words *"That is a magnificent regiment"*. The latter saying: *"The splendid spirit displayed by the regiment fully upheld its traditions when 100 years ago, my Grandfather, Colonel Walker had the honour to command it at Vimiera."*

During the period in question the Royal West Kents bore the brunt of the fighting in several critical situations and never gave ground except by order, though they lost 12 officers and 300 other ranks killed and wounded. On October 24th they repulsed a heavy enemy attack near Lacon, inflicting great losses. The fiercest days, however, were still to come from October 24th to 28th. On the 28th the shellfire was terrific. One who went through the ordeal stated his belief that shells were falling at the rate of 100 an hour.

"Everything was wrecked; the support trench was rendered impassable as well as the communication trench, so that to reach the fire trench we had to double across 150 yards of open ground. About 2pm, owing to several 6-inch shells having actually burst in the fire trench, both wrecking parts of the trench and burying men alive under the debris, rescuers were required. Ten men volunteered for the job of digging and armed with two shovels each, raced for the fire trench. Luckily, only one was hit."

Three of the diggers were knocked over at their work, but the volunteers managed to rescue two of the entombed men alive. At dusk the same day men were sent forward in twos and threes to the fire trench, but, notwithstanding the darkness, many were hit. Then began a fearful shrapnel fire shells bursting at the rate of 10 a minute. All this while the regiment's left flank was dangerously exposed, owing to the troops which had been in position there having been driven from their trenches. But the "Devil's Royals" held to their position and saved the situation.

They suffered grievously, however, one company losing all its officers and more than 50 men. Only two of the fourteen officers of the regiment were

placed not hors de combat in this fighting. These two- Lieutenant H B H White and 2nd Lieutenant J R Russell- handled the regiment with such skill and courage that each received the D.S.O.

Hill 60 was also a scene of the Royal West Kents' exploits. After the mine explosions which shattered the German defences, one company of the regiment rushed the hill with fixed bayonets and reached the summit within three minutes. There they remained, unshaken in their hold by the tremendous German artillery bombardment, which broke out ten minutes later and was maintained for many hours. At one time only thirty men of the regiment held the summit of the hill against a German attack.

Praise from the enemy is an unusual experience. The West Kents received it from a German officer against whose troops the "Devil's Royals" charged in the battle for Neuve Chapelle. The officer said to a war correspondent with the Kaisers Army'.

"They charged across an open field against us. Our fire was as though we were playing a stream of bullets on them. As they came across that open space cheering and waving their rifles I could see men stumbling and falling forward on their faces and dropping sideways. Gaps were opened in their line so that I can remember seeing the landscape behind them, but the gaps were always closed."

The Englishmen took cover at last, but they could not get forward and could not stay. Finally the order came for them to fall back. They had a hundred yards to go, and what do you think those brave godlike fools did? They rose on their feet and walked back- no by heaven they strolled back. They stopped to light cigarettes, and they picked up their wounded and carried them home."

Men of Kent and Kentish men should feel their hearts glow with pride in their two gallant regiments, and such words as these should more than fill their ranks.

The above article was reproduced in The Queen's Own Gazette in September 1915



DAILY MAIL ARTICLE

August 9th 1915



Heroic Men of Kent & Kentish Men

The Glorious Record of The Buffs and The Queen's Own.

Of the English infantry regiments at the front none has a more brilliant record of service in the present campaign than that of either of the two regiments that represent the County of Kent. The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) and The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) have a long and honourable career, a splendid fighting tradition upon which new lustre has been shed during the past year of bitter war.

The East Kents, raised in London for service in Holland in the year 1572, rank second in seniority among the English line regiments; the West Kents were formed some 200 years later. The battle honours of the former begin with Marlborough, but with both regiments the honours list is a proud one, and has been added to by some remarkably brave and dashing deeds since the men went to the front last autumn. If one should sum up their outstanding soldierly merits from study of the record of their exploits, three main characteristics would stand out – dash, tenacity and endurance.

It is a feature of the long history of The Buffs that they have always been in the fiercest fighting. France and Flanders have added fresh chapters to their story of calm and dogged pluck in the face of odds. At Ypres last November they lost more than 300 men in two days, and as early as December five commissions have been granted to rankers, which is the best testimony to the individual valour and resource of the men of the regiment.

At Ypres The Buffs faced a whole German Army corps and lived through two days of a most terrific struggle, receiving later a glowing tribute from their Divisional Commander. In December one of the men, describing the fighting in a letter to his parents, said: *"It has been like Hell's play, especially while we were defending the position. The regiment was badly cut up. Our platoon was charged several times by the Germans; but we*

sent them back with our compliments again and again. I split my bayonet in two trying to get it out in time to catch another one. Our regiment has broken all records by holding and being in the trenches for over a month at a stretch-36 days altogether."

In the spring of this year The Buffs were still in the Ypres neighbourhood and the 2nd Battalion did great deeds in checking the rush of the enemy behind their clouds of poison gas on the first occasion when that terrible means of destruction was employed by the Germans. The regiment was ordered to the assistance of the gallant and sorely stricken Canadians on that occasion. The men advanced in spasmodic rushes, through a storm of bullets over more than a thousand yards of almost flat ground with men dropping in all directions. The trenches they had been told to occupy having been reached, they hung on for four days, losing heavily all the time. The next position to which they were ordered proved just as costly in the holding; but the splendid Buffs kept it.

Of the experiences of the East Kents during the few days following the gas attacks a non-commissioned officer wrote: *"It was a near thing. You should have seen the poor Frenchmen who retired when the Germans used their poisonous gases. It played our eyes up where we were. In the end what was left of us came away pretty done up."*

The nicknames "The Devil's Royals" and "the Fighting Half Hundred" indicate in picturesque style the fighting qualities of The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). They have been mentioned frequently in dispatches for fine feats of arms and of endurance, and they formed the subject of one of the most soldierly speeches ever made by a General to his troops. This was on November 8th, when Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien, addressing the 1st Battalion, said that he was perfectly certain that there was not another battalion that had made such a name of itself as the Royal West Kents. *"Everybody is talking about you,"* he declared. *"They say: 'Give them a job.*

rushed a German concrete emplacement and captured the machine gun. Cornell was awarded the Military Medal. Dunning had already won one in March 1917.

'A' Company eventually took its objective and Sergeant Edgar Shute pushed forward with his platoon to clear the dugout system previously mentioned. They killed many Germans and brought back 4 prisoners. Shute was awarded the Military Medal.

Meanwhile 'D' Company attacked from the west as planned. Using phosphorous bombs and grenades they cleared the dugouts in conjunction with 'A' Company. As the enemy attempted to retreat across the canal at Lock No.6 they were



dealt with with 'D' Company. None of them got away. 'C' Company's Lewis Gun silenced an enemy machine gun on the railway bank (marked by a yellow cross on the map).

The Buffs dug themselves in on the spoil bank and the position was consolidated by the

following morning despite heavy enemy artillery and sniper fire all night. They were also hampered by enemy aircraft who strafed their position several times. A counter attack from the right the next afternoon was quickly suppressed by artillery fire.

3 officers and 27 men were killed during the attack with 7 officers and 89 men wounded. Among the dead was 2nd Lieutenant Ernest Carlos. In order to pass his medical to join the army he had to have 22 teeth removed. He had founded the 107th London Scout Troop and was also a prolific artist, having had 8 paintings exhibited at the Royal Academy between 1901 and 1915. One of these was Pathfinder, a painting of a boy scout.

Those of you who watch Coronation Street will have noticed a copy of this picture hanging on Ken Barlow's wall at 1 Coronation Street.

Of the 30 men who were killed, 21 of them have no known graves. This is unusual for an attack

in which ground was taken and held as the men would have been identified and buried. One can only surmise that their graves were destroyed in later fighting.

The Official History of the Great War hardly mentions the attack and notes that the enemy had evacuated the objectives on 10/11th June and they were "for the most part occupied without difficulty before the 14th by British advanced posts". The objectives taken by the 8th Buffs were certainly not evacuated as the war diary states that each of the dugouts contained 10 to 12 men. Many of the enemy were also killed or taken prisoner as they tried to retreat. Someone in high authority decided to name the spoil bank Buffs Bank in honour of the 8th Buffs (not the 6th as stated in the Regimental History). The name started to appear on trench maps from March 1918. This would not have been done had the attack not been seen as a significant victory.

The elements of fire and movement, accurate artillery fire without preliminary bombardment, limited objectives and the ability to follow a creeping barrage show just how much the British Army had learned since August 1914. It also demonstrates the skill of the infantry and its ability to co-ordinate with the artillery.

Today the site is accessible along the canal. Buffs Bank is overgrown but its importance as a vantage point can be seen. Evidence of the fighting can still be traced. The author on a recent visit with Professor Mark Connelly found traces of many dugouts in the bank and incidentally tripped over an 18 pounder shell in the undergrowth. So be warned keep to the canal bank pathway.

Editor's Note:

In September 1914 a Colonel F C Romer CB CMG, then in his 64th year, was asked to raise a service battalion of The Buffs, 8th Battalion. Romer, a member and secretary of Boodles Club, London asked some mature members of the club, Major Dansy, Major Crawley, Captain Hare, Captain Howard, Lieutenant Sir William Cooke and Captain Johnson if they would care to enlist, they all volunteered immediately as did two of the club waiters. Joined by a draft of 500 from Canterbury- 8th Battalion The Buffs was born in Shorncliffe later that month. Despite a complete lack of everything, uniform, boots and equipment, training continued apace. When the Divisional

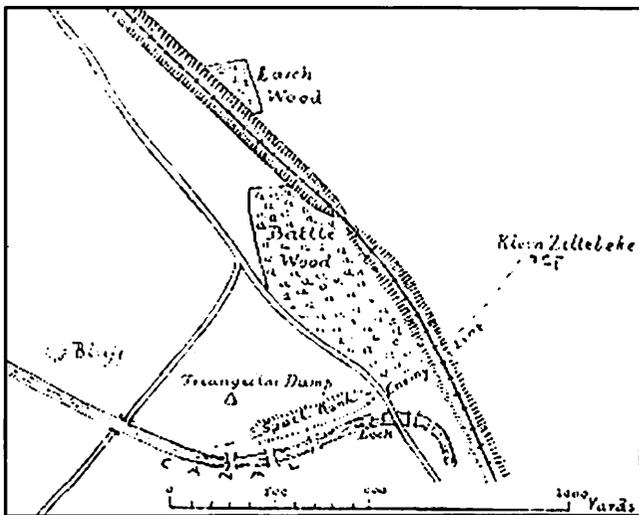
BUFFS BANK

by

Mick Mills

The Battle of Messines in June 1917 was an operation to push the enemy off the high ground to the south of Ypres. Although the attack was very successful, the Germans still held on to some key positions. One of these was the line of defence on the Ypres to Comines canal to the south of Hill 60.

The task of attacking this position was allotted to the 8th Battalion of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). In their last major offensive as a battalion before being disbanded in January 1918 they met all their objectives in an action that history has largely ignored.



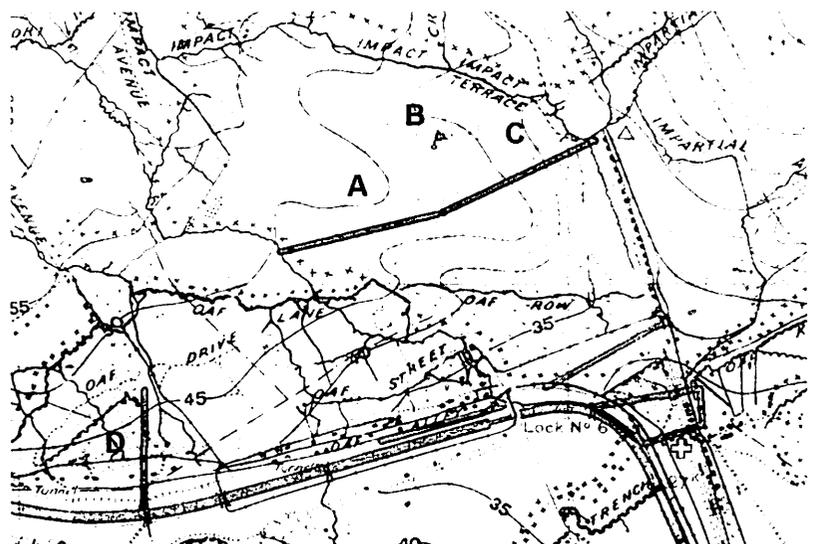
Hill 60 and Battle Wood had been taken during the early phases of the Battle of Messines. The remaining defensive position to the south along canal remained in German hands. A bank of spoil which had been generated when the canal was constructed had been heavily fortified by the Germans. It contained numerous dugouts and offered a good vantage point for the enemy. Successive attempts to capture the bank and trenches astride the canal had failed.

Operational Order 171 from 17th Infantry Brigade HQ outlined an attack by the 8th Buffs and 12th Royal Fusiliers on the German position. The attack was to commence at 07:30 on 14th June 1917 and was to be complemented by an elaborate artillery plan. The artillery were to commence firing at zero hour on a

line 150 yards in front of the forming up position. It would then lift 100 yards 4 minutes later. The attacking companies were trained to follow creeping barrages and they were reminded of the importance of doing this in the attack.

The Buffs were to attack on a two Company front (A and C) with a third Company (D) to mop up and the remaining Company (B) in reserve. The trench map shows 'A' and 'C' Companies' forming up positions and their objectives on the canal bank. 'D' Company was at right angles to them. Their task was to attack the spoil bank from the west and mop up any resistance in the dugouts as soon as the barrage lifted from the spoil bank. An addendum to the Brigade Orders gave The Buffs the additional responsibility of providing a platoon to clear a German dugout system in the area shown on the map as a rectangle. Crucially, the attack had limited objectives which the Battalion were to consolidate once they were taken.

At zero hour 'A' and 'C' Companies moved off. They met little resistance until reaching the spoil bank. 'A' Company on the right killed at least 30 Germans but 'C' Company were enfiladed by enemy artillery from their left and before reaching its objective all their officers had been hit. Despite his wounds, 2nd Lieutenant Francis Wilkinson stayed with his men until the ground had been consolidated. For this he was awarded the Military Cross and Sergeant Pells the Distinguished Conduct Medal. Privates William Cornell and George Dunning



LAST POST

COLONEL CRISPIN CHAMPION:



It is with great sadness that the death of our Association President, Colonel Crispin Champion was reported last year. Crispin passed away at home on 8th July after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

A private Cremation service was held at the Kent & Sussex Crematorium, Tunbridge Wells at 9.30am on Monday 29th July. This was followed later that day with a Thanksgiving Service at 12 noon at St. Mildred's Church, Tenterden. It was a mark of the affection and respect in which Crispin was held that so many attended the Thanksgiving Service.

JOHN LOTT:

John passed away on 12 September, just a few days after his 90th Birthday. He served in 5 Buffs during the war and was wounded at Monte Cassino and subsequently medically discharged.

PETER FREDERICK MARSH:

Peter was born on 5th April 1934 and passed away on 2nd August 2013. The funeral took place at Barham Crematorium at 12 noon on 21st August. Peter served in The Buffs, Queen's Own Buffs and 2nd Queen's.

LEN HOLMAN

Lenny Holman, who served from 1955 to 1973 in 1 Buffs, Queen's Own Buffs, 2nd Queen's, has passed away. His funeral will be held at Barham Crematorium, Canterbury on Friday 23rd August at 4pm. family flowers only but, if you wish, donations in lieu to SSAFA.

MAURICE GEORGE SMITH:

Maurice passed away on 21st December aged 87. He served in 5th Bn, The Buffs in WW2 and took part in Italian campaign and the Battle for Monte Cassino.



RAY BAKER:

Ray, who was President of London Buffs Past & Present Association from many years has passed away.

ERIC DEUTERS:



Eric, who served with 2nd Buffs in WW2 and was captured at Escaut, in 1940 passed away at midnight 8th January 2014. Eric spent nearly 5 years as a prisoner of war in Poland before escaping and joining a Polish Resistance Unit. He was later repatriated through Odessa. Eric's regimental pride was quite legendary and he generously supported both the Regimental Association and Friends of The Buffs. Steady The Buffs Eric.

TERENCE 'BUGSY' WHARRAM BEM:



Bugsy, as he was universally known, passed away on 20th January 2014 after a very brave battle against cancer. He served for over 22 years firstly in The Buffs in Dortmund and then with the Queen's Own Buffs followed by many years in 2 Queen's. He was awarded the BEM for his service in Northern Ireland and that was an

Commander inspected the battalion apart from the officers, who had bought their uniforms and and a few NCO's, all were dressed in very ragged civilian clothes.

On the night of August 31st 1915, the battalion sailed for war and just 24 days later went into action at the battle of Loos. Just prior to the battalion moving up to the line, Colonel Romer addressed his men and said, *"I am not going to make a speech to you, but only to ask you to remember that you are The Buffs."* They did not forget, with no more than basic training the battalion went into action and in the battle that followed suffered greivous losses of 24 officers and 610 other ranks, killed, wounded and missing, more casulaties than those suffered at Albuhera. The killed included their gallant Commanding Officer killed leading his men from the front, a hero at 64 years of age.

R. S. H. Moody in the Regimental History states: -

"Romer's name will ever be remembered with those of Latham, Moyse and so many others, from Sir Philip Sudney down through the ages,

who have covered our regiment with glory in al quarters of the globe."

The battalion was duly reinforced and brought back up to strength and after many engagements took part in the battle at Delville Wood suffering 39 killed and 303 wounded.

After the battle at Buffs Bank and Pilckem Ridge where they lost a further 160 casualties the battalion took part in several other actions. On the 21st of January 1918, whilst at Hancourt, orders were received for 8th Buffs and 12th Royal Fusilliers to be disbanded. By 30th January all of the men had been redeployed to 1st & 6th Buffs. So ended the life of the only 8th Battalion the regiment ever had.

Very few of the men raised by the gallant Colonel Romer in 1914 survived but the regimental spirit lived on and it was only right that the men who survived should remain Buffs and no new badge would replace the ancient Tudor Dragon which they wore with such pride.

AN INFANTRY BATTALION'S ESTABLISHMENT 1915

Headquarters

4 Officers: (CO, Adjt, 21/c & QM)
1 Warrant Officer- (Transport)
8 Staff Sergeants & Sergeants
62 Other Ranks, (Pioneers, Stretcher Bearers, Drivers, Signallers, Cooks etc)
7 Riding horses, 22 Draught horses
1 Heavy draft horse & 1 Pack horse.
9 Bicycles

Machine Gun Section

1 Officer (2nd Lt)
2 Staff Sergeants & Sergeants
32 Other Ranks
1 Riding horse & 12 Draught horses

Rifle Company (x4)

6 Officers (Major, Capt 4 Sub Lts.)
10 Staff Sergeants & Sergeants
211 Other Ranks
1 Riding horses, 2 Draft horses & 2 Pack horses

Attached

1 Officer - MO
1 Staff Sergeants & Sergeants
1 Other Rank
2 Riding horses

Battalion Totals:

30 Officers
1 Warrant Officer
51 Staff Sergeants & Sergeants
939 Other Ranks

Total strength 1021

With acknowledgement to The Great War Forum – taken from War Establishments of New Armies, London, His Majesty's Stationary Office, 1915 - Copyright GFN 2003.

VICTOR (VIC) MUTTON:

Vic passed away peacefully on 23rd December 2013 aged 96. A funeral service was held at Chelmsford Crematorium on 16 January 2014.



Vic originally joined The Suffolk Regt. in 1942 and transferred as a Corporal to QORWK Regt. He served with the regiment in North Africa at Alam Halfa and El Alamein and then Italy taking part in the battle for Monte Cassino.

PROFESSOR R C BENGE MC MIM MA :

Professor Benge passed away in December 2012 in Spain where he had lived for many years.

RON HOSIER:

Ron, ex RAOC, and a long time very supportive Associate member of Canterbury Branch, passed away in late April.

JOE CHAMBERLAIN MM.

Joe, ex RASC and an associate member of Sittingbourne Branch has passed. Joe was an ambulance driver in the RASC and was awarded the MM during WW2. The Standard of the League of Military Medalists.

RONALD KEEPING:

Ron originally enlisted in the Royal Berkshire Regiment in 1940 and later transferred to the Queen's Own. He saw active service in North Africa and Italy where he was wounded, and also at Monte Cassino. For many years he was the Standard Bearer for the Piagnton and Brixham branches of the Royal British Legion.

MAURICE GEORGE SMITH:

Maurice, who served in 5th Buffs and took part in the battle for Monte Cassino and the Italian campaign, has passed away aged 87.

JOHN SPURGE:

John who joined the Queen's Own at the age of 17 1/2 and served in Malaya has passed away aged 79.

RON WARREN:

Ron, ex REME and long time associate member of Sittingbourne Branch, passed away at the end of January.

JOE CHAMBERLAIN MM.

Joe, ex RASC and an associate member of Sittingbourne Branch has passed. Joe was an ambulance driver in the RASC and was awarded the MM during WW2. The Standard of the League of Military Medalists.

Information has been received that the following have passed away: -

CAPTAIN HERBERT G. MANWARING:

MAJOR HAROLD GATEHOUSE MBE:

Editor's note: In Harold's obituary published in the last issue, I omitted Harold's rank and decoration. I apologise to his widow and family for this omission.

extremely popular award indeed. Apart from the many tributes that have been paid, he was the best Mortar No. 1 in the business. 'Bugsy' was liked and respected by everyone who knew him and had the privilege of serving with him. His passing leaves a gap in the lives of his many friends and colleagues that will be impossible to fill.

GEORGE CROXFORD BEM:



George passed away in early February after a long and very gallant battle against ill health. A long time member and Vice Chairman of Canterbury Branch; he will be missed by all who knew him. One of nature's gentlemen. George's funeral took place on

19th February at Barham Crematorium.

COLONEL NEVILLE HUNTER:

Colonel Neville Hunter, who served in The Queen's Own Buffs in Hong Kong & Borneo and later with 2 Queen's and PWRR, died suddenly on Tuesday 3rd December after a long and very courageous battle against Parkinson's disease.

Neville's funeral took place on Tuesday December 17th at Guildford Crematorium and a Service of Thanksgiving was held on Tuesday 17th December at St Martin's Church, Blackheath,

ERNIE OVENDEN:

One of the last survivors of The Buffs who served in WW2, Ernie was captured in 1940 and spent the following 5 years as a POW in Poland. He was a long time member of Ramsgate Branch and continued to support the Association and Branch until he was well into his 90's. At Ernie's funeral in lieu of flowers attendees were asked to make a donation to the Buffs statue fund. A cheque has subsequently been received for £465 in his memory. It follows that Ernie's name will be entered in the Book of Remembrance and our thanks go to all who contributed.

MAJOR DESMOND BUTLER:



Major Desmond Butler, who served in the Queen's Own, Queen's Own Buffs and 2nd Queen's passed away on 7th March.

Desmond's funeral took place at the Parish Church of St Michael and All Angels, Marden, Kent, TN12 9HL on Wednesday 26 March.

MAJOR ROBIN STRATFORD TUKE:

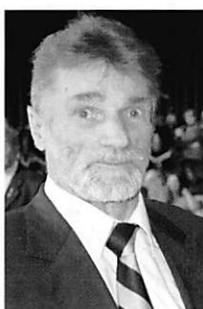
Robin was OC Sp Coy in 1 BUFFS before amalgamation and later served in the Queen's Own Buffs. After leaving the Army, Robin became a Prison Governor, finishing his service at Canterbury Gaol.

ARTHUR HOPKINS:



Arthur was one of the last surviving members of 5th Battalion The Buffs who fought so gallantly against overwhelming odds at Doullens in 1940. Arthur was subsequently taken prisoner and spent the rest of the war in a POW camp in Poland. A long time supporter of the Hythe & Folkestone Branch he will be missed greatly.

ALAN MOSS:



Sergeant Alan Moss, Queen's Own Buffs and 2nd Queen's passed away last autumn. Reverend Norman Serchell, a great friend of Alan who had served with him in boys service officiated at the service. Alan, who was immensely proud to have served in the regiment had been ill for many years and his courage in the last few months of his life was quite inspirational.

exhaustive database on the subject and I was wondering if you could please help me?

Herbert John Ruler, aged 18, Regimental No. L/9752 is buried in the Bailleul Communal Cemetery at Nord, France, having died from wounds received on or before 21 October 1914. I am unable to locate anything on the internet regarding what action the Buffs were involved in at that time, or indeed what their location was, though I thought it might be Armentières. I also don't know if there are any specific details existing as to how Pte. Ruler received his injuries.

I live in Queensland, Australia, and therefore it is not possible to visit the Public Archives in London.

Hoping you can throw some light on this matter, I will appreciate any information you can relay to me.

Yvonne Allison

Reply from Mick Mills

Ruler joined The Buffs in February or March 1912. The Regimental Journal of May 1912 notes that he was awarded a certificate of education as a Private in the 1st Battalion.

He went overseas with the 1st Battalion on 7/9/1914 and it is likely that he was wounded during the 1st Battle of Ypres.

I believe that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission have got the wrong date of death. Three sources state that he died on 26/10/1914; his 1914 Star roll, Soldiers Died in The Great War and De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour. It is possible that it is a transcription error in their records. I usually inform them of errors but perhaps in this case it might be better coming from you. They have a webform on their site where you can contact them. They are very busy so may take a few weeks to respond with an answer.

If it is not a transcription error they will ask for evidence. If you send me an email to mick.orient@gmail.com I will send you copies of the three sources I have. If the grave stone is marked incorrectly they will change it. I will also send you extracts from the Battalion War Diary describing the battle for your interest.

There is an obituary for him in the Kentish Express and Ashford News of 21/11/1914. I do not have a

copy of it but if the CWGC turn down the evidence we provide I'll endeavour to find the newspaper and see if it supports the case.

I look forward to hearing from you

Mick Mills

John Hellard

Oct 17, 2013 - 9:40PM

Subject: The Buffs

We are researching our Village Tuddenham St Mary Suffolk 1914/18 roll of honour and two names are listed as being in The Buffs, Harry A Hewitt 36534 / G79120 and Alfred Goldsmith 240987 L/12760 or 840907/228911

Hewitt we believe was born in Norfolk, Goldsmith born in Tuddenham Suffolk can you please confirm these facts because it appears the roll was written from a few men's memories and we have found certain facts not correct, not that we will change the roll but list amendments in a booklet we hope to produce, hope you can help.

John

Reply from Mick Mills

I can't confirm where either of them came from.

Hewitt was originally in The Buffs with number G36534 and then transferred at some stage to The Queens (Royal West Surrey) Regiment. Because he transferred out of The Buffs I can't tell which Battalion he served in. His number comes from a series from which it is very difficult to determine when it was allocated but I believe it be from early - mid 1918. There are a few other men with similar Buffs and Queens numbers so it must have been mass transfer rather than just him

Goldsmith was a Territorial and originally had number 240987. We know that he didn't go overseas before 1917 because prior to this the Territorials had 4 digit numbers. He served with 5th Battalion who were in Mesopotamia. He must have signed up later as a Regular in mid 1919, given number L12760 and posted to the 1st Battalion who were then in Ireland. In December 1920 he was transferred to the reserve.

FROM THE WEB SITE

James Wade

Sep 9, 2013 - 12:49PM

Subject: James Wade

My Grandfather James Wade was born on 8th Sep 1891 in Otley, Suffolk and joined the Buffs during WWI.

From investigations I believe he was Private 202573 in the 4th Reserve Battalion. He fought at the Battle of Cambraie in 1917 (possibly now a Lance Corporal in the 7th Battalion) where he was reported 'missing & wounded'. I know he was a Prisoner of War and returned to his family after the war.

I would love to know more about his service and actions he took part in as I have read a lot about the battle of Cambraie

Thank you

James

Reply from Mick Mills

Wade initially served with the 10th Battalion of The Buffs. His service number indicates that he didn't serve overseas until at least Spring of 1917. He then transferred to the 8th then the 7th Battalions. There are a number of reasons for transfer but we can't be sure of the reason in this case. He could have been wounded and returned to another Battalion or simply transferred after a period of leave due to shortages.

It seems unlikely that he was taken prisoner at the Battle of Cambrai because the 7th Battalion were not there. I have however noted a few errors in the compilation of the medal rolls which indicate the Battalions they served with and this may be one of them.

If he was at Cambrai then he would have been in the 1st or 6th Battalion. Do you know if he served in the Middle East? If he didn't then he couldn't possibly have been at Cambrai in Nov/Dec 1917 because the 10th Battalion were in the Middle East until May 1918.

This poses more questions than it answers I'm afraid but I hope it helps

Peter Jarrett

Sep 10, 2013 - 6:50PM

Subject: Private Ronald Arthur Crunden

I am endeavouring to find more about my Mother's brother Private Ronald Arthur Crunden who served in The Buffs in the WW2. He was killed on 7 September 1940 - Aged 20 Years.

My family come from Canterbury, Kent and my uncle's remains are buried in Canterbury Cemetery and is marked by a War Graves Commission Headstone carrying The Buffs regimental badge.

Any help you can give me would be greatly appreciated as Ronald was the youngest member of his family and all his other siblings are now deceased so I am struggling with first hand family knowledge.

Many thanks

Peter Jarrett.

Reply from Mick Mills

He was aged 20 and the youngest son of Mr and Mrs Crunden of 40 Ivy Lane, Canterbury.

His funeral took place on 13th September with full military honours. An army chaplain officiated and a bugler from The Buffs played the Last Post.

The chief mourners were Mrs Crunden (mother), MR and Mrs H Crunden (brother and sister in law), Mr P Crunden (brother), Mr and Mrs Jarrett, Mr and Mrs Sandum (brother in law and sisters), Mr and Mrs S Crunden (brother and sister in law)

I estimate that he joined The Buffs in June 1939. I don't know if/where he served overseas

Yvonne Allison

Oct 26, 2013 - 10:36AM

Subject: 1st Battalion 21 October 1914 - Bailleul, France?

Attention: Mick Mills

Hi Mick

I believe you are the No.1 expert for the Royal East Kent Regiment and have compiled an

He retired in June 1920. His address was 18 Dover Road, Walmer, Kent. In June 1921 he took over control of recruitment at the Depot in Canterbury. There is an obituary and record of service for him dated 1960 in the collection at the National Army Museum (references 2001-07-448-1 and 2)

I have a photo of him with the 1st Battalion as a Captain in July 1916 and a fantastic caricature of him as a recruiter in October 1926.

So, he was quite an important character in the Regiment. If you would like copies of the images send me an email at mick.orient@gmail.com

I would recommend that you get hold of a copy of the reprint of The Historical Records of The Buffs 1914-1919 by RSH Moody where you can read about the exploits of the 1st Battalion. He is mentioned on pages 19, 20, 229 and 329

Ian

Mar 15, 2013 - 2:10PM

Subject: 1st July 1916

Hi, could anyone help please, I'm trying to find out more about my great grandfather Pte W.R. Smith 291, 7th Battalion The Buffs. I have a letter from Major General Maxse Commander 13th Division, which reads, *"I have read with great pleasure the report of your regimental commander and brigade commander regarding your gallant conduct and devotion to duty in the field on 1st July 1916, during the battle of the Somme"*. Signed Maxse

Any help on this would be much appreciated.

Reply from Mick Mills

Mar 15, 2013 - 7:33PM

Subject: Re: 1st July 1916

Ian

William Richard Smith joined The Buffs on 5th Sept 1914 at Margate. He was a 22 year old motor driver and was born in Westbrook, Margate. He was living with his father, William Charles. He was 5'7 1/2 " tall with light brown hair and grey eyes.

He went overseas with A Company of the 7th Battalion on 28/7/1915.

There is no record of him being given any bravery awards but he was obviously mentioned in despatches for something on 1st July 1916 due to the contents of the letter.

This was the first day of the Battle of the Somme. The 7th Buffs were part of the 18th Division attack on the south of the line at Carnoy. Ivor Maxse was highly regarded as a General and went on to mastermind the tactics of fire and movement that were so successful later on in the war. Reading the Battalion war diary for the period running up to the Battle of the Somme it is clear that he put great emphasis on training. As a result, this was one of the few sectors that saw success on the first day of the battle. Despite losing 51 men dead, the Battalion made all its objectives.

Smith was promoted to unpaid Lance Corporal on 20/10/1916.

He was wounded on the back and chest on 18/11/1916 during the attack on Desire Trench near Grandcourt. The 7th Buffs, in particular A Company, were hit hard due to the fact that the enemy had taken cover in shell holes during the barrage and once the Company advanced they were cut down by machine gun fire.

Only one man from the Company came away uninjured. Smith was evacuated and returned to the UK on 8/12/1916 and doesn't appear to have gone overseas again, probably due to his injury.

He was on leave at 20 Westbrook Rd, Hartsdown Villas, Margate from 2/3/1917 to 12/3/1917. He was transferred to The Army Service Corps (MT Section) at Grove Park on 13/7/1917 and passed an assessment there as a lorry driver on 14/7/1917. He married Florence Alice at All Saints Church, Margate on 6/8/1917

He was employed in the Motor Testing Staff from 15/7/1917 to 28/1/1918 where his ability was assessed as Good. He appears to have been an instructor. He was on leave from Isleworth from 20/10/1918 to 23/10/1918. He was discharged to the reserve on 2/3/1919 and his address was 41 Arthur Rd, Holloway, London.

I hope this helps

Jean James
Sep 22, 2013 - 5:56PM

Subject: Walter Boarer

My grandfather, Walter Boarer, who died in France in 1918, was presented with the Military Medal. Can you tell me what he did to earn this medal?

Jean

Reply from Mick Mills

At the back of the 7th Battalion's war diary are 12 citations for bravery and Boarer's is one of them. Although it doesn't specifically state it was for an MM I suspect that it was. It states:

'During the operations near Poelcappelle on the 12th and 13th October 1917 Private W Boarer, whilst acting as Company runner, made six journeys in daylight from the advanced posts to Battalion Headquarters. This was done in spite of heavy machine gun fire and sniping.

When not employed as runner a he went several times to the Aid Post at Gloster Farm to get stretchers and succeeded in getting back four seriously wounded men. He maintained wonderful cheerfulness in spite of the very bad conditions.'

This list has remained a mystery to me because many more bravery awards were handed out to the 7th Battalion and I don't know why these 12 were singled out, particularly as the list is typed on 3 sheets of paper and the dates are from 1916 to 1918. At least one of the men (Moon) was recommended for a VC...

The attack at Poelcappelle on 12th October was part of the 3rd Battle of Ypres and things went very badly for the 7th Buffs. Forced to form up in muddy shell holes, they attacked bravely but rifles became clogged and due to the heavy ground they could not manoeuvre. The barrage was inadequate and reconnaissance limited. There were 110 men killed on the day, with nearly 400 casualties in all (about 40%)

If you ever go to the Ypres area, you can visit the area where they attacked. Gloster Farm was to their right and it has been rebuilt. As the ground slopes gently upwards from their assembly position, the entire area of attack can be viewed.

I have just found some further information which states that he was born at St John's, Crowborough on 28/11/1892 and was educated there. He was a carter when he joined The Buffs on 12/2/1917. He went overseas in May 1917 and was awarded his MM in October for carrying a wounded officer half a mile under heavy shell fire. He was wounded near St Quentin on 20/6/1918 and died the following day.

He married Jane Ann Smith at St John's Church and they had two daughters, Mary Ada Annie and Alice Matilda

Frances Bell
Oct 8, 2013 - 9:51AM

Subject: Captain William Thomas Stone

Seeing any information about the career of my great uncle. He was born in Bekesbourne, Kent between Jan-Mar 1879. I know he served in the "Buffs" & that he was alive in 1934 when he is mentioned as a "retired army captain". I know no more about him than that, so anything you may have will be of interest.

Thank you.

Frances

Reply from Mick Mills

Stone joined The Buffs as a Private in October/November 1894. By 1912 he was a Colour Sergeant as I have a photo of him as the coach of the 1st Battalion tug of war team in May. He went overseas with the 1st Battalion as Company Sergeant Major on 7/9/1914 and was highly complimented for his work during the First Battle of Ypres in October 1914.

He was selected for promotion and received a battlefield commission into The Buffs on 1/10/1914. The Regiment held on to him and he served in the front line for the rest of the war, being mentioned in despatches in Jan 1917 as a Lieutenant and June 1918 as a Captain. His promotions were as follows;

Temporary Lieutenant 28/4/1915

Lieutenant 29/5/1915

Temporary Captain 18/1/1916

Captain 1/1/1917

FINAL WORD

The advent of the year 2014, and with it four years of commemoration of the greatest conflict the world had even known, focuses our minds on the life of our own Association which of course must be finite. Over the past few years several dates for the possible closure of the Association have been muted but as the Association is still strong and very active no date has yet been set. Once that date is decided, it may well be that some individual branches will continue to operate independently for some years after.

Whatever the time frame may be, the one overriding challenge is that we leave a legacy behind, a legacy that will commemorate our two forbear regiments, the Buffs and Queen's Own, and ensure that their proud history, their courage and sacrifice is remembered for many, many years to come.

As far as the Queen's Own are concerned we have completed that project, with an excellent Regimental Museum supported now with the excellent statue in the forecourt of the Museum and an impressive memorial on the Western Front at Tertre. The name and deeds of the Queen's Own will live on for many years to come.

As already described in this issue pretty extensively, this year sees the launch of The Buffs statue project. I have no doubt that the response to that appeal will be considerable so that each of the following three projects can be completed, the Statue in Canterbury next year and, at some time within the remaining life of the association, the erection of a memorial to The Buffs somewhere on the Western Front and the replacement of Lt. Matthew Latham's memorial headstone. Of course we must also consider how we commemorate the service of the Queen's Own Buffs.

When the time does come for our Association to march into history following in the footsteps of our forbear regiments, we will be able to hold our head's high and be proud that we leave behind memorials to ensure that the names of those forbear regiments will live on for years to come.

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the remaining life of the association, the erection of a memorial to The Buffs somewhere on the Western Front and the replacement of Lt. Matthew Latham's memorial headstone. Of course we must also consider how we commemorate the service of the Queen's Own Buffs.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all who have contributed to this issue, in particular Barry Duffield for his superb photographs and also John Barrell and Peter McLelland for proof reading.

Just a final reminder of the new office address:

Regimental Association Secretary
Queen's Own Buffs-The Royal Kent Regiment
Marlowe Innovation Centre
Marlowe Way, Ramsgate, CT12 6FA
Tel: 01843 598615
email: qobassociation@gmail.com
Mobile: 07522 914562

Finally, I am grateful to the The Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, The Very Reverend Robert Willis DL for his kind permission to print the following prayer which he has recently written. It seems to be an appropriate 'Final Word' in this historic year.

A Prayer for Kent:

(Written by the Very Reverend Robert Willis DL)

"Almighty and Everlasting God you have made our County of Kent throughout the history of this nation to be both a symbol of the strong defence of its sovereignty and also a sign of its welcome to those who journey here.

We give you heartfelt thanks for the abiding beauty of the 'Garden of England', of marsh, down and weald, dockyard and Medway town, white cliff and pilgrim way, and pray that the daily life and work of our communities may demonstrate an equal beauty in the welfare, development and care of every member.

Bless this county and prosper with your grace all its creative endeavours, that in their upholding of truth, justice and liberty its people may ever remain "Invicta", unconquered, an encouragement of service to our nation and a beacon of hope for all humanity, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Steven Treagust
Nov 26, 2012 - 5:42PM

Subject: Major (Temporary) Eric Norman FORD (156121)

I was wondering if anyone out there could assist with this enquiry.

I have been researching WW2 awards of the Military Cross but have been unable to trace the details for this The Buffs officer:

Major (Temporary) Eric Norman FORD (156121)

His award was Gazetted in the London Gazette dated 13th December 1945, "In recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Italy."

Does anyone have any knowledge of or a copy of his citation for this award?

Many thanks,

Steve

Reply from Mick Mills

Nov 29, 2012 - 6:26PM

Subject: Re: Major (Temporary) Eric Norman FORD (156121)

Steven

Ford was the Major in command of Y Company of the 5th Buffs. On 14th April 1945 the Battalion was ordered to form a bridgehead over the River Sillaro. Despite heavy enemy mortar fire, C and D Companies had gained the southern bank opposite Valle Santa. Y Company waded across and progressed along a narrow embankment towards Scolo Garda Canal.

After they had moved about 1,000 yards the leading platoon came under a hail of machine gun fire and rifle grenades, suffering a number of casualties. It was only an hour before dawn and the opposition was strong so Ford decided to withdraw the company. His courage and boldness in extracting his company from the dangerous and difficult situation in which it found itself was recognised by the award of the Military Cross

Justin Fishwick
Apr 27, 2013 - 5:52PM

Subject: Captain Lilley the Buffs MC, May 26 1917

I am keen to find out more about my grandfathers MC awarded May 26th 1917 and even better where it might have ended up any info or mention of him at all would be very welcome thanks Justin

Justin

Reply from Mick Mills

The info I have on him is as follows;

He went overseas as a Lance Corporal with the 9th Lancers in January 1916. He was commissioned into The Buffs on 31/10/1916. He was a 2nd Lieutenant with the 8th Battalion when he was awarded his MC on 26/5/1917. The citation was published in the London Gazette on 26/7/1917 and reads "*For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He displayed great coolness and fine leadership when in command of a post close up to the enemy wire. Coming under heavy fire, he withdrew some distance and remained there all day, finally withdrawing his men at dusk*".

I do not know when this occasion was.

The following month the Battalion was attacking from Battle Wood towards the Spoil Bank as part of the Battle of Messines. Lilley was wounded at some point between the 14th and 16th June.

He was promoted to Lieutenant on 1/7/1918. He was still a Lieutenant in the last Army List that I have access to (January 1919)

I have 2 addresses for him after the war; 50 Rushmore Rd, Clapton, London and Wyvenhoe, Silverdale Avenue, Westcliffe, Essex. There was also a 2nd Lieutenant John Leslie Lilley in The Buffs. He went overseas on 28/9/1918 and lived in London Rd, Westcliffe, Essex. Could they be related?

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY-2014-15

Date	Event	Contact
11th April	QORWK London Branch AGM, Union Jack Club –	Avril Daw
7th May	London Branch Turning of the Page, Canterbury Cathedral -	Betty Correa
10th May	Canterbury Branch Annual Dinner, Canterbury Golf Club.	Henry Delo
15th -17th May	Association Trip to Ypres -	Association Secretary
17th May	Colchester Branch Albuhera Dinner	Jimmy Burr
9th July	Weald Branch talk (The battle of Mons)	Captain P.M. Gwilliam
28th June	Maidstone Branch Kent & E Sussex Railway Tenterden	Peter Zieminski
11th-13th July	Colchester Branch Summer BBQ	Jimmy Burr
3rd August	Canterbury Reunion	Association Secretary
4th August	Step Short event in Folkestone	Association Secretary
22nd -25th August	Association Trip to Tertre/Mons. -	Association Secretary
7th September	London Buffs Parade and Service, Tower of London	Betty Correa
21st September	Maidstone Reunion	Association Secretary
10th October	Friends of The Buffs Turning of the Page & AGM .-	Major A. Marchant
8th October	QOB Officers Lunch, Union Jack Club.	Captain P.M. Gwilliam
9th November	Canterbury Branch Armistice Day Lunch, Canterbury Golf Club –	Henry Delo
11th November	Remembrance Day Turning of the Page, Canterbury Cathedral.-	Association Secretary
22nd November	Ramsgate Branch Annual Dinner & Dance	Malcolm Milham
4th December	QORWK London Branch Xmas Party, Union Jack Club.	Avril Daw
6th December	Colchester Branch Christmas Party	Jimmy Burr
7th December	Canterbury Branch Carol Concert ,	Henry Delo
13th December	Canterbury Branch Christmas Party, Canterbury Golf Club.	Henry Delo
28th February 2015	Regimental Association Annual General meeting-Sittingbourne	Association Secretary

Contact email addresses:

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Jimmy Burr: James@eternalknight.co.uk

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Malcolm Milham: malcolm.milham@sky.com

Henry Delo: Henry.Lyn@ldelo.freesevice.co.uk

Peter Zieminski: p.zieminski@sky.com

Captain Gwilliam: micky.gwilliam@gmail.com

Major A Marchant: alan.a.marchant@sky.com

