



# Surrey Infantry Museum

Museum Newsletter – Mar 2023

Volume 1 Issue 24

## AIM

To maintain knowledge within the County of Surrey's Infantry  
Regiments from 1661 to the present Day

## FOSIM – Tony Ward

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### Surrey Infantry Museum

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### FOSIM NEWSLETTER Mar 2023

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of March I, together with the QRS Regimental Secretary, Dee Hutchison and other Veterans who attended the Funeral Service of Sergeant Ted Philips aged 106 who served with 1/6<sup>th</sup> East Surreys in 1940 and was evacuated at Dunkirk 83 years ago. He was probably one of the last surviving Dunkirk veterans. To me it is a reminder that the number of Veterans of the former Surrey Infantry Regiments is now very much reduced. Last month I visited, together with C/Sgt Bluey Hedges, Lt Col Les Wilson MBE (93) who many will remember when he was RSM and Quartermaster 1 Queen's and a Retired Officer at RHQ in Canterbury. He is now living in the Star and Garter Home at High Wycombe. Whilst short term memory may fade with age often long term improves; such was the case with Les when I got him talking about his time in Korea with 1 Middlesex. He vividly recalled the cold Korean Winter with hopelessly inadequate clothing and how warmly welcomed he and the Queen's Royal Regiment reinforcements were made. He was an Acting Signals Sergeant at Battalion Headquarters.

On 22nd April, The 4<sup>th</sup> Bn The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment will be presented with its Colours by HRH The Crown Prince Frederick of Denmark at Royal Artillery barracks, Woolwich. HM The Queen of Denmark, PWRR Colonel in Chief being not available for medical reasons. Then on 6<sup>th</sup> May a contingent of 1 PWRR together with Colour Parties of 1,3 and 4 PWRR will be on parade at the coronation of HM King Charles III. You may ask what about 2 PWRR? That Battalion has a specialist role as a Ranger Battalion and has been renamed 2 RANGER. With its new title its relationship with the PWRR is being decided. Suffice to emphasize that any PWRR soldiers serving in 2 RANGER will still be supported if in need of Benevolence by RHQ PWRR.

Last year only one veteran from The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and it's forbear Regiments needed a grant from RHQ. I remind all veterans that if you or someone you know is in need of help to contact SSAFA who will send a caseworker and if deemed necessary contact RHQ PWRR.

In September a large party of us will be doing a Battlefield Tour of Salerno, Cassino and Anzio. This will allow us to be at Salerno on 9<sup>th</sup> September to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the landings in 1943. It was at Salerno that 169 (Queen's) Brigade landed with 131 (Queen's) Brigade following shortly after. Then at Cassino we will follow the actions of 1/6<sup>th</sup> East Surreys at the final battle to capture the town of Cassino. What is particularly pleasing is within our party will be 3 sons and one daughter whose fathers were serving in the Regiment. We look forward to hearing their input. If you have not put your name down to come and would like more information do contact Dee Hutchison.

Can I make a plea? The cost of posting out this Newsletter is very high. If you now have an email address, can you send it to FOSIM/ Dee Hutchison and update any records we have.

## Maj (Retd) David Pollard - MUSEUM MANAGEMENT and TRUSTEES

### Trustee Report – March 2023

The last meeting of the Trustees was on 31<sup>st</sup> October at RHQ, HM Tower of London. The Museum Trust is now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with the Charity Commission Number 1198899. The new Chairman, Col (Retd) Jon Wright (ex 1 Queen's and PWRR) took the meeting.

At the Dover, Henry Thomas (Museum Director) reported that English Heritage (EH) had granted a five year license from 2023 to the PWRR and Queen's Museum, with options to allow it to become a lease at short notice, a measure which would allow the Trustees to apply for grants from other organisations. EH had also agreed a grant for £10,000 for the period of the license. The Trustees approved an Audience Development Plan (written by Cory Clover, the Curator) which should help the museum to become accredited and that in turn should enable the retention of Gift Aid from the MOD as well as supporting future grant applications. Footfall at the Dover Museum up to the end of October 2022 was up on both 2021 and 2020, but was still some 30,000 fewer than the same period in 2019, before Covid. A collections review is on-going and making good progress, and a list of items for disposal has been circulated. One of the new volunteers at Dover is a retired professional photographer, who is photographing the entire collection for the database. The roof of the museum building is in need of repair, but the problem for EH is funding. The museum continues its outreach programme, which included a visit from a platoon from 1 PWRR.

The Trustees agreed that the link between the Surrey Infantry Collection (SIC) and Guildford Museum should continue, with more exhibitions which also help to reinforce the link to the PWRR as the successor Regiment. We discussed the Lightbox Agreement with Woking Council, which the Queen's Surreys instigated in 2005. At the time the future of SIM at Clandon was uncertain, and so the then Trustees agreed, quite understandably, to purchase two display cabinets and pay £15,000 for a 15 year display agreement which ends in 2025. I recently took photographs of the cases for the Director and Curators. The Trustees will need to decide at some stage how to play any possible future relationship with the Lightbox. Before the end of the current display agreement, one possibility could be to rotate any displays at Guildford into the Lightbox cabinets – just a thought. We also discussed the items in the display at Kingston Museum - the ownership of these items is not entirely clear. I recently took photographs of the case there and again it will be for the Director and Curators to take this forward.

At Dover, there are efforts to increase the number of Museum Friends. That is one area where SIC, with over 130 Friends is well ahead of the PWRR and Queen's Museum!

My thanks again, to our loyal and hardworking band of volunteers, who contribute so much to the museum.

**FOSIM Lecture Lunches – forth coming programme of Events**

This programme of talks is back on Schedule again and we hope that we can increase attendance from you at these events. This is important to bring in funds to FOSIM as well as to get Veterans together where we can. Please see page 8 for the list of talks and we hope to see you at one of them.

**Next Event 22 Mar 2023 – The Chindits in Burma 1944.**

Please note this is not at the Surrey History Centre but at the **Farnham ARC – 4PWRR** in the VC Room.

**QRS/OMA/ QUEENS RWS/ East Surrey Reunion Lunch 20<sup>th</sup> May Farnham ARC 12.00 noon**

The feedback from last year was very good and so we are holding this back at Farnham ARC – 4PWRR - Round tables - all are welcome including wives and Carers. Proforma attached to this newsletter. Ticket only as seating numbers are restricted. 3 course meal £17.50 per person - Email returns to [fosim@btconnect.com](mailto:fosim@btconnect.com).

**Battlefield Tour Italy 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> September - 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Salerno Landings Commemorations.**

There are four places left on this Tour so if anyone is interested please contact Dee at [fosim@btconnect.com](mailto:fosim@btconnect.com). Grant available for those who are/have served.

Visiting Salerno, Cassino and Anzio. All hotel accom and food included, coach, regimental historians etc. Service at CWGC Salerno war Cemetery.

Guildford Fire Service have a Veterans' Drop in on the last Thursday of the month at:

Guildford Fire Station  
By-Pass,  
Ladymead  
Guildford  
GU11DL

### Surrey Infantry Collection update - March 2023 - Anna Jackson

Work on the Collection Review is progressing well, with several objects already being transferred to other military and regimental museums where they can be looked after and used. We are progressing with identifying how to preserve, conserve and restore several items which were presumed damaged beyond repair - including several drum staffs and an 18th Century vase from the Peking Palace - and have engaged a conservator to help us with this. We hope by our next update we will have some good news to report!



Since our last update, a new exhibition has opened at Guildford Museum. **Soldiers of Surrey: Sgt Bob Hatcher** uses personal testimony and objects from the Surrey Infantry Collection and the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and Queen's Regiment Museum to tell the story of the Queen's in Malaya, 1954-1957.

We are grateful to Guildford Museum for their continued support and offer of exhibition space to share our stories and history. To fit in with their displays and purpose, we have agreed that we will use the space they have provided to showcase stories about Guildford, or soldiers with connections to Guildford. This new exhibition uses Guildford-born Sgt R Hatcher as a Launchpad to link to the Malayan Emergency. The exhibition will run until August, and we are always on the lookout for more Guildford-adjacent stories with the East Surrey and Queen's Regiments. Do feel free to get in touch with any suggestions to add to the crib sheet of further exhibition topics!

Closer to home, the public displays in the Surrey History Centre will be taken down later this month. Our thanks go out to the volunteers who helped curate these displays. The objects will be placed in store to be rested, in order to preserve them for the future. In April, a new display will be installed with the aim of engaging the visiting public with the work of the Surrey Infantry Collection. We hope this will clarify to the public what we do, who we are, and who we are for. Objects will be brought out of storage to replace those currently on display - with more focus on personal stories than on the history of the Clandon Fire.

This work would be impossible without the help and support of our volunteers, who during the course of the collections review have helped us discover more histories and ways of engaging with our audience

## Out and about

### 1<sup>st</sup> Queens in Malaya - Ref Regimental History 1948 -1959

As said previously in Guildford Museum the displays have been updated to reflect the story of the Queens soldiers in Malaya and Sgt Bob Hatcher who is from Guildford represents all those who served during this period.

The story of Malaya post WW2 became known as the Malayan Emergency and lasted from 1948 to 1960. This involved a long anti-insurgency campaign by Communist Troops (CTs) in Malaya. The British strategy was to try and isolate the Malay Communist Party (MCP) from its support base by a combination of economic and political concessions to the Chinese. This also included the resettlement of Chinese squatters into "New Villages" in "white areas" free of MCP influence. It meant that food supplies were monitored and restricted to these villages so the CT began to cultivate food within the Jungle and Patrols were sent out to locate these areas.

Although the MCP succeeded in assassinating the British High Commissioner, Sir Henry Gurney, in October 1951. These terrorist tactics alienated many moderate Chinese from the Party. The arrival of Lt-Gen Sir Gerald Templer as British commander in 1952 set up new practises. Templer supported techniques of counter-insurgency warfare in Malaya and wanted them applied ruthlessly. He used the analogy of "heart and minds of the people" to get them on side. Eventually the insurgency was defeated and the Independence for the Federation was granted on 31 August 1957, with Tunku Abdul Rahman as the first Prime Minister.

During this campaign many British Troops were sent to Malaya including the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Queens.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> Jan they were off to Malaya on HMT Georgic. However for this period, life on board was not all plain sailing. Fortunately the weather was mainly good and the sea quite calm. As they went on this three week voyage, using an extract from the Tangerine newsletter, it was reported that a PT Cadre had been formed prior to departure and within 2

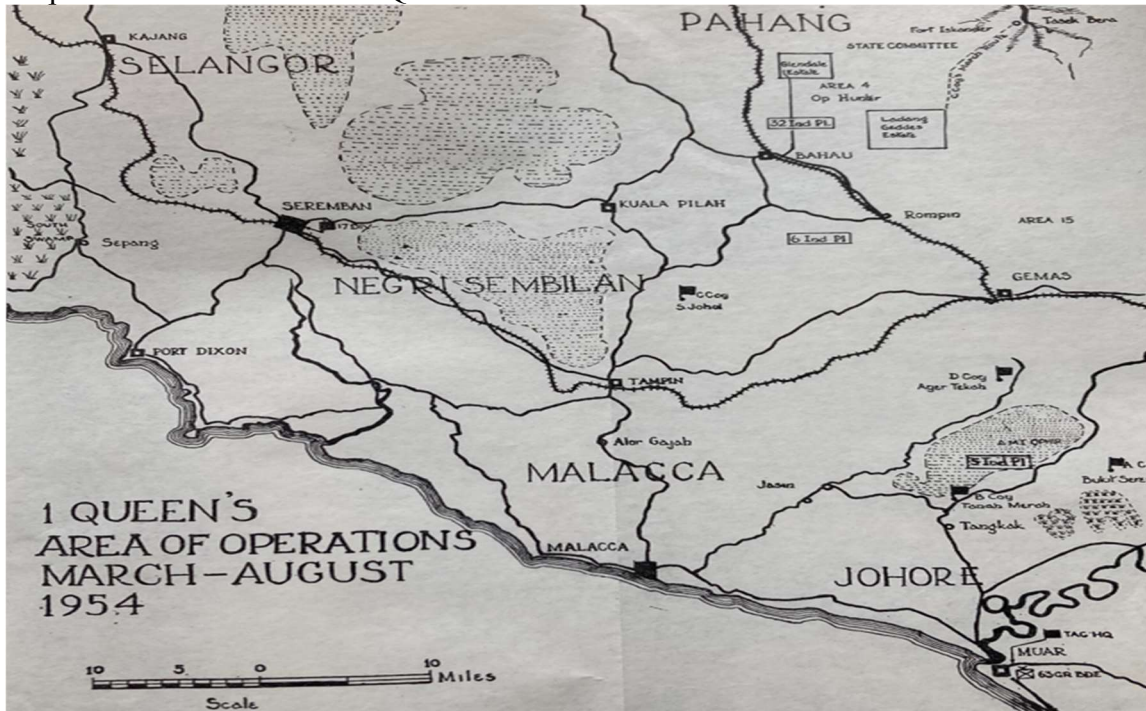


days on board ship then PT started in full from 06.30 to 7.00. All required to attend to ensure that fitness was uppermost once the troops landed.

The Battalion arrived in Singapore on 12th Feb and settled into Selarung barracks. Here they went into Jungle Warfare training in Southern Johore for several weeks.

The Battalion then had to move to Malacca by train to where the Battalion unfortunately was scattered across a rather large area. Main HQ was at Tampin. The Battalion was employed at the start on routine duties on guarding the 'new villages' and checking food supplies.

Map from The Journal of the QRRs



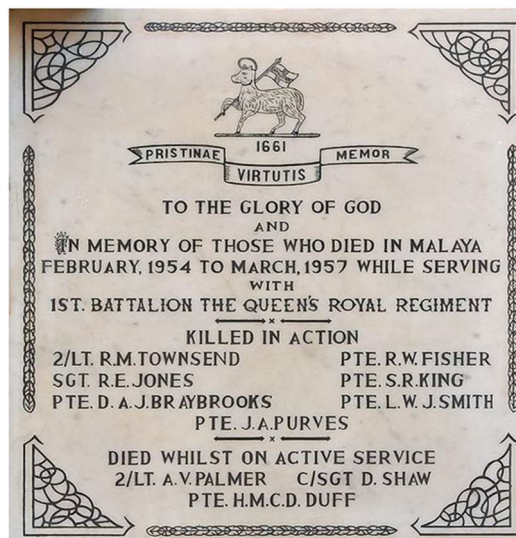
The change in Warfare tactics had to be adapted to the Jungle and full on Army Battle tactics would not work in this area. Companies were broken down into Patrols and these were often led by NCOs. Must mention that a lot of National Servicemen arrived into the Battalion and their whole National Service was completed in Malaya as the Battalion was here until 1957. Mount Ophir was constantly patrolled and made the whole area uncomfortable for the CTs.



In May 1955 the battalion moved again to the Kluang area and the companies a bit closer together than previously. However the Patrols continued and the Regtl History says this period "was a dull business with long patrols through the estates from dawn to after dark, perpetual checking of villagers, searches of vehicles and houses for surplus food".

Unfortunately during this campaign men were killed in action or died on active service and in Singapore Cathedral there is a memorial plaque for them.

Sgt Jones, Pte Fisher and Braybrooks were killed on the same operation on Mount Ophir in early 1954.



### Roll of Honour – Extracted from the Borneo and Malaya - <https://www.nmbva.co.uk>

Name	Initials	Rank	Service No	Died	Row	Plot	Grave	Age
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#### Buried at Kranji Military Cemetery Singapore

<i>Purves</i>	<i>J.A</i>	<i>Pte.</i>	<i>23136481</i>	<i>6.7.56</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Smith</i>	<i>L.W.J</i>	<i>Pte.</i>	<i>22787514</i>	<i>10.2.56</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>21</i>

#### Buried at Seremban Christian Cemetery Negri Sembilan

<i>Jones</i>	<i>R.E</i>	<i>Sgt.</i>	<i>22822642</i>	<i>18.5.54</i>	<i>CE</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>86</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>Palmer</i>	<i>A.V</i>	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</i>	<i>430086</i>	<i>12.4.54</i>	<i>CE</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>19</i>

#### Buried at Cheras Road Christian Cemetery Kuala Lumpur

<i>Braybrooks</i>	<i>D.A.J</i>	<i>Pte.</i>	<i>22747699</i>	<i>16.4.54</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>1135</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Duff</i>	<i>H.M.A.C</i>	<i>Pte.</i>	<i>22875349</i>	<i>25.9.54</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>1149</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Fisher</i>	<i>R.W</i>	<i>Pte.</i>	<i>22890762</i>	<i>18.5.54</i>	<i>RC</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>1331</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>King</i>	<i>S.P</i>	<i>Pte.</i>	<i>22890765</i>	<i>20.7.54</i>	<i>RC</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>1336</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Mack</i>	<i>J.V</i>	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</i>	<i>423299</i>	<i>30.11.52</i>	<i>.</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>1098</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Townsend</i>	<i>R.M</i>	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.</i>	<i>433396</i>	<i>25.7.54</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>1143</i>	<i>19</i>

The graves of Pte Fisher and Pte King were re-interred from Seremban Cemetery 5<sup>th</sup> December 2006

#### Remains Cremated or Repatriated

<i>Palmer</i>	<i>D.W.L</i>	<i>Capt.</i>	<i>333880</i>	<i>3.5.51</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>Day</i>	<i>T.J</i>	<i>Sgt.</i>	<i>5379533</i>	<i>17.11.59</i>	<i>48</i>

For a fuller story see the website - <https://www.queensroyalsurreys.org.uk>

And not to miss the East Surrey man who was attached out there - Shaw D Sgt. 14937050 4.3.55 Buried at Cheras Road Christian Cemetery Kuala Lumpur.

Also not to be missed is Sgt Bob Hatcher's website <https://www.mymalayagallery.co.uk>. Here Bob has included The Tangerine newsletter produced throughout the Malayan campaign for the Queens as well as Patrol reports and photos.

## Lunch Club at Surrey History Centre

*"meet old and new friends, come to lunch"*

22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar 2023	Lt Col (Retd) Peter Swanson THE CHINDITS IN BURMA 1944 - OPERATION THURSDAY AND THE PART PLAYED BY 2 <sup>ND</sup> BATTALION THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT Now at Franham ARC on the VC Room	£12.50
21 <sup>st</sup> Jun 2023	Maj (Retd) David Pollard Dhofar War - 1965 -75	£12.50
27 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2023	Mark Jewell - RAF Heritage collection	£12.50
22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov 2023	Sherryl Green Who was the real James Bond?	£12.50

Name: -----

Email/Address/ Phone if not FOSIM Member:

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In case of short notice cancellation

Cheque amounts enclosed for ----- Tickets Cost £-----

Costs Include - Buffet Lunch - Tea/coffee - Hire of Lecture Room - Often our speakers only charge expenses which keep costs down.

Cheques are to be made out to - Queens and PWRR Museum (Surrey Infantry).

Please note you can send separate cheques for each buffet lunch. They will not be cashed until the lunch date is due so can pre date.

Arrive for Pre- lunch Museum update for 12.30pm for lunch at 13.00PM

### Please return to:-

Dee Hutchison – Secretary

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email: fosim@btconnect.com