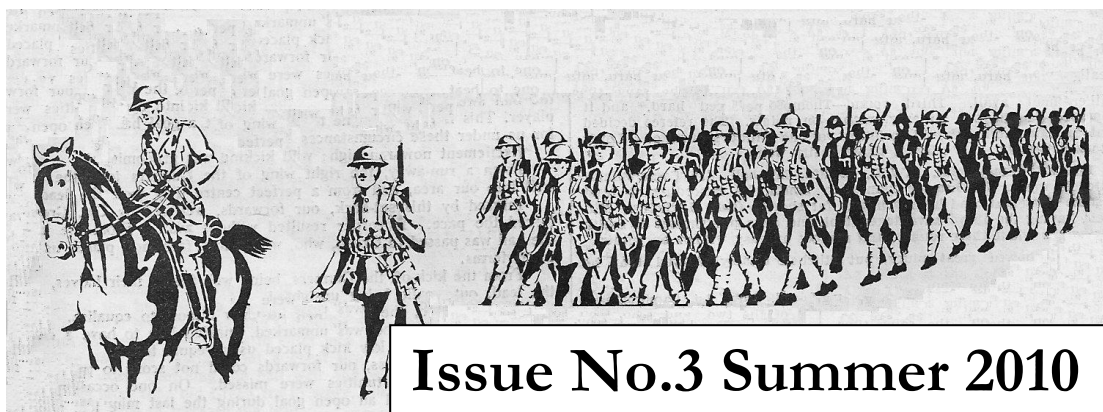


50th
(The Queen's Own)

97th
(Earl of Ulster's)



The
Queen's Own
(Living History Group)
Gazette



The O.C.'s Column



photo-calls in front of the Kohima Cross and generally with the Gallant Defenders who attended (see *Events* below).

Easter 2010 saw us at our first at our first full training weekend (see *Training* below). It was well attended, with Gwyn, our Nurse with us for the first time, and a number of visitors, including the brother of the late “Tommy” Atkins, 1/RWK, who I knew as an “In-Pensioner” at Chelsea. The following Saturday L/Cpl. Bristow and Ptes. Burke, Cox and Hanmore joined me at the Kohima Reunion and put on an excellent display of arms and equipment of The Queen’s Own during both World Wars. The former, in their 4/RWK “Burma” attire were much in demand for

“TheBoss”

Training.



Fort Amhurst, Easter 2010.

We held our first full training weekend at Fort Amhurst on 3rd-4th April (Easter), the “Advance Party” arriving on the Friday evening and enjoying a pleasant “run ashore” before work commenced the following day.



Pte Birkett, P keeping steady aim under the watchful eye of “Invicta”

Training commenced sharp at 0900 with an hour’s drill under the O.C. and Sgt. Hanmore - the training day earlier in the year had paid off as the “rough edges” had certainly gone. L/Cpl. Bristow ran a “range” in which the Lads practiced their skill at arms, whilst Pte. Hanmore & Nurse Bilby took a lecture on the Medical Services in the Great War. Our stalwart supporters - the Bellinghams and Ron Harper, plus Ciaran Duke and Tom Cooker who were made most welcome, joined us during the day.

Being Easter the fort was open to the public and everyone got used to considerable public attention. Sgt. Hanmore took a fieldcraft period in which the changes of tactics from 1914-18 were thoroughly practiced and the O.C. promised a lecture on the Regiment in the evening. Well ... just as all were settling down for a brief on some stirring tales from the long and distinguished history of The Queen’s Own in the comfort of the lecture room the O.C. and Sgt. Hanmore sprung a surprise and within a few minutes all were dressed for battle and briefed on an evening exercise which involved a trench raid and snatching a Bosche prisoner! Lesson learned – always expect the unexpected from “the Boss”!

Exercise and debrief over the Lads had a well-earned fish and chip supper washed down with a very much-appreciated drop of ale! Sunday continued with more drill and a lecture from the O.C. on the part played by The Queen's Own in the Great War. It was an excellent first full weekend training, and thanks to the efforts of ALL – that's what good teamwork is all about!



“I wouldn't have done it like that... ..”
 “The Boss” and “Pop H” watching the fieldcraft



“What's he going to have us doing next??”
 “The Lads” having a brief respite during a fieldcraft period



**“The Queen's Own”
 Drill practice, Fort Amhurst, Easter 2010**

Sgt. L. Hanmore Pte. M. Cox Pte. R. Heald Pte. P. Birkett Pte. D. Hanmore Pte. M. Birkett
 Capt. C. Jupp

Events.



The *Kohima* Reunion.

On Saturday 10th April the Group attended its first Regimental Event – the *Kohima* Reunion. This was held at the Boxley Road TA Centre and was of particular interest to Ptes. Daniel Burke and Martin Cox, who have been members of a Living History Group portraying Lt. Gen. “Bill” Slim’s “Forgotten” 14th Army for some time.



Ptes. Cox & Burke with Mrs. Gardiner (widow of a Kohima Defender) with the *Kohima* Cross

The O.C., reverting back to Hon. Archivist and Regimental Historian, was busy from very early morning collecting, amongst other things, the *Kohima* Cross from the Regimental Museum. Thanks to “defence cuts” there was no transport available from the host TA unit (ironically Royal Logistics Corps!) and other means had to be found of getting the much cherished memorial to Boxley Road. Help came from Rob Davies, a Kent Orders, Medals & Research Society member and owner of *Granville Garage* just down the road and was very much appreciated by all.

Pte. David “Pop H” Hanmore set up his most excellent “show and tell” display of Great War artefacts, whilst Ptes. Burke and Cox did the same for WW2, especially the Far East - in between a number of photo requests! (see *left*)

I’ve always been a bit apprehensive before putting on displays to those who really *were* there, but their support and interest was soon put my mind at rest. The kit and weapons displays, under the watchful eye of L/Cpl. Bristow, attracted much attention from Kohima Veterans to present TA soldiers who have served in such modern theatres as Iraq and Afghanistan, proving that weapons and equipment are two aspects of soldiering that act as a bridge between many generations. It was great to see the soldiers of 1939/45, not only chatting freely with us about

many aspects of soldiering in those testing days, but also to the TA generation of 2010 who have seen active service themselves in more recent campaigns.

It was with all due credit to the efforts of L/Cpl. Bristow and Ptes. Burke, Cox and Hanmore that Col. Cooper, the Chairman of the Reunion, gave such kind and generous praise of the displays, and the O.C. received many a good word in support of the Group during the course of what was an altogether excellent evening.

The final “feather in the cap” was Colonel Donald Easten, MC, O.C. “D” Company during The Siege, and Company Commander to L/Cpl. “Jack” Harman, VC, virtually “ordering” the Lads to be there next year! Who could ask for more?
C.J.

“Past, Present & Future”.



Blasts from the Past.

Notes from the Orderly Room Clerk’s Diary

“We will remember them ...”

Members of our Group all have some connection or other with The Queen’s Own Royal West Kent Regiment, which drives their interest. For some it’s a direct family connection or the fact that they live in the County. In my case it’s through having purchased and

researched a couple of Regimental Great War medal trios, one of which was awarded to a Bromley man who lived very close to where I live now.

William George Peat answered the call from King & Country on the 28th August 1914 when he presented himself at the recruiting office of The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment at East Street in Bromley, Kent.

William, a chauffer and gardener was 22 years old and lived with his parents George and Elizabeth Peat at 37 Canon Road in Bromley. Having been attested for three years service with the Colours, William became Private G/438 of the 6th Battalion of The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.

The former Wharton Road schoolboy was sent for training at Purfleet and then to Aldershot. William married Katherine Elizabeth Craker at St John's Church, Bromley, Kent on the 5th April 1915 only a few weeks before his Battalion embarked for France, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel E.F. Venables, on the 1st June.

William fought with the 6th Battalion until he was killed in action on the 7th October 1915 fighting near Loos.

His name is inscribed on Panel 96 on the Loos Memorial and on the Bromley War Memorial, Martins Hill, Church Road, Bromley. William was 23 years old. **P.Z.**



CAN WE IMAGINE?

I have often wondered when pursuing my interest in Living History, just what it was really like to live through such times as the Great War. I know we wear the uniform and some times inhabit the same places but of course its always still going be the here and now just outside our little bubble of living history no matter how ever hard we try or how much effort we put into it.

For some of us, the likes of Lee and Theo and some others perhaps, they have experienced the emotional feelings of combat and being under fire or the day-to-day boredom of service life. With this in mind I would there for like to move away from our period of normal study and take us back just a little further.

January 1st, 1914, the start of a new year, little different perhaps than many of the years before. Nothing much to mark it out but that was soon to change. I am thinking of my Grandfather's Family, his Father and Mother, Brothers and Sisters Aunties and Uncles, just ordinary folk like many others and how they lived their day to day lives and what if anything did they know or even understand of the great events about to unfold and engulf them over the next twelve months.

First of all lets strip away all of the ways we receive information today. Radio, Television, Telephone (for the most part and for most people) the Internet. The time it took for News to get to the man or woman in their hometown, village, hamlet or street. By our standards their lives would seem hard even harsh to many of us and we of course always put our experiences along side what theirs might have been but for them 1914 was the hear and now. It was the way life was.

I wonder what was going through my Grand Fathers mind back then. Why did he decide to join the Nations Special Reserve, what motivated him? Perhaps Chris might know how this organization came about and how ordinary chaps like Stan would have heard about it? Of course he may have seen Public Notices telling him or word of mouth from mates or living in Rusthall Tunbridge Wells, he may have dropped into the Drill Hall in Victoria Road Tunbridge Wells while passing. Funny you know, only 33 years later I lived in Victoria Road, less than a couple of hundred yards from the Drill Hall. So how ever he found out about, he signed up for 6 years service. Chris might know this one. Were the chaps paid for their service? - this might have been Stan's incentive to join, a little extra money. Perhaps Chris could tell us. So Stanley Frank Hanmore aged around 19 is one of many chaps in the reserve and I am sure he had not the slightest idea where he would be by July 1915. Again Chris might be able to enlighten us all. What kind of training would the Reserve have received? Were they in uniform and did they drill and have weapons

knowledge? By the time events in Sarajevo had taken place and the first rumblings of War were being heard, what was happening to the men of the Special Reserve - again do you know Chris? One can only imagine what was going through people's minds at that time, once news of the assassinations had been reported in the News Papers of the time. " What and where and who are they this people, Arch Duke Who? " perhaps.

Then as June passed into July and the mood grew darker, war clouds seemed to be gathering, perhaps a sense of " What on earth has this got to do with us " might have been abroad in the land. As July turned into August the mood of the Country must have been high with anticipation and fervour and once War had been declared, much patriotism, or so we are led to believe but was this felt by everyone or could some have felt a sense of foreboding. I wonder what was going through Stan's mind and many others?

My next thoughts have to be, what happened next to the Special Reserve did they move into a more mobilized situation, did they already have their uniforms and kit or did this all come later? Were they assembled and taken off to Training Camps or were things a bit in limbo because the B.E.F were off to France and no one could conceive of the " Old British Army " being almost destroyed within months. I know I pose many questions here but if you don't ask you don't know and I think it helps us understand the more we know. So, first port of call when you don't know is, ask Chris, but if you have any thoughts chaps, write them down and let me know so we can share and learn. **"POP H."**

Dates for the Diary.



Jun: 17th – Waterloo Lecture (QORWK Museum)
 26th/27th – Military Weekend – Brenchley Gardens (QORWK Museum)
Jul: 3rd – Visit to The National Army Museum/Lunch at Chelsea Hospital
 15th – "Maidstone Men in the Great War" Lecture (QORWK Museum)
 20th-25th – War & Peace Show (Beltring)
Aug: 1st – "Buff's Sunday" (Canterbury)
 27th-30th – Military Odyssey (Detling)

Sep: 12th – QORWK Reunion (Maidstone)
 17th – "Fallen Eagles" Battle of Britain Lecture (QORWK Museum)
 23rd – "The Buffs" Lecture (QORWK Museum)
Oct: 14th – "Maidstone in the Battle of Britain"
 TBA – *Neuve Chapelle Meeting* (Depot Mess, Maidstone)
 30th – "1914-45 Day" (QORWK Museum)
Nov: 7th – Remembrance Sunday
 11th – Armistice Event (QORWK Museum)
 11th – VC Lecture (QORWK Museum)
 25th – "Kut 1916" Lecture (QORWK Museum)
Dec: TBA – *Christmas Social* (Depot Mess, Maidstone)

A leaflet covering all QORWK Museum events 2010 is now available (ask the Editor)

Regimental Gazette.



Promotions & Appointments.

G/438 Pte. P. Ziemiński to be Corporal w.e.f. 17th April 2010.

New Members.

The O.C. and all ranks wish to welcome the following as new members of the Group:

Ciaran DUKE	(Full)
Ron HARPER	(Friend)
Jonathan SAUNDERS	(Friend)
Ian MILLER	(Friend)
Brig. John HOLMAN, CBE, DL	(Friend)

Ciaran DUKE joins us as photographer/publicity and has photographed many other events. He has just produced an excellent photographic brochure of the Group.

Ron HARPER, another excellent photographer and keen supporter of the Regimental Association, is late 1/RWK from "Malaya" days. He will happily tell you that his least interests in the early 1950's were the Army and The Queen's Own! (Though he's more than made up for that in recent years – C.J.)

Jonathan SAUNDERS is a keen Military and Regimental Historian - one of his particular interests is our 6th ("Dawson's") Battalion in the Great War.

Ian MILLER – our most "distant" friend to date, hailing from Queensland, Australia- is a descendant of the Guess family who more than filled the ranks of the Regiment. We hope to hear more from him and that he sends in something for our "*Blasts from the Past*".

Brig. John HOLMAN, CBE, DL, who has just joined us, served with 1/RWK in Cyprus at the end of the campaign, with 1/QOB in Borneo during the "confrontation" and with the Queen's in Northern Ireland. His final posting was as Brigadier commanding 2 Bde at Shorncliffe.

Our present strength is 24 – our Patron, 15 Full Members, 6 Friends and 1 Full Member (pending) – not bad for the first 7 ½ months!

CAPTION COMPETITION.

Can you think of a topical caption relating to our Group that could accompany this cartoon? If so, send your entry to the Orderly Room and the one judged to be best by the O.C. will be published in our next edition!



O.C.'s suggestion –

(scene)

Savouring a rare instance of "all quiet on the Western Front"

Slim soldier enjoying a cigarette:

"You must be really taken in by this tranquil moment"

Stocky soldier enjoying his pipe:

"um... ...why?"

Slim soldier enjoying a cigarette:

"Because, Nige, you haven't said *West Kent* or *Queen's Own* for 58 ½ seconds!"

(no slight to L/Cpl Bristow's unparalleled enthusiasm for *The Regiment – The Boss*)

Now it's your turn, so send them in!!!

... and Finally.

As always, I hope you edition, and again, please feel free to send in anything you wish – photos, events, military historical interest (family, Regimental, humorous), etc - to be included to the O.C. by the 3rd week of September for inclusion for that quarter. Also any photos taken at our events would be most welcome. Your input will be much appreciated by all readers.

BUT – don't forget there is always our **"Forum"** on the internet *all day every day* – new members please give it a "once-over" at least and feel free to introduce yourself, post comments, questions or research under the headings. We've also found it a very useful way of passing on info and ideas – and change of Orders at short notice!

The next issue will include the weekend at The Regimental Museum, the *War & Peace Show*, *Buff's Sunday* and the *Military Odyssey*, so it looks to be our largest yet!
C.J.

Tail-end??

The subject of the Regiment's mascots was brought up the other day so I thought I would end with one now and again:



"POKENO"
Mascot of HM 50th 1863-76
(proudly wearing *his* New Zealand Medal)

"POKENO" – Dog, HM 50th

This little lad was found in the deserted Maori village, after which he was named, in late 1863 – a starving pup found and adopted by Private John Pigg. He served throughout the Waikato Rebellion - charging with HM 50th in the engagement at Rangiawhia (22nd Feb 1864); and in the West Coast Campaign, being with the piquet of HM 50th when it repulsed a major Maori assault at Nukumaru (25th Jan 1865).

He later served in Australia, England, and finally in Ireland, where at Kinsale, Dublin, on 20th Oct 1876, at the respectable age of 13, this gallant little veteran of the Maori Wars and faithful follower of HM 50th, passed away peacefully in the company of *his* best friends. The Regimental Pioneers made his headstone, and his little grave, on the green in front of the new married quarters, was always well tended and often found adorned with flowers. The path running next to it down to the town was named "*Pokeno Street*" in his memory.

As stated in *The Queen's Own Gazette* after his death – *Pokeno is much missed now, both at Reveille and Tattoo.*