

INTRODUCTION



The following pages provides a brief history of the long and glorious service of the forebear regiments of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. The Regiment, formed in 1992, from the amalgamation of The Queen's Regiment and The Royal Hampshire Regiment is the proud inheritor of a history extending back to the very earliest beginnings of the British Army. The examples of valour, adherence to duty, and fortitude, continue to inspire the current officers and soldiers of the modern Regiment, who are proud to belong to the oldest and most senior English Regiment of the Line.

Any brief history is complicated by the diverse nature of the Regiment's forebears. These are the great line regiments of Surrey, Kent, Sussex, Middlesex and Hampshire, which have expanded and contracted in an ever-changing political climate. The names of these regiments have changed over the centuries and have included The Queen's Royal Regiment (2nd Foot), The Buffs (3rd Foot), The East Surrey Regiment (31st and 70th Foot), The Royal Sussex Regiment (35th and 107th Foot), The Royal Hampshire Regiment (37th and 67th Foot), The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (50th and 97th Foot) and The Middlesex Regiment (57th and 77th Foot). This section seeks to link the strands of their history in order to intrigue both the military expert and the layman reader. The narrative concentrates on regular army service, although the contribution of the Militia, Volunteers and Territorial's must not be underestimated, both as individual reinforcements and formed units,

particularly in the two world wars. The contribution to all ranks by past cadets is also acknowledged.

The Regiment has been represented in virtually every campaign of the British Army and provided a significant contribution to many famous battles. This has included Blenheim, Quebec, Minden, Albuhera, Sobraon, Sevastopol, Gallipoli, Ypres, Kohima, Salerno and many more. In more recent years, the Regiment has helped bring the Cold War to a successful conclusion and was represented in the campaigns in Korea, Malaya, Kenya, Cyprus, Aden, Borneo and Northern Ireland. The inherited traditions of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, which include the reputation for courage, endurance, determination, loyalty and good humour, are second to none.

THE BEGINNING



The origin of the Regiment can be traced to the 1st May 1572, when 3,000 men of the Trained Bands of London paraded before Queen Elizabeth I at Greenwich. Three hundred of them volunteered to go to the aid of the Dutch in their revolt against Spain, as a formed company under the command of Captain Thomas Morgan. The force expanded to four English regiments and in 1665, half of them returned to England, rather than swear allegiance to the then liberated Dutch and formed Our Holland Regiment. Despite their Tudor origin, they were numbered the 4th Foot, raised to the 3rd Foot in 1689. By 1751, they were known as the Buffs, due to their buff uniform facings. Two centuries before, in 1415, the origin of one of the Regiment's badges, the Hampshire rose, was established. Henry V awarded this badge to the Trained Bands of Hampshire following their feats during the Battle of Agincourt.

The 2nd or Tangier Regiment of Foot had its first muster on Putney Heath on the 14th October 1661. It was raised in order to garrison the Port of Tangier, which King Charles II had acquired as part of the dowry, when he married Catherine of Braganza, the Infanta of Portugal. The Queen's, named after Queen Catherine, remained in Tangier for twenty-three years until the port was evacuated. The Regiment's first battle honour, 'Tangier 1662–1680' is the oldest in the British Army and is displayed on the Regimental Colour together with Catherine's cypher. In 1685, The Queen's took part in the last battle fought on English soil, at Sedgemoor, against the protestant Duke of Monmouth's rebel force. There they gained the nickname of 'Kirke's Lambs' after their cap badge and the manner in which their Colonel put down the rebellion. Four years later, having fought for King James II at Sedgemoor, The Queen's fought against him at The Battle of The Boyne in Ireland and helped to relieve the Siege of Londonderry. Both The Queen's and The Buffs continued to fight for King William in Flanders in 'King William's War' of 1689–1697 against His Most Catholic Majesty Louis XIV of France and fought side-by-side at the battle of Landen in 1693.



THE WAR OF THE SPANISH SUCCESSION 1702–1713

Conflict with France was to continue for many years, despite the end of King William's War. It was at this time that many other forebear regiments had their beginnings. They were known by the name of their Colonels, but this Guide will refer to them by their number as a Line regiment in order to avoid confusion, even though the numbering system was not introduced until 1750.

Eighteen new regiments were to be raised in the period 1701–1702, six of which were primarily for sea service.



In 1701, the 35th Foot, later The Royal Sussex Regiment, was raised in Belfast by The 3rd Earl of Donegal. The soldiers were protestant Ulster-Scots, and as a mark of favour King William granted them the unique distinction of wearing orange facings. In 1702, 'Meredith's', the 37th Foot, later The Hampshire Regiment was also raised in Ireland and in the same year, Villiers' Marines, the 31st Foot, later The East Surrey Regiment was raised.

The Grand Alliance of England, the Netherlands and The Holy Roman Empire (Austria) was set against France, because Louis XIV had claimed the vacant throne of Spain for his grandson Philip. King William's successor, Queen Anne, declared war in 1702 and the 35th Foot was warned for sea service. The tradition of enjoying the privilege of drinking the loyal toast sitting down, because deck beams were too low to allow men to stand up, stems from the sea service of both the 31st and the 35th Foot.

The Queen's, The Buffs, the 31st and the 35th of Foot all took part in the abortive attack on Cadiz in 1702, whilst the 31st Foot participated in Admiral Rooke's successful capture and defence of Gibraltar in 1704. The Queen's, The Buffs and the 37th Foot were to join the Army of one of Britain's greatest commanders John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough, for his famous march across Europe and long campaign against the French.

The Queen's were to gain the first 'Royal' title of the forebear regiments at Tongres in 1703. The Regiment was quartered with a Dutch Regiment, when 40,000 French attacked in order to destroy Marlborough's allied Dutch forces. The two allied regiments fought continuously for twenty-eight hours before being forced to surrender, gaining time for the remainder of the Dutch force to regroup and repel the French. The title 'Royal' was awarded, together with the mottoes 'Pristinae Virtutis Memor' (Mindful of Former Glory) and 'Vel Exuviae Triumphant' (Victorious even in Adversity).

The Buffs and the 37th Foot also fought with distinction in Marlborough's Army, gaining the famous quartet of battle honours consisting of Blenheim (1704), Ramillies (1705–1706), Oudenarde (1708) and Malplaquet (1709). It was probably in 1707 that The Buffs received the Dragon as their badge in token of their Tudor origin. The War of The Spanish Succession ended with The Treaty of Utrecht in 1713.

THE WAR OF THE AUSTRIAN SUCCESSION 1740–1748



The War of The Austrian Succession arose from a dispute between three candidates for the Austrian throne and Britain's principal enemies were again France and Spain. The Buffs, the 31st and the 37th Foot fought at Dettingen, which was a great victory and the last occasion on which an English king (George II) commanded his army in battle. The 31st Foot later received heavy casualties at Fontenoy.

The Buffs and the 37th Foot returned to England and helped deal with the second Jacobite rebellion of 1745. Both regiments formed part of the Duke of Cumberland's Army, which fought Bonnie Prince Charlie at Falkirk and Culloden, although at the end of the War, which was marked by The Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, they were back in Flanders.



THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR 1754–1763 AND THE SEVEN YEARS' WAR 1756–1763

Britain, Prussia and Portugal were aligned against France, Austria, Russia, Sweden and Poland, during the Seven Years' War. The War was described by William Pitt as the first world war, because of its geographical spread and its aftermath helped to forge the British Empire.

The French and Indian War was the American phase of the Seven Years' War, which began two years later in Europe. In June 1756, the 35th Foot arrived in the Hudson Valley to form part of the Garrison of Fort William Henry on Lake George. In July 1757, the fort was attacked by a large force of French and Iroquois Indians under the Marquis of Montcalm. After expending all ammunition, the garrison was forced to surrender with the honours of war, but was treacherously ambushed with wives and families en route to the British post fifteen miles away. The story is told in Fennimore Cooper's *The Last of The Mohicans*. In October of the same year, the 35th helped capture Louisbourg, but their greatest victory was to be at Quebec.

After a series of defeats, the French concentrated in the area of Quebec. The allied assault on their positions was led by the thirty-two-year-old General James Wolfe, who was the first Colonel of the 67th Foot, later The South Hampshire Regiment. Thanks to the navigational skills of Captain James Cook, who later became the great explorer, the British effectively penetrated the St. Lawrence River and blockaded Quebec.



On the night of the 12/13th September 1759, the assaulting force, which included the 35th, climbed the Heights of Abraham. The Regiment was in a crucial position at the right of the line at first light. At about 1000 hours Montcalm's French Army came out of the town to attack and had approached to within thirty-five yards before Wolfe gave the order to fire and then, to quote Fortescue, the British Army's historian, 'with one deafening crash the most perfect volley ever fired on a battlefield burst forth as if from a single monstrous weapon, from end to end of the British line'. The French unit in front of the 35th was the Royal Roussillon Regiment. Regimental tradition has it that as they retreated, the French threw down their hats, the feathers from which the advancing 35th put in their own head dress. The Roussillon Plume later became part of the badge of The Royal Sussex Regiment and the 13th September became their Regimental Day. Wolfe and Montcalm were both killed in the battle and General Amherst completed the conquest of Canada. The 35th completed their war alongside The Buffs in a campaign against the French possessions of Martinique and Guadeloupe.

The years 1756 to 1758 marked the raising of four further forebear regiments. The 2nd Battalion of the 31st Foot, which became the 70th Foot and later combined with the 31st to form The East Surrey Regiment, was raised in Glasgow. Also raised were the 50th Foot, later The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (the Queen being Adelaide, wife of William IV), the 57th Foot, later the senior forebear of The Middlesex Regiment, and the 67th Foot, later to become with the 37th Foot, The Hampshire Regiment.

THE BATTLE OF MINDEN



On the 1st August 1759, the 37th Foot fought at The Battle of Minden, during the Seven Years' War. This is now one of the three main Regimental Days of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. The French Army of Marshal de Contades was marching towards Hannover and to block this move, Ferdinand, Duke of Brunswick, resolved to hold Minden. The Duke's force included six British infantry regiments, one of which was the 37th Foot.

As the French approached, the British infantry were issued the confusing order to 'Advance with drums beating in proper time'. The term 'proper time' was interpreted as the rate of advance, whilst the Duke meant 'in due course, when the order is given'. The allied infantry advanced, in spite of crossfire from sixty French guns. They were then charged by French cavalry, who were engaged at ten yards to such devastating effect that the ground was strewn with men and horses. The advance continued against two more cavalry charges, which were also defeated. The French were driven from the field in confusion as, uniquely, infantry had attacked and scattered massed squadrons of cavalry.

On the 1st August each year, every officer and soldier in the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment wears a 'Minden' rose in his headdress in memory of the men of the 37th who, either before or after the Battle, picked dog-roses from the hedges and put them in their caps. This tradition was inherited from The Royal Hampshire Regiment. The Seven Years' War finished with the Peace of Paris of 1763.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION OR THE WAR OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE 1775–1783

There were no battle honours awarded to the Regiment's forebears for their involvement in the American War of Independence. Although the regiments fought with distinction and achieved many victories against the rebel forces, the colonies successfully rebelled against the rule of King George III with the support of France, Spain and the Netherlands. The Buffs, 31st, 35th, 37th and 57th Foot were all to take part in the War and the 50th participated in a naval battle against the French off Ushant in 1778, serving as marines.

The 35th featured most prominently in the War in the first of the battles. They defeated the rebels at Bunker Hill, Boston in 1775 and joined the 57th with another victory at Brooklyn a year later. Also in 1776 the 35th helped capture New York and won the battle of White Plains. Unfortunately, the 31st were part of General Burgoyne's force, which surrendered at Saratoga and the Light Company of the 37th were present at Cornwallis's surrender at Yorktown.



COUNTY TITLES 1782

In 1782 county titles were allotted to Regiments of Foot although they retained their numbers to indicate precedence. The Queen's were not affected, but the title of 'East Kent' was added to The Buffs (3rd Foot), the 31st became the Huntingdonshire Regiment and the 70th the Surrey Regiment. The 35th were initially linked with Dorsetshire until Sussex was substituted in 1804, whilst the 50th were associated with West Kent and the 57th with West Middlesex. The 37th and 67th were identified with the County of Hampshire; the 37th became the 37th (North Hampshire) Regiment, whilst the 67th became the 67th (South Hampshire) Regiment.

THE FRENCH REVOLUTIONARY WAR 1793–1802

France's support to the American colonists helped create the economic crises which led to the French Revolution. The deposed king, Louis XVI, was supported by Prussia and Austria, who formed an alliance with Britain, Holland and Spain to restore the French monarchy, but without success.



In the summer of 1793, the Queen's were serving with the fleet commanded by Admiral 'Black Dick' Howe. The Fleet was sailing off Ushant in May 1794, with regimental detachments distributed to Lord Howe's flagship Queen Charlotte and His Majesty's Ships The Royal George, Defence, Majestic and Russell. The enemy was sighted, but no attack was possible until 1st June. The British fleet formed line abreast to assault the French who were in line ahead on the port tack and at 0900 hours both fleets opened fire. The battle continued until the early afternoon, by which time seven enemy ships had been captured and 3,000 casualties inflicted against 1,148 British casualties. Among those killed was Lieutenant Neville of The Queen's. The battle was a tactical success and became the Regimental Day of The Queen's Royal Regiment; though at the strategic level an important French grain convoy had managed to reach France.

The Queen's were awarded the Naval Crown on their Regimental Colour, as a result of their rôle in the Battle. The honour remains on the new Regimental Colour and the Regiment continues to retain its relationship with the Royal Navy through its close links with HMS Excellent at Portsmouth and its affiliation with current warships.

The Buffs, 37th (North Hampshire) and the 57th (West Middlesex) served in Flanders during the Duke of York's disastrous expedition in 1794, whilst the 37th helped defeat the French at Tournay and the 50th (West Kent) joined Nelson driving the French out of Corsica. The Queen's, The Buffs, 35th and 57th (West Middlesex) were all to take part in campaigns against French possessions in the West Indies, however, heavy casualties were sustained from yellow fever, dysentery and other tropical diseases. In 1798 The Queen's were heavily involved in the French supported Irish rebellion, and in the following year joined the 31st (Huntingdonshire) and 35th (Dorsetshire) in the Helder campaign in Holland, during which the French were defeated in every engagement. In addition, in 1800 the 35th, two battalions strong, recovered Malta from the French. The Union Flag flew over Malta from that date



until the Island's independence in 1964, when, by coincidence, the flag was lowered for the last time by The Royal Sussex Regiment, the successors to the 35th, who were the last British Army Regiment to serve there.



The Queen's and the 50th (West Kent) took part in the successful landing at Aboukir Bay, near Alexandria, Egypt in 1801. This was part of a joint operation in Egypt against Napoleon's Army of the East. Cairo was occupied and the French expelled. The badge of the Sphinx was awarded as an honour to both regiments and the Sphinx remains on the new Regimental Colour.

Tippoo Sahib, the Sultan of Mysore and ally of Napoleon had plans for his army to drive the British out of those areas of India administered by the Honourable East India Company. In October 1787, four new regiments were raised, in the name of the King, but in the pay of the Company, to provide greater protection for British interests in India. They included the 77th (East Middlesex), which was raised in 1787, arrived in Bombay in 1788 and fought its first battle at Perripatam in March 1789. This forced Tippoo Sahib to withdraw to his capital, Seringapatam. Volunteers from the Regiment made up the 'Forlorn Hope', the pessimistic name given to an assault party of picked troops, which led the attack on the city. Seringapatam fell and the body of Tippoo Sahib was found under a mound of corpses in the north gateway. Subsequently, the 77th served in the first independent command of Sir Arthur Wellesley, later Lord Wellington, in his campaign against the Mahrattas in 1802. The French Revolutionary War was brought to an end by The Treaty of Amiens, 1802.

THE NAPOLEONIC WAR 1803–1815

Napoleon had signed the Amiens Treaty only to give himself time to prepare for his invasion of England and fourteen months later he declared war again on the trumped-up grounds that Britain had failed to hand back Malta to the Knights of St. John, in accordance with the Treaty. In October 1805, at Trafalgar, Nelson removed the threat of French invasion, which had led to the raising of some infantry regiment's 2nd battalions, notably those of the 31st, the 35th, the 37th and the 67th. The Napoleonic War, which involved most European nations against France, continued until Napoleon Bonaparte was finally defeated by the allies at Waterloo on the 18th June 1815. The 1st Battalion of the 35th (Sussex) Regiment helped defeat the French at Maida in Italy in 1806, but the main British contribution to the War was in Portugal and Spain, in what was called the Peninsular War.

THE PENINSULAR WAR 1808–1814

The Queen's, The Buffs (East Kent), 31st (Huntingdonshire), 37th (North Hampshire), 50th (West Kent), 57th (West Middlesex), 67th (South Hampshire) and 77th (East Middlesex) all took part in the Peninsular campaign. The battle honours of Vimiera, Corunna, Douro, Talavera, Barrosa, Albuhera, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz, Almaraz, Salamanca, Vittoria, Pyrenees, Nivelle, Nive, Orthes, Toulouse and Peninsula were won by forebear regiments. It is not surprising that the second Regimental Day of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, Albuhera, comes from this War.

Following initial allied successes against General Junot in Portugal during 1808, Napoleon decided to intervene personally. This compelled the force under Sir John Moore to withdraw to Corunna for evacuation by the British fleet. The Queen's, 50th and a company of The Buffs were amongst this exhausted army when it reached the port of Corunna and found that the ships had not yet arrived. On the 16th January 1809, the French Marshal Soult attacked the allied force and was defeated. The 50th repeated the bayonet charges, which the French had been unable to face at Vimiera and their commanders' success was acknowledged by Sir John Moore who cried 'Well done my majors!' the majors were Sir Charles Napier and the fatally wounded Charles Stanhope. Both were to be remembered by the toast to the 'Corunna Majors' on the anniversary of the battle by The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment and, celebrated in later years by the 2nd Battalion The Queen's Regiment.

THE TIGER 1805–1826

After twenty-one years of active service in India, the 67th (South Hampshire) was ordered back to England in 1826. In commemoration of this, King George IV authorised the figure of the Royal Tiger with the word 'India' superscribed to be borne on its Regimental Colour and other appointments. The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment retains this honour today and maintains the nickname of 'The Tigers'.



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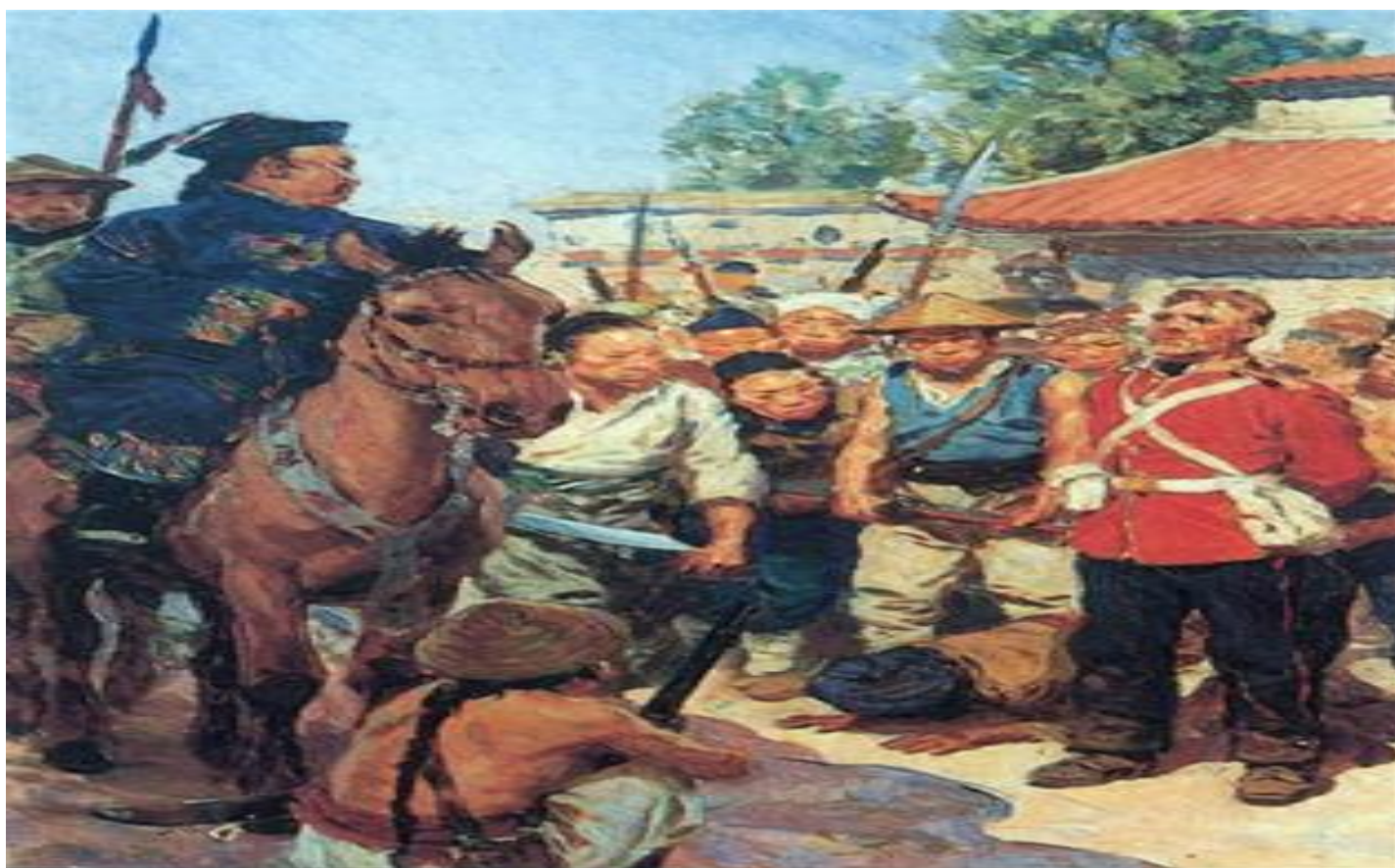
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THE SECOND CHINA WAR 1856–1860 AND THE PERIOD UP UNTIL 1899

The 2nd China War is worth a special mention, as The Queen's, The Buffs, the 31st (Huntingdonshire) and the 67th (South Hampshire) all participated in this conflict. It involved an Anglo-French Expeditionary Force, which compelled the Chinese to observe trading treaties. The most significant battle was the taking of the Taku Forts on the 12th August 1860, when the 67th won four out of the five VCs awarded for the action. The fifth VC was won by a medical apprentice attached to the 67th, Ensign Chaplin, who was only fifteen years three months old, the youngest recipient of this coveted award for valour. During the campaign, Private Moyse of The Buffs won immortality by choosing to be beheaded, rather than 'kowtow' to the Mandarin into whose hands he had fallen. The War ended following the allied occupation of Peking.

In 1857 the 31st (Huntingdonshire), 35th (Royal Sussex), 37th (North Hampshire) and 50th (Queen's Own) coped effectively with the Indian Mutiny, whilst in 1860, the 50th, 57th and 70th were fighting the Maoris in New Zealand. The 67th played a full part in the 2nd Afghan War of 1878–1880, and The Buffs and 57th fought the Zulus in 1879. The East Surreys and The Royal Sussex fought the Dervishes in the Sudan, whilst The Queen's and The Hampshires were in Burma.



THE CARDWELL REFORMS 1870–1881

Edward Cardwell, Liberal Secretary of State for War, introduced a number of major reforms in the Army during this period. This included the abolition of purchasing commissions and promotion. In 1872 he linked battalions in a regiment to ensure regular exchanges between home and overseas postings and gave each regiment a county affiliation and a recruiting and training depot within it. In due course, The Queen's became The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, The Buffs became The Buffs (East Kent) Regiment, the 31st and 70th became The 1st and 2nd Battalions The East Surrey Regiment, the 35th amalgamated with the 107th to form two battalions of The Royal Sussex Regiment (The 107th was originally the 3rd Regiment of Bengal European Infantry, raised by The East India Company in 1853 and transferred to the British Army, as the 107th after the Indian Mutiny), the 37th and 67th united to form the two battalions of The Hampshire Regiment and the 50th and 97th came together as the two battalions of The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. The 57th and the 77th became the 1st and 2nd Battalions of The Middlesex Regiment.



THE BATTLE OF SALERNO, ITALY 1943

The Battle of Salerno is the third Regimental Day of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and the anniversary on the 9th September 1992 marked the formation of the new Regiment. The day was well chosen, as it commemorated the exemplary courage of members of The Queen's and Hampshires, who landed on the beaches in 1943. Six territorial battalions of The Queen's fought in the battle within 169 (Queen's) Brigade and 131 (Queen's) Brigade alongside three Hampshire battalions of 128 (Hampshire) Brigade. In addition, a number of Beach Groups were manned by Hampshire soldiers and Queensmen.



The idea was that the allies would advance quicker through Italy and capture Naples within a few days, as Churchill said, 'Why crawl up the leg like a harvest bug from the ankle upwards? Let us strike at the knee'. 167 Brigade and 128 Brigade were in the initial assaulting divisions and by the end of the first day; the British X Corps was ashore with 23,000 troops, 80 tanks, 325 guns and 2,000 vehicles. However, most of the objectives had not been taken and the enemy still occupied the dominating heights. The days following D Day were a mess of confused fighting, sporadic attacks, prisoners taken, men killed, strong points over-run and abandoned and sometimes over-run again. This situation culminated in 'Black Monday' on the 13th September, when the last major German counter-attack took place, but this was blunted with the help of Naval Gunfire Support and air strikes. On the 17th September, the three Queen's battalions of 131 Brigade joined the battle and by the next day, nine of the Regiment's forebear battalions were in the bridgehead. Both sides claimed victory from the Battle of Salerno. The Germans had managed to extricate themselves and had dictated the pace of the battle; however, the allies were not driven back to the sea and the



objectives were eventually seized, thanks to the doggedness of those nine forebear battalions.

Following Salerno, the allied forces then continued their advance and The Buffs, East Surreys, Royal Sussex, Hampshires and Queen's Own Royal West Kents were all to gain the battle honour of

Cassino on their way through Italy. Some of the fiercest fighting followed the landings at Anzio, where the 2/7th Middlesex had landed in January 1944. A month later, the 2nd Queen's Brigade, and the 1st Buffs helped to retrieve a desperate situation.

1944–1945

The 6th June 1944 marked the long-awaited invasion of Europe across the English Channel at Normandy. The 1st Battalion The Hampshire Regiment were the first British infantry to land on the Normandy beaches in France and The Middlesex Regiment was also to gain the battle honour of the 6th June. As the allies advanced across North-West Europe, many battalions and individuals were in converted unfamiliar roles with tanks, artillery and as paratroops. One such individual was a Royal Sussex officer, Captain Queripel, who was awarded a posthumous VC with the 10th Parachute Battalion at Arnhem in 1944, a battalion largely,

composed of volunteers from the Royal Sussex Regiment itself.



<1944 also marked the heroic defence of Kohima by the 4th Battalion The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. The Battalion held out for fifteen days against a complete Japanese division, thereby buying enough time for two British divisions, which included the 1st Queen's, to arrive and prevent the invasion of India.

This was the turning point against the Japanese in Burma, for thereafter they were never able to mount an effective offensive. It was at Kohima that Lance Corporal Harman of The Royal West Kents won the VC by first killing a Japanese machine gun crew and capturing the gun single-handed, then rushing another post alone and killing all five Japanese in it. He was then killed by a burst of enemy machine gun fire. His most gallant action is commemorated on 'Kohima Day' (9th April) each year in all the Corporals' Messes within the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. The 2nd Queen's were serving with the Chindits at this time and gained 'Chindits' as a unique battle honour, based on the Force rather than on a specific location or action. The 2nd Buffs had fought through to Mandalay and the 9th Royal Sussex fought in Burma alongside the Americans and Chinese under the command of General 'Vinegar Joe' Stilwell.

The Regiment's forebears were, therefore, contributing to all fronts as the end of The Second World War approached in 1945. The allied push continued across North-West Europe and North up Italy, whilst the war in the Far East went on until the dropping of the atom bombs on Japan. The Hampshire Regiment was awarded the distinction of 'Royal' status by King George VI in 1946 to mark its distinguished service during the war.

THE COLD WAR 1946–1989

The World rejoiced as the Second World War came to an end and fascism collapsed in Europe. However, even in March 1945, the British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, was saying that ‘an iron curtain has descended across the continent of Europe’. The Inner German Border fence was constructed by the Russians and they began to expand their communist powerbase. 1948 marked the communist take-over of Czechoslovakia and this was closely followed by the Berlin blockade and Russia’s first atomic bomb test. The establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the rival Warsaw Pact set the scene for the remainder of the Cold War.



The 2nd Battalion of The Queen’s Royal Regiment was in the Berlin Garrison, during the blockade and every single one of the present Regiment’s

s forebears served in Germany during the Cold War. This was a busy period of numerous long exercises and short-notice emergency call-outs, which included many realistic live-firing training packages in Canada. Germany was the base for the 1st British Corps of 55,000 men and British armour and soldiers became mechanised infantry experts equipped with various armoured vehicles, such as Humbers, Saracens, Ferret Scout Cars and the Armoured Fighting Vehicle 430 Series. Although blood was not shed on operations, the Regiment’s forebear battalions played their full part in winning the Cold War, which finally ended, dramatically, with the pulling down of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Germany also served as the mounting-base for many operations elsewhere in the world. The last of the Regiment’s forebears to serve in Germany, just after the end of the Cold War, was The 1st Battalion The Queen’s Regiment, at Minden.

THE MIDDLE EAST 1948–1956

For most of the Regiment's forebears, the Middle East featured as an area for operational tours during the period 1948–1956. Battalions from The East Surreys, The Royal Sussex, The Royal Hampshire and The Middlesex Regiments tackled problems associated with the Stern Gang and the Jews' declaration of the Independent State of Israel in Palestine.

The Royal Sussex spent from 1949–1953 in Suez, Egypt and on a six month tour to Jordan. The latter deployment was to counter potential Israeli aggression, however, the Battalion ended up experiencing aggression from the Egyptians at Suez, where they carried out internal security duties. Guard duties were shared with The Buffs during 1951/52. On one occasion a major of The Buffs was shot through the head, whilst travelling in a Royal Sussex carrier! Miraculously, he survived. The East Surreys were also deployed to Suez in 1953, where the Battalion suffered a number of casualties at Tel-el-Kebir.

The Queen's Own Royal West Kents was the only Regimental forebear to become embroiled in the more well-known Suez crisis of 1956. In October 1956, the Israelis invaded Egyptian Sinai, and Great Britain and France informed the United Nations that if fighting broke out around the Suez Canal they would be forced to intervene. On the 5th November, British and French paratroops dropped in the area of Port Said. Lieutenant Colonel Crook of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent was commanding the 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment for the drop. The 1st Battalion The Queen's Own Royal West Kents took part in an amphibious landing, but the opposition was light.

THE MIDDLE EAST 1948–1956

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THE WITHDRAWAL FROM EMPIRE 1948–1959 (MALAYA, KENYA AND CYPRUS)

After the end of the Second World War, there was a great deal of agitation amongst many of Britain's colonies as local populations strove for independence, though the majority carried out the transition peacefully. It was also the period, when all of the Regiments' ranks were filled with a high proportion of National Servicemen. All maintained the traditions and high standards of their regiments and were to remain a key feature of life in the infantry up until 1963.



In Malaya the indigenous minority Chinese communists, who supported Communist Terrorists (CTs) wanted independence on their terms and a State of Emergency existed in the country from 1948 until 1960. By 1954, there were 45,000 troops in the country, including British, Australians and New Zealanders. The Queen's Own Royal West Kents

fought the CTs from 1951–54, killing a total of 106 guerrillas, and were relieved by The Royal Hampshire, who served in Malaya until 1956; The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel P. H. Man, OBE, MC was to be awarded the DSO and The Sultan of Selangor's Meritorious Service Medal. The Queen's Royal Regiment served there between 1954 and 1957, killing forty-six terrorists, though losing seven of their own ranks killed in action. The soldier's life was dominated by jungle patrols and ambushes, which lasted from a few days to two or three weeks and on average it took fifty days of patrolling to achieve a kill. Malaya gained independence in 1957 and the campaign became the model example of the success of British counter-insurgency techniques.

The campaign in Kenya lasted from 1952–1960. The local Mau Mau, who based their support on the Kikuyu tribe, began killing white landowners and blacks who were loyal to the colonial regime. The Buffs and the Devons formed the reinforcing 39 Brigade in 1953 and deployed to the Aberdare mountains and forests. They rounded up suspects in Nairobi in 1954 and spent some time on the slopes of Mount Kenya. By the end of the tour, The Buffs had killed 290 gangsters for the loss of one man.

In July 1954, the British government announced that, because of its strategic importance, Cyprus would not be granted independence. The National Organisation of Cypriot Fighters (EOKA) was born to achieve Enosis (independence) by controlling the Greek Cypriot community and wearing the British down. This was to be achieved by a combination of guerrilla warfare, terrorism and propaganda. The Middlesex arrived in Cyprus, with their families, for a three year tour in 1955. On arrival, the Battalion had to clear the streets of rioters before being able to occupy their quarters! Their operations during the tour were dominated by cordon and searches and in 1957 they succeeded in capturing a leading rebel leader. The Middlesex Regiment's tour overlapped with The Queen's Own Royal West



Kents', who were deployed immediately after their Suez experience in 1957. They served in Cyprus until 1959, carrying out similar duties to the Middlesex. At the height of the troubles, in 1958 the East Surreys deployed to Cyprus with 19 Infantry Brigade in order to carry out security duties in Nicosia. A Greek Turkish plan to make Cyprus an independent state was endorsed in 1959 and the British retained their sovereign bases. However, all was not to remain peaceful between the two main communities.

AMALGAMATIONS 1959–1970

In 1957 there was a major review of British defence policy, which reduced the number of infantry battalions of the Line from sixty-seven to fifty-two. In 1959 The Queen's Royal Regiment amalgamated with The East Surrey Regiment to form The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and in 1961 The Buffs joined with The Queen's Own Royal West Kents to become The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment. The Royal Sussex, Royal Hampshire and The Middlesex Regiments were not affected at this stage, though The Royal Sussex and The Middlesex Regiments did join the newly formed Queen's Royal Surreys and The Queen's Own Buffs as members of The Home Counties Brigade. The Royal Hampshires became part of the Wessex Brigade. The Brigades lasted until the next round of amalgamations in 1966.

The Home Counties Brigade introduced an unusual system of identity, whereby its four regular battalions wore the same cap badge of the Saxon crown with a sword penetrating the crown. (The six points of the crown symbolised the union of the six former regiments and the sword was their martial tradition.)

However, all four regiments wore their own distinctive collar badges. The Royal Hampshires wore the Wyvern as their Brigade cap-badge. In 1960, the former Regiments' depots were reorganised and Howe Barracks, Canterbury became the Home Counties' Brigade Depot. Howe Barracks has continued to feature prominently in the annals of the Regiment since.



Pressure was still on the Army for reductions and the newly formed Home Counties Brigade was under pressure to form a large regiment. This occurred on 31st December 1966 when, initially, the four battalions retained individual suffixes of the former regiments. Thus the regular battalions became 1st Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Surreys), 2nd Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Own Buffs), 3rd Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Royal Sussex) and 4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Middlesex). The suffixes were dropped in 1968, once it became known that the 4th Battalion was to be disbanded. The 4th Battalion was reduced to company strength (Albuhera Company) in 1970 and finally disbanded in 1973 in its final role as the Infantry Demonstration Battalion at The School of Infantry. In 1970, The Royal Hampshire Regiment narrowly avoided amalgamation with the Gloucestershire Regiment within the Wessex Brigade. At the last moment this plan was countermanded and 'The Minden Company' was formed, with the balance of the Royal Hampshires transferring to serve with the 1st Battalion the Gloucestershire Regiment. As it then happened, the 1st Battalion the Royal Hampshire Regiment was reformed in 1972. Between 1973 and 1992, the current Regiment's regular forebears consisted of three battalions of The Queen's Regiment and the single battalion of The Royal Hampshire Regiment.

COUNTER INSURGENCY 1961–1966

Whilst the Regiment's forebears were being reorganised during the 1960s, a number of operational counter-insurgency tasks were carried out. The Regiment was represented in Aden, British Guiana and Borneo.



The Buffs had spent their last operational tour in the colony of Aden, South Arabia in 1958/59, where the Battalion was involved in the defence of the protected state of Dhala, which had been invaded by Yemen. The main period of troubles lasted from 1961–1967 as a civil war broke out in South Arabia between forces in the North under pro-Egyptian Abdullah Sallai and the royalists in the South supported by Saudi Arabia. The Northern forces encouraged rebel activity against the British at Aden, which was mainly coordinated from the

mountainous Radfan. The newly amalgamated Queen's Surreys saw action in 1961, whilst The Royal Sussex deployed in 1965, reinforced by thirty soldiers from the Queen's Surreys Territorial Army Emergency Reserve, known as 'Ever Readies'. Cordon and search operations, patrols and guards were the normal tasks carried out by both battalions. One platoon commander, Lieutenant J. J. Smith, who was serving with The Royal Sussex, but who was from the 5th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, won the MC for his part in a successful ambush. Great Britain finally withdrew its forces from Aden in 1967.



British Guiana went through a series of controversial elections and some instability in the early 1960s, prior to its independence as the State of Guyana in 1966. The Royal Hampshire, as the last West Indies Garrison Battalion, had a company posted there in 1960, whilst the newly amalgamated Queen's Own Buffs served there in 1964 and The Middlesex Regiment saw the Country's independence. The internal security duties included crowd dispersal, arrests of suspects, the seizure of weapons, and the training of local home guard units. Effective use was made of naval and military helicopters in cordon and search operations.



The other main operational task in this period was in Borneo, where The Queen's Own Buffs and The Royal Hampshire Regiment were to serve at the latter end of the confrontation in 1966. Indonesian aggression was eventually defeated after an extremely successful counter-insurgency campaign.

NORTHERN IRELAND (PRE-AMALGAMATION) 1969-1991

The campaign in Northern Ireland continued to dominate The Regiment's life. In the period from 1969 to 1992, The Queen's and Royal Hampshire Regiments were to spend a total of thirty-six tours in The Province. The majority of the deployments were of four to six months



duration; however the total includes seven resident two-year tours.

The latest round of sectarian violence in Northern Ireland broke out in 1968, as the enmity between the nationalist and loyalist populations came to a head. The Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA) was formed to reverse the anti-Catholic legislation in Northern Ireland and began a campaign of

peaceful marches and demonstrations. Violence and rioting, however, began to occur, as extremists on both sides of the community clashed. The Northern Ireland Government was not seen to be impartial in its handling of the situation and began to lose control. The crisis came to a head during the annual protestant Apprentice Boys' March on the 12th August 1969, which resulted in three days of savage fighting within Londonderry and the spread of violence and Catholic 'No-Go' areas around the Province. On the 13th, The Northern Ireland Government asked Westminster for troops to assist to keep the peace.

The first troops deployed onto the streets on the 13th August 1969 and they were followed two days later by The 2nd Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Own Buffs), which was on a resident tour in Holywood at the time. The Battalion deployed to West Belfast, whilst in the same month The 1st Battalion (Queen's Surreys) deployed to Londonderry and The Royal Hampshire arrived in Belfast. At first, all of the troops were warmly welcomed, particularly by the Roman Catholic population and most military activity was directed at placating and separating the two communities.



However, the Irish Republican Army (IRA) began to establish its support amongst disaffected nationalists as it aimed to achieve a united Ireland by violent means. The Provisional IRA (PIRA) launched its terrorist campaign against the security forces, the population and the Government, whilst the Official IRA (OIRA) also maintained a campaign up until 1972. The 3rd Battalion of The Queen's Regiment, which was beginning a resident tour of Ballykinler, joined the 2nd Battalion in

West Belfast in 1970, as the troubles worsened. The first British soldier was killed in February 1971 and the Regiment's first fatality was Pte Carter of The 2nd Battalion The Queen's Regiment, who was killed by IRA gunmen on the 14th September.

This article does not intend to develop the history of the recent troubles in Northern Ireland, but forebear battalions were to continue to serve in the Province, as rural or urban based units right up until the latest amalgamation. In May 1991, The Royal Hampshire's completed a resident tour of Londonderry, whilst The 2nd Battalion The Queen's Regiment finished its six month tour of East Tyrone in April 1992.

DHOFAR AND THE BATTLE OF MIRBAT

A special note is made here about the little-known war in the Oman, which lasted from 1968 to 1975. The British Government supported The Sultan of Oman in order to prevent Marxist groups in the province of Dhofar from overthrowing him. Elements of The 22nd Special Air Service Regiment were deployed to the area. At dawn on 19th July 1972, a large rebel force, about 250 strong, attacked the Port of Mirbat.

When the battle started Corporal Labalaba and Trooper Takavesi, both members of a nine-man Special Air Service Civil Action Team, went to man a 25-pounder gun just outside the walls of the fort due North-West of the town. Gunner Walid Khalfan of the Oman Artillery was already there. It immediately became clear that the main enemy thrust was being directed against the fort, and in particular against the gun, which was firing at point blank range over open sights. Before long the entire crew were wounded. Captain M. J. A. Kealy, of the Queen's Regiment, the Commander of the Special Air Service detachment, and Trooper Tobin, who was a trained Medical Orderly, then ran under fire from the main Special Air Service position to help save the gun.

The rebels to attack ferocity and repeated take the from within throwing despite the fire from the Special Air



continued with great made attempts to gun, often grenade range and supporting other five Service

soldiers. The action lasted nearly four hours before a relief force and an accompanying air strike drove off the enemy. During this action Corporal Labalaba was killed, Trooper Tobin fatally injured and Trooper Takavesi and Gunner Walid Khalfan both seriously wounded.

The official report records that the fate of Mirbat and of its occupants during the battle depended wholly on the resolve of the Civil Military Team. But for the action of these nine men and particularly the leadership of Captain Kealy the town would have undoubtedly fallen. Captain Kealy was awarded the DSO for his outstanding bravery.

THE FALKLANDS WAR 1982 AND THE GULF WAR 1991

No Queen's or Royal Hampshire battalions were directly committed to either the Falklands or The Gulf Wars, though during the latter conflict The 3rd Battalion The Queen's Regiment maintained the logistic and communications link in Cyprus and The 1st Battalion prepared to send reinforcements to Kuwait from Germany.

A number of individuals did participate in the two conflicts. One example was Lieutenant K. S. W. Hames of the Queen's Regiment, serving on the traditional regimental exchange appointment with the Royal Marines, who served with 40 Commando during the Task Force's victory over Argentinean forces in the Falkland Islands in 1982. Other examples are Captain D. G. Strutt of the Queen's Regiment, who served as a brigade staff officer, the six Royal Hampshire personnel who served with The 1st Battalion The Staffordshire Regiment and individuals who were serving with The 22nd Special Air Service Regiment during The Gulf War, when Iraqi forces were driven out of Kuwait. Concurrently, Lieutenant G. A. Fotheringham of the Queen's Regiment who was the exchange officer with 40 Commando deployed to support the Kurdish refugees in Northern Iraq.

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, BELIZE AND CYPRUS

Forebear battalions were also deployed on operations in the Falkland Islands after the War of 1982 and had been deployed to the Central American country of Belize since the 1970s. There was also the ongoing British commitment to support the United Nations' peacekeeping force in Cyprus.

The Royal Hampshires arrived in the Falkland Islands very shortly after the war in December 1982. The threat still existed from Argentinean aggression and the Battalion formed an important deterrent force. The 2nd Battalion The Queen's Regiment assumed the same role in 1985/86 and The 3rd Battalion deployed a company to the Islands in 1991.

In 1960, The Royal Hampshire Regiment had a Company stationed in British Honduras, latterly Belize, during their West Indies Garrison tour (1959-1962). However, by the early 1970s, the threat from neighbouring Guatemala had increased and the size of the colony's defence force was reviewed. The 2nd Battalion The Queen's Regiment deployed for a six month tour in 1976 and the 3rd Battalion followed in 1977, at a time when a major reinforcement of the colony took place. The 1st Battalion conducted a tour just prior to independence in 1980/81 and the 3rd Battalion returned in 1986. All of the Queen's battalions fulfilled an important operational role in Belize by maintaining an effective deterrent.

The island of Cyprus has been divided into the Northern Turkish Republic and the Southern Greek Republic since the Turkish invasion of 1974. The British maintain the Sovereign Base Areas and have provided troops for the UN peacekeeping force UNFICYP, which polices the 'green line' dividing the two communities. The 3rd Battalion The Queen's Regiment was deployed on a six month tour to Cyprus in 1972/73 and The 2nd Battalion was sent there in 1981/82.

AMALGAMATION 1992

The Army went through a major reorganisation as a result of the end of The Cold War in 1989 and the collapse of the Soviet Empire and the threat from The Warsaw Pact. 'Options for Change' was the name given to the British review, which was announced in 1990 and aimed to produce 'smaller, better equipped, properly trained and housed, and well motivated forces'. The planned reductions were delayed because of The Gulf War, but the final plan included the reduction of infantry strength from fifty-five to forty battalions. The Queen's Regiment was to be amalgamated with The Royal Hampshire Regiment on the 9th September



1992 (Salerno Day) to form The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires), with a reduction from four regular battalions to two. There would be two Territorial battalions, the 5th and the 6/7th, and one Territorial Company ('B' [Queen's Regiment] Company) within the new London Regiment. The Regiment's nickname was to be the 'Tigers'.

Thus the traditions, which dated back to The Trained Bands of the County of Southampton and the City of London and the raising of the Tangier Regiment in 1661, were to be remembered, adjusted and carried forward to the new Regiment. Twelve regiments of the Line, which had varied in shape and size throughout their glorious history, were reduced to two regular battalions of one regiment. The best traditions of the past are remembered today, though the modern professional soldier lives in the present and prepares for the future.

'In peace there's nothing so becomes a man
As modest stillness and humility;
But when the blast of war blows in the ears,
Then imitate the action of the tiger.'

William Shakespeare, King Henry V.



THE REGIMENT TODAY

INTRODUCTION



Since the foundation of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshire), on the 9th September 1992 the Regiment has continued to maintain the best traditions of the past, whilst establishing a sound professional reputation in its new guise. The inherited traditions are explained in Part 3 to this Guide; this chapter illustrates the activities of the current Regiment.

Operational experience has continued to be developed, particularly in Northern Ireland, but at the same time the Regiment has excelled in sporting competitions and mounted a number of successful adventure training activities. The opportunities for long overseas battalion postings are now less likely in the modern Army, however, soldiers have had the experience of travelling abroad and the battalions have exercised in Kenya and Canada a number of times.

HRH The Princess of Wales was appointed the first Colonel-in-Chief in 1992. She relinquished this appointment in 1996, having been a great source of pride and encouragement to the Regiment. She was held in great affection by all ranks and her visits to the battalions, and her presentation of the first set of new Colours to the 2nd Battalion in 1995, are particularly remembered. HM Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, formerly the Allied Colonel-in-Chief, was appointed sole Colonel-in-Chief in 1997, thus perpetuating the Regiment's long and historic links with the Royal House of Denmark.

Political change has continued to affect the shape of The Regiment. The Government's Strategic Defence Review of 1998 reduced the size of the Territorial Army dramatically, particularly the Infantry where thirty-three battalions were cut to fifteen only. The impact for the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment was to merge the 5th and 6/7th Battalions to form the new 3rd Battalion whilst maintaining the cap-badge in the Rifle Companies at Portsmouth and London within the Royal Rifle Volunteers and the London Regiment respectively.

OPERATIONS

Northern Ireland has dominated operational experience, as it did in the Queen's and Royal Hampshire Regiments before amalgamation. In its first seven years alone, the Regiment's deployments to the Province were as follows:

1st Battalion

September 1993 to September 1995 – Omagh.

1996 – Two short deployments as the UK Standby Battalion, including West Belfast and Armagh.

November 1997 to May 1998 – West Belfast.

April - October 2004

Company -1 PWRR & 2 PWRR 2004

2006

Iraq

Composite

Iraq May - Nov

2nd Battalion

March to September 1993 – South Armagh. (One Company only – Gallipoli Company).

November 1993 to May 1994 – Fermanagh.

September 1995 to September 1997 – Omagh.

November 1998 to May 1999 – West Belfast.

Iraq Jan - July 2006

Afghanistan June – Present 2008

This was an extremely interesting time politically, as the 1st Battalion experienced the beginning of the first IRA ceasefire, the 2nd Battalion saw it ending and both battalions deployed during the second ceasefire, with all its uncertainties. Soldiers and their commanders at all levels have gained a great deal of valuable experience from these Northern Ireland tours and enjoyed the challenge. The Regiment has earned enormous praise for its professionalism.



The Regiment has also benefited from its postings within operational brigades. The 1st Battalion initially served in Colchester as part of 19 Infantry Brigade. Both regular battalions served within 5 Airborne Brigade whilst based in Canterbury and both battalions were serving in 1 Mechanised Brigade in Tidworth at the end of 1999. There are only four deployable brigades within the UK and, therefore, both regular battalions have benefited from the high profile and the opportunities to deploy overseas.

The 1st Battalion spent the longest period within 5 Airborne Brigade, during the foundation of the Joint Rapid Deployment Force (Now the Joint Rapid Reaction Forces). Five out of six months in 1997 were spent as the new worldwide-deployable SPEARHEAD battalion. During this period, the Battalion took part in an exciting exercise on Salisbury Plain with

laser simulation equipment, almost deployed to **Albania** to rescue British nationals, and partially deployed to the Congo prepared to rescue a similar group of nationals from the country of Zaire. The period in Canterbury was made even more unusual, as a formed company of Gurkhas was attached to the 1st Battalion from the end of 1996 for a duration of three years. Its commitments included two tours of the **Falkland Islands**.

The 2nd Battalion obtained immediate operational experience in transition to amalgamation; as Sevastopol Company deployed to the Falkland Islands in the period July to November 1992. Further operational experience with 5 Airborne Brigade was gained, as one company deployed to Rwanda in August 1994 as part of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR). The British contingent's mission was to help the humanitarian effort in Rwanda in the aftermath of the civil war there. The company provided the Brigade logistic troops with close protection. The tasks included convoy protection, delivering stores to other contingents, collecting refugees and returning them to their homes and delivering aid. In the previous February, thirty-five soldiers and one officer deployed to support 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment in **Bosnia**. The platoon became armoured infantry (equipped with the Warrior armoured vehicle) and were responsible for escorting humanitarian aid and patrolling the buffer zones between Serb and Croat. This was part of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

The two territorial battalions sent a number of their soldiers with the regular battalions on attachment for the tours and like the regular battalions, have sent individuals to Bosnia and on other operations.

The new Regiment has gained a great deal of operational experience during its formative years. Many individuals deployed on virtually all of the national and UN commitments worldwide including Kosovo, whilst battalions and other formed groups have deployed to Northern Ireland, The Falkland Islands, Bosnia, Rwanda and the Congo. Operational deployments like these are the *raison d'être* for The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and there is no doubt that the Regiment can expect to be deployed on operations wherever Infantry is required in future. At the time of completing this Guide, both the Regular Battalions were preparing for tours in the Balkans.



TRAINING



There remain many opportunities for 'Tigers' to serve overseas, either with a battalion or as an individual. Training activities are varied and overseas training exercises offer soldiers the opportunity to experience varied conditions in unique and unusual terrain.

Kenya offers hot arid conditions in some areas and jungle conditions in others, whilst the resources are available for some demanding adventure training. Both

regular battalions have exercised in Kenya at intervals at both battalion and company level.

Canada offers an equally diverse landscape and opportunities for excellent military training on the open plains. There is also an outstanding adventure training facility based in the Rockies. The 2nd Battalion deployed for six weeks to Canada for the Exercise in 1994, whilst the 1st Battalion was to follow in 1998. Many other smaller military exercises have taken place, including a platoon attachment from the 1st Battalion to an exercise in Jamaica, and other similar overseas exercises will remain a feature of Regimental life in the future.

Not all of the training can be exotic and, as both regular battalions continue to be part of the deployable brigades, a busy exercise schedule occurs within the UK. Salisbury Plain, Sennybridge and Otterburn are, therefore, regular venues for brigade and battalion activities, whilst smaller exercises and commitments are spread throughout the country.



Shooting is a fundamental skill of all infantrymen and the Regiment has fully participated in various competitions. L/Cpl Dilip Gurung (an attached Gurkha with the 1st Battalion) won the Queen's Medal at Bisley in 1998, whilst the 2nd Battalion's shooting team won the Northern Ireland Skill at Arms Meeting in the previous year. The TA battalions and 'B' (Queen's Regiment) Company of The London Regiment have also performed particularly well in a number of competitions. The 6/7th Battalion won the British Reserve Forces Team Competition in the USA in 1998

CEREMONIAL



The traditions of the Regiment have been maintained and developed by the 'Tigers', as shown in this history. Part of maintaining this tradition includes ceremonial activity, which began with the Regimental Review in Canterbury in June 1993. The other major events have been the presentation of New Colours to the 2nd Battalion in 1995 by the then Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales, followed by the presentation of New Colours to the 1st Battalion in 1997 by the Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark. Appropriately, both events occurred at Howe Barracks, Canterbury. The Colonel-in-Chief presented the new Colours to the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion at Ardingly in 1999.

Following the presentation of these new Colours, there were the customary ceremonies of laying up the Old Colours of The Queen's Regiment and 1st

Battalion The Royal Hampshire Regiment. These were sad, but proud occasions held at Guildford Cathedral (1 QUEEN'S), Canterbury Cathedral (2 QUEEN'S), St. Paul's Cathedral (3 QUEEN'S) and Winchester Cathedral (1 R HAMPS). In addition, a number of Freedom Parades take place each year, which help maintain the Regiment's links within the recruiting area, as soldiers march through their home towns with bayonets fixed, drums beating and Colours flying.



SPORT, ADVENTURE TRAINING AND PARACHUTING

SPORT

There remains plenty of opportunity for sport in the modern Regiment, though military training schedules have become far busier than in the past.

In the Regiment's first six years alone, the 1st Battalion excelled in cricket and won the Infantry Cup in five consecutive years, whilst winning the Army Cup in 1997. A number of its team played for the Combined Services Team and had the opportunity to travel abroad, including to St. Moritz and Zimbabwe. The hockey team had the opportunity to travel to Gibraltar, on tour, whilst the football team won the Army Northern Ireland competition. In 1997 the 2nd Battalion won the Army Judo Championship and The Infantry Novice Nordic Skiing Championship in Norway. It also won the Infantry Hockey Championship in 1998.



The 5th Battalion and 'B' (Queen's Regiment) Company of The London Regiment participated fully in a number of sports, whilst the 6/7th Battalion excelled in both day and night orienteering and won the Army Night Orienteering Competition and the Infantry Regular and Territorial Orienteering Championship.

Individuals from all battalions have featured prominently in a wide range of sports. Both regular battalions have continued to develop their boxing skills and a number of soldiers have been selected for the Army and Combined Services Teams. Private Bradbury, originally from the 1st Battalion, has played football for Portsmouth and Manchester City, whilst L/Cpl Stewart from the 2nd Battalion has played Rugby Union for the Army, Northampton and Scotland. Other soldiers are members of the Army Judo Team, the Army Clay Pigeon Shooting Team, have rowed for the Army Eight and have achieved places in various Infantry teams. There is no reason to doubt that this sort of sporting success within the Regiment will not continue into the future.

ADVENTURE TRAINING

Adventure training opportunities provide another feature of service and Regimental life, which is rarely seen outside of the Armed Forces. A variety of rock-climbing, canoeing and walking expeditions have been organised since the Regiment's existence throughout the United Kingdom. In addition, skiing expeditions have been run in Bavaria and rock-climbing and walking in Cyprus. Major expeditions have taken place in the Kenyan Samburuland, Malaysia and Alaska. The expedition to Kenya in 1994 included the participation of a number of civilians; disadvantaged young people who learned the importance of determination, selflessness and teamwork, thanks to the hard work of their Regimental guides and organisers. 537 kilometres were covered by foot and camel across the harsh and barren terrain of Northern Kenya.



PARACHUTING

Parachuting has been required as a military skill for some soldiers and has been both a sport and an adventure training activity. Many soldiers from the regular battalions have had the opportunity to parachute because of their experience of being with 5 Airborne Brigade and have earned their 'wings'. Others have jumped during adventure training in Canada, whilst the Regimental Free-Fall Team, 'The Tigers', has given some soldiers the opportunity to help recruit and become semi-professional at the sport, during their busy display programme each year.



CONCLUSION

The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment remembers the past, but lives for the future, as illustrated in these pages. Already, in a short modern lifespan, the Regiment has established its credentials, and built up a first class reputation, both on operations and in many other activities.