

Royal Surreys lay up Colours

HAC's BUSY WEEK

On Sunday 16 November The Queens and Regimental Colours of the 3rd and 4th Battalions The Queens Royal Surrey Regiment (TA), which were held by the 6/7th (V) Battalion The Queen's Regiment, were laid up in a ceremony at Southwark Cathedral. Prior to the Cathedral Service both sets of Colours were marched under escort from the TA Centre, Flodden Road, Camerwell to Southwark Cathedral headed by the Regimental Band of the 3rd Battalion The Queen's Regiment.

The two Battalions and the 6th (City of London) Battalion The Royal Fusiliers (TA) comprised the major units of 47 Infantry Brigade (TA) whose HQ was at Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea. In 1965 Officers and men from both Battalions served in Aden as reinforcements to the Regular Army and took part in operations in the Radfan and on the Yemen border against dissidents.

In 1967 the old TA came to an end and at the same time all of the Home Counties Infantry Regiments amalgamated to form The Queen's Regiment. In consequence the two Queen's Surreys TA Battalions sponsored the 6th Battalion The Queen's Regiment and A Coy the 5th Battalion The Queen's Regiment.

The Colours laid up are interesting in several respects. The Battle Honours on both Queen's Colours are those won since 1914, whilst those on both Regimental Colours are pre-1914, and the oldest of

them, indeed the oldest carried by any English Regiment is "Tangier 1662-1680" — awarded 300 years ago in recognition of the service of the 2nd (or Queen's) Regiment of Foot raised in 1662 for the defence of Tangier which was the Dowry produced by the Royal House of Portugal on the marriage of Catherine of Braganza to Charles II of England. Both the march 'Braganza and the Paschal Lamb on Queen's Regiment buttons have connections with Portugal.

The cyphers on the Regimental Colours are those of Queen Catherine, a Naval Crown commemorating the part played by the Regiment when serving as Marines in the Naval Battle off Ushant on the Glorious First of June 1794 and the badges of the former East Surrey and Queen's Regiments (2nd, 31st and 70th Foot). On the 4th Battalion Colour appears a fifth cypher — the badge of the Royal Tank Regiment. This commemorates the fact that one of the predecessors of the 4th Queen's Surreys was the 23rd Bn London Regiment which served as a tank battalion in the 2nd World War and traced its ancestry to the Old Volunteers of Southwark and Newington.

The Parade consisted of 4 Guards of 66 men. Nos 1, 2 and 4 Guards comprise men from the various Drill Halls of the 6/7th Battalion which are at Camberwell, Sutton, Edgware and Hornsey in the Greater London Area, Farnham and Camberley in

The HAC, which carries out ceremonial duties in the City of London, fired a 62-gun salute from the Tower of London on Tuesday 18 November to welcome the King and Queen of Nepal when they arrived in the capital.

King Birnedra and Queen Ayshwarya were here for their first state visit since the 34-year-old Etonian King came to the throne in 1972.

On the next day the HAC provided the guard of honour when the royal couple dined at the Guildhall as guests of the new Lord Mayor Col Sir Ronald Gardner Thorpe.

Thursday 20 November saw the company firing a 41-gun salute to mark the opening of Parliament.

Altogether a busy week.

Surrey and at Horsham, Crawley and Haywards Heath in Sussex. No 3 Guard is made up in the main by Volunteers from A Company of the 5th Battalion from their Drill Hall at Guildford.

The honour of carrying the four Colours fell to four Subalterns from 6/7th Queen's (V). The Colours of the 3rd Battalion were carried by Lt Derek Harwood from Hoddesdon in Middlesex and Lt Peter Chapman from Brighton. The Colours of the 4th Battalion were carried by Lt P Gibson of Sutton and Lt David Wray of Edgware. The RSM on Parade was WO1 B F Lively of the 6/7th Battalion.

Parade Commander was Lt Col M J Dudding, CO of 6/7th Queen's.

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