

Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment

The **Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment** was a line infantry regiment of the British Army which existed from 1959 to 1966. In 1966, it was amalgamated with the Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment, the Royal Sussex Regiment and the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) to form the Queen's Regiment, which later merged with the Royal Hampshire Regiment in September 1992 to form the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires).

1 History

As a consequence of defence cuts in the late 1950s, the Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) and the East Surrey Regiment were amalgamated on 14 October 1959 to form the 1st Battalion, Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

In 1959 the 1st Battalion deployed to Cyprus and the following year arrived in the British bases in Libya, while a detachment was sent to Cyprus. In 1961 the 1st Queen's Surreys was sent to Aden—now part of the Yemen. In 1962 the regiment joined the Hong Kong garrison, remaining there on a 2-year posting before heading for Münster, West Germany in 1964 as part of the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR).

In 1966 the regiment's short existence came to an end when it, along with the three other remaining regiments of the Home Counties Brigade, was amalgamated to form the Queen's Regiment, one of the new 'large' regiments that were formed in the 1960s. Since the Queens Regiment amalgamation with the Royal Hampshire Regiment in 1992 the traditions and lineage are upheld by the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queens and Royal Hampshires).

2 Territorials

When the regiment was formed, the Territorial Army battalions of the merging regiments continued to use their former titles. However, in 1961, a reduction in the size of the TA lead to the formation of 3rd and 4th Queen's Surreys:

- **3rd Battalion (TA)** was formed of units affiliated to the Queen's Royal Regiment: the 5th and 6th battalions and the 565th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (the successor to 4th Battalion). Its headquarters were in Guildford.^[1]

- **4th Battalion (TA)** was formed from former battalions of the East Surrey Regiment: the 6th East Surreys and the 23rd London Regiment.^[2] The battalion headquarters were in Kingston upon Thames.

The two territorial battalions were disbanded in 1967, with their successor units in the Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve (TAVR) being "A" Company (Queen's Surreys) of the **5th (Volunteer) Battalion, Queen's Regiment** and the **6th (Territorial) Battalion, Queen's Regiment (Queen's Surreys)**.^[3]

3 The Surrey Infantry Museum

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment archives were put in storage when Regimental Headquarters and Museum in the Keep at Kingston upon Thames closed. Colonel JW Sewell reached agreement with the National Trust to re-establish the regiment's museum at Clandon Park, West Clandon (51°15'02"N 0°30'30"W / 51.2506°N 0.5082°W). The regiment's archives and library are located at the Surrey History Centre in Woking.^[4]

The *Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum* opened in 1981 with exhibits including uniforms, medals, weapons, regalia, photographs and memorabilia. The museum was upgraded in 2001. In 2011, with part funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund further redevelopment took place and, in July that year, the museum merged with those of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and the Queen's Regiment to become *The Surrey Infantry Museum*.^[5]

On Wednesday 29th April 2015, a blaze ripped through Clandon Park House with the remains of the roof and upper floors of the house collapsing into the basement area where the museum was based. It is not yet known what, if any, artefacts survived the inferno.

The museum's displayed medal collection included six Victoria Crosses, including those awarded to: Lieutenant Wallace Duffield Wright; Lance Corporal Leonard James Keyworth; Corporal John McNamara; Second Lieutenant Arthur James Terence Fleming-Sandes.^[6]

4 Other information

- *Alliances:*
 - The Queen's York Rangers (1st American Regiment) -- Canada (1959–1966)

- The South Alberta Light Horse—Canada (1959–1966)
- 2nd Infantry Battalion (The City of Newcastle Regiment) -- Australia (1959–60)
- Royal New South Wales Regiment—Australia (1960–1966)
- The Northern Rhodesian Regiment (1959–1964)

5 References

- [1] “3rd Bn The Queen’s Royal Surrey Regiment (TA)”. The Queen’s Royal Surrey Regimental Association. Retrieved 14 July 2007.
- [2] “4th Bn The Queen’s Royal Surrey Regiment (TA)”. The Queen’s Royal Surrey Regimental Association. Retrieved 14 July 2007.
- [3] “The Queen’s Royal Surrey Regiment 1967-present”. regiments.org. Retrieved 14 July 2007.
- [4] “The Queen’s Royal Surrey Regiment”. Surrey History Centre. Retrieved 9 March 2012.
- [5] “Surrey Infantry Museum at Clandon Park”. The Queen’s Royal Surrey Regimental Association. Retrieved 22 October 2012.
- [6] <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3062092/Clandon-Park-House-fire-Surrey-sees-firefighters-battle-blaze.html>

6 External links

- “Queen’s Royal Surrey Regiment”. The Queen’s Royal Surrey Regimental Association. Retrieved 24 May 2010.
- Surrey Infantry Museum

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7.1 Text

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