

SURREY HISTORY SERVICE  
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

130 GOLDSWORTH ROAD, WOKING

**ESR/25**

**THE EAST SURREY REGIMENT, FORMERLY THE  
31<sup>ST</sup> (HUNTINGDONSHIRE) REGIMENT AND 70<sup>TH</sup>  
(SURREY) REGIMENT: PERSONAL PAPERS OF  
MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENT, 1794-2007**

Provenance

Originally presented by the Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association and Museum, Clandon Park, in November 2003. Personal papers of soldiers who served in the regiment have accrued since that date. The preparation of this catalogue was funded by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Arrangement

The papers are arranged alphabetically by surname of soldier.

Related records

For records of the East Surrey Regiment and its predecessors, 1702-2003, see ESR/-, the catalogue of which includes a detailed introduction to the history of the regiment and its constituent battalions.

Access conditions

There are no access restrictions.

- ESR/25 THE EAST SURREY REGIMENT, FORMERLY THE 31<sup>ST</sup> (HUNTINGDONSHIRE) REGIMENT AND 70<sup>TH</sup> (SURREY) REGIMENT: PERSONAL PAPERS OF MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENT, 1794-2005**
- ESR/25/PACK/ PACK, SERGEANT MARTIN, 1846
- Born in Northampton, c.1806. Attested at Northampton, 18[?24]. Served with 31<sup>st</sup> Huntingdonshire Regiment. Discharged, 18[?46].
- 1 Discharge certificate (writing badly faded) 1846
- ESR/25/PAGE/ PAGE, COLOUR SERGEANT J, 1897-1903
- Served with 3<sup>rd</sup> Volunteer Battalion.
- 1 Scrapbook, '3 East Surrey Volunteer Battalion, 1896-1903', compiled by Page: newspaper cuttings relating to shooting competitions in which he was involved. 3 loose photographs inserted 1897-1903
- ESR/25/PALM/ PALMER, CORPORAL J, MID 20<sup>TH</sup> CENT
- Served with [?East Surrey Regiment].
- 1 Photograph of Palmer and an unidentified soldier in Athens nd [?mid 20<sup>th</sup> cent]
- ESR/25/PARD/ PARDOE, PRIVATE LESLIE WILFRED, 1942-1946
- Served with 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion during World War II. Awarded the Military Medal.
- 1 Newspaper cutting concerning Pardoe receiving the Military Medal, c.1942, and letter inviting him to an investiture at Buckingham Palace, 1946, in a card frame with note '2 Surreys we have his medal' nd [c.1942] -1 Oct 1946
- ESR/25/PARKAC/ PARKER, CADET PRIVATE ALFRED CLEMENT, 1915

Born, c.1900. Enrolled in Richmond Hill Cadets (6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the East Surrey Regiment), 1914. Discharged, 1915.

1 Discharge certificate 1915

ESR/25/PARKGH/ PARKES, GEORGE H (C.1883-?), 1939

Born, c.1883. Enlisted, 1900. Served with 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. Discharged, 1908.

1 Account by Parkes of his service with the Battalion, with related correspondence 1939

ESR/25/PAUL/ PAUL, CAPTAIN BRYAN (1897-1916), 1916

Born, 1897. Served with 8<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion. Killed in action, 1916.

1 Photograph of Paul, with biographical information and page references to mentions of him in the Regimental History on reverse nd [c.1916]

ESR/25/PAYN/ PAYNE, CAPTAIN HAROLD F, 1940-1945

Trained in 18 Platoon, R Company, 164<sup>th</sup> Officer Cadet Training Unit. Served with 1st Battalion. Wounded in the North African campaign, repatriated and discharged.

- 1 File of training notes taken whilst with 164<sup>th</sup> OCTU, regarding organisation and administration, weapons training and field engineering Jul 1940 -Sep 1940
- 2 File of training notes, regarding tactics, map reading and gas warfare Jul 1940 -Sep 1940
- 3 Syllabus, notebook and exercises from Small Arms School, run by NRA Wing 25 Nov 1940 -13 Dec 1940
- 4 *A Guide to the Interpretation of German Units* drawn and printed by 519 (Corps. Fd. Svy.) Company, RE nd [?1940]
- 5 Training notes from course in maintenance of wheeled vehicles 11 Feb 1941 -15 Mar 1941

- 6 Appendix to Battalion Intelligence Summary No 18, a hand drawn map of Tunisia, showing the British line and advance of 8<sup>th</sup> Army nd [c.1942]
- 7 Letters to Payne from members of the Battalion serving in North Africa and Italy after he was wounded, including letter from commanding officer Colonel W Wilberforce, 4 May 1943, killed two days later. Arranged by writer, with index giving the name of each correspondent, his position in the Battalion and dates of his letters to Payne 4 May 1943  
-14 Sep 1945
- 8 Press cuttings relating to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion actions 1943-1945

ESR/25/PEARCS/ PEARCE, CAPTAIN C S, 1914-1918

Served with 8<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion during World War I.

- 1 Photograph of Pearce nd [?1914-1918]

ESR/25/PEARWH/ PEARCE, PRIVATE WILLIAM HENRY, 1920

Served with 8<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion during World War I.  
Killed in action, 1918.

- 1 Letter to Pearce's widow enclosing the campaign medals that would have been conferred on him had he lived nd [c.1920]

ESR/25/PEARS/ PEARSE, COLONEL H, 1917

Served with 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion.

- 1 Account by Pearse of his time at Salonika, Dec 1915-Jun 1917 nd [c.1917]

ESR/25/PENR/ PENROSE, PRIVATE ERNIE N, 1940

Served with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion during World War II.

- 1 Letters to Penrose from his fiancée. 15 items 7 Mar 1940  
-9 May 1940

- 2 Letters to Penrose from friends, including one in French. 8 items. With 3 envelopes addressed to Penrose. 12 Feb 1940  
-2 Apr 1940

ESR/25/PIGGG/

PIGGOTT, GEORGE (1867-?), 1887-1899

Born in Westminster, 1867. Enlisted at Kingston, 1887. Served with 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 1887-1888. Served with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1888-1894. Discharged, 1899.

- 1 Photocopies of attestation form, statement of services and medical records [TNA reference: WO97/3655/HN03923]. Also photocopies of a photograph of Piggott, with notes regarding his career (1887-1899)

ESR/25/PIGGK/

PIGGOTT, PRIVATE K, 1945-1946

Served with 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion in Palestine.

- 1 Copies (undated) of photograph taken by Piggott of group of soldiers during 10 weeks of Corps training at Cavalry Barracks, Canterbury (1945)
- 2 Copies (undated) of photographs, taken by Piggott, of members of B Company, at Haifa. 4 items (1946)
- 3 Photographs of terrorist activity, Haifa. 2 items. 1946
- 4 Copies (undated) of photographs, taken by Piggott, of army camp and armoured personnel carriers, at Haifa. 3 items (1946)
- 5 Copies (undated) of photographs, taken by Piggott, of Sergeant Bascomb, officers and sergeants taking around tea to soldiers on Christmas Day, two soldiers leaning on a 6 pounder gun and a group of soldiers in an armoured personnel carrier. 4 items (1946)
- 6 Copy (undated) of photograph, taken by Piggott, of a terrorist attack on an oil refinery at Haifa (1946)

ESR/25/PRAT/

PRATT, PRIVATE ALBERT JOHN (C.1896-?), 1915-1918

Born, c.1896. Enlisted at Kingston on Thames, 1915. Served with 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Later gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery. Discharged, 1917.

- |    |  |                 |
|----|--|-----------------|
| 1  | 'Soldier's Small Book', giving details of next of kin (pages 5 and 6 missing, and some damage to centre of remaining pages)                      | 1915            |
| 2  | Letter from Pratt to his father  | 12 Nov 1916     |
| 3  | Field service postcard sent by Pratt to his mother   | 19 Jun 1917     |
| 4  | Postcard to Pratt's mother from No 18 General Hospital, France, informing her that her son has left for England                                  | 1 Jul 1917      |
| 5  | Metropolitan Police Telephone message from City of London Military Hospital to Mrs Pratt, informing her that her son has arrived at the hospital | 2 Jul 1917      |
| 6  | Wallet containing character certificate, with advice regarding civilian employment and instructions for men of the army reserve                  | 26 Nov 1917     |
| 7  | Discharge certificate  | 26 Nov 1917     |
| 8  | Pass to proceed home and await final discharge   | 4 Dec 1917      |
| 9  | Receipt for War Badge  | 10 Dec 1917     |
| 10 | Postcards with greeting messages, one showing regimental badge and battle honours. 3 items   | 1917            |
| 11 | Pay book   | 1917            |
| 12 | Certificate of registration under the National Registration Acts   | 18 Mar 1918     |
| 13 | Newspaper cutting of a photograph of soldiers marching though a town with horse drawn guns   | nd [?1915-1918] |

- 14 Photographs of Pratt alone, with his [?family], and [?1915-1918] and of a group of soldiers [?including Pratt]. 9 items

ESR/25/PREN/

PRENTICE, WARRANT OFFICER 2<sup>ND</sup> CLASS B L, 1907-1919

Served with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions and with the Machine Gun Corps.

- 1 Photocopy of third class certificate of education (20 Jul 1907)
- 2 Photocopy of second class certificate of education (16 Oct 1909)
- 3 Photocopy of certificate that Prentice was mentioned in despatches on 29 Mar 1917 (1 Mar 1919)
- 4 Photocopy of certificate of service with the Machine Gun Corps during World War I (nd [c.1919])

ESR/25/PRES/

PRESS, PRIVATE R, 1914

Enlisted, 1910. Served with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion during World War I and was wounded Sep 1914. Served with Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry during World War II.

- 1 Diary recording his experiences with the British Expeditionary Force in France, 5 Aug 1914-24 Sep 1914, with note on his army career, nd [late 20th cent] 5 Aug 1914 -24 Sep 1914

ESR/25/RAE/

RAE, LIEUTENANT JAMES A, 1867

Served with 70<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, and later as Lieutenant Colonel of the Cinque Ports Artillery Volunteers.

- 1 Photograph of Rae in the uniform of the Cinque Ports Artillery Volunteers 1867

ESR/25/RALS/

RALSTON, MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HENRY, 1870S

Served with 70<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot which he commanded 1880-1885.

- |              |   |                  |
|--------------|---|------------------|
|              | 1 Photographs of Ralston  | nd [?1870s]      |
| ESR/25/RAMS/ | RAMSEY, SERGEANT F A W, 1914-1918   |                  |
|              | Served with the East Surrey Regiment.   |                  |
|              | 1 1 shilling bank note issued by the military authorities to the British forces in North Africa, with envelope stating that a cap badge was also donated (not present)  | nd [c.1914-1918] |
| ESR/25/RAYN/ | RAYNER, PRIVATE STANLEY CHARLES JOHN, 1939-LATE 20 <sup>TH</sup> CENT   |                  |
|              | Served as a dispatch rider in 2/6 <sup>th</sup> Battalion. Captured by Germans, 1940. Liberated by American army, 1945. Discharged, c.1946.   |                  |
|              | 1 <i>Road Discipline and Traffic Control</i> , booklet issued by GHQ  | 1939             |
|              | 2 <i>Orders for Drivers of Mechanical Vehicles in the British Expeditionary Force</i> , booklet issued by GHQ   | 1940             |
|              | 3 Christmas card sent as prisoner of war  | 1943             |
|              | 4 'Tips for the Troops' giving advice regarding conduct and conditions in France  | nd [?1940]       |
|              | 5 Typed note 'to an unknown French or English friend' from J J de Ridder, Holland (some French text)  | nd [?1940-1945]  |
|              | 6 Poems written by Rayner, 1950-1991 (some of which are the same as those in -/8), including one written for the Queen in honour of her 65 <sup>th</sup> Birthday, with letter of thanks from Buckingham Palace, 1991. Also score and words for song by Rayner relating to the Falkland Islands | 1950-1991        |
|              | 7 Poems by Rayner, concerning World War II and the Falklands War, with covering letter from Rayner to Major Hill  | 1982-1986        |

- 8 Account by Rayner of his service in France, 1940, with a selection of poems by Rayner, 1950-1987 nd [before 1987]
- 9 Account by Rayner of his experiences as a prisoner of war in Germany, his liberation by American soldiers, and his return to England, 1940-1947 nd [before 1993]
- 10 Account by Rayner of his journey to Torun as a prisoner of war, 1940 nd [late 20<sup>th</sup> cent]

ESR/25/READ/

READE, SERGEANT VINCENT FORESTER, 1914-1917

Served with 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion during World War I.

- 1 Photocopies (undated) of letters from Reade to his sister Connie, while stationed at Saltash, Cornwall, and postcard showing him in his fencing outfit (1914-1917)

ESR/25/REDF/

REDFERN, LIEUTENANT A J, 1940-1942

Commanded no. 7 platoon, A Company, 2/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Awarded Military Cross, 1940. Later served with the Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own).

- 1 Transcript (undated) and draft of report by Redfern on the actions for which he was awarded the Military Cross, 3 Jun 1940-7 Jun 1940, with original and photocopy of citation for award, including issue of *London Gazette* in which he is mentioned and photocopy of further citation (mentioned in dispatches), 1942. Also operational message with note on reverse by Redfern regarding an incident with a French officer 1940-(1942)

ESR/25/REE/

REED, PRIVATE STANLEY MIDDLETON, 1915

Presented by Stanley Reed's son, Mr Dennis Reed, in July 2008.

- 1 Digital copy of photograph of Stanley Reed who served with the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Mr Reed is in the front row on far right. (1915)

- 2                      Typed memoirs of Stanley Reed as                      2008  
remembered by his son, including the order to  
walk back to the trenches when retreating; 'if  
you ran, you were accused of cowardice'
- ESR/25/RICH/                      RICHARDSON, LANCE SERGEANT CHARLES VICTOR  
LESLIE, 1916
- Served with 8<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion. Killed in action  
during the attack on Montauban (the Football Charge),  
on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the Somme, 1 Jul 1916.
- 1 Letter of condolence to Richardson's mother                      3 Sep 1916  
from Capt C Thorne, Officer Commanding B  
Company, with transcript
- ESR/25/RID/                      RIDDY, PRIVATE ERIC A, (1940-1991)
- Born in 1920. Served with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion during World  
War II. Was a German prisoner of war. Died in 2001.
- 1 Photocopies (undated) of service papers from                      (1940-1991)  
the National Archives, including enlistment  
papers (including Territorial Army record of  
service), casualty card and service and  
casualty forms, statement of services,
- 2 Digital copy (2009) of photograph of 1<sup>st</sup>                      (nd [1940])  
Battalion, East Surrey Regiment. Private  
Riddy is in the middle row, fourth from the  
left. Location unknown
- 3 Digital copy (2009) of photograph of 1<sup>st</sup>                      (c.Sep 1940)  
Battalion, East Surrey Regiment. Private  
Riddy is in the back row, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left.  
Location unknown
- 4 Digital copy (2009) of photograph of Private                      (1943)  
Riddy (on left) with colleague. Possibly taken  
in Sicily, Aug-Sep 1943, or Tunis, North  
Africa, Jun-Aug 1943
- ESR/25/RIDG/                      RIDGER, CAPTAIN J, 1940
- Served with the East Surrey Regiment.
- 1 Officer's identity card issued to the British                      1940  
Expeditionary Force (writing badly faded)

ESR/25/RING/

RINGWOOD, CORPORAL ALFRED (C.1879-1952), 1905-1967

Born in Gibraltar, c.1879. Enlisted at Kingston on Thames, 1897. Served with 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, including in South African War. Transferred to reserve, 1905. Joined Metropolitan Police Force, 1906. Discharged from the army reserve, 1909. Enlisted in Section D of the reserve, 1910. Discharged, 1914. Retired from the Metropolitan Police Force, 1931. Returned to Police Force, 1939. Died, 1952.

- 1 Character testimony written by Major W Gilbert Cooper, Commanding Officer of F Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 5 Sep 1905
- 2 Discharge certificate, including character statement and details of service and training. Also note that Ringwood enlisted into Section D of the reserve, 1910 5 Oct 1909 -1910
- 3 Certificate of discharge from Section D of the reserve 7 Feb 1914
- 4 Certificate of service with the Metropolitan Police 14 Apr 1931
- 5 Letter to Ringwood from New Scotland Yard, asking him to report for duty in light of the current emergency Aug 1939
- 6 Correspondence related to Ringwood's pension from the Metropolitan Police Force and to changes to this pension following his death and that of his wife. Also letter regarding the Metropolitan Police Widows Fund. 10 items 12 Jan 1948 -15 Mar 1967
- 7 Advertisement for Jolly Bucks Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Manchester Unity, held at the Black Horse Tavern, Camden Town. Ringwood's name is pencilled in nd [?mid 20<sup>th</sup> cent]
- 8 Letter to Ringwood's [?wife] from Whittington Hospital informing her that he has died 17 Mar 1952

- 9 Letters of sympathy to Mrs Ringwood on her husband's death from Hart Leverton & Co, solicitors, and Douglas Kershaw & Co, auctioneers Mar 1952
- 10 Card [?label] with 'Mr Ringwood' inscribed in red nd [?late 20<sup>th</sup> cent]

ESR/25/RITCF/

RITCHIE, LANCE CORPORAL FRANK, 1915-1916

Enlisted, c.1914. Served with 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion during World War I. Awarded Distinguished Conduct Medal, 1916.

See below for papers of Ritchie's brother, Lance Corporal H C Ritchie.

- 1 Page from a newspaper showing officers and soldiers who have received awards for gallantry, including Ritchie for the Distinguished Conduct Medal 29 Jul 1916
- 2 Photograph of Ritchie with his brother Private S Ritchie, Royal Army Medical Corps nd [?1915-1916]

ESR/25/RITCHC/

RITCHIE, LANCE CORPORAL HERBERT CHARLES (?-1915), 1914-1915

Enlisted, c.1914. Served with 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Killed in action, 1915.

See above for papers of Ritchie's brother, Lance Corporal F Ritchie.

- 1 Photographs of Ritchie. 2 items nd [?1914-1915]
- 2 Letter of sympathy signed by Kitchener, with short obituary of Lance Corporal H C Ritchie attached with sellotape nd [c.1915]

ESR/25/ROBEI/

ROBERTS, COLOUR SERGEANT I, 1856-1874

Served with Light Company of 31<sup>st</sup> Huntingdonshire Regiment. Joined Shropshire Militia, 1867.

- |   |  |                            |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| 1 | Log of events and the issue of items of uniform etc to the company, while in Gibraltar, Cape of Good Hope, India, Hong Kong, England, and Ireland. Entries 6 Nov 1856-c.Jun 1867 relate to service with 31st Regiment. Entries after 1868 become much less frequent. | 6 Nov 1856<br>-24 Sep 1874 |
|---|--|----------------------------|

ESR/25/ROBEOH/ ROBERTS, [?PRIVATE] O H S, 1914-1918

Served with 21<sup>st</sup> (County of London) Battalion, the London Regiment (1<sup>st</sup> Surrey Rifles) in World War I.

- |   |   |                             |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Bible with 'O H S Roberts 1 <sup>st</sup> Surrey Rifles 1914-1915' inscribed on the back. Also prayer for Christmas intercession and inserted note 'Many Happy returns of the 22 <sup>nd</sup> from Mother and Father' and 'To Marmie in memory of Laddie', with letter to 'Marmie' from 'Little Mother', sending her the Bible | nd [?1914-1915]             |
| 2 | Photograph of a group of officers from different regiments  | nd [?1914-1918]             |
| 3 | Field service postcard sent by Roberts to C M C Gibbons, Southall   | 29 Mar 1915                 |
| 4 | Correspondence regarding the origin of the items (little information regarding Roberts)   | 29 Jun 1994<br>-15 Aug 1994 |

ESR/25/ROLPH/ ROLPH, CORPORAL H E, LATE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENT

Served as a signaller in 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, World War II.

- |   |   |                     |
|---|---|---------------------|
| 1 | Account by Rolph of his experiences during World War II | nd [late 20th cent] |
|---|---|---------------------|

ESR/25/ROOD/ ROOD, CORPORAL JOE STANLEY, 1999

Served with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1927-1942.

- |   |   |             |
|---|---|-------------|
| 1 | Account of a search by Rood's son to find a French family that sheltered his father during World War II | nd [c.1999] |
|---|---|-------------|

ESR/25/ROUP/ ROUPELL, BRIGADIER GEORGE ROWLAND PATRICK (1892-1974), 1916-1992

Born, 1892. Served with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion and was awarded Victoria Cross for actions in defence of Hill 60, Ypres, Apr 1915. Served as a General Staff Officer at 3<sup>rd</sup> Army Headquarters. Was on board the SS Queen, when it was captured and sunk, 1916. Commanded 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1935-39. Last Colonel of the Regiment prior to amalgamation with the Queen's. Died, 1974.

- 1 Typescript copies (undated) of an extract from Roupell's diary regarding his experiences of the capture and sinking of the SS Queen. 2 copies with covering note (1916)-1992
- 2 Photograph album, 'My trip to Khartoum, Sudan, Egypt' compiled by an unknown woman [?Mrs Roupell]: views and inhabitants of Khartoum and Egypt, including the Omdurman and Khartoum Girl Guides and the [1<sup>st</sup> Battalion], East Surreys, on parade. Donated by Brigadier Roupell 1938
- 3 Photograph of marriage of Captain G Roupell to Miss [?Maria] Cuties, some names given nd [?1930s]
- 4 Photographs of Roupell. 2 items nd [?1930s-1950s]
- 5 Photograph of Brigadier Roupell visiting the dining hall at Shorncliffe nd [?1950s]
- 6 Original and photocopy of Roupell's obituary Mar 1974
- 7 Annotated photocopy of an extract from the chapter entitled 'A tale of two rivers: Marne and Aisne' in *The Mons Star* by David Ascoli which includes extracts from Roupell's diary, with covering letter (1981)-1984