

# A call goes out to comrades to help mark a 50-year milestone

**F**ORMER servicemen are hoping their fellow comrades will fall in with them to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of their regiment.

On Tuesday, it was half a century since the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment and The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) were amalgamated to form The Queen's Own Buffs.

Mick Stanley, the first officer to be commissioned into the regiment on March 3, 1961, and former platoon corporal Mike Terry traced a number of their comrades last year for a reunion, but hope to have a full reunion for the anniversary get-together in May.

They are still searching for some of their number. Mr

Stanley said: "I was put in charge of 8 Platoon in C Company and it was only a matter of a few months after my arrival when the regiment was posted to Kenya for a nine month emergency tour.

"Most members of the platoon were doing their National Service. On return to Shorncliffe, I was posted away from the regiment and the other members of 8 Platoon served out their time and left for their civilian careers."

However, during the 100 TA celebrations in September 2008, he was sheltering from the rain in a shop door in Canterbury High Street, when he found himself next to a man wearing a Queen's Own Buffs tie.

He said: "We started talking and to my astonishment he turned out to be Mike Terry,



**OLD TIMES REMEMBERED: The Queen's Own Buffs 8 Platoon at their reunion last year**

Picture: Michael Stanley

my platoon corporal from 8 platoon whom I had not seen for nearly 50 years. Mike and I have now traced 19 ex-members of 8 Platoon and in July last

year we had a reunion at the White Rock Inn, Underriver. It was a splendid gathering with members coming from distant parts of the county and one,

Keith Foster travelling from California. For most of us it was nearly 50 years since we had seen each other, so you can imagine the chatter and excitement."

The missing members being sought - many of whom are thought to still live in Kent - are corporals Ian Morton and Alan Free and privates Snowy Austin, Pete Biggs, John Bridger, Brooker, Terry Dibley, Durrell, Alan Fox, Gittings, Mike Gosling, Nick Haselwood Barry Payne, Charlie Scott, Phil Starling and Ted Wedake.1

• If you can help, email [salandmick@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:salandmick@yahoo.co.uk) or contact Memories at 6 & 7 Middle Row, Maidstone, ME14 1TG, email [messengernews@thekmgroupp.co.uk](mailto:messengernews@thekmgroupp.co.uk)

## Factfile

- The Queen's Own Buffs was formed on March 11961
- It was created by the merger of The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) and The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment as a result of defence cuts.
- it was deployed in Kenya in 1961, British Guiana in 1964, Hong Kong in 1965, and Borneo in 1966.
- On December 31, 1966, it was merged with the three other regiments of the Home Counties Brigade to form The Queen's Regiment
- In 1992 another merger, with The Royal Hampshire Regiment, led to it becoming The Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment.



**DECEMBER 1966: The flags of four regiments were lowered for the last time at Howe Barracks, Canterbury. The ceremony marked the passing of four Home Counties regiments. A new flag was raised, marking the birth of the Queen's Regiment**