

Inkerman Barracks
A History

by

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INTRODUCTION

ORIGINS

The modern town of Woking in Surrey did not exist before the 1850s. When, in May 1838, the London to Southampton railway first opened, early passengers would have looked out of the train windows upon wide stretches of heathland. The railway station, originally named Woking Common, was built on the southern side of the line to serve the coaches from Guildford and Ripley which brought and collected the mail.

The Necropolis

In 1850, London had a problem; its ever growing population was filling all of the church graveyards. This had repercussions in terms of both the sanctity of grave sites and contamination of water supplies with subsequent hazards to health.

The London Necropolis and National Mausoleum Company was formed and proposed a solution. A huge cemetery would be built some distance from London, where everybody (and every body) in the capital, and eventually the country would be buried.

An Act of Parliament was passed which authorised the purchase of common land within the parish of the village of Woking (now Old Woking). The plan drew considerable criticism. Many thought that the 2,600 acres authorised to be purchased was far in excess of what would be needed and that the whole scheme was no more than land speculation.¹

A cemetery of 400 acres was set out, as a first phase (in that corner of the land purchased farthest from London and the station of Woking Common). This cemetery is now Brookwood Cemetery and still one of the largest in Europe.

Before the first phase was even complete, the London Necropolis Company was already petitioning Parliament for a second Act which would allow them to sell off any surplus land for development.

In Parliament—Session 1869.

**London Necropolis and National Mausoleum.
(Repeal of Restrictions as to the Sale of Surplus
Lands; Amendment of Acts.)**

NOTICE is hereby given, that the London Necropolis and National Mausoleum Company (hereinafter called the Company) intend to apply to Parliament in the ensuing session for leave to bring in a Bill and to pass an Act for the following, or some of the following purposes, that is to say :—

1. To enable the Company to sell, lease, and exchange the whole or any part of the lands purchased and acquired by them in the parish of Woking, in the county of Surrey, which have not been set apart as a cemetery or burial-ground, and which are not required for the purposes of the Company's undertaking; and to authorise the erection of houses and buildings upon such lands,

Figure 1. London Gazette 17 November 1868

Some of the first land sold was for institutions: The Surrey County Asylum for Pauper Lunatics, better known in more recent times as Brookwood

¹ Hansard, HC Deb 27 February 1852 vol 119 cc925-30

Hospital, and the Woking Prison for Invalid Convicts, later to become Inkerman Barracks.

Woking Prison

A prison, primarily for invalided male convicts, was built on the common, two miles from Woking Station. The main prison building was designed by Sir Joshua Jebb and Arthur Blomfield. Construction started in April 1859. It received its first officers and inmates a year later when they were transferred from Lewes, Carisbrooke and Dartmoor prisons.

Ten years later, the first purpose-built female convict prison in Britain, adjacent to the male invalid prison, was opened in April 1869, bringing to a close the use of prisons at Brixton and Parkhurst for women. The male prisoners were used to help construct the women's prison, to reduce costs.

The combined prisons covered 63 acres and was documented, during construction, to have a wall 18 feet high. It held, on average, 650 inmates at any one time and contained both a hospital ward and an insane inmate ward.

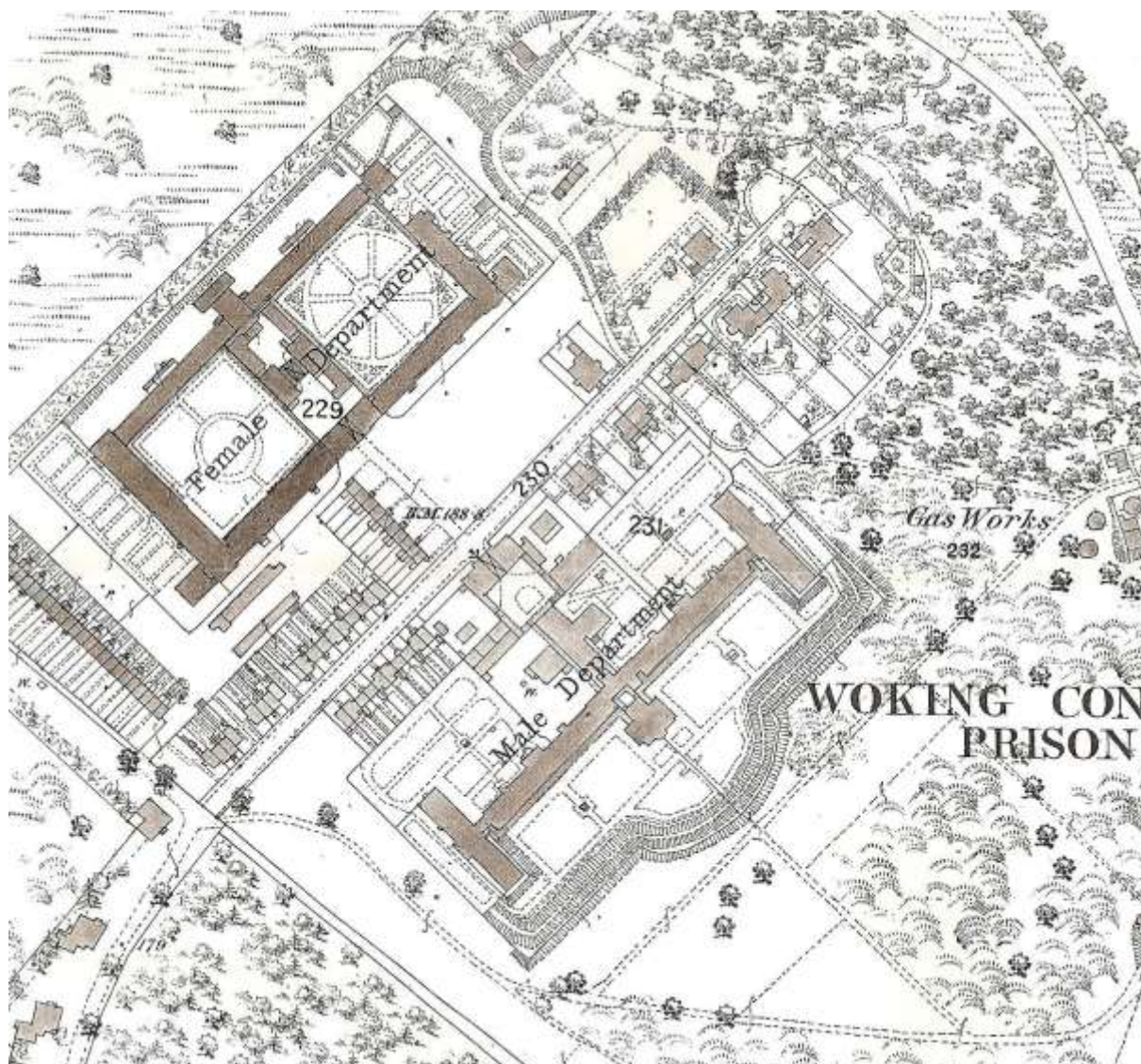


Figure 2. Woking Prison on 1870 Ordnance Survey plan

The prisons were supplied by gas from their own gas works (seen on the right hand side of Figure 2).

The male prison was closed in March 1889, as the decline in the convict population made it unnecessary to maintain a separate prison for invalids. The female prison closed in November 1895 when the female prisoners were transferred to the new female prison at Aylesbury; the buildings were handed over to the War Office.

The impact that the prison had on the local area was significant. Firstly, there was an influx of builders and labourers to construct the buildings. These were followed by the staffs of the prison and then large numbers of soldiers (some with families) when the prison became a barracks.

In March 1893, the public examination in the bankruptcy of Augustus Carter, corn dealer, took place. He stated that his business had 'greatly decreased owing to the closure of Woking male prison three years ago.'

Figure 3. Bankruptcy: *West Surrey Times*
18 March 1893

THE BANKRUPTCY OF A CORN-DEALER.—The public examination in bankruptcy of Augustus Carter, corn-dealer and seedman, of Knaphill, took place on Tuesday at Guildford, before Mr. Registrar Perkins. The statement of affairs filed showed gross liabilities, £1,629, of which the sum of £488 5s. 5d. was unsecured, and £110 partly secured, the securities being valued at £40; £290 was set down as surplus from securities in the hands of fully secured creditors, and the deficiency was set down as only £157 0s. 5d.—The debtor was examined at some length by Mr. John Grant Gibson, the Assistant-Official-Receiver, and there were also present Mr. J. M. Furneaux (from the office of Messrs. Smallpeice and Sons), representing a secured creditor, Mr. Sherman and Mrs. Lethbridge, creditors.—Replying to Mr. Gibson, the debtor said about 29 years ago he took over the business which had been formerly carried on by his father. The business was in a bad state, and owing to the bad debts it was then insolvent to the extent of about £270. The debtor admitted that his property had been put up for sale twice, but only a small portion was sold. Mr. Gibson asked the debtor whether he had not over-estimated the value of the properties, but the debtor thought what he had put down was about right, though it might be worth a little less. He was five years behind with the interest on the mortgage, and used the £100 which a portion of the property fetched to pay off the interest. His business had greatly decreased owing to the closing of Woking male prison three years ago. About ten years ago his takings were about £2,000 a year, and last year they were only £743. He knew that he was insolvent two or three years ago, but had hoped that he should sell the property, and sell the business as a going concern. The examination was closed after a few questions by Mr. Sherman, who maintained that the value of property in Knaphill had increased lately.

Aldershot - Home of the British Army

Aldershot became the main centre of the British Army within the United Kingdom in 1854. The Army needed a large concentration of troops in the south of England, as the main threat to the United Kingdom came from across the English Channel.

The heathland surrounding Aldershot was ideal for use by the military, as it is low grade agricultural land, so a series of barracks were constructed in the area. Three permanent cavalry barracks, three infantry barracks and two artillery barracks were constructed in the period from 1856 to 1859.

The Barracks Act of 1890 led to a significant construction programme to provide suitable accommodation for troops in the Aldershot area. An area of land to the north of Aldershot was chosen for the expansion of the barracks. Those located to the north of the Basingstoke Canal became known as North

Camp, while those to the south, South Camp. All were built in the period from 1895 to 1900. A long, straight road (now known as Queen's Avenue) leading from Aldershot bisected the South Camp and North Camp. Aldershot became the location for the largest, single, peacetime concentration of troops in the British Army.

As the number of units assigned to Aldershot Command grew, additional barracks had to be built in the surrounding area of north-east Hampshire and south-west Surrey.

Inkerman Barracks

On Thursday 27th February 1890, it was announced in the House of Commons, that the Government intended to acquire Woking Prison and convert it into barracks. A sum of £57,000 was allocated for the acquisition and conversion.²

In 1892, work began converting buildings of the male prison into barracks capable of accommodating two infantry battalions. The barracks were named after the 1854 Battle of Inkerman, a battle during the Crimean War.

Initially the plan was for the female prison to also be converted to barracks to house an artillery regiment. Then it was to be levelled and a new barrack constructed for a cavalry regiment. By 1897, these and other plans had been abandoned with the cavalry regiment being housed elsewhere within the Aldershot District.

² Barracks Act of 1890

EARLY DAYS

CONVERSION

Conversion of Men's Prison

In 1892, the 12th Company of the Royal Engineers moved into the male prison and began converting it into barracks. The main difficulty was that the prison had been designed on the single-cell basis; the walls defining these cells were load-bearing and supporting the upper floors. New supports for the upper floors had to be inserted before the walls could be removed to convert the single-cells into barrack-rooms.

It was in 1893 that it was announced the name of the new barracks would be "Inkerman Barracks".

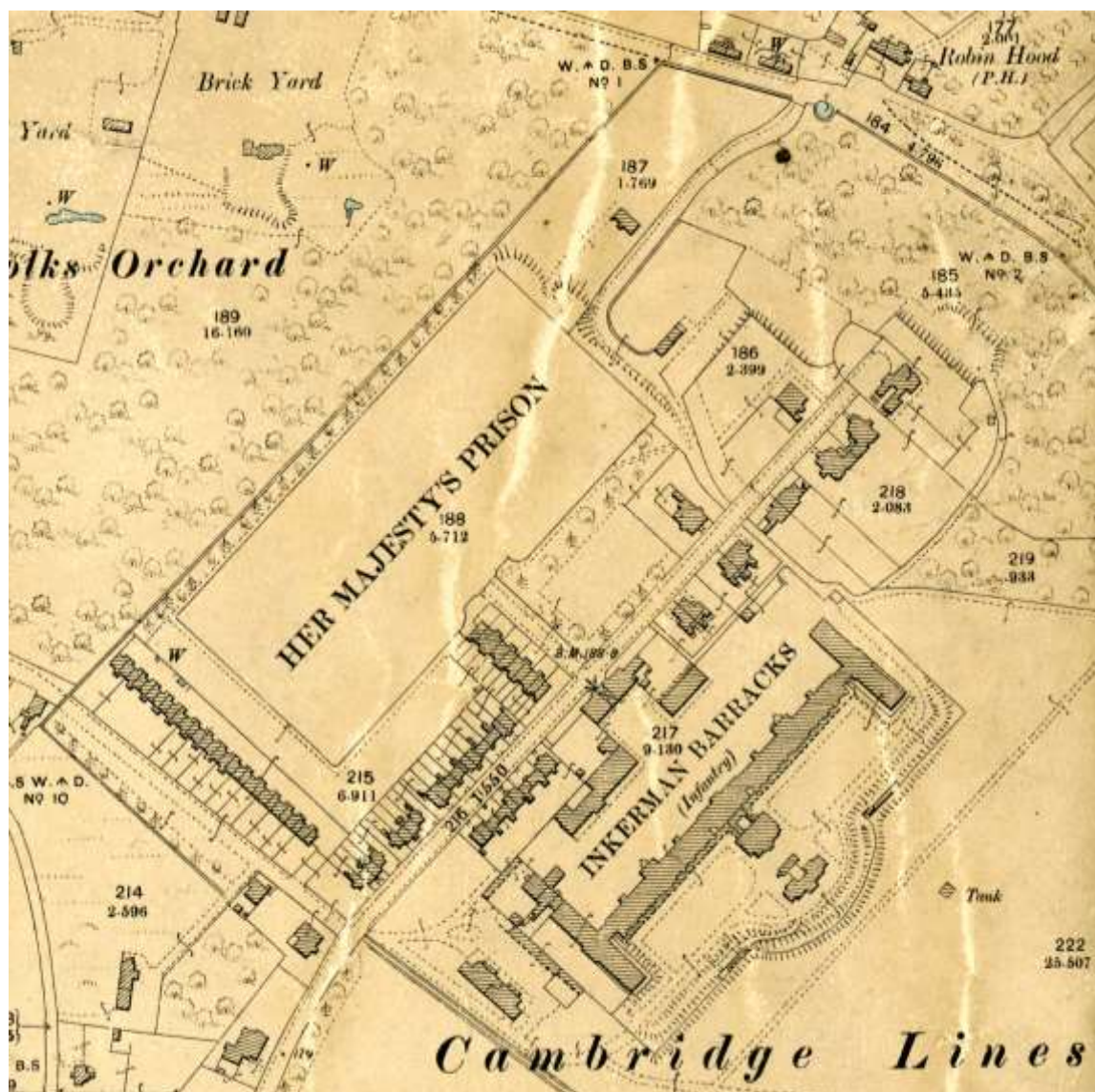


Figure 4. Inkerman Barracks, 1896 Ordnance Survey plan

The conversion of the main building was carried out under the direction of Major (later Colonel) Robert Charles Hellard R.E. and completed without calling in contractors. However, the work of conversion of other buildings and constructing the few entirely new buildings was put out to tender.



Figure 5. Colonel Robert C Hellard (1851-1929)

The former Roman Catholic Chapel of the male prison was converted and extended to create the recreation establishment. This work was carried out between September 1893 and October 1894 by the Woking builder Alfred Augustus Gale. The cost was £3,677.³ This block included a grocery store, a library and accommodation for the manager and for the librarian.

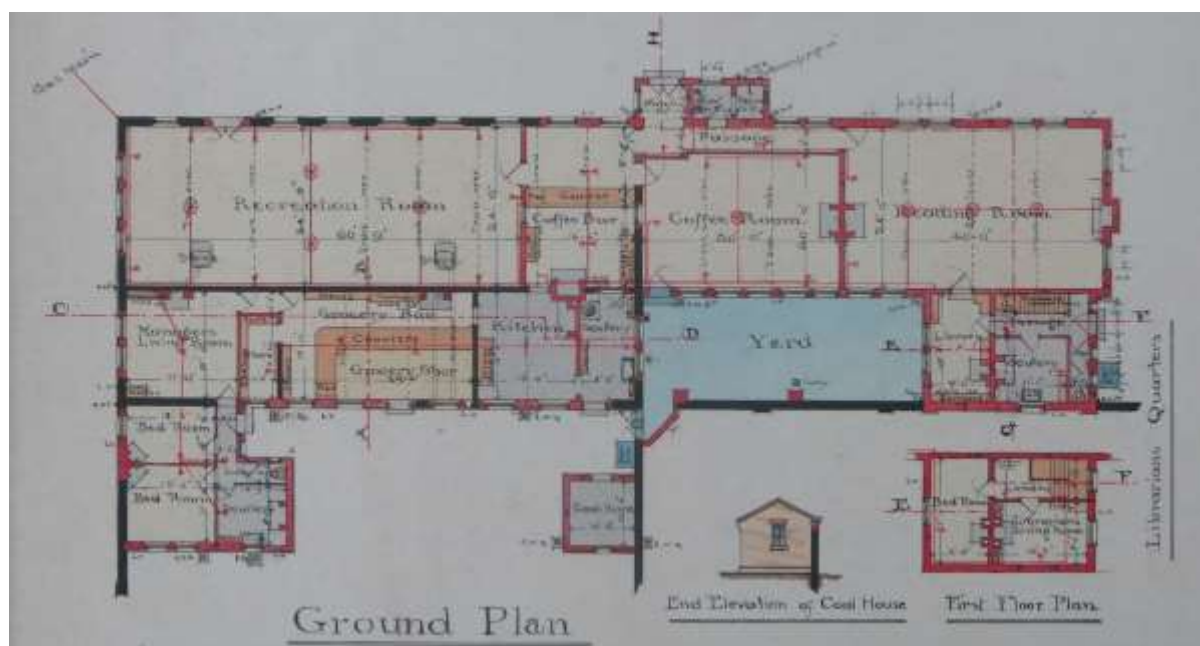


Figure 6. Recreation establishment plan

During the same period, Alfred Gale also built stables for two battalions (each for 12 horses), two waggon sheds (each to hold 2 carts and 4 waggons) and a coal-yard to hold 100 tons of coal. Cost for this was £2,148.⁴

³ TNA, WO 78/3473, *Inkerman Barracks, Woking Record plans of Recreation Establishment*

⁴ TNA, WO 78/3473, *Inkerman Barracks, Woking Record plans of Transport stables, Waggon sheds & Coal-yard*

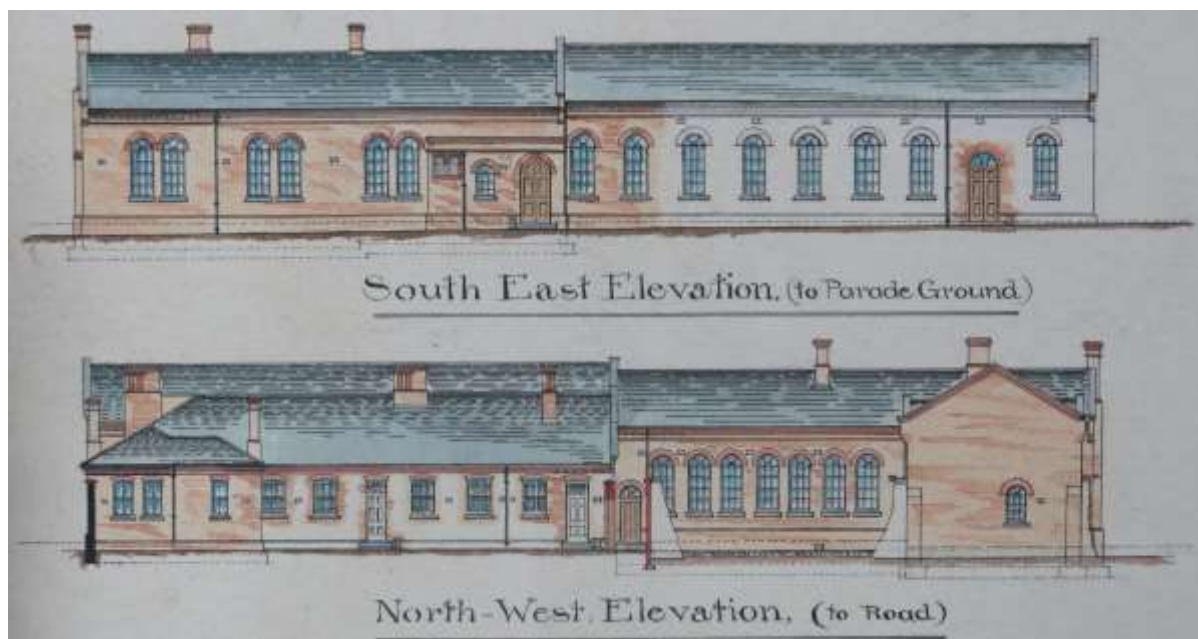


Figure 7. Recreation establishment elevations



Figure 8. Clock tower

The most prominent feature of the prison buildings had been the central clock tower, or watch-tower. When the prison was closed, the Home Office had the clock removed and taken away.

The War Department commissioned a new clock; it was made by J W Benson of Ludgate Hill.

The clock showed the time on four copper dials, six feet nine inches in diameter, painted and with gilded numerals. The pendulum, which swung every $1\frac{1}{2}$ seconds had a bob weighing $1\frac{1}{2}$ hundred-weight. The bell on which the hours were struck weighed 6 hundred-weight.⁵

The new clock was installed during March 1893.

Between June 1894 and May 1895, a canteen and skittle alley was constructed. The contractor for this work was Mr D Charteris of Westminster.⁶

Upon completion of the conversion and the subsequent occupation of the barracks, the press were invited to visit:

“The buildings have been admirably converted into quarters for the accommodation of a battalion of infantry on the peace establishment, the

⁵ A hundred-weight (cwt) was an imperial measure equal to 112 pounds (51kg)

⁶ TNA, WO 78/3473, *Inkerman Barracks, Woking Record plans of Canteen & Skittle Alley*

actual space accommodation being for 766 officers, non-commissioned officers and men.

Almost the first thing that strikes the visitor to the Inkerman Barracks who proceeds there with his mind preoccupied with thoughts of the repulsiveness of prisons and prison life (writes a competent authority to a London contemporary) is the openness of everything. A great feature seems to be absent, and it is not possible for a moment to realise what seems wanting. Then it is seen that the high, unscalable boundary wall has been lopped, and only a few feet of it remains, and this is surmounted with a neat coping instead of the spike-barred top of old. Entering by the main gate on the right at this time is the orderly room, a waiting-room, and the commanding officer's office. These were formerly the governor's office and the rooms for the reception of convicts. Opposite to this block is the guard-room and the cells. Adjoining is the quartermaster's stores, and on the other aide, adjoining the orderly room, the recreation establishment (formerly the Roman Catholic church), coffee bar, or dry canteen, coffee and reading rooms, library, etc. The barrack block forms three sides of a square, the ground in front forming the general parade. In the main block there are three floors, and in each the communications are fortunately under cover. The corridor which runs from end to end of the main block is between 500 feet and 600 feet long. The military authorities — from the Quartermaster General downwards — pride themselves upon having been able to provide in the Inkerman barracks dining-rooms for the use of the privates, which in no previous case have they succeeded in doing. Each company has its own dining-room, opposite to which, on the other side of the corridor, is a neatly-arranged scullery, with shelves, plate-racks and sink, so that here, at any rate, there can be no excuse for the littering of crockery or utensils in the living or adjoining rooms. Each company has in addition a room for the storage of spare arms and kits and general effects awaiting issue, which in the majority of barracks have to be put away as best they can, usually in the not too spacious bunk occupied by an unmarried sergeant. The men's sleeping rooms are on the upper floors. Some day at the Inkerman Barracks these apartments may come to be called dormitories, instead of the old stereotyped term, 'barrack-rooms.' The baths and wash-houses are excellently appointed, and the general sanitary appliances of quite modern description. The sergeants' mess is most comfortable, and in time, no doubt, it will be furnished as luxuriously as are some of those at Aldershot. The old church (Anglican) has been turned into a gymnasium, in which the choir loft has been suffered to remain. This will be used as a spectators' gallery when displays are given. Lighter and brighter colours have been employed in the general scheme of decoration than usual, and one looks in vain for the startling contrasts of dour slaty drab and gleaming whitewash which used to be universal a few years ago in the old barrack-rooms. The old order has given way to one that is altogether new, and, strange to say, the public purse has not to any appreciable extent been drawn upon more than in the days that are gone.

In the old prison days the male and female sides were quite apart, and under separate governorship. The main entrances of each stood on opposite sides of a road which runs east and west, in which, between the respective blocks, are a number of cottages and villas, the former having been occupied by the prison warders, and, the latter by the superior and professional officials.

These in future will be occupied by the married soldiers and their families carried on the establishment and by the officers of the station respectively. Then, such as they are, it is doubtful whether, even in the most modern barracks. those at Aldershot included, so good quarters can be found at any other station, and there is a consensus of opinion that they cannot be excelled anywhere. A splendidly appointed mess-house for the officers has been erected in close proximity to the main blocks, and a number of men are now busily engaged in laying out a cricket ground and tennis courts.”

Conversion of Women’s Prison

The final female prisoners, whose sentences had not yet expired, were transferred to Aylesbury in November 1895, just days before the first troops arrived to occupy the former male prison. The female prison then stood empty for six years as plans were modified, approved, abandoned and new plans made. Originally, the plans were to raze the prison buildings to the ground and for a cavalry regiment to occupy new barracks built on the site. Later it was planned as the home for three batteries of horse artillery. A piece of land, of area approximately 1 square mile, to the rear of the old prison was purchased from the Woking Investment Company and, in November 1900, was fenced in. This land, which extended down to Robin Hood Road was intended for the stables and other ancillary buildings.

By mid-1901, as part of War Office reforms, it had been decided that military prisoners would not in future be held in civilian prisons. The old female prison buildings at Woking would be converted into a military prison. It would be the largest military prison in the country and, when completed, would receive prisoners from British stations all over the world.

Towards the end of 1901, work had begun on A Block (that part in the best state of repair). Mess^{rs} Martin and Wells, of Aldershot, had a large number of men making 60 cells – the old cells being considered too small. Each of the new cells were to be lit by electricity and fitted with an electric bell. This work was to be undertaken by Henry Quartermaine, of Woking.⁷

Major Charles Cecil Daniel, of the Royal Scots, then Governor of H.M. Military Prison Cork was appointed to take charge as Governor. In 1904, he transferred to Dover.

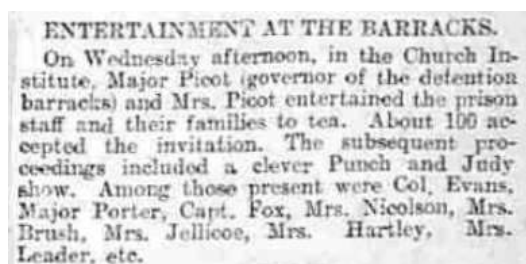


Figure 9. Woking News & Mail 1 Jan 1907

Until 1 October 1907, the prison was only a detention prison.⁸ From that date, upon the closure of Dover Military Prison, it became the chief military gaol. It had by then 218 cells.

⁷ *Woking News & Mail*, 1902

⁸ Commanding Officers had the power to summarily sentence offenders to up to 28 days detention. Committal to a military prison could only be carried out by General or District Court-martial.

Charles Cecil Daniel, now acting Lt Colonel, transferred back to Woking.



Figure 10. Interior view of prison, just prior to demolition (c1970)

It seems that the original women's prison included an Anglican church and a Roman Catholic chapel. These were retained and converted into one (presumably Anglican) chapel for the military.⁹



Figure 11. Female prisoners in the chapel
[*Illustrated London News*]

The 1911 Census lists 58 prisoners undergoing sentence in the military prison.¹⁰

⁹ The Roman Catholic chapel of the former men's prison had been converted into the recreational facility and the Anglican church into a gymnasium

¹⁰ TNA, Series RG14: 33/1/24, *Census Returns of England and Wales, 1911*

Woking Female Prison had a hospital and infirmary. Possibly, these were in the north-eastern wing which, during the conversion, was detached from the rest of the building (the connecting wing being demolished) and converted into a military hospital. The hospital is shown on the 1913 OS plan.

Lieutenant Colonel (later Major General) Henry Neville 'Harry' Thompson RAMC was appointed Commander of the Hospital in 1905.

Figure 12. Harry Neville Thompson in 1918



LAYOUT

A survey was conducted of the Infantry Barracks in 1907. It was mainly concerned with water supply, sanitation and drainage. A plan produced shows the layout of buildings and services. Water was supplied by the Woking Water & Gas Company and Electricity by the Woking Electric Supply Company Ltd. Foul drains connected to the Woking Urban District sewer whilst rainwater was fed into a ditch.¹¹ Of note is the 100,000 gallon water tank that was located under the parade ground (immediately to the north-west of the main building).

The Infantry Barracks were situated to the right of Raglan Road, which ran South-west to North-east (bottom to top in Figure 13), whilst the prison was to the left.

The Commanding Officer's quarters, *Inkerman House*¹², was at the top of Raglan Road. This was previously the accommodation of the governor of the men's prison.

¹¹ SHC, 6788/roll33, *Site and ground floor plan of Inkerman Barracks, Woking* (1907)

¹² Officers' quarters were generally named whilst those for Warrant Officers and NCOs were numbered

KEY

- 1 Commanding Officer's Quarters, Inkerman House
- 2 Officer's Quarters, Orthes House
- 3 Officer's Quarters, Peninsular House
- 4 Chaplain's Quarters, Atbara House
- 5 OC Barracks Quarters, Niagara House
- 6 Warrant Officers' Quarters
- 7 Officers' Quarters
- 8 No. 2 Warrant Officers' Quarters (59-68)
- 9 Senior NCO Married Quarters (31-34, 35-38, 39-48, 49-58)
- 10 Junior NCO Married Quarters (1-30)
- 11 Recreation Establishment (billiard room, reading room, common room, coffee bar, supper bar, shop)
- 12 CO's Office
- 13 Orderly Room
- 14 Guardhouse
- 15 Detention Room
- 16 Quartermaster's Stores
- 17 A' Block 1 - 35-man room
- 18 A' Block 2 - 35-man room
- 19 1 Coy Band Practice & Dining Room
- 20 2 Coy Dining Room
- 21 3 Coy Dining Room
- 22 4 Coy Dining Room
- 23 5 Coy Dining Room
- 24 Cook House
- 25 Not on 1907 survey
- 26 6-8 Coy Dining Rooms (layout symmetrical to 21-23)
- 27 Dining Room A.S.C.
- 28 Brigade Court Martial Room
- 29 9 Coy Dining Room
- 30 Royal Engineers yard and workshops
- 31 Sergeants' Mess & billiard room
- 32 Education wing
- 33 Sheds
- 34 Stables
- 35 Male latrines



Figure 13. Layout – key from 1907 survey superimposed on 1896 OS Plan

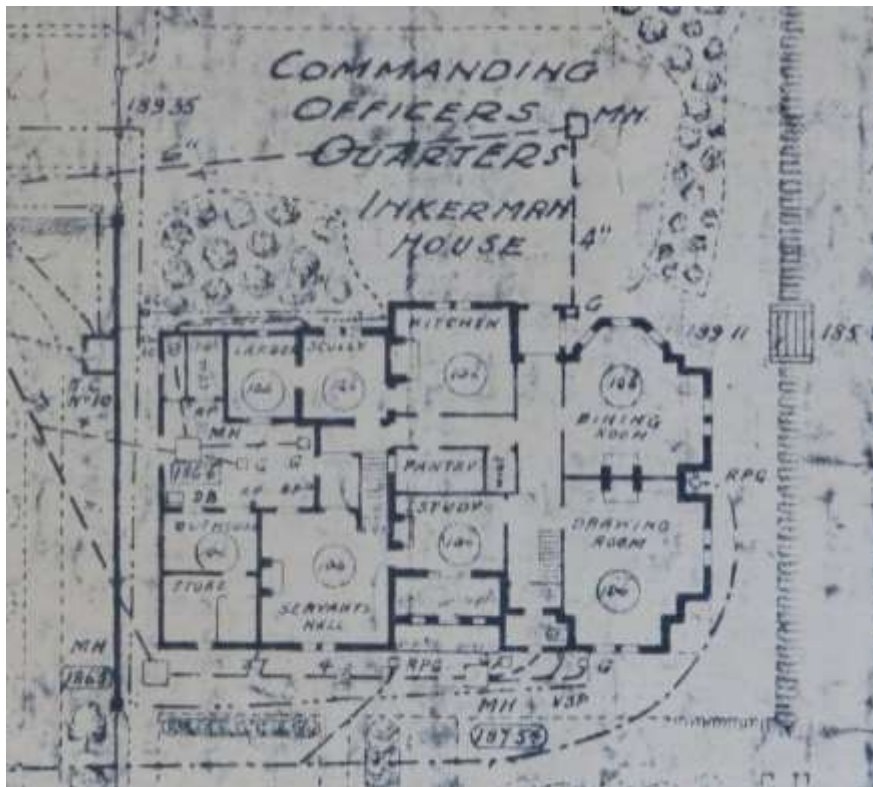


Figure 14. Ground-floor layout of Inkerman House

Then, heading south-west, came a number of officers' quarters, followed by warrant officers and senior non-commissioned officers (NCOs) married quarters. Quarters for married junior NCOs were in a terrace along Barrack Path (now Victoria Road), named Wellington Terrace.



Figure 15. Junior NCOs' Married Quarters
The posts mark where [now] Victoria Road (foreground) met Barrack Path

Raglan Road continued, curving to the east and heading southwards, from Barrack Path to Hermitage Road (on maps from the 1950s to 1970 this section is named Rolica Road). On the west side of the road, opposite the

sports ground, were five detached buildings. Four of these were officers' quarters. The fifth, nearest to the Hermitage Road, was the Officers' Mess.



Figure 16. Officers' Mess c.1960

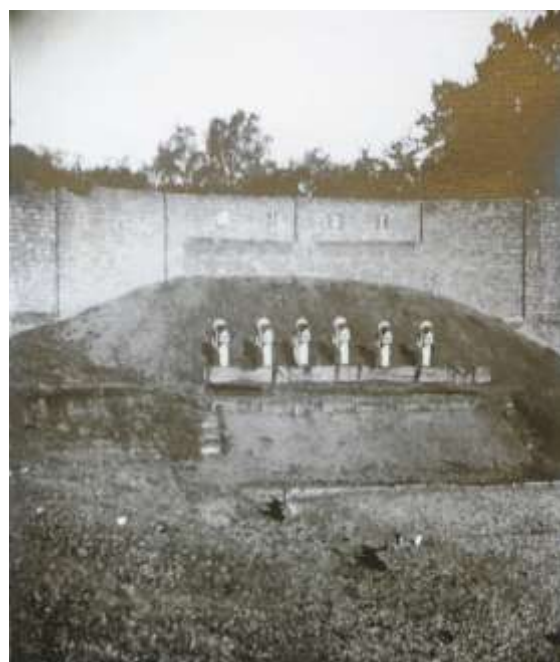
By the 1930s, at least three of these houses (designated 'A' House, 'B' House & 'C' House) seem to have been multiple-occupancy buildings used as additional accommodation for the Officers' Mess. Other houses were also within the area bounded by Barrack Path, Inkerman Road, Hermitage Road and Rolica Road. These were probably all officers' accommodation.

Shooting Ranges

Two shooting ranges were constructed. They are clearly shown on a plan hand-drawn by the 1949-56 Weapons Training Officer (Figure 81).

An outdoor 30-yard range was constructed near the north-east end of the main barrack block. An indoor 25 yard range was built just south-east of the married officers' quarters, shown on the 1894-95 plans.

Figure 17. 30 yard shooting range



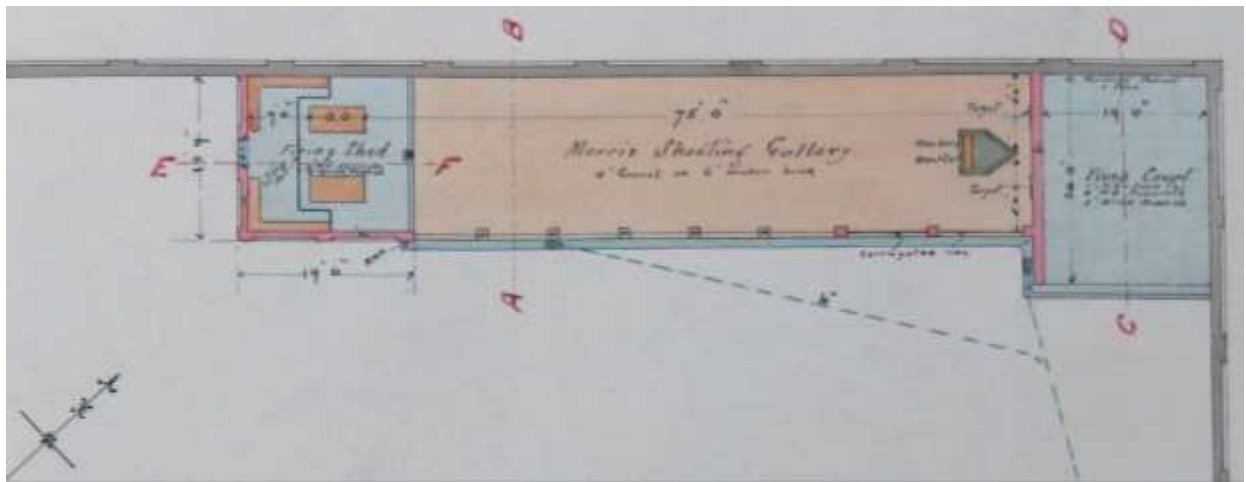


Figure 18. Plan of 25-yard shooting gallery

The plan of the shooting gallery (Figure 18) also shows a fives court.¹³

¹³ Fives is an English handball sport derived from jeu de paume, similar to the games of handball, Basque pelota, and squash. The origin of the word 'fives' is uncertain, but it probably refers to the fingers, as in 'a bunch of fives'; the name has been used since the 17th century.

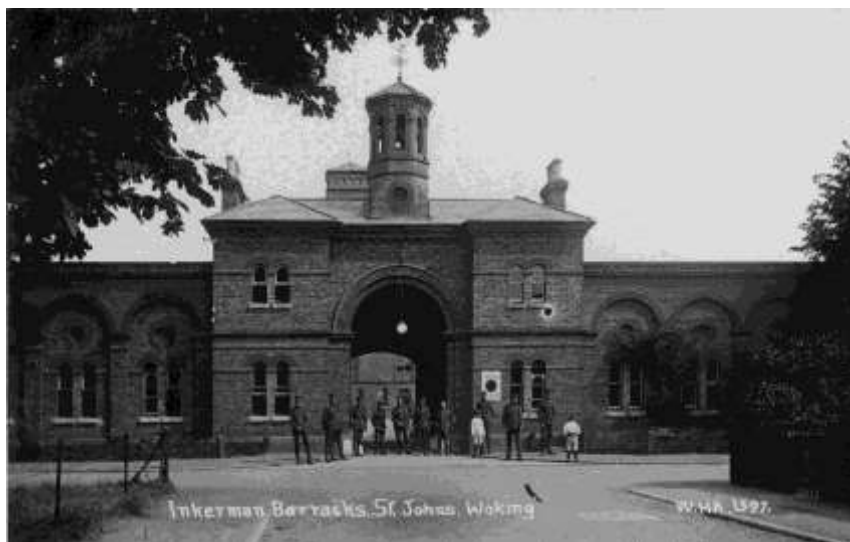


Figure 19. Gatehouse entrance o



Figure 20. Parade ground (looking towards 'A' Block o



Figure 21. View from East o



Figure 22. Raglan Road, looking towards Inkerman House o

OCCUPATION

As well as those regiments listed below and later, there was a constant presence of sub-units from various supporting branches, including the military police, Army Service Corps (A.S.C.), Army Ordnance Corps (A.O.C.), Army Medical Corps and Royal Engineers (R.E.).

Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment

On 13th November 1895, the first troops of the 2nd Battalion of the Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment moved into Inkerman Barracks, transferring from Dover. They were followed by the rest of the regiment two weeks later, on Thursday November 28th.¹⁴

Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment



The Queen's Royal Regiment was the senior English line infantry regiment of the British Army, behind only the Royal Scots in the British Army order of precedence.

Founded: 1661

In 1959, the regiment was amalgamated with the East Surrey Regt, to form a single county regiment called the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. On 31st December 1966, this was amalgamated with the Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regt, the Royal Sussex Regt and the Middlesex Regt (Duke of Cambridge's Own) to form the Queen's Regiment.

The military tended to forge close links with the local communities where they were stationed. The regiments would hold concert evenings and play sports matches against local teams. Queens Road in Knaphill was named in honour of the Queen's Royal (West Surrey) Regiment.

The 2nd Battalion left Inkerman Barracks in July 1898, marching to the tune 'The girl I left behind me'. They deployed to South Africa where they fought from 1899 to 1904, including during the Second Boer War (1899–1902).

THE QUEEN'S REGT. v. MR. C. E. WILSON'S XI.
Played at Inkerman Barracks, Woking, on Wednesday, and resulted in a win for Queen's Regt. by two goals to one.

Queen's Regt.—Baker, goal; Dalton and Read, backs; Bennett, Emmett, and Brice, half-backs; Maurice, Gilbanke, Andrews, Macnamara, and Phillips, forwards.

Mr Wilson's XI.—Penfold, goal; Benfold and Baker, backs; Windsor, Brooks, and Kingston, half-backs; Humphreys, Farrow, Lieut. Wilson, Cappe, and 2nd Lieut. Livesey, forwards.

THE QUEEN'S REGT. v. CHERTSEY F.C.
—Played at Chertsey on Saturday, when the Queen's won by three goals to one.

Queen's.—Penfold, goal; Dalton and Read, backs; Emmett, Brice, and Bennett, half-backs; Lieut. Wilson, Maurice, Gilbanke, Macnamara, and Phillips, forwards.

THE QUEEN'S REGT. v. THE DEVON REGT.
Played at Woking on Saturday week, when the Queen's won by two goals to one. The game was evenly contested all through. The Queen's playing with the wind, scored twice from shots by Gilbanke and Macnamara, Prosser scoring for the Devon's in the second half. Dalton, Read, and Brice played well for the winners, and Prosser for the losers.

The Queen's.—Baker, goal; Dalton and Read, backs; Bennett, Brice, and Emmett, half-backs; Maurice, Gilbanke, Lieut. Wilson, Macnamara, and Phillips, forwards.

Figure 23. Football reports 1897

¹⁴ *West Surrey Times* 16 November 1895; TNA, WO 156/452, *Baptism Register Garrison Chapel, Inkerman Barracks*



Figure 24. West Surreys at Inkerman Barracks, 1896
 Standing: Ptes Pollock, Wyber, *u/k*, Pioneer Buckland, Quartermaine, Mascall, L/c Donoghue, Baker. Sitting: Ptes Bates, Mahoney, Hammond, L/c Diaper, Bennett, Brickwood, *u/k*. Front row: Ptes Knight, Barker, Cole, *u/k*, Wicker

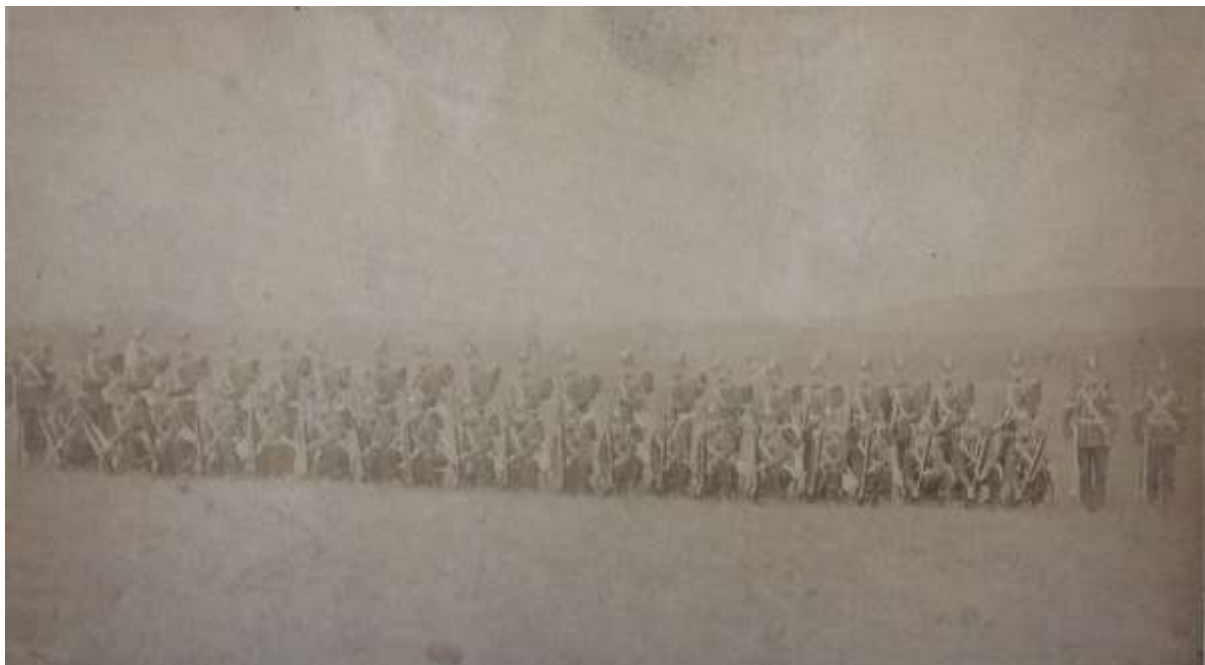


Figure 25. 2nd Bn West Surrey Regt., 1898
 (probably in South Africa)

East Surrey Regiment

The Queen's Royal Regiment was replaced by the 2nd Bn of the East Surrey Regiment (until October 1899 when it too was deployed to South Africa) and then by the 4th Bn of the same regiment.

East Surrey Regiment



Founded: 1881

In 1959, the regiment was amalgamated with the West Surrey Regt, to form a single county regiment called the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. On 31st December 1966, this was amalgamated with the Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regt, the Royal Sussex Regt and the Middlesex Regt (Duke of Cambridge's Own) to form the Queen's Regiment.



Figure 26. 2nd Bn East Surrey Regt., 1898

MILITARY DANCE. — The opening dance of the season at the Inkerman Barracks took place on Friday evening, when there was a good number present and a very enjoyable time was spent. Music was provided by the regimental band. Colour-Sergt. Buffitt was the chairman of the Dance Committee.

Figure 27. *West Surrey Times* 22 Oct 1898

The 4th Bn was a reserve battalion formed from the 3rd Royal Surrey Militia in 1881; it was embodied for service on 4th December 1899, disembodied on 12th July 1901, and re-embodied again for service during the Second Boer War in South Africa.

Royal Reserve Regiment

The 4th Bn East Sussex Regt was succeeded in May 1900 by the 1st Bn of the Royal Northern Reserves Regiment. Inkerman Barracks was much overcrowded at this time with a total of 1,750 men; The 1st Bn were sleeping under canvas.¹⁵

¹⁵ *West Surrey Times* 11 May 1900

Royal Reserve Regiments



The Royal Reserve Regiments were reserve infantry and cavalry regiments of the British Army in existence from 1900 to 1901.

The Second Boer War broke out in South Africa in October 1899. The government soon realised they needed considerably more troops to win the war, and larger parts of the regular army, militia and yeomanry regiments were sent to South Africa. Shortly thereafter, Royal Reserve battalions were formed from veteran soldiers in the United Kingdom for Home Service. Time-expired warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and other ranks between the ages of 21 and 45 would enlist for service in the United Kingdom for a period of one year and receive a bounty of £22.

A fourth Bn of the Royal Northern Reserves Regiment was formed from the excess personnel and, on 27th June, moved from Inkerman to the Redan Hill Camp, Aldershot.^{15,16}

THE ROYAL RESERVES.
The old soldiers have not come forward in such numbers as was anticipated by the authorities. They believed that 45,000 would have enlisted, but recent returns show that only 30,000 presented themselves for enlistment. The regiment stationed at Inkerman Barracks, Woking, appears to be a popular one, for it has been found necessary to form another battalion from the large number of men (1,800) quartered there. This new battalion came into existence on the 5th inst., and is officially designated the 4th battalion Royal Northern Reserve regiment, and consists, at present, of about 500 men. It is commanded by Colonel Oxley, and is quartered in tents in a field, near the barracks, adjacent to St. John's.

Figure 28. *West Surrey Times* 9 Jun 1900

MILITARY SMOKING CONCERT.
The 'smoker' given at Inkerman Barracks on Friday night in the Sergeants' Mess of the 1st Battalion Royal Northern Reserves was distinctly successful. Over 200 of the military and civilians were present. Among the officers present were Captain Beddenfeld, Capt. Healey, and Lieut. Sullivan (Royal Northern Reserves); Capt. Carnegie, Lieut. Crinlin, 2nd Lieut. Drew, Edmonds, Ward, Waller, and Scully (of the 4th Royal Irish). There were also present Sergeant-Major Dorman and Col. Sergeant Sillicks, of the 2nd Queen's, the first regiment that was quartered at Inkerman Barracks, who only a few days before had returned from South Africa. The hearty welcome they received from their old friends of Knaphill and St. John's evidenced the high esteem in which they are held. The Irish Guards (represented by Sergt.-Major Burt), and several of the Royal Engineers and Royal Artillery were also present. The chair was taken by Sergt.-Major Miller.

Figure 29. *West Surrey Times* 30 Nov 1900

The 1st Bn remained at Inkerman until March 1901.

Royal Irish Rifles

The 1st Bn of the Royal Northern Reserves Regiment was joined at Inkerman Barracks on 8th October 1900 by the 4th Bn (North Tipperary Militia) Royal Irish Rifles.

¹⁶ *West Surrey Times* 30 June 1900

Royal Irish Rifles



Founded: 1881

The Royal Irish Rifles (became the Royal Ulster Rifles from 1 January 1921) was an infantry rifle regiment of the British Army, first created in 1881 by the amalgamation of the 83rd (County of Dublin) Regiment of Foot and the 86th (Royal County Down) Regiment of Foot.

In 1968 the Royal Ulster Rifles was amalgamated with the other regiments of the North Irish Brigade, the Royal Irish Fusiliers (Princess Victoria's), and the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers to create the Royal Irish Rangers.

4th Bn Royal Irish Rifles departed Inkerman on 4th July 1901. They headed to Clonmel, Ireland where the unit was disbanded.

The Inkerman Infantry Barracks were unoccupied from July 1901 until October 1902, due to a significant proportion of the Army being deployed in South Africa.



Figure 30. *West Surrey Times* 17 Nov 1900

Royal Berkshire Regiment

The 1st Battalion the Royal Berkshire Regiment took over Inkerman Barracks on 26th October 1902. The battalion arrived at Southampton in SS 'Sardinia' from Gibraltar, disembarked and went by rail to Woking.¹⁷

Royal Berkshire Regiment



Founded: 1881

The Royal Berkshire Regiment was a line infantry regiment of the British Army. The regiment was created in 1881, as the Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire Regiment), by the amalgamation of the 49th (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) (Hertfordshire) Regiment of Foot and the 66th (Berkshire) Regiment of Foot. In 1921, it was renamed the Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's).

On 9 June 1959, the Royal Berkshire Regiment was amalgamated with the Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's) to form the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire) which was again amalgamated, on 27 July 1994, with the Gloucestershire Regiment to create the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment.

¹⁷ The Rifles Berkshire & Wiltshire Museum <https://www.thewardrobe.org.uk/>

The Princess Charlotte of Wales's 1st Royal Parks Regiment arrived at Woking from Gibraltar on Sunday, to take up their quarters at Inkerman Barracks, which have so long stood empty on account of the absence of troops in South Africa. In connection with their installation, a War Office experiment is being tried. Some of the barrack rooms have been converted into cubicles, of which over 100 are provided, the dimensions of each being 12ft. 8ins. by 5ft. 6ins., with a height of 6ft. 6in. The cubicles are well lit and ventilated, and electric light is fitted.

Figure 31. *West Surrey Times* Oct 1902

The battalion moved into new 'experimental' accommodation, being in individual cubicles rather than barrack rooms.

On 29 Sept 1904, 1st Battalion left Woking by rail to Holyhead to embark for Dublin.¹⁸

Lt Col T du B Whaite RAMCA produced a report in 1907¹⁹, providing a critique of the cubicles. He stated that there were three styles of cubicles, distinguished by the partition walls: The partitions were 6 feet 6 inches high and of woodwork painted khaki colour. In style 1, the partitions reached down to the floor. In style 2, there was a six-inch gap between the door and the floor and, in the third style, a six-inch gap between the floor and the door and partitions on three sides. In all cases, the fourth side was formed by the wall of the building.

The cubicles were well-liked by the men and were allocated as a reward for good behaviour.

The drawbacks, as seen by Colonel Whaite, were:

- Men in the cubicles became detached from others in their Company
- For disinfection, on account of infectious diseases, they are inconvenient and greatly increase the surface area to be disinfected
- Loss of useable accommodation space and additional expense.

Royal Scots Regiment

The 2nd Bn Royal Scots Regiment occupied Inkerman Barracks from October 1904 until October 1905.

Royal Scots Regiment



Founded: 1633

The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment), once known as the Royal Regiment of Foot, was the oldest and most senior infantry regiment of the line of the British Army

The regiment existed continuously until 2006, when it amalgamated with the King's Own Scottish Borderers to become the Royal Scots Borderers, which merged with the Royal Highland Fusiliers (Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment), the Black Watch, the Highlanders

(Seaforth, Gordons and Camerons) and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders to form the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

¹⁸ The Rifles Berkshire & Wiltshire Museum <https://www.thewardrobe.org.uk/>

¹⁹ *Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps* Vol. VIII January-June 1907

The 1st Battalion the Royal Scots Regiment, stationed at Inkerman Barracks, who were stated some time ago to be going to Malta, have now received orders to proceed to Shorncliffe at the end of September. After their departure the Barracks will probably be occupied by the 2nd Battalion South Lancashire Regiment, who are now at Shorncliffe.

On Wednesday a draft of 27 men joined the Royal Scots from the Depot. The training season commences on March 1st, when a new system will be tried. The battalion will be trained in double companies—instead of in single companies as hitherto—under a mounted officer.

Figure 32. *West Surrey Times* 24 Feb 1905

As was announced in these columns some time ago, the Royal Scots Regiment are to leave in the autumn for Shorncliffe. The date is now officially given as 'about October 19th,' and their successors at Inkerman Barracks will be the 2nd Battalion (The King's) Liverpool Regiment, who will come from Blackdown.

The Royal Scots, as forming part of the 2nd Brigade of the 1st Division of the Aldershot command, are taking part this week in the operations in the neighbourhood of Clendon Park. They left barracks on Wednesday, and are camped in the park. Under General Paget, the troops are undergoing what is known as Divisional inspection, the whole of their work being carried out under the eye of General Sir John French. Col. Cunningham, D.S.O., is in command of the Scots, who are 22 officers and 460 men strong.

A draft of 60 men of the regiment will leave for India on September 21st.

Figure 33. *West Surrey Times* Aug 1905

Liverpool Regiment

The 2nd Bn (King's) Liverpool Regiment moved into Inkerman, from Blackdown, in October 1905. They stayed for just over two years – until they were relieved by the 1st Bn East Lancashire Regiment in February 1908.

Liverpool Regiment



Founded: 1685

The King's Regiment (Liverpool) was one of the oldest line infantry regiments of the British Army, having been formed in 1685 and numbered as the 8th (The King's) Regiment of Foot in 1751. Unlike most British Army infantry regiments, which were associated with a county, the King's represented the city of Liverpool. After 273 years of continuous existence, the regiment was amalgamated with the Manchester Regiment in 1958 to form the King's Regiment (Liverpool and Manchester),

which was later amalgamated with the King's Own Royal Border Regiment and the Queen's Lancashire Regiment to form the present Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (King's, Lancashire and Border).

KING'S REGIMENT.

Capt. Arthur H. P. Harrison, of the King's Regiment, stationed at Inkerman Barracks, has been promoted to the rank of major, vice Major H. Ross-Johnson, retired, on retired pay.—Another draft from the regiment will leave for India on Saturday.

Figure 34. *Woking News & Mail*
15 February 1907

Although later crossed through, the survey of the barracks conducted in 1907 did include a list of personnel accommodated within the barracks (Table 1), totalling 772.

<u>Description</u>	<u>No.</u>
Commanding Officer's Office	1
Officers	12
Officers' Servants	13
Chaplain	1
O.C. Barracks	1
W.O.s	4
Canteen Manager	1
Librarian	1
Recreation Est Manager	1
NCOs & Men (Barracks)	716
Over Guard H (R Police & Wards)	8
Married Officers N.C.O.s & Men	10
M F Works	1
Transport, Stables	2

Table 1 Personnel accommodated at Inkerman Barracks 1907

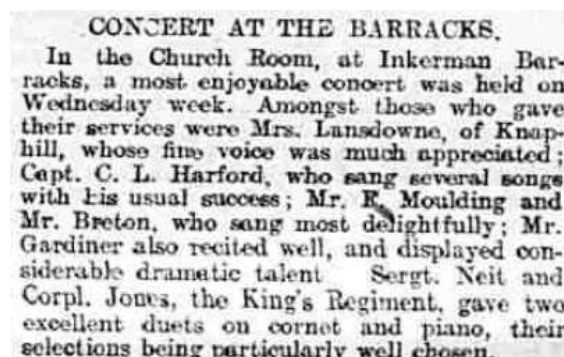
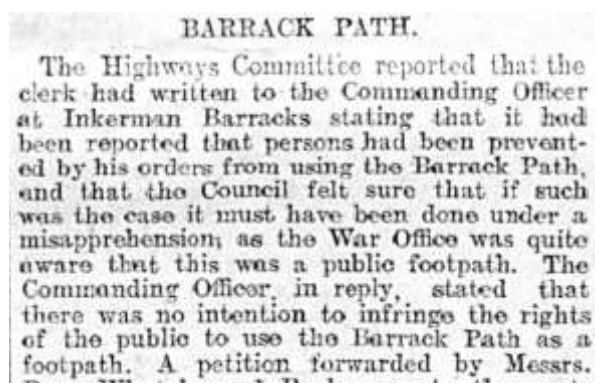


Figure 35. Woking News & Mail 22 March 1907



In 1907, it was reported that the military were preventing people from using Barrack Path. It is unclear if this was a misunderstanding or a deliberate policy.

Figure 36. Woking News & Mail 13 Dec 1907

East Lancashire Regiment

The 1st Bn East Lancashire Regiment arrived at Inkerman Barracks in February 1908. On 26th of that month, the band played at an entertainment in Woking Public Hall, in aid of the L&SWR Servants' Orphanage.

East Lancashire Regiment



Founded: 1881

The East Lancashire Regiment was a line infantry regiment of the British Army. The regiment was formed in 1881 under the Childers Reforms by the amalgamation of the 30th (Cambridgeshire) Regiment of Foot and 59th (2nd Nottinghamshire) Regiment of Foot with the militia and rifle volunteer units of eastern Lancashire. In 1958 the regiment was amalgamated with the South Lancashire Regiment to form the Lancashire Regiment which was, in 1970, merged with the Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) to form the Queen's Lancashire Regiment.

In 2006, the Queen's Lancashire was further amalgamated with the King's Own Royal Border Regiment and the King's Regiment (Liverpool and Manchester) to form the present Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (King's, Lancashire and Border).

The 1st Bn was one of those in attendance at the Coronation of King George V, in June 1911. They marched from the barracks to Woking Station and went to London by train. The day after the Coronation, they returned the same way.



Figure 37. East Lancashire Regiment
Goldsworth Road, Woking 22 June 1911 (returning from Coronation of George V)

CYCLE ACCIDENT.
An accident occurred last week to Col.-Sgt. Harrison, East Lancs. Regiment. Whilst cycling to the ranges at Bisley he was knocked down by a motor car driven by Lord Gerrard, near the Garibaldi Inn. He was picked up unconscious and attended by Dr. Maxwell, and was subsequently removed to the hospital at Inkerman Barracks, where he was found to be suffering from hemorrhage, a fractured knee, and several facial injuries. The patient is making satisfactory progress.

ENTERTAINMENT.
A very enjoyable entertainment was given at the gymnasium, Inkerman Barracks, on Wednesday evening, by the garrison school children, in aid of the school library fund. The band of the East Lancs. Regiment played selections, and the children, in addition to singing several songs, gave exhibitions of Morris and other dancing.

Figure 38. *Surrey Advertiser* 26 June 1909

BYFLEET v. EAST LANCASHIRE REGT.
At Inkerman Barracks, on Saturday, Byfleet were defeated by 80 runs. Score:—
East Lancashire Regt.—Capt. Goldie b Reg. Holroyd, 1; Lieut. Hargreaves run out, 55; Corpl. O'Neill b Reg. Holroyd, 0; Pte. George b Howell, 31; Capt. Butler c Holroyd b Howell, 34; Capt. Clayhill c Godfrey b Nicholls, 24; Col.-Sergt. Coxon c Godfrey b Nicholls, 4; Lieut. Orton b Nicholls, 5; Corpl. Hartley b Nicholls, 0; Lance-Corpl. Dillon c Stevens b Sherlock, 9; Sergt. D. Goose not out, 3; extras, 20; total, 188.
Byfleet.—A. D. Stoop c and b Hargreaves, 7; H. Knight c Hargreaves b Goose, 15; H. A. Nicholls b Coxon, 33; H. K. Wood b Goldie, 17; A. H. Godfrey b Goldie, 0; R. C. Holroyd b Goldie, 4; L. R. Stevens not out, 7; Sherlock c Coxon b Goldie, 0; J. Wallace b Coxon, 0; V. Howell b Coxon, 0; H. Warren b Coxon, 4; total, 87. Second innings, 34 for 4 w. (L. R. Stevens 19).

Figure 39. *West Surrey Times* 18 June 1910

WOKING PETTY SESSIONS.

SATURDAY.—Before Col. R. Phayre (chairman), Sir Joseph Leese, K.C., Messrs. F. A. Welleley, A. Brown and C. F. M. Cleverly.

Wm. Davis, of St. John's, Woking; Lieut. Hopkinson, of Inkerman Barracks; Corpl. Whiting, Inkerman Barracks; and Albert John Alder, of Chespaide, Horsell, were each fined 2s. 6d. for having cycled without lights.

Corpl. MacDonald, Inkerman Barracks, was fined 5s. for having used bad language on Sunday, July 3rd.—P.C. Ellis and Supt. Marks proved the case.

Figure 40. *West Surrey Times* 16 July 1910

Despite the generally good relations between the resident battalions and the public, there were occasional incidents of bad behaviour, petty theft and disregard of laws by military personnel.

The 1911 Census records 724 Officers, NCOs and men and 151 'other inmates' in the barracks (plus 132 in the military prison).

The battalion was originally due to leave Inkerman for Colchester in September 1911, however in March that year the move was postponed until January 1912.

Royal Sussex Regiment

The 2nd Bn Royal Sussex Regiment succeeded the 1st Bn East Lancashire Regiment, in January 1912, after the latter had been in residence for four years.

Royal Sussex Regiment



Founded: 1881

The Royal Sussex Regiment was a line infantry regiment of the British Army. The regiment was formed in 1881 by the amalgamation of the 35th (Royal Sussex) Regiment of Foot and the 107th Regiment of Foot (Bengal Light Infantry).

On 31st December 1966, the Royal Sussex Regiment was amalgamated with the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, the Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment, and the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) to form the Queen's Regiment; which was later, on 9th September 1992, amalgamated with the Royal Hampshire Regiment to form the present Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires).



Figure 41. Officers of 2nd Bn Royal Sussex Regiment, 1914

Soldiers' Departure Regretted.

The beginning of the season saw the introduction of the regimental team into Surrey football, from which they will now have to withdraw on account of the battalion's removal to Devonport. Their debut was quite a successful one, more particularly in the West Surrey League, for they are in the running with Camberley for the championship. Previously an unknown quantity, the side sprang a surprise early in the winter by defeating Woking in the Surrey Charity Shield by 3-1, but they succumbed before Camberley in the next round by 2-1. In the Senior Cup the soldiers opened well by accounting for Beddington Corner in the first stage, only to be again knocked out in the second round, this time by Tooting, on a replay. After drawing a bye in the first round of the Army Cup, the Sussex men defeated the Connaught Rangers in the next stage, had another walk-over in the third chapter, and were beaten in the fourth by Army Service Corps, Woolwich, the ultimate winners. Throughout the season the soldiers have played a capital sporting game, and their departure will be regretted by the clubs with which they have come in contact. It will be appropriate if the Queen's Regiment, who succeed the Royal Sussex at Inkerman Barracks, follow the latter's example in entering into the local winter sport.

Figure 42. *Surrey Advertiser* 29 April 1914

Sussex Road in Knaphill was named in honour of the Royal Sussex Regiment.

The 2nd Bn Royal Sussex left Inkerman in May 1914, but after the outbreak of the First World War, reportedly returned for a short spell before deploying. They landed in France in August 1914.

ROYAL SUSSEX RESERVISTS ARRIVE.

The 2nd Batt. Royal Sussex Regt. remains in readiness at Inkerman Barracks, and they were expected to leave Woking yesterday, though no definite information is obtainable.

Just after Wednesday midnight a party of 500 Royal Sussex Reservists arrived at Woking to join the regiment at Inkerman Barracks. The men, who were in very cheerful spirits, came up by special train from Chichester, and many of them wore the South African ribbon. They are said to have had a great send-off.

On Thursday afternoon a further batch of Reservists arrived, and proceeded to join their comrades.

Figure 43. *West Surrey Times* 8 August 1914

FIRST WORLD WAR

Units

The First World War saw a lot of different units pass through Inkerman Barracks. Most seem to have stayed for about 3 months. They were all Service Battalions (see panel below) or militia and may have been undergoing initial training, pre-deployment training or perhaps were just stationed somewhere not too far from the south coast, prior to being deployed overseas.



Figure 44. Kitchener recruiting poster

Contrary to the popular belief that the war would be over by Christmas 1914, Secretary of State for War, Herbert Kitchener, predicted a long and brutal war. He believed the arrival in Europe of an overwhelming force of new, well-trained and well-led divisions would prove a decisive blow against the Central Powers.

The New Army, often referred to as Kitchener's Army or, disparagingly, as Kitchener's Mob, was an (initially) all-volunteer part of the British Army. It originated on the recommendation of Kitchener to obtain 500,000 volunteers for the Army.

Those recruited into the New Army were used to form complete battalions under existing British Army regiments. These new battalions had titles of the form "xxth (Service) Battalion".

The Yorkshire Light Infantry were at Inkerman in August 1914. The 6th (Service) Battalion was formed at Pontefract on 12 August 1914; it moved initially to Woking and then on to Witley in November 1914.

January 1915 saw the 7th (Service) Bn King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry²⁰; 7th (Service) Bn Somersetshire Light Infantry and the 84th Field Regt Royal Engineers all at Inkerman. The 7th Bn Yorkshire LI landed at Boulogne on 14th July, the 7th Bn Somerset LI at the same place ten days later.

²⁰ The 7th (Service) Battalion was formed at Pontefract on 12 September 1914; it moved initially to Woking and then on to Witley in February 1915.

The 5th (Service) Bn Wiltshire Regiment were at Inkerman from February to May 1915, before moving on to Bisley. In July the 5th Battalion set sail for the Dardanelles, landing at Cape Helles on 17th.²¹

The 4th (Service) Bn South Wales Borderers occupied Inkerman from April until June 1915 before embarking for Gallipoli on 29th June.



Figure 45. 4th (Service) Bn South Wales Borderers, 1915

From June to August 1915: 9th (Service) Bn Royal Sussex Regiment; they landed at Boulogne on 1st September and the 7th (Service) Bn Northants Regiment who landed the day after.

Figure 46. *Surrey Advertiser* 12 June 1915

BATHING FACILITIES
The staff captain of the 40th Infantry Brigade, Inkerman Barracks, wrote asking if the Council had any objection to soldiers bathing in the canal, between Hermitage Bridge and Brookwood Stumps Bridge, before 9 a.m. and after 6 p.m. A sentry would be posted on each flank of the bathing area to warn passers-by that bathing was taking place.—On the recommendation of the Public Health Committee, the Council offered no objection to the proposal.

September to December 1915: 7th (Service) Bn Inniskilling Fusiliers – landed in France in February 1916.

²¹ The Rifles Berkshire & Wiltshire Museum <https://www.thewardrobe.org.uk/>

From December 1915 the 18th (Service) Battalion [Bantams] Notts & Derbyshire Regt were at Inkerman Barracks. On 2nd April 1916, they were absorbed by the 13th Bn, the Yorkshire Regiment.

Figure 47. *Surrey Advertiser*
25 March 1916

A highly enjoyable concert was given by the 18th Service Batt., Sherwood Foresters, quartered at Inkerman Barracks, at the Woking Hippodrome, on Friday evening last week, being attended by the officers and practically the whole of the men of the battalion. The concert is expected to be the first of a series to be held during the period the regiment remain in the district. Lieut-Col. H. E. Falls and his brother officers being desirous of affording the men some pleasant relaxation from their military duties. The programme, organised by Capt. J. A. Kirby, was a great success, and included contributions by several professional artists and some exceptionally fine talent by officers and men of the regiment. Mr. Gerald Kirby,

At the outbreak of World War One, the height requirement for recruits to the British Army was 5ft 3 inches (160cm), with a chest measurement of at least 34 inches (86.36cm).

It soon became apparent that this rule excluded many men, especially those from industrial and coal mining areas, who were otherwise perfectly fit to serve.

Alfred Bigland, MP for Birkenhead, wrote to the Secretary of State for War, Lord Kitchener. Bigland criticised what he saw as the needless rejection of fit, healthy men and asked Kitchener for permission to form an undersized fighting unit. Whilst the War Office approved of the idea, they declined to fund it. So, Bigland decided to raise his own company and the 15th Battalion, 1st Birkenhead, The Cheshire Regiment was formed, composed of men between 4 ft 10ins (140cm) and 5ft 3ins (160cm) tall. They were named Bantams after the small aggressive fowl which became their battalion emblem. The idea quickly spread to other parts of the country and more Bantam battalions were formed in the UK and Canada.



SOLDIERS' CONCERT.
Another successful concert, organised by Miss Batrix Savage, was given at Inkerman Barracks on Tuesday evening for the officers and men of the 13th Batt. Yorks Regiment. The "Evening News" sent a capital concert party, and, as many hundreds of men were unable to gain admission, the entertainment will be repeated on Tuesday next. The following took part in the programme: Miss Truffitt (soprano), Miss Dorth Lesley (songs from the Revues), Miss Cloud (violin selections), Miss Gladys Knox (musical monologues), Mr. Louis Rhill (songs of George Grossmith, etc.), Mr. R. O'Hara (humorist), Miss Lealey and Mr. Rhill (vocal duets), Mr. Dunn (accompanist). At the close, Col. Falls proposed a hearty vote of thanks to all concerned, and the men loudly cheered the company as they left the hall.

The 13th (Service) Bn the Yorkshire Regiment arrived at Inkerman in April 1916 and absorbed 18th (Service) Bn Notts & Derbyshire Regt. They landed at Le Havre, as part of the 121st Brigade, in June 1916 for service on the Western Front.

Figure 48. *Surrey Advertiser*
15 April 1916

In April 1916, the 21st (Service) Bn the Middlesex Regiment was at Inkerman. They landed in France in June.

In August 1916, a battalion of the Highland Light Infantry was stationed at Inkerman Barracks and, in October, a battalion of The King's Liverpool Regt. It is not known which battalions these were.

In early 1917, the 1st Bn South African Infantry Reserve Brigade moved into Inkerman Barracks. The barracks became the UK depot for the South African Infantry Brigade and units of the 1st Bn, 2nd Bn and South African Scottish Bn were based there until their eventual departure in January 1919.

In 1917, the brigade took part in the Battle of Arras and in the Third Battle of Ypres. In March 1918, when the Germans attacked in Operation Michael, the brigade fought a staunch defence at Gauche Wood.

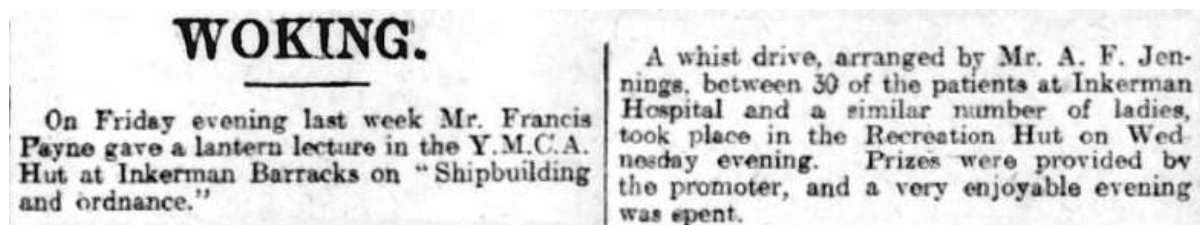


Figure 49. *Surrey Advertiser* December 1917



Figure 50. *Surrey Advertiser* 22 May 1918

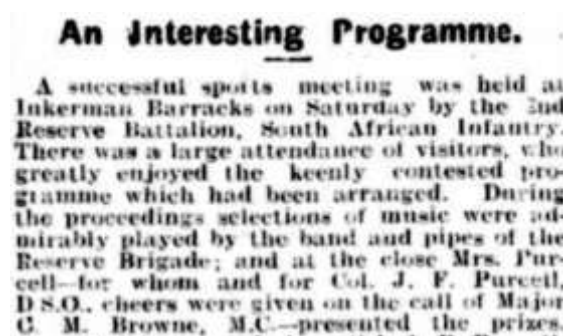


Figure 51. *Surrey Advertiser* 10 July 1918

The South Africans were well-liked and respected by the local population. By the time they left, at least 38 of the South African soldiers had married local girls.²²

Prison

With the outbreak of war, the Secretary of State for War set apart the Woking military prison as a military detention barrack (i.e. for holding prisoners of war), from 23rd August 1915.²³ From that date, any soldiers sentenced to imprisonment who would, under previous arrangements, have

²² *Surrey Advertiser* 23 November 1918 & 25 January 1919

²³ *Army Orders* 325 1915

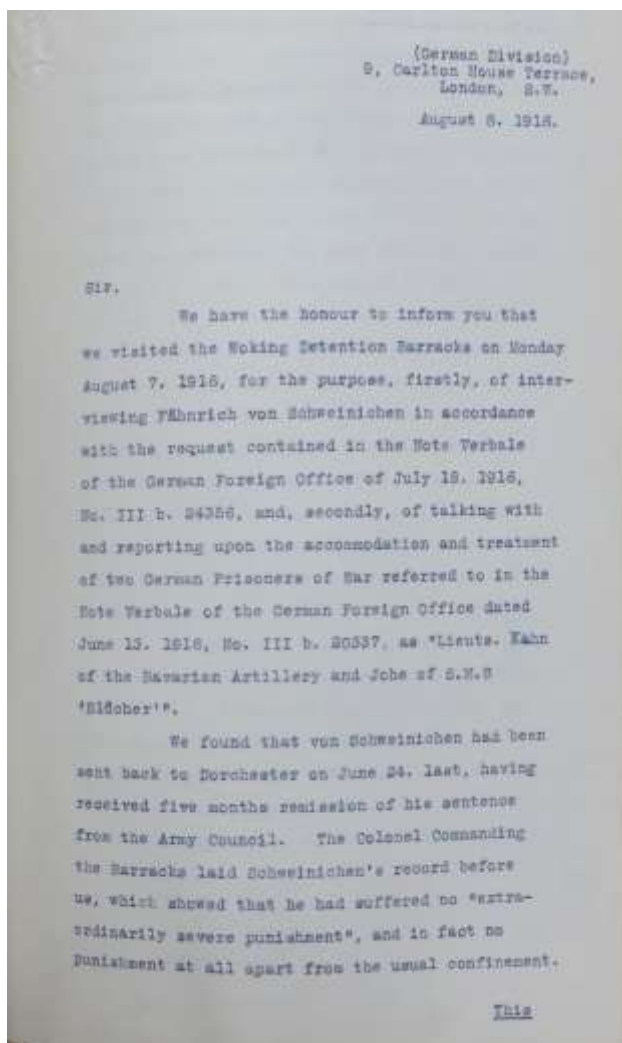
been sent to Woking were committed to the civil prison at Wormwood Scrubs.

One German prisoner who was held at Woking was Fähnrich²⁴ Ernst von Schweinichen. He had been interned at Stobs Camp, near Hawick in the Scottish Borders (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stobs_Military_Camp). He attempted to escape and was then held at Dorchester POW Camp (where he apparently spent most of his time in hospital). In February 1916, he was sentenced to 9 months detention at Woking, for his attempted escape.

In July 1916, a complaint was received from the German authorities about his treatment which they said was extremely harsh, comprising solitary confinement and hard labour (for which he was too ill) and, when he fell short in this labour, his sentence was increased. This complaint was passed through the US embassy in Berlin to the Foreign Office (The United States had not yet entered the war).²⁵

Despite the fact that Fähnrich Ernst von Schweinichen had been released on 24th June (having earned five months remission), the US embassy sent two representatives to visit the prison.²⁶ Their report refuted all of the Germans' claims (Figure 52).

Figure 52. First page of US Embassy visit report



²⁴ Fähnrich is an officer candidate rank in the German Bundeswehr (OR-6, equivalent to Feldwebel)

²⁵ TNA, FO 383/190, *Fähnrich Ernst von Schweinichen, German subject interned at Stobs Camp: sentenced to imprisonment in Woking Detention Barracks for attempting to escape*

²⁶ Leland H Littlefield and Francis E Brantingham

Woking (Inkerman) Military Hospital

The north-eastern wing of Woking Female Prison, during the conversion, had been detached from the rest of the building and converted into a military hospital.

The hospital is clearly marked on the 1913 OS Plan (Figure 53).

The increasing number of war casualties meant that there were insufficient hospitals and rehabilitation facilities in the country.

The hospital needed to expand in both size and range of treatments. Whilst it had primarily been dealing with peace-time injuries and illnesses, it now had many patients suffering from trauma, gas attacks, burns, trench-foot and shock. The hospital also had a specialist venereal disease clinic.



Figure 53. Location of hospital

In August 1913, an Aldershot Command tactical exercise had been carried out for the training of RAMC units in combination with the fighting troops. The railway from Woking to Aldershot was considered to be the railway from railhead to the advanced base.²⁷

Inkerman hospital established a close relationship with the Beechcroft Hospital in Woking. Beechcroft was a large house in Heathside Road. It had been the home of Sir Sam Fay, when he was superintendent of the London and South-Western Railway and was donated free of charge by him. It was opened as a military hospital (i.e. a hospital for military patients), staffed by the Woking Division of the British Red Cross Society, at the end of February 1915.

At the end of March 1916, it was reported that, since January, because of alterations going on at Inkerman Hospital, 50 operations, 29 major and 21 minor, had been carried out at Beechcroft.²⁸

In March 1917, Surgeon-General Sir George D Bourke, Deputy-Director of Medical Services, on behalf of the War Office, accepted a large recreation room which had been erected by subscription, at a cost of £800, for the use of patients at the hospital. The hut, except for the billiard table, would be capable of seating 300 people. Lt-Col Lionel Arthur Mitchell said that, when faced with the task of extending the hospital, he saw immediately the need

²⁷ *Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps* Vol. XXI July-December 1913

²⁸ *Surrey Advertiser* 1 April 1916

for a day room for the patients. The provision of the hut enabled him to add 102 beds to the 204 they already had.²⁹

Lt Col Mitchell was posted to the front in April 1917. He was replaced as Commanding Officer at Inkerman Hospital by Lt Col James Tidbury R.A.M.C.

Figure 54. *West Surrey Times*
14 April 1918

Another convoy of wounded, consisting of 116 cot cases and 24 sitting cases, arrived at Inkerman Military Hospital on Thursday week. The convoy was met at Brookwood by Major-General Cotter and Lieut. Gervis, whilst a detachment of the V.A.D., in charge of Sergt. Holt, and a party of S.A.I. stretcher-bearers, under Section Leader Patey, were also in attendance. The detraining was very smartly carried out.

LIEUT.-COL. MITCHELL LEAVES KNAPHILL.
Lieut.-Col. L. A. Mitchell, who has been in charge of the military hospital at Inkerman Barracks for some time, left for the front last week, amid the regret of patients and staff. His place has been taken by Lieut.-Col. Tidbury, who saw active service in Egypt in 1882. A silver salad bowl and a pair of vases have been given to Col. Mitchell as a present, and were accompanied by a letter from the nursing staff, warrant officers, staff-sergeants, privates, the G.S. Section and the V.A.D. Labour Staff, expressing regret at his departure, and a hope that prosperity will attend him.

INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC IN WOKING.
The 'Spanish flu' has spread to Woking, and neither high nor low have escaped its ravages. The military camps in the neighbourhood have got it badly. Nearly every inmate at Beecheroff Hospital, has been smitten with the flu, whilst at Inkerman every bed in the hospital is occupied, and the recreation hut and several huts in the living quarter have had to be commandeered and turned into hospitals for the treatment of influenza cases.

Figure 55. *West Surrey Times* 28 June 1918

Figure 56 shows the hospital from the air in about 1920. The windows show it to be three stories high.

The dark hut to the hospital's left is presumably the recreation room, provided by subscription, described above.



Figure 56. Hospital c1920

Dates	Officer in Command
1905-1908	Lt Col Harry Neville Thompson
1908-1909	Lt Col Robert James Geddes
1909-1911	Maj Lionel Arthur Mitchell
1911-1914	Lt Col William E Berryman
1915-1917	Lt Col Lionel Arthur Mitchell
1917-	Lt Col James Tidbury

Table 2 Commanders of Woking Military Hospital

²⁹ *West Surrey Times* 24 March 1917

Y.M.C.A. Hut

From the outbreak of war, the Young Men's Christian Association (Y.M.C.A.) raised £1,200 daily to provide recreation huts for the soldiers. The hut erected at Inkerman, at a cost of £1200, the 33rd in the Aldershot Command, was described as 'the last word in Y.M.C.A. buildings'. The hut was officially opened on 30th August 1916, by Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein (grand-daughter of Queen Victoria).³⁰



Figure 57. Y.M.C.A. recreation hut, Inkerman Barracks



Figure 58. Y.M.C.A. recreation hut, interior

³⁰ *Evening Mail* 1 September 1916

Y.M.C.A. huts were run by officers of the Y.M.C.A., staffed by volunteers. Any profits made were directed towards their charitable works. At the end of the war, the hut was presumably closed down and the building handed over to the military.

Armistice

On Monday 11th November 1918, in Woking, news of the signing of the Armistice was first received by the South African forces stationed at Inkerman Barracks. The news spread through the town and was common knowledge long before official confirmation was forthcoming.³¹

³¹ *Surrey Advertiser* 16 November 1918

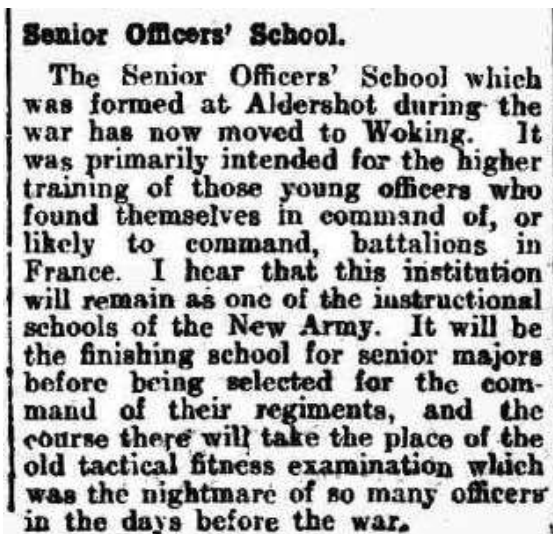
INTER-WAR YEARS

SENIOR OFFICERS' SCHOOL

From 1919 until 1924, Inkerman Barracks was the home of the Senior Officers' School. This was a British military establishment, established in 1916 by Brigadier-General Reginald John Kentish, for the training of Commonwealth senior officers of all services in inter-service co-operation.

The School was originally intended for senior officers of the British Army who aspired to battalion command and to ensure that all such candidates received suitable training. It was however taken as an affront by some senior officers of the day, who resented the implication that they were incapable of delivering the necessary training.

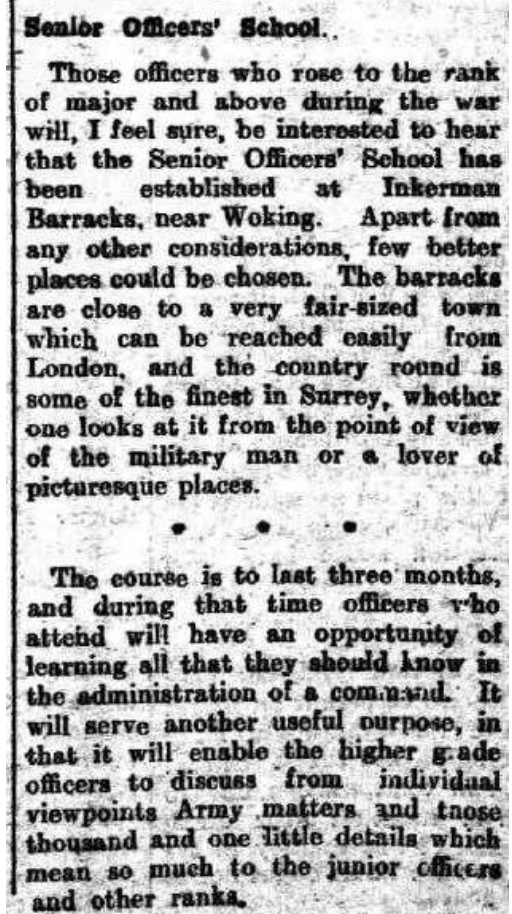
The School was originally based at North Camp, Aldershot, during the First World War, but moved to Inkerman Barracks in 1919 where the first course was held between 15th October and 28th November.



Senior Officers' School.

The Senior Officers' School which was formed at Aldershot during the war has now moved to Woking. It was primarily intended for the higher training of those young officers who found themselves in command of, or likely to command, battalions in France. I hear that this institution will remain as one of the instructional schools of the New Army. It will be the finishing school for senior majors before being selected for the command of their regiments, and the course there will take the place of the old tactical fitness examination which was the nightmare of so many officers in the days before the war.

Figure 59. Pall Mall Gazette 1 November 1919



Senior Officers' School.

Those officers who rose to the rank of major and above during the war will, I feel sure, be interested to hear that the Senior Officers' School has been established at Inkerman Barracks, near Woking. Apart from any other considerations, few better places could be chosen. The barracks are close to a very fair-sized town which can be reached easily from London, and the country round is some of the finest in Surrey, whether one looks at it from the point of view of the military man or a lover of picturesque places.

• • •

The course is to last three months, and during that time officers who attend will have an opportunity of learning all that they should know in the administration of a command. It will serve another useful purpose, in that it will enable the higher grade officers to discuss from individual viewpoints Army matters and those thousand and one little details which mean so much to the junior officers and other ranks.

Figure 60. Pall Mall Gazette 7 April 1920

The 5th course, in 1921, was opened up to officers from the Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

It was usual for a golf match to be played between the school and members of parliament from the House of Commons.

SENIOR OFFICERS' SCHOOL v. HOUSE OF COMMONS.			
A match between teams of the House of Commons and the Senior Officers' School at Woking was played on the Worplesdon course on Saturday, and once again the Parliamentary golfers were beaten. The singles were won by the Officers' School by five matches to two, while the foursomes were taken by the same side by two matches to all, thus on the day the Officers' School team beat the House of Commons by seven matches to two. Details:—			
SENIOR OFFICERS' SCHOOL.		HOUSE OF COMMONS.	
Lt.-Col. W. Green (4 and 3)	1	Hon. F. S. Jackson.....	0
Lt.-Col. Gibbons (1 hole)	1	J. R. Remer	0
Lt.-Col. Jones (7 and 6)	1	Capt. R. Kennedy	0
Lt.-Col. A. H. Roberts (1 hole)	1	Harcourt Johnston	0
Lt.-Col. Bullock	0	L. Worthington-Evans (1 hole)	1
Maj. W. W. Hayley (5 and 2)	1	Maj. Hennessey	0
Lt.-Col. W. J. Shannon (halved)	0	Maj. Lambert Ward (halved)	0
Lt.-Col. C. W. M'Lean	0	Col. Assheton Pownall (2 holes)	1
Total.....	5	Total.....	2
FOURSOMES.			
Lt.-Col. Green and Lt.-Col. Gibbons (4 and 3)	1	Hon. F. S. Jackson and H. Johnston	0
Lt.-Col. Jones and Maj. Hayley (halved)	0	J. R. Remer and Capt. Kennedy (halved)	0
Lt.-Col. Roberts and Lt.-Col. Shannon (halved)	0	L. Evans and Maj. Hennessey (halved)	0
Lt.-Col. Bullock and Lt.-Col. M'Lean (4 and 3)	1	Maj. Ward and Capt. Pownall	0
Total.....	2	Total.....	0

ARMY SENIOR OFFICERS' SCHOOL.

It is announced that the Senior Officers' School is to be moved from Woking to Sheerness. The fourteenth course at the school, which was to have been held from 11th February to 9th May, has been cancelled. The fifteenth and sixteenth courses will be held between 23rd May and 15th August, and between 23rd September and 20th December respectively.

In 1924, the School was evicted from Inkerman as accommodation was needed for troops; it was transferred to Sheerness, Kent.

Finally, the School moved to Erlestoke Park in Wiltshire in 1939, where it continued to operate until its closure in 1961.

Today similar officer training is conducted at the Joint Services Command & Staff College at Shrivenham.



Figure 61. Inkerman Barracks from the air, c.1920

WOKING MILITARY PRISON - CLOSURE

During the inter-war years, there seems to have been a drop in the number of prisoners committed to military prisons.

In 1922, Bodmin Naval Prison was closed and accommodation for up to 25 naval prisoners was arranged at Woking Military Prison.

A general review of military prisons was undertaken and questions asked in Parliament. In response to a Parliamentary Question, it was stated that: in 1926, the estimated cost of the prison at Woking was £6,800 per year whilst the average number of prisoners detained was 16, at a cost of 23s 4d [£1.17] per prisoner per day. This was compared unfavourably with the cost of sending a boy to Eton College.³²

Woking Military Prison was closed on 1st November 1927. Thereafter, offenders who would otherwise have been sent to Woking were committed to the Royal Military Prison and Detention Barracks, Aldershot.

Dates	Governor/Commandant
Mar 1902 - May 1904	Major Charles Cecil Daniel, Royal Scots
May 1904 – Feb 1908	Major Francis Slater Picot, Wilts
1 Mar 1908 – 4 Mar 1914	Lieut-Colonel Charles Cecil Daniel, Royal Scots
3 Jun 1915 - 3 Jun 1918	Bt Lt-Col Thomas Harold Mortimer Green DSO, Notts & Derbys
-Aug 1920	Bt Lt-Col Geoffrey Arnold Sullivan DSO, Oxf & Bucks
1920-1921	Maj Arthur George Joiner
Aug 1920-1924	Bt Lt-Col Eldred Charles Halton, Loyal North Lancs

Table 3 Governors or Commandants of Woking Military Prison

³² Hansard Volume 203: debated on Tuesday 15 March 1927

STATIONED UNITS

Irish Guards

The 1st Bn of the Irish Guards were stationed at Inkerman Barracks, upon their return from Gibraltar, from 9th April 1924 until September the same year, when they moved to Pirbright Camp. The battalion arrived at Woking station from Southampton and marched to the barracks.³³

Irish Guards



Founded: 1900

The Irish Guards (IG) is one of the Foot Guards regiments of the British Army and is part of the Guards Division.

The Irish Guards were formed on 1 April 1900, by order of Queen Victoria, to commemorate the Irishmen who fought in the Second Boer War for the British Empire.



Figure 62. Distribution of shamrock, 1924

Whilst the battalion was at Inkerman Barracks, a guardsman, Walter Irvine, during the night apparently fell 40 feet to his death from an open window.³⁴

³³ *Surrey Advertiser* 12 April 1924

³⁴ *Surrey Advertiser* 30 July 1924

SOLDIER'S MYSTERIOUS DEATH.

FORTY-FEET FALL AT INKERMEN BARRACKS.

Body Found in Courtyard with Smashed Skull.

An inquest was held at the Military Hospital, Inkerman Barracks, on Monday evening, by Mr. Gilbert H. White, concerning the somewhat mysterious death of a Guardsman, Walter Irvine, whose body was found early on Saturday morning forty feet below a dormitory window at the barracks, where his regiment is stationed.—Mr. Ernest Wilson was foreman of the jury.

Lieut. E. C. FitzClarence, 1st Battalion Irish Guards, stationed at Inkerman Barracks, identified the body as that of Guardsman Walter Irvine, aged 24, who came from Belfast. He went abroad with the battalion in 1922, and was of very good character.

Pte. Patrick Hamill said Irvine was in the same company as himself. On Saturday morning witness went to the wash-house adjoining his own barrack room, and found Irvine in the passage. As far as he knew, he was the first person to go to the wash-house that morning. Irvine was very popular, and he returned with the other men from Cowshott Camp on the Friday evening at about 4.30, being "quite himself" at the time. He did not know what time Irvine "turned in" for the night. As far as he knew, the deceased had no quarrel with any other man.

Lieut. Sgt. Patrick Burke said he was in charge of the guard on Friday night, and saw Irvine return at 10.5 p.m. He was perfectly sober.

Compl Jeremiah O'Leary, in charge of deceased's dormitory, said Irvine returned shortly before "lights out." There were about ten men in the dormitory, and Irvine occupied a corner bed near the window. Witness saw him get into bed, and heard nothing unusual during the night. At Cowshott the deceased more than once got out in the night, and had been subject to violent fits of vomiting. Witness could not say whether this was due to drinking. Tents at the camp were closed at night, and Irvine would crawl out under the tent flaps.

Guardsman Thomas Donaghy, who slept in the next bed, said he saw Irvine come in at 10.10 p.m., and go to bed. Witness heard nothing unusual during the night.

Guardsman Thomas Crawford, who occupied an adjoining bed, gave similar evidence.

Colonel E. W. W. Cochrane, R.A.M.C., retired, said he saw the body shortly after 7 a.m. on Saturday. It was lying in the basement, and the man had been dead at least two hours. He was wearing only a grey shirt. There was no sign that he had been sick. The skull was smashed, and the brain lacerated. The window near Irvine's bed had a bar across, and opened about two feet. The actual opening was about ten inches. A man might have some difficulty in crawling through the opening.

Police Sgt. J. Seed, Knaphill, said the bed in which Irvine slept was close to the wall. The window was open to its full extent—10½ in. From the window to the ground was 40½ feet.

The Coroner said there was no evidence that the deceased wanted to take his own life, and the jury returned a verdict of "Death by misadventure." The foreman said the jury-men were of the opinion that the man might have leaned out of the window to get fresh air, and slipped through.

Arrangements were made to convey the body to Ireland on Monday evening for interment at Belfast on Tuesday.

Figure 63. Unfortunate death of Guardsman, 1924

Royal West Kent Regiment

The 2nd Bn Royal West Kent Regiment (Queen's Own) succeeded the Irish Guards at Inkerman Barracks. They arrived in October 1924 and departed on 16th November 1927.

Royal West Kent Regiment



Founded: 1881

On 1 March 1961, the regiment was amalgamated with the Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) to form the Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment, which was destined to be short-lived. On 31 December 1966, the Queen's Own Buffs was merged with the other regiments of the Home Counties Brigade — the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, the Royal Sussex Regiment and the Middlesex Regiment — to form the Queen's Regiment.

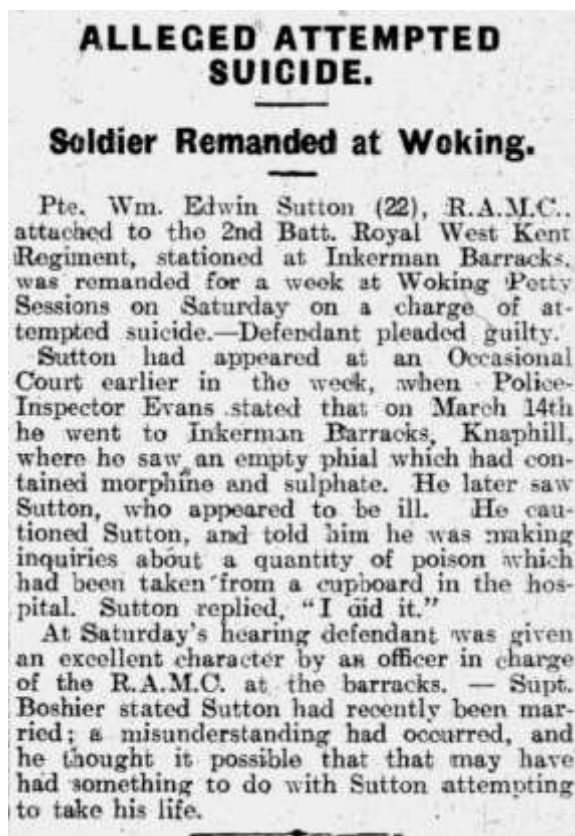


Figure 64. *Surrey Advertiser*
23 March 1927

Pte. Thomas Weatherill, M.G. Section, R.W. Kent Regt., Inkerman Barracks, was fined 5s. for not having a horn on a motor cycle, and a summons for not having two independent brakes was dismissed.

Figure 65. *Surrey Advertiser* 6 April 1925

AN HONOURABLE SOLDIER.
At the Petty Sessions on Saturday, Emily Turner, staying at 16, Arthur's Bridge-road, Woking, was granted an affiliation order for 12s. 6d. a week against Pte. T. Conelly, of the Royal West Kent Regt., stationed at Inkerman Barracks. — Defendant admitted paternity of the child, which was born on May 29th, 1924. — When the Clerk (Mr. W. Davies) pointed out that the Army allowance would not cover the amount of the order, defendant said he would "make it up" from his own money. — The Chairman (Mr. Alfred Brown): I am very glad to hear you say so.

Figure 66. *Surrey Advertiser* 7 July 1926

Royal Warwickshire Regiment

The 1st Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment succeeded the Royal West Kent Regiment at Inkerman Barracks, in November 1927.

Royal Warwickshire Regiment



Founded: 1685

In February 1963, it was announced that the Queen had approved of the regiment becoming fusiliers and adopting the title of Royal Warwickshire Fusiliers from 1 May 1963. As a fusilier regiment, the Royal Warwicks were entitled to wear a coloured feather hackle in the headdress.

On 23 April 1968, the four regiments of the Fusilier Brigade were amalgamated to become a large regiment as the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

On 17th January 1931, Bernard Law Montgomery (later Field Marshall Montgomery) was promoted to Lieut-Colonel and became Commanding Officer of 1st Bn.³⁵

³⁵ *London Gazette* 16 January 1931

The 1st Bn were succeeded by their own 2nd Bn, in May 1931. The second Bn, under command of Lieut-Colonel W A T Bowly, were returning from a foreign tour which had started in 1912. The Commander brought with him 'two black buck' from India, having had the appropriate Order issued by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries and ensuring proper quarantine.³⁶

FIRST SCHEDULE.
Animals referred to in this Order.
 Two black buck, the property of the Officer commanding Second Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, brought from India and to be landed in the Port of Southampton from H.M. Transport "Neuralia" on or before the thirty-first day of May, nineteen hundred and thirty-one.

—

SECOND SCHEDULE.
 A stable at Inkerman Barracks, Woking, in the administrative county of Surrey.

—

Figure 67. Extract from *London Gazette*

The 2nd Bn remained until November 1935, when they transferred to Tidworth, thus giving the regiment an uninterrupted presence for eight years.

On 10th May 1935, the 2nd Bn were visited at Inkerman Barracks by the Duke of Gloucester, who presented them with new colours. The old colours had been borne by the battalion since its establishment 77 years earlier. After the general salute, the battalion marched past the duke headed by their black buck mascot.³⁷

Royal Welch Fusiliers

The 1st Bn Royal Welch Fusiliers succeeded the 2nd Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment at Inkerman Barracks on 15th November 1935.

Royal Welch Fusiliers



Founded: 1689

The Royal Welch Fusiliers was a line infantry regiment of the British Army, and part of the Prince of Wales's Division. In 1702, it was designated a fusilier regiment and became the Welch Regiment of Fusiliers; the prefix "Royal" was added in 1713, then confirmed in 1714 when George I named it the Prince of Wales's Own Royal Regiment of Welsh Fusiliers.

One of the few regiments to retain its original title, in March 2006 the Royal Welch Fusiliers was amalgamated with the Royal Regiment of Wales (RRW) and became 1st Battalion, Royal Welsh, with RRW as the 2nd Battalion.

The Royal Welch Fusiliers, who are stationed at Inkerman Barracks, are one of the thirteen regiments of the line selected for conversion to machine gun units next winter.

This unit became a machine gun battalion. In October 1937, it moved to Dettingen Barracks at Deepcut.

Figure 68. *Surrey Advertiser* December 1935

³⁶ *London Gazette* 31 March 1931

³⁷ *Surrey Advertiser* 11 May 1935

Durham Light Infantry

The 2nd Bn Durham Light Infantry succeeded the 1st Bn Royal Welch Fusiliers at Inkerman Barracks in October 1937.

Durham Light Infantry



Founded: 1881

The Durham Light Infantry (DLI) was a light infantry regiment of the British Army. It was formed by the amalgamation of the 68th (Durham) Regiment of Foot (Light Infantry) and the 106th Regiment of Foot (Bombay Light Infantry) along with the Militia and Volunteers of County Durham.

In 1968, the regiment was amalgamated with the Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry, the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and the King's Shropshire Light Infantry to form The Light Infantry.

The Light Infantry had a somewhat troubled relationship with the local population. There were numerous soldiers brought before the magistrates, usually for theft.

INKERMAN BARRACKS
The 2nd Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry, now stationed at Inkerman Barracks, Woking, were spending their first Christmas in England for 19 years. The battalion is 780 strong, and all but 40 were on leave. Their Christmas leave followed a month's disembarkation leave. Turkeys and Christmas puddings were provided for Christmas Day dinner at the barracks, and there was a free issue of beer and cigarettes. When the battalion is at strength again a Christmas tree event will be held, when all the children are invited to a party.

Figure 69. *Surrey Advertiser* 1 Jan 1938

HANDED BACK TO MILITARY AUTHORITIES
When Privates Sidney Appleby, John Barrett and Peter Foster, of the Durham Light Infantry, Inkerman Barracks, Woking, were charged at Woking Police Court on Saturday with taking and driving away a car without the owner's consent at Byfleet on January 20th, Supt. J. H. White asked that the men should be handed back to the military authorities to be dealt with by military law. This was a recommendation from the general purposes committee of the Quarter Sessions.—The application, which was supported by an officer of the Durham Light Infantry, was granted.

Figure 70. *Surrey Advertiser* 25 Jan 1939

OFFICE-BREAKING CHARGES

Three privates from the 2nd Batt., Durham Light Infantry, stationed at Inkerman Barracks, were committed for trial at Quarter Sessions from Woking Police Court on Saturday.

William Moses Nordstrom (20) and Thos. Tulloch (21) were charged with breaking and entering the offices of Messrs. E. Bond and Son, Church-street, Woking, on June 29th, with intent to commit a felony.

Together with James Edward Scott they were charged with breaking and entering the offices of Brewster and Co., Arthur's Bridge-road, Woking, on June 23rd, and stealing £6 in notes, £1 15s. in stamps and a quantity of cigarettes, valued together at £8 6s.

They were all appearing on remand from the previous week, when P.C. Cooper gave evidence.

On Saturday, in respect of the first charge, Percy Edward Bond, of Oamaru, Clarence-avenue, Woking, said that after he had locked the garage and office up he visited the premises the following morning, and found that the office window was smashed, the place in disorder and the glass in the door leading into the garage was smashed. There was nothing missing.

Tulloch and Nordstrom had nothing to say in answer to this charge, but pleaded not guilty.

Evidence in respect of the second charge was given by Henry Albert Bolton, a clerk at Messrs. Brewster's. He said he locked up on June 23rd and on the following morning found the place in disorder and the stamps, money and cigarettes were missing.

Mrs. Ivy Sayers, of Ranworth, Horsell Birch, a cleaner, said she arrived at the offices of Messrs. Brewster on June 24th and found the door unlocked. She found four of the five offices in disorder.

William George Trendall, of 111, Church-street, said that on June 29th, when he was going to bed he heard a police whistle. He went downstairs and in the road he found some stamps.

Det.-Sergt. Crowhurst described the disordered state in which he found the offices. He spoke to Nordstrom at the police station about the stamps which he said he believed came from Brewster's the previous Friday. Nordstrom said, "Yes. They came from a timber yard by the canal bank." Later Nordstrom made a statement.

When witness spoke to Tulloch about the stamps defendant said, "Well, I was with them. Get a piece of paper and I will make a statement."

Scott said, "I was with them. We shared the cash between us."

The three men had nothing to say when witness charged them.

They were committed for trial as stated.

BOUND OVER AT SESSIONS

At the Surrey Quarter Sessions at Kingston on Tuesday the accused pleaded guilty.

Det.-Sergt. Crowhurst said there was one previous conviction for larceny against Tulloch, and none against Scott and Nordstrom.

An officer of the Durham Light Infantry said that the Army was prepared to have the three men back.

Accused were all bound over for six months.

SEVEN FAIL TO SCORE

Seven batsmen in the match between Woking and the Durham Light Infantry failed to score, and one player in the military side made more than half the runs. Scores: Woking 49 (R. V. Inwood 14, P. G. Farrell 12, L. Blann 11); Durham Light Infantry 53 (Cpl. Thompson 31, Lieut. Fulk 13). Bowling for the Durham Light Infantry, Major Simpson took two wickets for four runs, R.S.M. Golightly four for 11, Major Beart two for 18 and L. Cpl. Chapple two for 24; for Woking, L. Blann took four wickets for seven runs, A. T. Danvers three for six and P. G. Farrell two for 22.

Figure 72. Surrey Advertiser 11 Feb 1939

ARMY CUP SUCCESS

The 2nd Batt., Durham Light Infantry, who are stationed at Inkerman Barracks, will be represented in the sixth round of the Army Cup following their defeat of the 4th Batt., Royal Tank Corps at Inkerman Barracks on Wednesday. The score was 2-1, after a goalless first half. The Durhams have only met with one defeat this season, and that was at the hands of Woking Res.

Figure 73. Surrey Advertiser 11 Feb 1939

The 2nd Bn were mobilised and moved to France on 30th September 1939.

MILITIAMEN AT INKERMAN BARRACKS

Huts are now in the course of construction at Inkerman Barracks, Woking, to accommodate Militiamen. The Militiamen are coming in batches of 150, and the huts are expected to be ready for them by the middle of September, when the first contingent is due to arrive. They will come from Durham, as it is the 2nd Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry which is stationed at the barracks.

Figure 74. Surrey Advertiser 29 July 1939

Figure 71. Surrey Advertiser 11 Feb 1939

RAMC Record and Pay Office

The Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) Record and Pay Office, previously in Oriental Road, Woking, moved into Inkerman Barracks in October 1926. They worked from there at least until the outbreak of the Second World War.

Either during the war or immediately after it, the Record and Pay Office seems to have been (most likely) absorbed into the RAMC Depot HQ. By 1947, there is no mention of it as a separate entity. Reports from the office in the RAMC Depot Magazine, which were a regular feature before the war, no longer appear.

SECOND WORLD WAR

Spider Huts

In July 1939, huts were under construction at Inkerman Barracks to provide accommodation for Militiamen, who were expected to arrive in batches of 150. They were intended to be available by mid-September, when the first troops were expected to arrive (see Figure 74).³⁸



Figure 75. 'Spider' huts

The huts were grouped into sixes, connected by corridors to a central ablutions block. Because of this layout the huts became known as 'spider' huts.

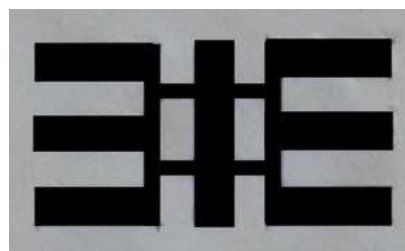


Figure 77. 'Spider' hut layout



Figure 76. Barrack hut fire, 1964

Unlike the barrack blocks which were still heated with coal fires, the huts were converted to central heating in about 1960.

Many of these huts were destroyed in 1964 when a fire ripped through them.

³⁸ *Surrey Advertiser* 29 July 1939

Canadian Forces

In the early days of the Second World War, the UK's Expeditionary Army was sent to France. Empire troops, most notably Canadian, were brought to England to provide defence of the homeland.

In 1940, the 1st Canadian Division Royal Canadian Army Service Corps (RCASC) were stationed at Inkerman Barracks.

On Monday, 30th September 1940, at about 17:00, a British Hawker Hurricane aircraft was shot down; the pilot bailed out and the aircraft crashed onto Inkerman Barracks. It was reported that 1 soldier was killed and 24 wounded, all of No. 2 Training Battalion RASC.³⁹

An anti-aircraft gun was sited in the field adjacent to Hermitage Road (where the Winston Churchill Secondary School was later built).⁴⁰

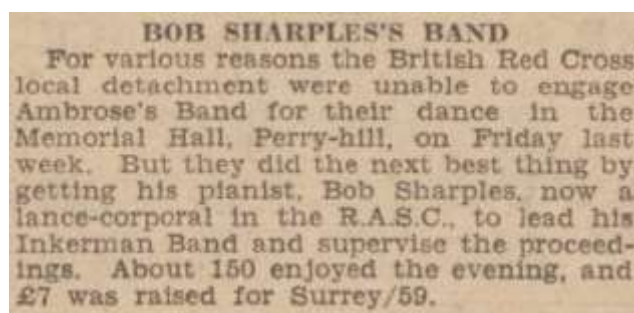


Figure 78. *Surrey Advertiser* 30 August 1941

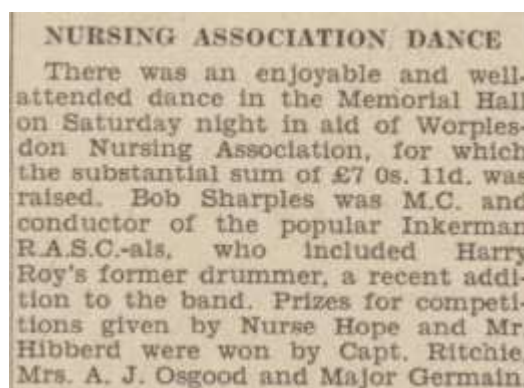


Figure 79. *Surrey Advertiser* 31 Jan 1942



Figure 80. *Surrey Advertiser* 15 May 1943

In 1944, Inkerman was home to 1 Canadian Armoured Corps Reinforcement Unit.

From May 1945 until 15th February 1946, Inkerman Barracks was No. 2 Repatriation Depot, for the Canadian Infantry Corps.

³⁹ SHC, 6198/3/206, *Woking report centre: Register of incidents*

⁴⁰ SHC, 6925/2, *Typescript memoirs of World War II, by Mrs B Underwood, née Shapland*

Y.M.C.A. Hut

The Young Men's Christian Association (Y.M.C.A.), in Spring 1940, provided a new recreational hut for the use of men of the Forces (mainly Canadians), sited on the northern edge of St John's Lye. The hut, which cost £2,500, was opened on 4th May 1940 by HRH Princess Helena Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, after whom the hut was to be named (the same Princess Victoria who, in 1916, had previously opened the earlier Y.M.C.A. hut in Barrack Path).⁴¹

The main hall, which measured 100ft by 30ft, contained a stage with full lighting. There was provision for billiards and table-tennis and a 'well-equipped lounge'. It also had six baths.⁴² The hut had four full-time staff including the manager, a member of the Y.M.C.A. Canadian branch, plus 60 volunteer part-time employees.

After the war, it was decided that St John's should have a memorial, independent of anything that Woking provided. It was also decided that this memorial should be a village hall. One of the options suggested was that the village purchase the Y.M.C.A. hut. This is the option that was eventually chosen.

⁴¹ *Surrey Advertiser* 8 May 1940

⁴² *Surrey Advertiser* 4 May 1940

POST WAR

CORPS OF ROYAL MILITARY POLICE 1947-64

The Royal Military Police (RMP) is the corps of the British Army responsible for the policing of army service personnel, and for providing a military police presence both in the UK and while service personnel are deployed overseas on operations and exercises.

The RMP's origins can be traced back to the 13th century but it was not until 1877 that a regular corps of military police was formed with the creation of the Military Mounted Police, which was followed by the Military Foot Police in 1885. Although technically two independent corps, they effectively functioned as a single organisation.

Royal Military Police



Founded: 1926

On 27 February 1926 the Corps of Military Police was formed by merging the Military Mounted Police and the Military Foot Police.

In November 1946, King George VI granted the 'Royal' prefix to the Corps of Military Police in recognition of its outstanding record in two World Wars and the Corps became known as The Corps of Royal Military Police, though abbreviated to Royal Military Police (RMP).

On 6 April 1992, the RMP amalgamated into the Adjutant General's Corps (AGC), under whose overall command they form part of the AGC's Provost Branch alongside the also pre-existent Military Provost Staff Corps and the later-formed Military Provost Guard Service. Although they lost status as an independent corps, they were permitted to retain the Royal Military Police title and cap badge.

On 28 November 1946, King George VI granted the 'Royal' prefix to the Corps of Royal Military Police (RMP) by Army Order 167 in recognition of its outstanding wartime record.

In 1947, the RMP were given Inkerman Barracks as their future Depot and Training Centre (including a Special Investigation Branch training school). The RMP moved from nearby Mytchett Camp in September that year.

A new set of TA Companies were established for the RMP in 1947. The Supplementary Reserve was also restarted in 1949 and renamed as the Army Emergency Reserve (AER) in 1951. Numerous RMP AER units were raised, administered by HQ RMP AER at Inkerman Barracks; these included Army and Corps Provost Companies and Vulnerable Points Companies as well as SIB Sections. The RMP AER recruited heavily from ex-Regular and National Service RMP personnel, as well as the civilian Police and Automobile Association. The annual training commitment of the AER units was lower than that of the TA, with personnel only required to attend one 15-day camp each year, with no weekly or monthly continuation training.

The original barrack dining rooms (see Figure 13) were converted into classrooms.

During National Service (see page 55), recruits came for 16 weeks' training, with a new intake of 100 every four weeks. Thus 400 recruits were undergoing training at any one time.



Figure 81. Hand-drawn plan, 1950s



Figure 82. Assault course

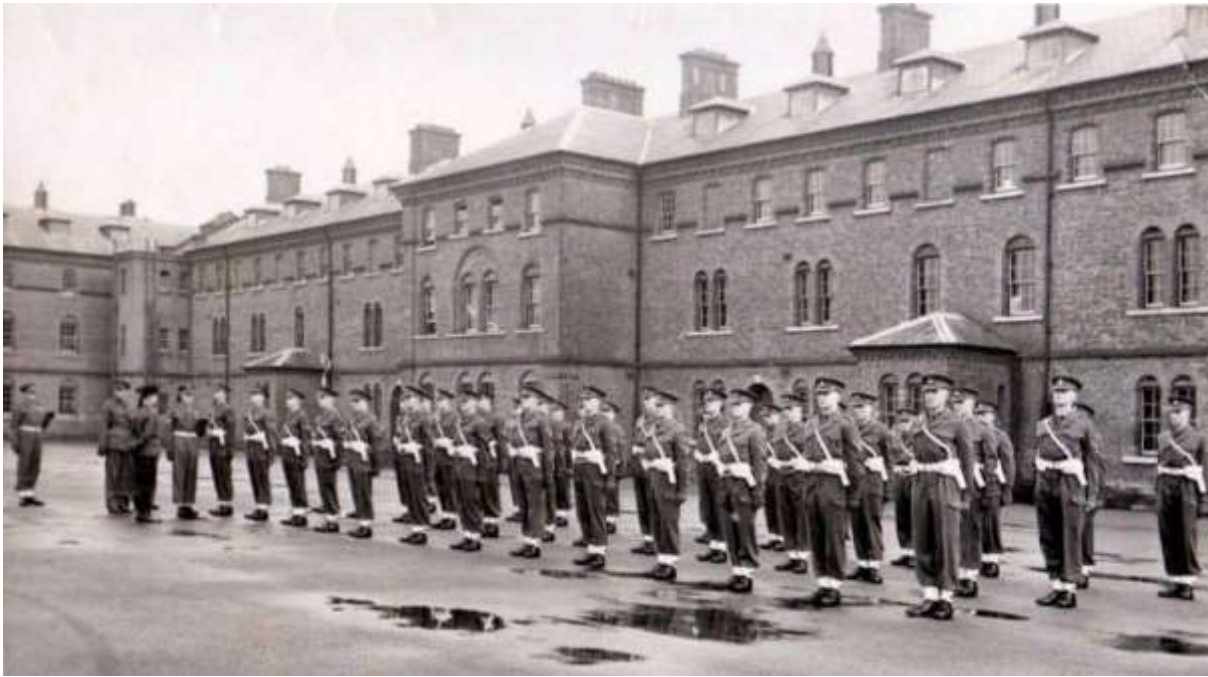


Figure 83. Royal Military Police passing out parade, February 1953
Photo: Tony Pearce

The RMP installed a mahogany memorial arch into the entrance archway of the barracks. It commemorates the service of the RMP in all theatres of the Second World War. It has a semi-circular top with the Royal Military Police crest attached, flanked by the years 1939 and 1945. The pillars are carved with the names of the campaigns in which Military Police and Provost Officers served and died in World War II.

The arch was moved to Roussillon Barracks in Chichester in 1980. A further move brought it to the Royal Military Police Church at the Defence School of Policing and Guarding (DSPG), Southwick Park, where it now stands.



Figure 84. RMP memorial arch



Figure 85. Royal Military Police Band, 1960s

Chapel

In March 1958, the Bishop of Guildford, under the powers of the 1949 Marriage Act, granted a Licence for the 'publication of cited the banns of marriage and the solemnization of marriages' in the Military Chapel known as 'the Royal Military Provost Corps Chapel' Inkerman Barracks.⁴³

The first marriage in the chapel, took place in November 1958 between Miss Patricia A Holmes and Corporal A C Poyner.⁴⁴ However Banns were read from April that year.

PAGE 1		The Year 1958	
No. 1	Banns of Marriage BETWEEN		
ANTHONY HEDLEY LETISSIER (B) of THIS PARISH			
AND			
JEANNE PHYLLIS MOFFAT (S) of THE PARISH of ST. MARY SANDERSTAD, SURREY			
WERE PUBLISHED AS FOLLOWS —			
1st Time, Sunday	APRIL 27 TH 1958.	by	Wynne Hopkin C.F.
2nd Time, Sunday	MAY 4 TH 1958.	by	Wynne Hopkin C.F.
3rd Time, Sunday	MAY 11 TH 1958.	by	Wynne Hopkin C.F.

Figure 86. First entry in the Register of Banns of Marriage

The chapel had been used for baptisms since 1892. Between October 1892 and September 1962 over 550 baptisms took place.⁴⁵

⁴³ London Gazette 28 March 1958

⁴⁴ Surrey Advertiser 26 November 1958

⁴⁵ TNA, WO 156/452, Baptism Register Garrison Chapel, Inkerman Barracks, Woking, Surrey

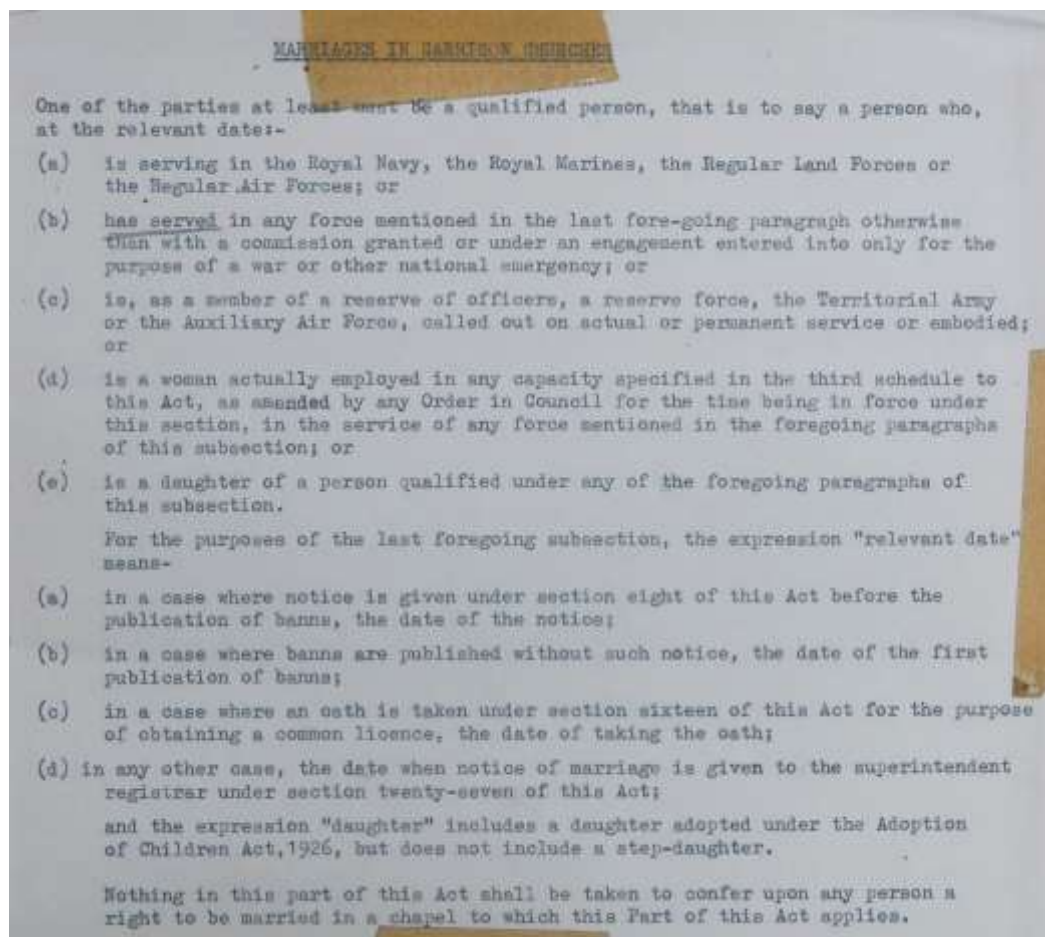


Figure 87. Eligibility to marry in a Garrison church

After the departure of the RMP Corps, the licence was revoked on 19th June 1967.⁴⁶

The RMP left Inkerman Barracks in early 1964, for their new home at Roussillon Barracks, Chichester. It is reported that they marched there.⁴⁷ It is more likely that they marched to Woking station and then from Chichester station to the new barracks.

⁴⁶ *London Gazette* 30 June 1967

⁴⁷ http://www.royalsussex.org.uk/RSLHG_Roussillon_Barracks.htm

DEPOTS

National Service

National Service from 1947 to 1963 was a continuation of what had been known as the “Duration of the Present Emergency Act of Parliament” - which covered war time conscription from 1939 - and was regularised by The National Service Act of 18th July 1947. From 1st January 1949, healthy males 17 to 21 years old were required to serve in the armed forces for 18 months, and remain on the reserve list for four years. They could be recalled to their units for up to 20 days on no more than three occasions during these four years.

In October 1950, in response to the British involvement in the Korean War, the service period was extended to two years; in compensation, the reserve period was reduced by six months.

National Service ended gradually from 1957.⁴⁸ It was decided that those born on or after 1st October 1939 would not be required, but conscription continued for those born earlier whose call-up had been delayed for any reason. In November 1960 the last conscripted men entered service, as call-ups formally ended on 31st December 1960, and the last conscripted servicemen left the armed forces in May 1963.

Civilian Clothing Depot

At the end of the Second World War, there were approximately five million service-members in the British Armed Forces. The demobilisation and reassimilation of this vast force back into civilian life was one of the first and greatest challenges facing the postwar British government.

British servicemen and women returned to civilian life by passing through a demobilisation centre. Personnel returning to this country from abroad for the purpose of release passed first through a disembarkation unit; they then went on to a dispersal unit. There were six disembarkation camps and nine dispersal units throughout the UK.

⁴⁸ Ministerial statement reported in *The Times*, 18 April 1957

Part of the process of demobilisation was the issue of a set of civilian clothing. No. 10 Civilian Clothing Depot was established at Inkerman Barracks in January 1946. It was located within the old military prison building.

TEA FOR THE "DEMOBS"
Y.M.C.A. HOSPITALITY ON WAY TO "CIVVY STREET"

Groups of khaki-clad men, each with kit bag and the now well-known box of "civvies," are a familiar sight in the neighbourhood of Woking station, where they are to be found at all hours clustered round a Y.M.C.A. canteen and consuming obviously welcome cups of tea.

This is the result of the latest service that the Y.M.C.A. is offering the Serviceman. These men have come from the Middle and Far East for release, and are brought to Woking station from Inkerman Barracks, where they have been issued with their civilian outfits. Outside the down platform they are greeted by the Y.M.C.A. mobile canteen, from which they are offered a cup of tea, a bun, a bar of chocolate and a packet of cigarettes for the final stage of the journey home. Another—and much valued—service is the sending of telegrams, for the prompt dispatch of which the Y.M.C.A. makes itself responsible, and an average of 200 such messages are sent off each day.

The canteen is in the charge of Mrs. E. Dalziel, a member of the Y.M.C.A.'s permanent staff in the Woking area, who is assisted by voluntary workers. Between 1,500 and 2,500 men are served daily.

On Saturdays the service is transferred to the Grand Theatre, Woking, where Mrs. Hutchence is in charge, assisted by Miss Gladys Evans.

Figure 88. *Surrey Advertiser* 12 January 1946

By 1947, about 4.3 million men and women had returned to civilian life. The disembarkation units and dispersal units were gradually closed. With the continuance of National Service however the process was still required. By the 1950s, all demobilisation was conducted through Aldershot and No. 10 Civilian Clothing Depot survived until the end of National Service in May 1963.

Figure 89. *Surrey Advertiser*
26 January 1946

MEN'S WEAR "SHOP" WITH QUICK SERVICE

OVER 2,000 CUSTOMERS A DAY

Hundreds of suits, shirts, ties and socks of all sizes and colours, as well as shoes, overcoats and raincoats, are the visible sign to the thousands of soldiers who pass through the No. 10 Civilian Clothing Depot at Inkerman Barracks, Woking, that at last they are standing on the verge of the much-looked-forward-to Civvy Street.

This depot, which members of the Press had the opportunity of visiting this week, receives men from Europe and the Middle East after they have passed through Nos. 10 and 11 Military Dispersal Units at Aldershot, and it has the dual distinction of being the largest depot now functioning, and the only one where overcoats can be obtained; elsewhere only raincoats are available.

The depot covers some 51,000 square feet, it has 64 bays for suits and coats, and 160ft. of counters for shirts, ties, hats, socks, studs and cuff links. So complete is the organisation that the average time taken to pass a man through the whole process is between 19½ and 21 minutes.

From the time the depot was opened on November 13th 80,000 men have passed through, the highest figure reached in an hour is 459, and the highest daily record was reached on January 8th, when the figure was 2,204. The target, however, is 2,400 which, with the double shift control of the military and civilian staff, can be handled in a 10-hr. day.

A TALL ORDER

So varied are the styles and sizes of the clothing, that it is seldom found impossible to fit out a man with his civilian suit, but the staff had a shock on one occasion when a man 6ft. 10½in. tall presented himself. He was, however, dealt with like the rest of the "out sizes," his measurements being taken for a suitable outfit to be forwarded to him later.

When the Press visited the depot they found several dozens of men in the course of being fitted. The rival merits of blue serge and grey flannel were being compared, brown shoes or black were being matched with the selected socks and, for convenience in carrying, many a trilby was balanced incongruously on top of a much worn "cap G.S." As they waited for transport the men looked back on to the old life behind and the new one in front. "I can scarcely realise it's all over," said one, a sergeant with the Royal Artillery gun above his stripes. "It's nice to be back; but, you know, I'm half sorry—there have been some good times."

So the stream passed on—through the cloak room where they deposited their military kit, the spacious waiting room with its comfortable arm-chairs, the "man's shop" where the clothing is obtained, thence past the checkers into the packing room, and so back into the cloak room to recover their military kit, and into the yard where vehicles were waiting to take them to Woking station.

Civvy Street and home were in sight at last.

Command Ordnance Depot

The Royal Army Ordnance Corps' Command Ordnance Depot Aldershot was established in c.1955. It is believed that this was the depot based in the former military prison building at Inkerman Barracks.⁴⁹

Royal Army Ordnance Corps



The Royal Army Ordnance Corps (RAOC) was a corps of the British Army. In 1918, it was both a supply and repair corps. In the supply area it had responsibility for weapons, armoured vehicles and other military equipment, ammunition and clothing and certain minor functions such as laundry, mobile baths and photography. The RAOC was also responsible for a major element of the repair of Army equipment. In 1942 the latter function was transferred to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) and the vehicle storage and spares responsibilities of the Royal Army Service Corps were in turn passed over to the RAOC.

The RAOC retained repair responsibilities for ammunition, clothing and certain ranges of general stores. In 1964, the McLeod Reorganisation of Army Logistics resulted in the RAOC absorbing petroleum, rations and accommodation stores functions from the as well as the Army Fire Service, barrack services, sponsorship of NAAFI (EFI) and the management of staff clerks from the same Corps. On 5 April 1993, the RAOC was one of the corps that amalgamated to form The Royal Logistic Corps (RLC).

212 B Vehicle Sub Depot, part of 2 Vehicle Group, was at Inkerman from 1951 to 1957.

In response to a Parliamentary Question on 29 November 1961, it was stated in the House of Commons that Command Ordnance Depot Aldershot would become a sub-depot of Thatcham by 1st April, 1964.

The depot at Inkerman was closed in 1966.

Figure 90. *Coventry Evening Telegraph*
18 October 1965

Guards ceremonial uniforms for Tower

Ceremonial uniforms belonging to the Household Cavalry and the Brigade of Guards are to be transferred from the Southern Command Ordnance Depot, Inkerman Barracks, Woking, to the Tower of London, next year.

The store at Inkerman Barracks is being converted into living quarters.

⁴⁹ SHC, 7115/12/26, *Correspondence, papers and plans relating to proposed use of the chapel at Inkerman Barracks [plan Dwg 27/56]*

GLOBE CINEMA

The Army Kinematograph Service (AKS) was established during the Second World War, by the British government, in August 1941, to meet the increasing training and recreational needs of the British Army. The films produced covered a broad range of topics and were delivered in a wide variety of styles; from straightforward technical films on a subject such as a 6 pounder gun through to specialised medical films, "careless talk", street fighting, post-war jobs, food in the mess, and problems faced by new recruits.

Post-war the AKS went through several name and organisational changes: in 1946 it became the Army Kinema Corporation (AKC) - retaining the, by then, archaic spelling of Kinema to differentiate it from the Army Catering Corps (ACC).

In 1954, the AKC built a cinema at Inkerman Barracks – the first to be built entirely at the corporation's expense. It was incorporated into and extended an existing 'Romney'⁵⁰ hanger, which the AKC leased from the War Department, to the south-east of the camp, close to Barrack Path.⁵¹ The cinema had 350 seats and was called the Globe.



Figure 91. 'Romney' hut

On Monday January 15th 1955 the Globe held a Gala Opening, with a world premiere of the comedy "*Where There's a Will*", starring George Cole⁵². George Cole along with other members of the cast, Leslie Dwyer and Ann Hanslip, made personal appearances.

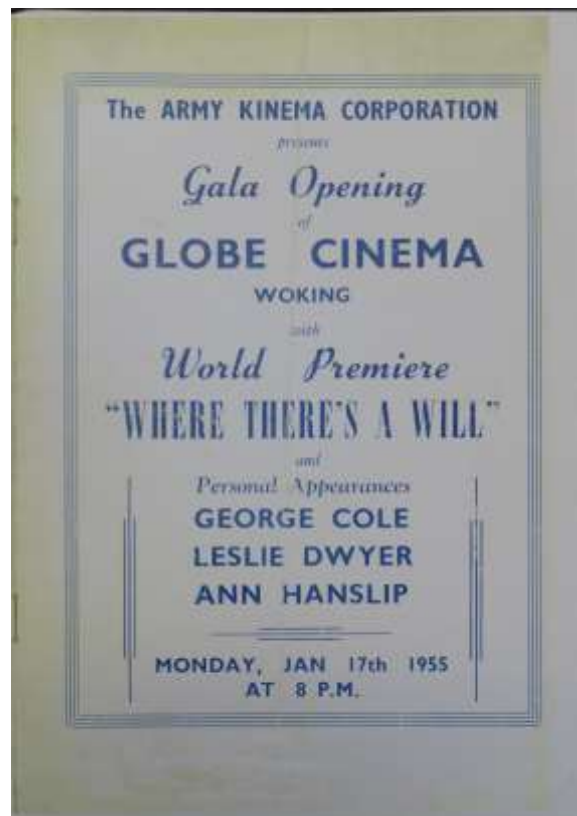


Figure 92. Gala Opening programme

⁵⁰ The Romney hut was a prefabricated hut developed during the second world war to supplement and replace the WWI Nissen huts

⁵¹ SHC, 8789/54/77, *Additions to existing hanger to form cinema at Inkerman barracks*

⁵² Better known for his role in the *St Trinians* films and, more famously, as Arthur Daley in tv's *Minder*

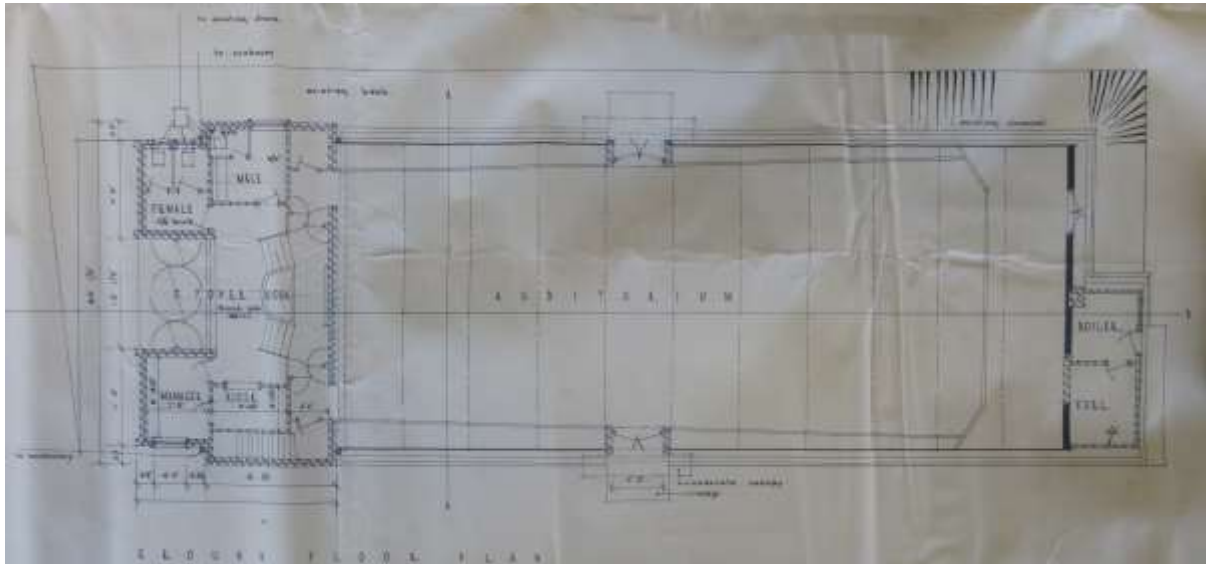


Figure 93. Cinema ground floor layout

It is presumed that the cinema continued operating up until the departure of the RMP in 1964.

GHOSTS

Because of the former use of the barracks as a prison, there were and are stories of ghosts. The most persistent was the 'phantom white woman' who haunted the barracks. Unfortunately, for the romantics, it seems that people have got their history twisted along the way. Surely if she was the ghost of a former prisoner, she would have haunted the female prison, later the military prison, across the road?

The clock tower was reported to be haunted as were some of the married quarters. Even in the last twenty years, people living in the former married quarters have reported experiencing 'a presence'.

OFFICERS' & MARRIED QUARTERS

OFFICERS' QUARTERS

Senior Officers

Senior Officers were allocated specific accommodation, usually detached houses (see Figure 13, page 12).

Warrant Officers 1st Class (WOI) were also allocated specific accommodation. These were four semi-detached houses. The 1907 survey shows these as numbered 3-6. Street directories and electoral rolls list six Warrant Officer houses. From 1907, Married Quarters numbers 59 & 60 (two of the Warrant Officer 2nd Class houses) were never shown as occupied. It is likely that these were redesignated as accommodation for WO Is and numbered 1 & 2.

Junior Officers

Single officers and unaccompanied married officers would probably live in the Officers' Mess. Accompanied married officers would either be allocated married officers' quarters or rent a house in the neighbourhood.

In the area bounded by Barrack Path, Inkerman Road, Hermitage Road and Rolica Road, were a number of detached houses. These were probably all officers' accommodation. The house at the corner of Rolica Road and Barrack Path was single officer's accommodation.⁵³

Five houses (designated 'A' House, 'B' House, 'C' House, 'D' House & 'E' House) seem to have been multiple-occupancy buildings used as additional accommodation for the Officers' Mess.

Occasionally, and particularly after the second world war, there was less than full take-up of officers' quarters. In these circumstances, accommodation could be allocated to other eligible officers within the area. Following the RMP's departure, almost all of the accommodation became available. In May 1967, Brigadier Philip K Rooke returned from Germany to take up post as Deputy Director (Military) of the Defence Operational Analysis Establishment in West Byfleet. He moved into *Peninsular House*.

MARRIED SERVICE QUARTERS

On the north-west side of Raglan Road was a terrace of ten houses providing accommodation for WO Is (although it is likely that two were designated for WO Is, as mentioned above). Next there was a terrace of ten houses for senior non-commissioned officers (SNCOs). This was matched by a further terrace of ten directly opposite. There followed two terraces each of four houses, also for SNCOs.

⁵³ SHC, 6788/roll33, *Site and ground floor plan of Inkerman Barracks, Woking* (1907)



Figure 94. Plans of WO 2 married quarters

A terrace of thirty houses stretched along the north-east side of Barrack Path, west of the junction with Raglan Road. These were for married Junior NCOs. Initially there were only twelve houses; a plan for an additional eight, following the building of the female prison is shown in Figure 95. All thirty had been constructed by the time of the 1871 Ordnance Survey plan.

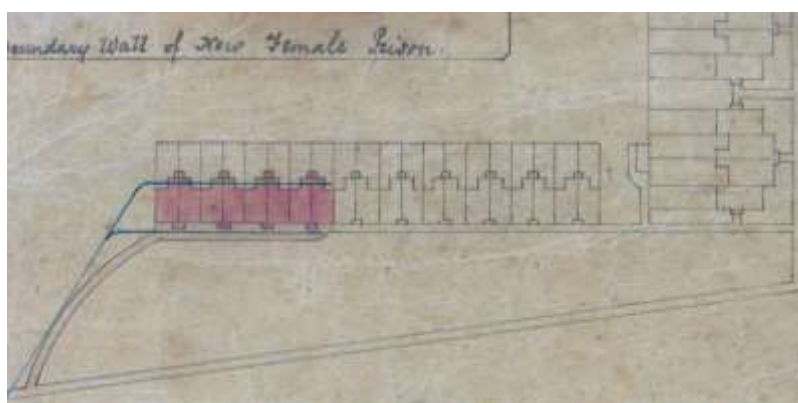


Figure 95. Plan for additional eight junior NCO married quarters

A ground-floor plan for a pair of junior NCO married quarters is shown in Figure 96. They were a simple 2-up, 2-down construction with external pantry and W.C. to the rear.

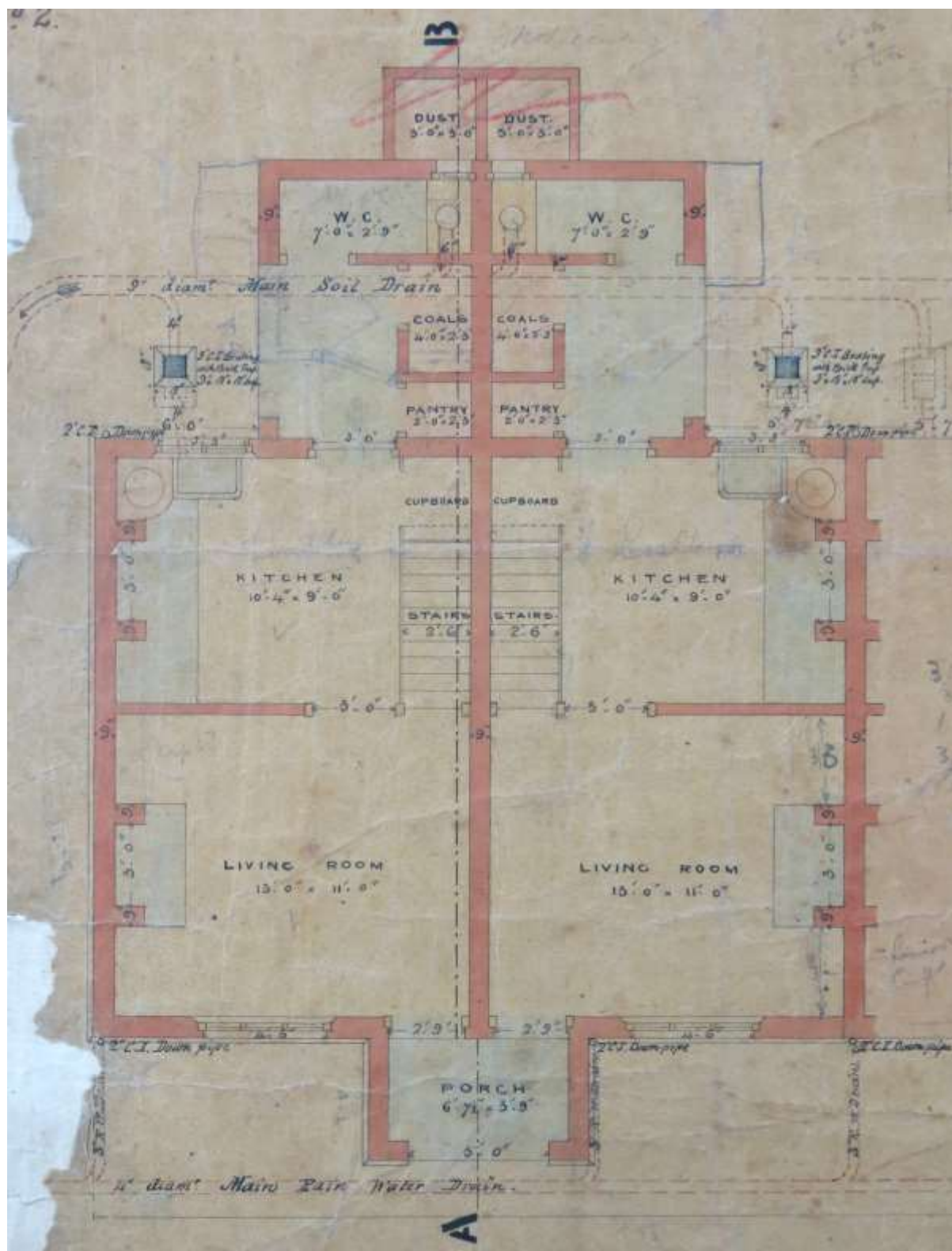


Figure 96. Ground-floor plan: junior NCO married quarters

With the typical two-year rotation of units, turnover of occupants of the married quarters was high. Some families moved from one married quarter to another, and occasionally to a third. Sometimes this was due to a soldier

being promoted and thus entitled to a better class of accommodation. An extreme example is that of William Henry Hart: William was a civilian storeman employed by the Barrack Department of the Army Service Corps, starting sometime during the first world war. He occupied MQ 62 from at least 1918 until 1919. He then moved to MQ 45 (1920-22), MQ 61 (1923-26), MQ 69 (1927-31), MQ 51 (1933-34), MQ 31(1935-38), MQ 30 (1938-39), and finally back to MQ 31(1945-47).⁵⁴

The married quarters for junior NCOs, that for senior NCOs on the north-west side of Raglan Road and that for Warrant Officers 2nd Class (WO II) are all that remain of the barracks today.



Figure 97. Raglan Road, previously senior NCO quarters

⁵⁴ SHC, CC802/43/4, *Surrey Electoral Registers*; Woking street directories

DEPARTURE AND REDEVELOPMENT

By 1960, it was reasonably common knowledge that (as part of an 8-year plan for Aldershot District) the military intended to close Inkerman Barracks.⁵⁵ It was assumed that, if this was the case, then substantial development would take place on the land.

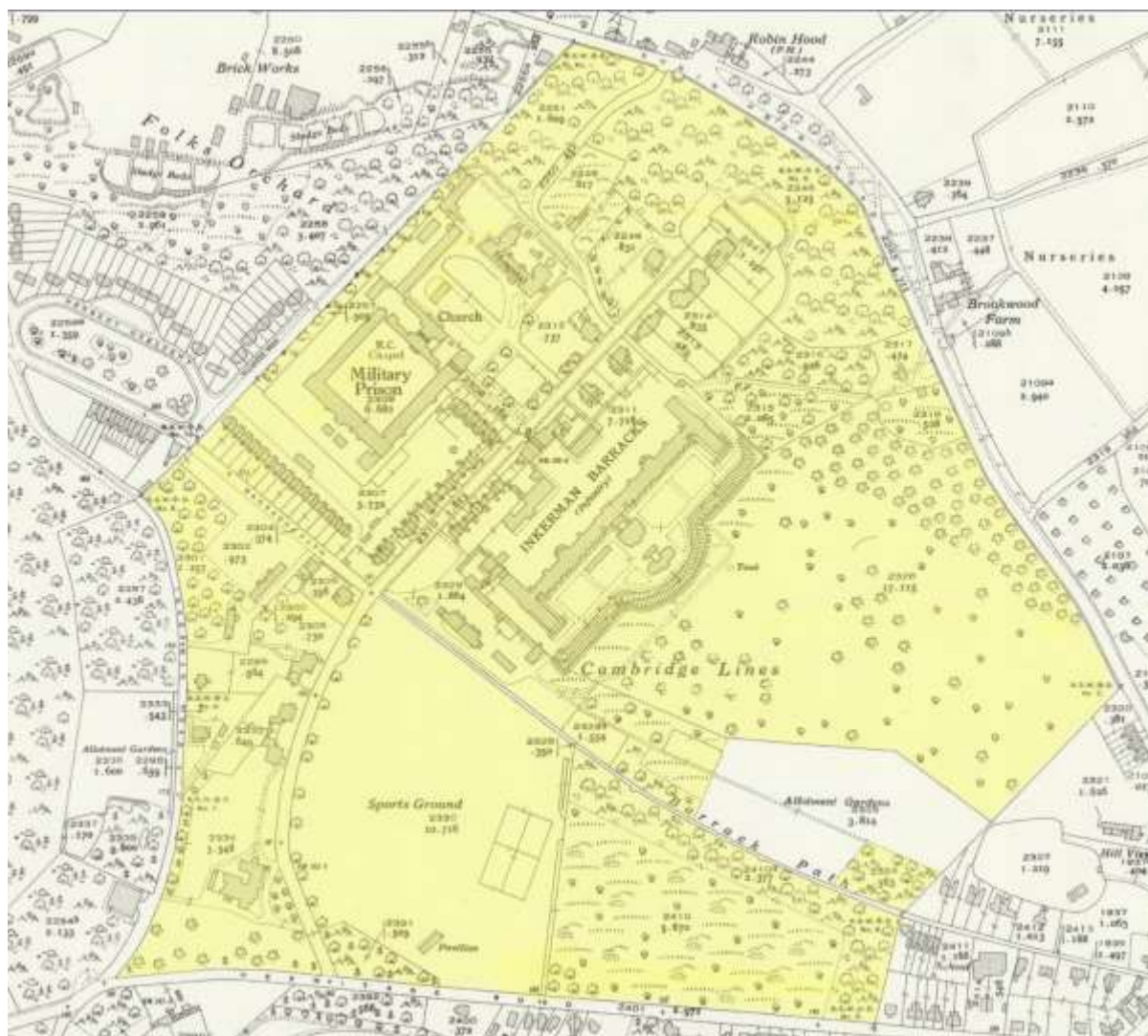
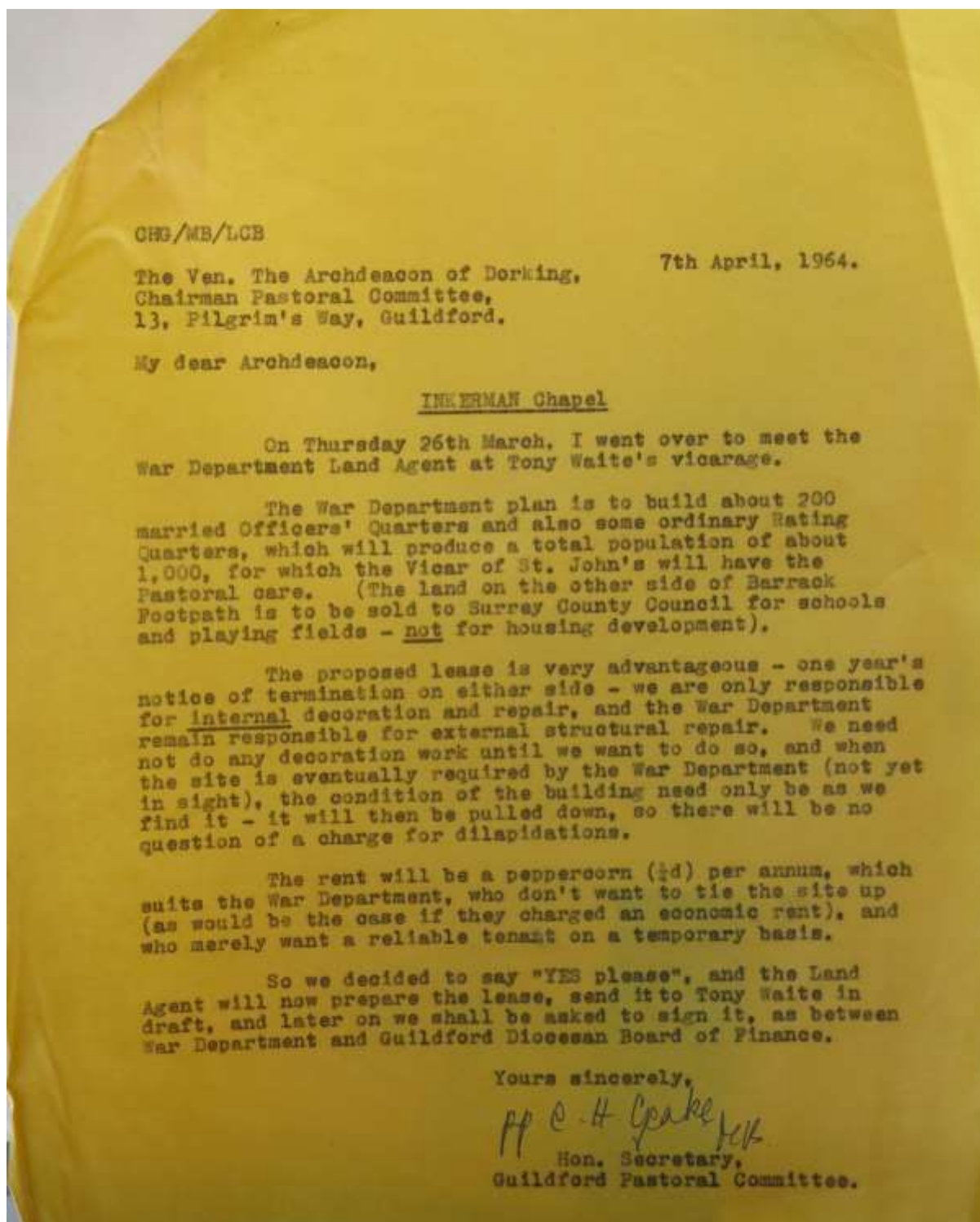


Figure 98. Extent of Military-owned Land, 1934 OS Map

The War Department had a shortage of quarters for married servicemen working in the surrounding area. They planned to retain some of the land and build an additional 200 married officers' quarters. It was estimated that, in consequence, the population in the St John's parish might rise by about 1,000. The church entered into negotiations to take over and use the Inkerman chapel to provide pastoral care.

⁵⁵ *Woking News & Mail* 26 February 1960

Eventually it made more sense for the Ministry of Defence⁵⁶ to sell all of the land at Inkerman Barracks (including the existing married quarters) and build additional accommodation at Pirbright Camp.



CHG/ME/LCB

7th April, 1964.

The Ven. The Archdeacon of Dorking,
Chairman Pastoral Committee,
13, Pilgrim's Way, Guildford.

My dear Archdeacon,

INKERMAN Chapel

On Thursday 26th March, I went over to meet the War Department Land Agent at Tony Waite's vicarage.

The War Department plan is to build about 200 married Officers' Quarters and also some ordinary Rating Quarters, which will produce a total population of about 1,000, for which the Vicar of St. John's will have the Pastoral care. (The land on the other side of Barrack Footpath is to be sold to Surrey County Council for schools and playing fields - not for housing development).

The proposed lease is very advantageous - one year's notice of termination on either side - we are only responsible for internal decoration and repair, and the War Department remain responsible for external structural repair. We need not do any decoration work until we want to do so, and when the site is eventually required by the War Department (not yet in sight), the condition of the building need only be as we find it - it will then be pulled down, so there will be no question of a charge for dilapidations.

The rent will be a peppercorn ($\frac{1}{10}$ d) per annum, which suits the War Department, who don't want to tie the site up (as would be the case if they charged an economic rent), and who merely want a reliable tenant on a temporary basis.

So we decided to say "YES please", and the Land Agent will now prepare the lease, send it to Tony Waite in draft, and later on we shall be asked to sign it, as between War Department and Guildford Diocesan Board of Finance.

Yours sincerely,
pp C. H. Crake
Hon. Secretary,
Guildford Pastoral Committee.

Figure 99. Letter concerning future of Military Chapel

⁵⁶ The Ministry of Defence was founded on 1st April 1964, by the amalgamation of the War Department with the Admiralty and the Air Ministry

Departure

No. 10 Civilian Clothing Depot closed in 1963, the Southern Command Ordnance Depot in 1966. The Corps of Royal Military Police, departed Inkerman Barracks in 1964.

Following the departure of the RMP, a small guard force was posted there to look after the barracks, whilst negotiations took place for the sale and transfer of the land, for development. This seems to have been taken from the Guards battalion stationed at nearby Pirbright Camp. From 1968 to 1970, this force was provided by the Welsh Guards.

Inkerman Barracks was finally closed in 1970 when the land was sold and transferred to Woking Council.

ATC HQ

In 1974, there were plans to erect a new headquarters building for No. 1349 (Woking) Squadron, Air Training Corps. This was to be situated between the former site of the Officers' Mess and Hermitage Road (Figure 100).

This HQ was never built and the squadron remained in their premises at Westfield Avenue.⁵⁷



Figure 100. Proposed site for ATC HQ

Knaphill Secondary School

By 1960, the increasing population in the Knaphill area meant that the Knaphill School, situated on the High Street, near the Garibaldi public house, was hopelessly inadequate. Plans were drawn up for a new secondary school on a different site, allowing the existing buildings to be refurbished for an enlarged Infants and Juniors school.

Raglan Road was the main road running SW-NE, bisecting the military camp. It then continued south from Barrack Path, curving round to meet Hermitage Road.

The War Department offered that land to the south of Barrack Path and east of Raglan Road (some 22 acres) to Surrey County Council, as a site for the new school.⁵⁸

⁵⁷ 1349 Squadron are currently based in the Hoe Valley Community Building off of Kingfield Road

⁵⁸ *Hansard Volume 775*: debated on Wednesday 18th December 1968

In August 1963, the plans for the new school were approved, subject to the retention of all trees growing on the site.⁵⁹



Figure 101. Site of new Knaphill Secondary School

Work commenced in mid-1965. Cost was estimated at £438,000 and the school was expected to be completed for the start of the 1966/67 school year. 'Minor delays' meant that the first 570 pupils arrived one term late, in January 1967.

On several occasions, after the school was opened, a bomb-disposal team had to be summoned when suspicious objects were discovered in the grounds. The sound of a controlled explosion indicated a return to normality – until the next time.



Figure 102. Pupils posing by UXO⁶⁰ truck

Until 1979, the pupils used part of the military training area as a cross-country running course.

St John's Primary School

St John's Primary School was originally sited in St John's Hill Road, near the church. The school moved, in about 1920, to the lower end of Barrack

⁵⁹ *Surrey Advertiser* 24 August 1963

⁶⁰ UXO = Unexploded Ordnance

Path (now the Cranstock Activity Centre⁶¹). By 1960, the increasing population meant another move.

The Ministry of Defence sold the area of land bounded by Inkerman Road, Hermitage Road, Rolica (now Raglan) Road and Barrack Path. The Officers' Mess and other officer accommodation in this area was demolished. The 3-acre plot at the northern end of this area was sold to Surrey County Council (Figure 104). The rest of the area became Site 5 in the housing development plans.

The Infants or First school was the first to be completed, opening in about 1972, whilst the Juniors (what is now referred to as Middle school) remained in Barrack Path. The Middle School opened in Victoria Road in about 1976.

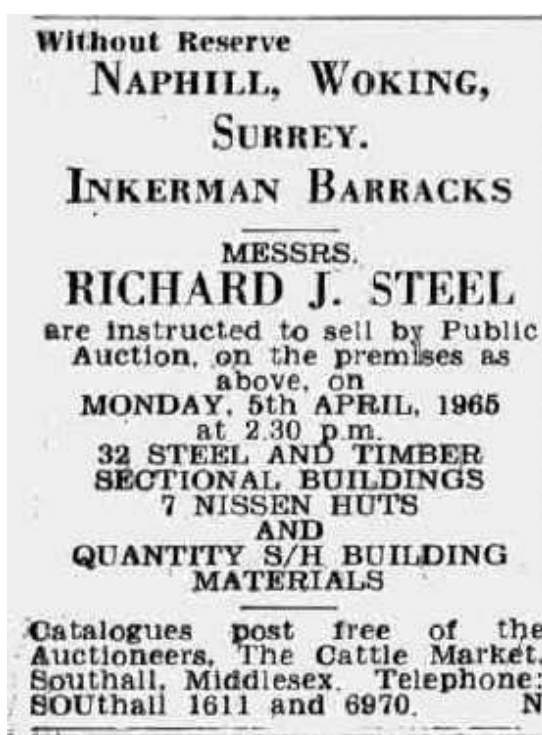
Thus in the space of just a few years, St John's Primary School had moved to Knaphill, whilst Knaphill Secondary School had moved to St John's.

New Housing

The land sold to Woking Council for housing development was divided into a number of sites (Figure 104).

Sites 3 and 5 were planned to be the first to be developed. The buildings here (the old Men's Prison, late Barracks and the Officers' Mess & houses) were demolished almost immediately after the purchase. Whilst the barracks building was being demolished, the local fire brigade used it for training.

Figure 103. *Middlesex Chronicle*
2 April 1965



⁶¹ Aimed at disabled people, autistic people, those with complex needs, older people and those with other support needs



Figure 104. Development sites

During the development of Site 3, William Russell Court was built on the site of the 100,000 gallon water tank (see page 11). It is thought that the tank was too difficult/costly to remove or fill in⁶² and was just left there.

⁶² 100,000 gallons is the equivalent of over 450 cubic meters



Figure 105. Demolition of Barrack buildings

FURTHER PICTURES

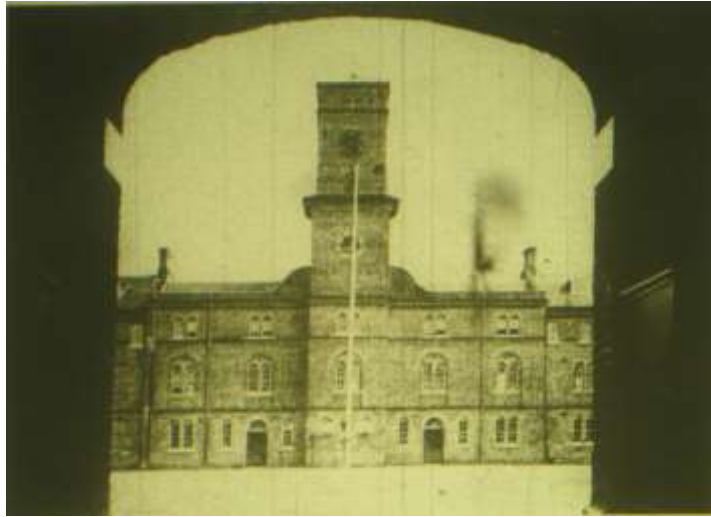


Figure 106. Watch-tower from across the square



Figure 107. View from the air c1950s



Figure 108. Main entrance c1900



Figure 109. Officers' Mess



Figure 110. Gate to Military Prison



Figure 111. Barracks from the South-east



Figure 112. Rolica Road & sports field



Figure 113. Barracks from the South



Figure 114. View West from watch-tower 1964



Figure 115. View South from watch-tower 1964



Figure 116. View North-west from watch-tower 1964



Figure 117. View South-east from watch-tower 1964

TIMELINE

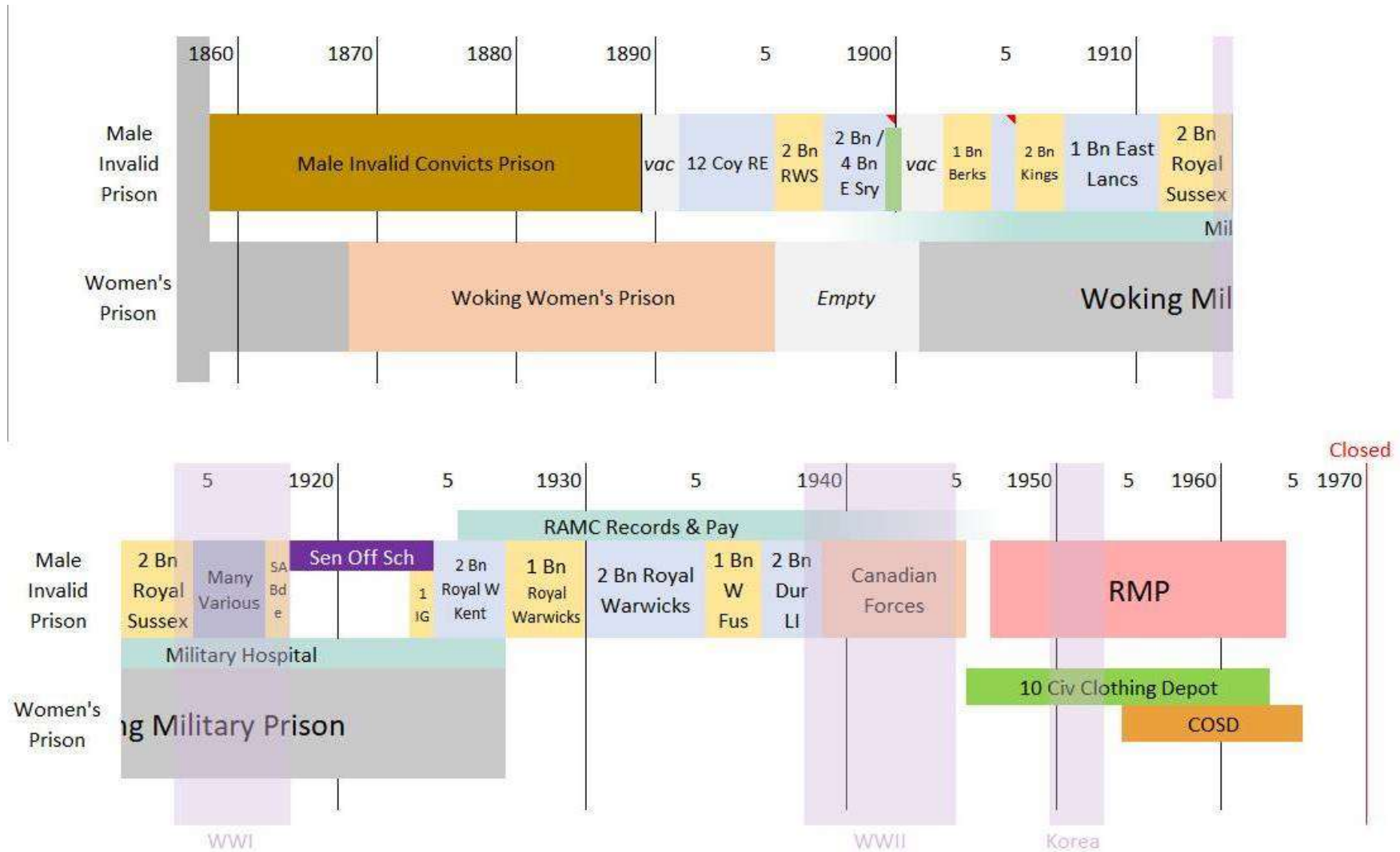


Figure 118. Time-line of Inkerman Barracks

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

British Newspaper Archive

Surrey History Centre

Museum of Military Medicine

National Archives, Kew

West Sussex Record Office

Richard Christophers

Iain Wakeford

<https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army>

1:2500 Ordnance Survey Plans for 1871, 1896, 1914, 1935, 1965 and 1976 have been used extensively

Wikipedia

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