

PART 10

In silent testament to past endeavours: The location of surviving laid up Colours, Standards and Guidons of London Units



Old Colours of the 4th, 5th and 6th Battalions The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA), The 6th Battalion East Surrey Regiment (TA) and the 23rd Battalion The London Regiment (TA) march off parade for the last time on 12th July 1963

Laid up Unit Colours, Guidons and Standards

Following the formation of the Territorial Force in 1908, permission was granted for Infantry Battalions and Yeomanry Regiments to carry Colours and Guidons, but only under certain conditions. If an Infantry Battalion elected to carry Colours then first there was a requirement to relinquish the uniform, customs and title of a Rifle Regiment. In addition, only Yeomanry Regiments-styled 'Dragoons' would be permitted to carry a guidon as sanctioned for Dragoon Regiments of regular cavalry.

It was made clear from the beginning that the expense involved in the provision of Colours would not be available from public funds, the Army or the Territorial Force Associations. The expenses involved would have to be covered by the Regiment or paid for by funds 'gifted' by friends of the Regiment.

In the event, all the new Infantry Battalions of the Territorial Force stationed within what is now the Greater London area elected to apply for Colours with the exception of 12 out of the 26 Battalions of the London Regiment, who decided that they would retain their volunteer force heritage and remain as Rifle Battalions. The 25th (County of London) (Cyclist) Battalion was not permitted Colours, being incompatible with its 'mobile' role.

Patterns would have to be submitted to the inspector of Regimental Colours and the first TF Battalion to do so was the 4th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment. Their colour design was approved on 2nd November 1908 and made by Messers Hobsons and Sons at a cost of 47 pounds and 10 shillings.

Prior to 1914, the only Battle Honour that the units were permitted to display on the Regimental colour was that of 'South Africa', a Battle Honour awarded to units of the volunteer force who had supplied reinforcement companies to the Regular Army during the Boer War. In the fullness of time, many other Battle Honours would be added to the Colours of Territorial Battalions and the Guidons of Yeomanry Regiments.

The majority of Territorial Infantry and Yeomanry from the Home Counties would receive their Colours from HM King Edward VII at Windsor Great Park on June 19th 1909.

As soon as the Battalions of the Territorial Force were mobilised in August 1914, all raised a second line Battalion and some a third and Fourth. These units were known as 'War raised Battalions'.

On December 2nd 1918 General Routine Order 5734 announced that His Majesty King George V was graciously pleased to approve that war raised Battalions of the Regular Army and Territorial Force (Rifle Battalions excepted) would be presented with a silk Union Flag.

The distribution of the Flags began December 1918. They were machine made and the pikes had a plain Spear Head Finial rather than the usual gilt Royal crest. The Flags were plain but any Battalion was free to add its titles and number (and later battle Honours) at unit expense.

Army Council Instruction No. 444 of the 21st July 1919 stated that His Majesty The King commanded that as the Flags would represent the Kings Colour they should now be presented and consecrated and as such would be granted the usual salutes and compliments authorised to be paid to Colours.

By the time the presentation and consecration of the Colours took place, most of the Battalions concerned had been disbanded and the formal laying up of each Colour followed almost immediately.

The following register of Colours that have been laid up and may still be seen includes that of the Drake Battalion of the London Division of the RNVR as well as the Standards of 600 (City of London) Squadron, 601 (County of London) Squadron and 604 (County of Middlesex) Squadron, all presented in 1952.

All the Colours, Guidons and Standards displayed were originally presented to Units with HQ locations within the Greater London area.

County & City of London Units



Unit

HMS PRESIDENT

Holding The King's Colour of the Drake Battalion,
Royal Naval Division

2014 Location

Drill Deck, HMS PRESIDENT, 72 St Katharine's Way,
London E1W 1UQ



Unit

RMR (City of London)

The Colours of 42 Commando

2014 Location

St Lawrence Jewry, City of London EC2V 5AA



Unit

Honourable Artillery Company

2014 Location

Church of St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate EC2M 3TL



Unit

King's Colonials Imperial Yeomanry

2014 Location

Held at Haileybury, Hertford, until 1960s.
Current location unknown



Unit

Inns of Court Regiment

Presented by HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother on 26th May 1959

2014 Location

Lincoln's Inn Chapel, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3TL



Unit

2nd County of London Yeomanry (Westminster Dragoons)

Presented by HM King Edward VII at Windsor Castle on 19th June 1909

2014 Location

Westminster Abbey, 20 Dean's Yard, London SW1P 3PA



Unit

1st (City of London) Battalion The London Regiment

Presented by HM King Edward VII at Windsor Castle on 19th June 1909

2014 Location

1/1st: Royal Chapel, HM Tower of London

2/1st: Officers Mess, Army Reserve Centre, Balham

3/1st: Regimental Chapel

Colours shown hang in the Regimental Chapel, the Church of The Holy Sepulchre, Holborn Viaduct



Unit

2nd (City of London) Battalion The London Regiment

Presented by HM King Edward VII at Windsor Castle on 19th June 1909

2014 Location

1/2nd: Officers Mess, Army Reserve Centre, Balham

2/2nd: Regimental Chapel

3/2nd: City of London HQ

Colours shown hang in the Regimental Chapel, the Church of The Holy Sepulchre, Holborn Viaduct



Unit

3rd (City of London) Battalion The London Regiment

Presented by HM King Edward VII at Windsor Castle on 19th June 1909

2014 Location

1/3rd: National Army Museum

2/3rd: National Army Museum

3/3rd: National Army Museum

Colours not on display



Unit

4th (City of London) Battalion The London Regiment

Presented by HM King Edward VII at Windsor Castle on 19th June 1909

2014 Location

1/4th: Royal Chapel, HM Tower of London

2/4th: Officers Mess, Army Reserve Centre, Balham

3/4th: City of London HQ, HM Tower of London

Colours shown hang in the Regimental Chapel, the Church of The Holy Sepulchre, Holborn Viaduct



Unit

7th (City of London) Battalion The London Regiment

Presented by HM King Edward VII at Windsor Castle on 19th June 1909

2014 Location

1/7th: Drill Hall, Army Reserve Centre, Grove Park

2/7th: Conference Room, Fulham House, 87 Fulham High Street



Unit

13th (County of London) Battalion
The London Regiment (Kensington)

Presented by HM King Edward VII at Windsor Castle on 19th June 1909

2014 Location

Army Reserve Centre, Marlpit Lane, Surrey CR5 2HD



Unit

14th (County of London) Battalion The London Regiment
(London Scottish)

First stand of Colours of the 1st Battalion presented by
HM King Edward VII at Windsor Castle on 19th June 1909

Second stand of Colours of the 2nd Battalion presented by
HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother in 1959

2014 Location

St Columbus, Pont Street, Westminster



Unit

19th (County of London) Battalion The London Regiment
(St Pancras)

Presented by HM King Edward VII at Windsor Castle
on 19th June 1909

2014 Location

St Pancras Church



Unit

20th (County of London) Battalion The London Regiment
(Blackheath & Woolwich)

Presented by Major General Sir William Thwaites at Greenwich
Park, London on 28th June 1919

2014 Location

Museum of the Royal West Kent Regiment, St Faith's Street,
Maidstone, Kent ME14 1LH



Unit

22nd (County of London) Battalion The London Regiment
(The Queen's)

Presented by HM King Edward VII at Windsor Castle
on 19th June 1909

2014 Location

St Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey, London SE1 3UW



Unit

23rd (County of London) Battalion The London Regiment

Presented by HM King Edward VII at Windsor Castle on 19th June 1909

2014 Location

St Mary's Church, Battersea Church Road, London SW11 3NA



Unit

10th Battalion The Parachute Regiment

Colours shown are those presented 1952, laid up 1983. Alongside hangs the standard of the Regimental Association

2014 Location

St Lawrence Jewry, City of London EC2V 5AA

Note Colours presented in 1983 were laid up in the Airborne Museum, Arnhem in 1999



Unit

24th (County of London) Battalion The London Regiment (The Queen's)

Presented by HM King Edward VII at Windsor Castle on 19th June 1909

2014 Location

St Mary's Church, 57a Kennington Park Road, London SE11 4JQ



Unit

10th (County of London) Battalion The London Regiment (Hackney)

Presented by Colonel AA Lyle in October 1921

2014 Location

Ironmongers Hall, Barbican, London EC2Y 8AA



Unit

Standard of 600 (City of London) Squadron,
Royal Auxiliary Air Force

2014 Location

St Bartholemew's the Great, West Smithfield,
London EC1A 9DS



Unit

City of London National Reserve

2014 Location

St Lawrence Jewry, City of London EC2V 5AA

County of Middlesex Units



Unit

601 (County of London) Royal Auxiliary Air Force

2014 Location

St Clement Danes, London WC2R 1DH



Unit

7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (DCO) (TA)

Presented by HM King Edward VII at Windsor Castle
on 19th June 1909

2014 Location

St Mary with St George, Hornsey Parish Church, Cranley
Gardens, Hornsey N10 3AH

2/7th: All Hallows' Church, Church Lane, Tottenham N17 7AA



Unit

8th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (DCO) (TA)

Presented by HM King Edward VII at Windsor Castle on 19th June 1909

2014 Location

St Paul's Cathedral EC4M 8AD



Unit

9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (DCO) (TA)

First stand of Colours presented by HRH Princess Beatrice of Battenburg at Willesdon on 28th June 1913. Laid up in 1950

Second stand of Colours presented by General Sir Brian Horrocks at Honeypot Lane, Stanmore on 13th May 1950

2014 Location

St Paul's Cathedral EC4M 8AD



Unit

10th Battalion The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment)

Presented in 1910 and laid up after unit disbandment in 1921

2014 Location

St Nicholas' Church, Chiswick W4 2PN



Unit

604 (County of Middlesex) Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force

2014 Location

St Clement Danes, London WC1R 1DH

County of Kent Units



Unit

5th Battalion The Royal West Kent Regiment

Colours presented by King Frederick of Denmark

1922 Presented by the Marchioness of Camden at Cranbrook. Laid up 1960

2014 Location

The Buffs Museum, Canterbury

County of Essex Units



Unit

7th Battalion The Essex Regiment (TA)

Colours presented by Field Marshal Lord Roberts at Hackney Downs on 26th August 1911

2014 Location

Regimental Chapel, Warley, Essex

County of Surrey Units



Unit

3rd Battalion The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment (TA)

Colours presented by the Earl of Munster at Woking on 12th July 1963

2014 Location

Cathedral and Collegiate, Church of St Saviour & St Mary Overie, Southwark



Unit

4th Battalion The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment (TA)

Colours presented by the Earl of Munster at Woking on 12th July 1963

2014 Location

Cathedral and Collegiate, Church of St Saviour & St Mary Overie, Southwark



Unit

4th Battalion The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment

Colours presented by Field Marshal Lord Roberts at Croydon in 1910

Second stand presented by HM Queen Mary in Croydon on 7th May 1938

2014 Location

Croydon Minster CR0 1RN



Unit

5th Battalion The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment

Colours presented by HM Queen Mary in Guildford on 28th April 1926

2014 Location

Holy Trinity Parish Church, Guildford



Unit

5th Battalion The East Surrey Regiment

Presented by HM King Edward VII at Windsor Castle on 19th June 1909

2014 Location

All Saints Church, Kingston upon Thames KT1 1JP



Unit

6th Battalion The East Surrey Regiment

Colours presented by Colonel The Lord Ashcombe at The Barracks, Kingston upon Thames on 9th June 1928

2014 Location

All Saints Church, Kingston upon Thames KT1 1JP



Unit

Sussex Yeomanry

Guidon presented by HM King Edward VII at Windsor Castle on 19th June 1909

2014 Location

Chichester Cathedral, Chichester PO1 1PX

Note

- 1) The following Battalions of the London Regiment elected to remain as Rifle Battalions at the inception of the Territorial Force in 1908: 5th/6th/8th/9th/11th/12th/15th/16th/17th/18th/21st/28th and therefore were not entitled to carry Colours.
- 2) The 25th Battalion of the London Regiment and the 8th Battalion of the Essex Regiment were designated as 'Cyclist' Battalions and therefore not entitled to Battalion Colours.