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# Royal letter for Queen's Hussar

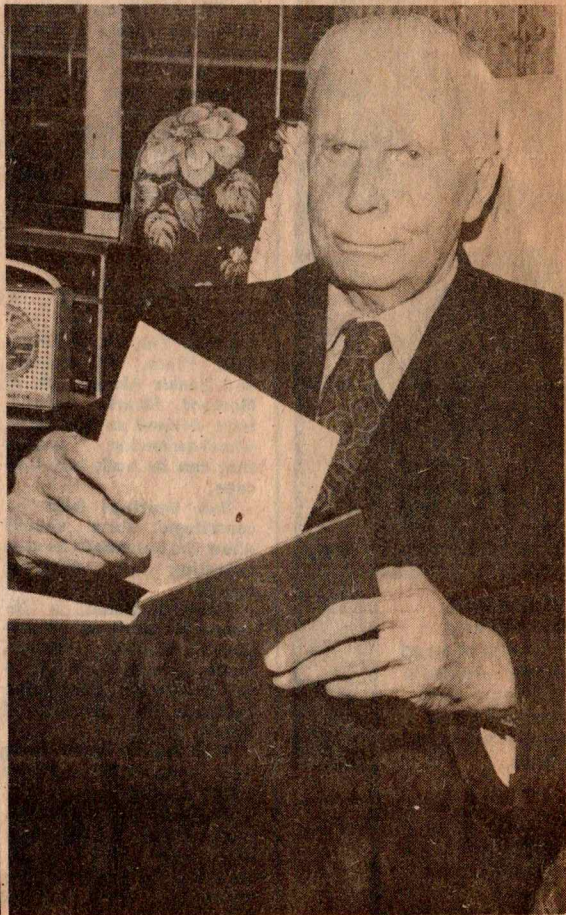
ILL-health prevented 86-year-old Mr Maurice French from attending the 54th reunion of the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars but a letter of best wishes from the Queen made up for it.

Mr French of Green Court, Earls Lane, Deddington, is the organiser of the annual reunion at Villier Park, Middleton Stoney, and he keeps in touch with 67 of his former comrades — all veterans of the First World War.

To commemorate this year's reunion he was presented with a specially bound copy of the 22 newsletters he has written and sent to his former comrades over the years.

## Gravel probe

A public inquiry into Buckinghamshire County Council's plan for regulating the extraction of gravel, salt, chalk and other minerals over the next ten years will begin at the Curzon Centre, Maxwell Road, Beaconsfield, on October 28.



# Regiment survivors meet for reunion

There are, as far as can be traced, still 67 survivors of the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars, who served with the famous Yeomanry Regiment in France and Flanders during the First World War.

Nearly a third of them — 21 — attended the 54th annual reunion at Villiers Park, Middleton Stoney, on Friday.

This year's gathering was combined with the garden party, hitherto held separately, and the wives of six of the old stalwarts were present to be entertained to lunch, separately, before rejoining their husbands for further festivities.

Only months separated the three veterans who had claim to be the oldest of the old soldiers present. That distinction went to Len Milward, who will celebrate his 90th birthday on Christmas Day.

Runners-up were Ted Brown, of Shabbington, and Charles Clarke, well-known as an old member of the staff of New College both of whom will shortly celebrate their 89th anniversaries.

The "baby" of them all was Harry Gardiner, now living near Southampton, a mere 83, who presided over the gathering and gave the traditional

grace of the Yeomen — "God Save the Queen and Bless our Vittles."

But there were no formal speeches, only the announcement that on their behalf a message of "loyal greeting" had been sent to the Queen.

There were cheers and applause when Harry read the reply from Her Majesty's private secretary, expressing her thanks, coupled with "best wishes for a most enjoyable reunion."

Special tribute was paid to the man responsible for this annual get-together for so many years, Mr Maurice French, of Deddington, who was unable to attend owing to ill-health.

Maurice, now 86, has for the last 22 years sent a newsletter to each of his former comrades in arms he has been able to trace, giving the latest information about the regiment and the Old Comrades.

As an expression of their thanks he was presented at his home with a specially bound volume containing these annual efforts, by Mr Derek Marsh, of Villiers Park, who now makes the arrangements for the reunion party.