

# Leatherhead & District Local History Society

Potted Histories No 58

## 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion Public Schools Royal Fusiliers - Ashtead



On Parade - Ashtead Common



Training Exercise - Ashtead Common



The King's Visit - Ashtead Park



Church Service - Ashtead Park

*Pictures: Clockwise from top left: On Parade - Ashtead Common; Training Exercise - Ashtead Common; The King's Visit - Ashtead Park; Church Service - Ashtead Park*

On the 24<sup>th</sup> September 1914, 2,000 men of the 21st Battalion of The Royal Fusiliers, young men drawn from English Public Schools and Universities arrived in Ashtead under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel J. Stuart-Worley. They were billeted locally and much of their training was carried out on Ashtead Common or Ashtead Park House Grounds. On the 13<sup>th</sup> October 1914, King George V inspected the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion on Epsom Downs. He then went to Ashtead Park to the 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion and finally on to Leatherhead where the 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion were based. In March 1915 the 21st moved to Woodcote Park Camp, Epsom. The 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion was disbanded in April 1916 as many of the men took up commissions.

*Goff Powell*

**For information regarding Membership, Lectures and Museum opening hours**

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