

CAPTAIN RICHARD CHARLES HATT OF THE QOOH

Richard Hatt was born in Ewelme in 1875, married Evelyn in 1899 and settled at Hale Farm around 1901. The Hatts had at least two sons and two daughters over the next few years.

In 1910 Richard was secretary of the **Benson** Cricket Club and was in the **Oxfordshire Yeomanry, the Queens Own Oxfordshire Hussars**. He had joined the QOOH as a trooper in 1901, was made Corporal in 1903 and Sergeant in 1906. He was gazetted from Sergeant to Second Lieutenant in July 1912 and then to Captain in November 1914. Through this time he was assigned to the 2nd South Midland Division of the Army Service Corps.

He was posted overseas towards the end of the war, to Italy in 1918 (aged 43) and was awarded the Victory and British War Medals after the war.

In the 1920's he was the commander of a Local Territorial force, the 399th Battery Royal Artillery, and was also involved in the Territorial Army during WW2.

The first photo shows the Benson Troop of Yeomanry, possibly pre-1914 although there are doubts about this, with some men wearing award ribbons.



Pre-Great War, the Benson troop of the QOOH was part of the Henley Squadron, under the command of Winston Churchill.

The second photograph shows the Benson Cricket Club 1910 and Captain Hatt is in the middle row, second from left.

Peter Clarke writes about Benson Cricket Club.....

Below is as fine a set of Edwardian cricketers as one could wish to see, the Benson team for 1910. They clearly were a cheery bunch too. At their end of season dinner, the *Berks & Oxon Advertiser* reported that:

“Members of the Cricket Club and a company that numbered in all about 60 were sumptuously entertained by a very generous patron of the Crown Hotel. After a splendid meal each guest was plentifully supplied with cigars, cigarettes and tobacco. [After speeches] Auld Lang Syne was heartily sung before the company dispersed.



Capt Richard Hatt died at Beech House in Dorchester in 1946 aged 72, leaving some £9,552 to his widow Evelyn and his spinster daughters Evelyn and Daphne.