

THE LION & THE DRAGON



Continue the “Journey to the Raj” - with Cumbria's Museum of Military Life

Recently, the Museum has been using its collections to take visitors on a ‘Journey to the Raj’, helping them to imagine the day-to-day lives of soldiers serving in British India. From hauling out a ceremonial gilt elephant tusk, to reading through hundreds of pages of correspondence written by a dour Private complaining mostly about the lack of good toffee in Peshawar, we have gone to great lengths to tell the stories of the regiments’ South Asian service.

As the exhibition enters its final month, we in the Museum now shift our attention to making it possible for the public to make the time-bending ‘Journey to the Raj’ from the comfort of their own homes. A central part of this Indian project was to digitise and publish on our website the thousands of images members of The Border Regiment (and its antecedents) had taken of their postings across the Indian subcontinent. We spent hours poring over these fascinating images in preparation for the exhibition, so many in fact that we can now identify the various barracks of British India merely by the shade of their skirting boards. But, alas, with great power comes great responsibility, and with this digitisation of our collections you too could soon share the burden of having such useful knowledge! In the meantime, there is another way in which the Indian stories of the regiment can be explored from home.

Typically, the notion of conducting historical research conjures images of studious corduroy-clad academics rifling through piles of aging documents authored by aristocrats or bishops. This should no longer be the case. Taking their lead from sociologists, historians now place equal importance in the experiences of those on the ground and, when possible, make audio recordings of their interviews for future research. This practice of Oral History is valuable not just because the inflections and changes of tone in a interviewee’s voice can add further meaning to their story, but because the recordings are easy to store and share online.

For example, in conducting research for ‘Journey to the Raj: A Soldier’s Life in India’, we listened to recordings made by the Imperial War Museum of soldiers of The Border Regiment who served in Burma during the Second World War. It was from these recordings that we learned more of the regiment’s minor role in India’s tumultuous road to independence. Of particular interest were the testimonies of

those who served in the 9th Battalion – made famous in George MacDonald Fraser’s *Quartered Safe Out Here* – who, prior to fighting in Burma, had to fulfil internal security duties in Calcutta.

In 1942, Calcutta was a city in uproar: protesters were on the streets demanding that the British ‘Quit India’; food shortages caused by war-time demands that would eventually result in the deaths of at least one million across Bengal were starting to be felt; and, additionally, Japan’s armies were bearing down on India’s eastern border. It was into this atmosphere that the men of 9th Battalion The Border Regiment stepped to assist in riot control and the grim task of clearing the streets of the dead who had succumbed to starvation. Though their time in Calcutta was relatively brief, the memories shared by the men of the battalion provide a unique insight into war-time India, and are a snapshot of the region’s struggle for independence. Being able to access the first-hand accounts of these experiences was invaluable to our research. What’s more is that we received no special dispensation as we were working on behalf of a museum, anyone with an internet connection can access these significant historical sources at www.iwm.org.uk/collections. Ultimately, the availability of such online resources, soon to include our own digitised collections, will see making your own ‘Journey to the Raj’ as simple as turning on your computer.

Ellis Huddart CM of ML



This child died from starvation during the Bengal Famine of 1942. It is believed the death toll was over one million.

At the age of sixteen Joseph Rogerson Percival left the village of Rockcliffe, near Carlisle, and went off to enlist in the Royal Navy.

He was no doubt looking forward to a long career at sea. Britain was not at war then and, although there were indications of bad times ahead no one could imagine just how dreadful things would become.

In January 1915, and a few weeks after Joseph would have reached his eighteenth birthday, the Navy informed his parents that he had died in battle.

Boy First Class J/26891 Percival (a "Boy 1st class" - was a young man aged 16 to 18 under training, who had previously served for between 9 months and 18 months as "Boy 2nd class", and who showed a good proficiency in seamanship). He was the eldest son of Abraham and Elizabeth Percival of Ivy Cottage, Rockcliffe. When Joseph was baptised in St Mary's Church Rockcliffe his parent's home was noted as Rockcliffe Cross. Abraham was a Bootmaker. Joseph's middle name, Rogerson, was his mother's maiden name and also the middle name of two of his brothers! He is commemorated on the Rockcliffe War Memorial (as Boy 1st Class), on his parents grave in the Churchyard, and on the Plymouth Naval Memorial where he is listed as Ordinary Seaman Percival, the rank he attained on reaching eighteen.

On 1st Jan 1915 his ship, the pre-Dreadnought battleship HMS Formidable, was patrolling the English Channel near the Devon coast when she was struck by two torpedoes fired by the German U-Boat U-24. She sank quickly with a high loss of life. Some of her crew made it to the shore in lifeboats. Joseph Rogerson Percival was not among them. His body was never recovered and he was declared Dead at Sea.

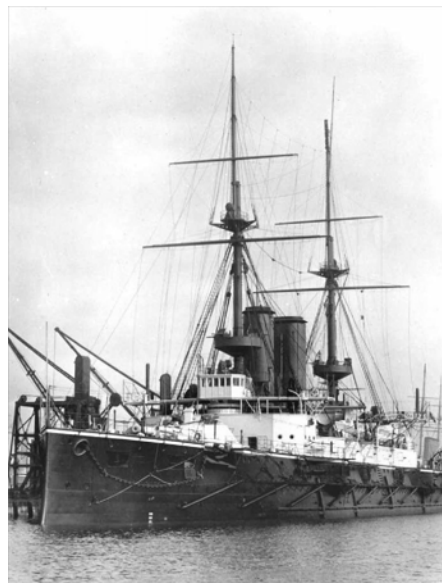
The Plymouth Naval Memorial is one of three such memorials. After the War it was considered that the only way to commemorate the loss of so many whose bodies were never recovered was to place their names on an easily recognisable marker in a place associated with Britain's long maritime history. Each of the naval manning ports of the UK, Plymouth, Chatham, and Portsmouth has an obelisk on which the names of all those thousands of the Royal Navy whose "only grave is the sea", is inscribed. The Plymouth Memorial, where Joseph's name appears on Panel 6, commemorates 7,000 seamen of WW1 and 16,000 of WW2. There are thousands more on the other two memorials.



Many of those to whom these impressive cenotaphs are dedicated were little older than Joseph. We can only wonder how the world might have benefited had those young men

been given the chance to reach maturity and a full life in their various communities and further afield.

The loss of HMS Formidable



Under the command of Vice-Admiral Commanding, Channel Fleet, Sir Lewis Bayly, the 5th Battle Squadron spent 31 December participating in gunnery exercises off the Isle of Portland, supported by the light cruisers Topaze and Diamond. After the exercises, that night the fleet remained at sea on patrol even though submarine activity had been reported in the area. With rough

sea conditions and the wind increasing, submarine attacks would have been difficult to carry out and so were not thought to be a significant threat. Formidable was steaming at 10 knots (12 mph) at the rear of the squadron off Portland Bill just 20 nmi (37 km; 23 mi) from Start Point, when at 02:20 on 1 January 1915 a torpedo from U-24 struck the number one boiler port side. It was thought that she might be saved by reaching the coast but by about 02:40 she had taken a list of 20° to starboard and Captain Noel Loxley gave the order to abandon ship. Darkness and worsening weather made it difficult to get the men and boats over the side; some small boats were thrown into the water upside down.

At about 03:05, Formidable was struck by a second torpedo on the starboard side. Amidst a 30 ft (9.1 m) swell the Pinnaces and Launch along with other boats (one of which capsized soon after) were launched and the two light cruisers came alongside and managed to pick up 80 men in the deteriorating weather. By 04:45, she seemed in imminent danger of capsizing and a few minutes later she rolled over onto many of the men in the water and sank quickly. Captain Loxley had remained on the bridge along with his Fox terrier Bruce, calmly overseeing the evacuation of the ship.

In rough seas near Berry Head, the crew of Brixham trawler Provident BM291, Skipper William Pillar, First Hand William Carter, Second Hand John Clarke and Apprentice (the boy) Daniel Taylor, picked up the men from one pinnace before it sank, saving 71 members of the crew. The second pinnace took off another 70 men, of which 48 were brought ashore alive after it was eventually spotted from the shore the following night, 22 hours after the sinking. The loss of life of Formidable was 35 officers (including Captain Loxley) and 512 men from a complement of 780. The body of Captain Loxley's dog Bruce, was washed ashore and was buried in a marked grave in Abbotsbury Gardens in Dorset.

Prepared by James Henderson

For Conspicuous Gallantry, Devotion to Duty and Leadership – Cambrai - November 1917

In November 1917 during the Battle of Cambrai, three members of the Border Regiment particularly distinguished themselves, and all have a link to Britain's highest award for gallantry, the Victoria Cross. We tell the stories of two of them here. And we will learn of the third in our next issue. The first of these was **9522 Sergeant Charles Edward Spackman VC**. Born at Fulham in London in 1891, he enlisted in 1909 and served with the 1st Battalion at Gallipoli and on the Western Front. On 20th November 1917 at Marcoing Station, he was awarded the VC.

"For most conspicuous bravery when in action. The leading company was checked by heavy fire of a machine gun mounted in a position which covered the approaches. The ground was absolutely devoid of cover of any description. He realized the situation and seeing it was impossible for troops to advance, went through fire to attack the gun. Working forward gradually, he succeeded in killing all but one of the gun crew. He then rushed the gun and captured it single-handed thereby enabling the Company to advance. The behaviour of this NCO was gallant in the extreme and set a fine example of courage and devotion to his men."



As well as the VC he was also awarded the French Medaille Militaire. He died in Southampton in 1969 and his medals are in a private collection.

Picture;
Sergeants Charles Spackman VC MM and Edward Mott VC DCM both of 1st Battalion.

The second of our heroes is **Captain/Acting Lieutenant-Colonel James Forbes Robertson VC DSO & Bar MC**. Born in 1884, he was commissioned into the Border Regiment in 1904. He served with the 1st Battalion at Gallipoli in 1915 and then in France he was posted to the Newfoundland Regiment (in 29th Division) in June 1916 and won both the DSO and MC with them. In August 1917 he posted to command the 16th Battalion Middlesex Regiment, also in 29th Division. At Masnieres on 30th November 1917 he won a Bar to his DSO *"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led his battalion with great dash and determination in a successful attack. later, during continual enemy attacks, though he was wounded in the eye and unable to see, he was led about by an orderly among his men in the front line, encouraging and inspiring them by his magnificent example of courage and determination"*

In February after 16th Middlesex were disbanded JFR was posted to command the 1st Battalion Border Regiment and in April 1918 would win the VC. He may well be the only officer to command three different Battalions in 29th Division during WW1. As a Colonel/Acting Brigadier he retired from the Army in 1935 and died in Gloucestershire in 1955. His medals are on display in the Museum on loan from his family.



Captain/Acting Lieutenant-Colonel James Forbes Robertson DSO (fourth from right front row) with officers of 16th Middlesex in late 1917.

These stories are examples of the many outstanding acts of leadership, courage, and heroism of the thousands who went to war in the years of 1914 until 1918. Many courageous acts were of course unheralded and unrecorded. That is the nature of things. However without degrading the undoubted gallantry of those whose citations appear here we are urged to turn our thoughts to the ordinary soldier of those times and since. Few of them would consider themselves heroes, or indeed worthy of special attention; many indeed felt uncomfortable with any sort of adulation. But the great majority stood bravely to their post, very aware of their



mortality and of the odds against their survival. There will always be brave people who do not see themselves as such but who will stand in harm's way for others. Here is a tribute to a modern hero, the "bomb disposal officer", in the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. Long years of experience, during which a number died, led to the

development of techniques and equipment which protect us daily from those who would destroy us.

On a cold grey morning of 28th January 1942 20 years old RAF Leading Aircraftman James McKenzie Martin



Waite, known as "Mac" to his friends, climbed into the rear cockpit of a Miles Magister training aircraft which was waiting on the grass runway of Carlisle Kingstown Airfield. Due to a scarcity of suitable training airfields the RAF had leased the Civil Airport until the new airfield at Crosby on Eden was completed. His instructor, Sgt Bruce Astley, of the Royal Australian Air Force, took the front seat. Young men like James Waite were desperately

needed in those dark days. Many skilled pilots had been lost in the previous two years of war. If Britain was to survive replacements were needed. James McKenzie Martin Waite volunteered to be one of those. The short training flight plan would take them north and west and over the Solway Firth. The Miles Magister, a simple monoplane of wooden construction, was developed in 1937 as a training aircraft for the RAF and the Fleet Air Arm. Powered by a De Havilland Gypsy Major engine, it was designed and built by the Miles Aircraft Company, and had a non-retractable undercarriage.



Although very basic the Magister was a useful introduction to flying for future Spitfire and Hurricane pilots. As James Waite

and his instructor approached the wooded area of nearby Castletown House at Rockliffe disaster struck. At 1000 ft the aircraft went into a descending spin and became lodged in the branches of a tree in a secluded area. The instructor, in the front seat, was killed outright. James Waite, gravely wounded, was trapped in the wreckage. A farm worker known as George Mansfield, hearing the crash as he made his way to lunch, went to investigate. Others soon followed. George Mansfield climbed onto the wrecked aircraft and pulled James to safety. This brave man, probably aware that the plywood and glue airframe could have become a fireball at any moment, commented later that "wire cutters would have been useful". Leading Aircraftman Waite suffered multiple injuries and spent a year in rehabilitation. Although he continued to serve in the RAF, much of it in India, he never flew again. James McKenzie Martin Waite, born at Rockferry, The Wirral, went on to become a successful Manchester businessman and Director of three companies. He died on 26th April 1994 at his home in Whitefield, Manchester.

However there is a wider interest to this story. The hero of



Castletown, George Mansfield, was not simply a farm labourer. He was a German internee, sent under the terms of the Aliens Act, to work there for the duration of the War. Moreover, he was the grandson of the exiled German Kaiser Wilhelm II. The Kaiser's extended family had fled to Britain from their home in the Netherlands following the rise of Nazism. George Mansfield was actually Prince Frederick of Prussia but had adopted an anglicised name to live in the United Kingdom.

George Mansfield and James Waite became firm friends

following visits by the rescuer to James' hospital bed in Carlisle. James' mother met 'George' after the war and was invited to a function at the Adelphi in Liverpool where she was introduced to George's wife, the Princess Frederick of Prussia., nee Lady Brigid Guinness, "Brigid of Prussia", of the brewing family. They had five children. A daughter is the present Duchess of Wellington. The story of George Mansfield goes deeper. As Prince Frederick of Prussia he had studied at Cambridge in the late 1930's. On the outbreak of WW2 he was sent to Canada as an internee. However he was returned to England in 1941 and released for agricultural work. He was sent to Castletown where he was known as 'George Mansfield', and proved to be an excellent agriculturalist. After the War he settled in England and took British nationality, still using his adopted name. However legal disputes over his properties in Germany required him to take dual nationality and revert to his original title. And by April 1966, following 21 years of marriage, there were further difficulties. Divorce proceedings were pending. The

Prince was reported missing when he failed to return from a walk during a visit to relatives in Germany. On April 19th his body was recovered from the River Rhine. He was 54 years old. The verdict was inconclusive.



The grave, in Carlisle City Cemetery (Ward II, sect P, grave 24), of Sgt Bruce Astley, RAAF, 23 year old son of Lawrence and Ethel Astley, of Dubbo, NSW, Australia.

This feature was researched and produced with the help of Gordon Waite, son of LAC James Waite RAF, and others.

Hidden Histories: *Women's Voices within the Museum Collections* - Jules Wooding

The Museum's displays and collections tell hundreds of stories of military action and regimental duties. But look more closely and scratch the surface and there is another layer of history waiting to be told...



On display in Alma is a water-colour primitive portrait of Colour-Sergeant Thomas Dollery of the 34th Foot. Painted around 1826, it shows Thomas with his wife Martha and son John. Another son Thomas was not included on the portrait.

This type of picture was painted by a commercial artist and sent by the soldier to his family usually when he was going abroad. This picture also includes a poem written to

Dollery's Aunt which hints at the hardships and dangers of being a soldier and the pain of separation from family:

*In many a hardship have I been
With many a thousand more;
But we will hope soon to return
To our dear native shore –
Oh grant ye powers that rule above
Our son may grow in grace;
And may he still protected be
In every dangerous place –
Dear Aunt accept this trifling gift
This token of goodwill;
For though we now are far from you
Yet we shall love you still.*

Dollery, born in 1786 in Longparish near Andover, Hampshire, enlisted on Christmas Day 1806 into the 66th Regiment of Foot. Between 1814 and 1819 he served in Portugal and Spain and was discharged as a Sergeant on 25th August 1819. Life in Civvy Street was obviously difficult during this period as Dollery re-enlisted into the 34th Foot six days later, serving in India and Ireland. When he was finally discharged in 1828 he was classed as "worn out." In the 1841 census he was living in Southampton but died twelve years later. He was awarded the Military General Service Medal in 1847 for his service in the Napoleonic Wars.

So what happened to Dollery's wife Martha? The 1861 census records her as living in the workhouse. She died five years later in 1866. Martha's story reflects those of many military wives of this period. Military commanders were not keen for the ordinary soldier to be married and did not recognise wives within the military system. In the early part of the nineteenth century the Army operated the 'corner

system' within barracks, where married soldiers and their wives occupied a corner of the barrack room. Privacy was often only a curtain separating the married couple from the rest of the military occupants. Records show that married women would undertake domestic tasks such as washing and cooking for both their husbands and other soldiers, although some women accompanied their husband on campaign, such as the infamous Biddy Skiddy, who is mentioned by George Bell of the 34th Foot in his memoir 'Rough Notes of an Old Soldier:'

'A multitude of soldiers' wives stuck to the army like bricks. Averse to all military discipline, they impeded our progress at times very much, particularly in this retreat. . . . They became the subject of a general order for their own special guidance.'



By 1854, of the 1236 soldiers of the 34th Regiment only 73 were legally married and only 61 of these lived in barracks. Although conditions were gradually changing for married soldiers it would take years for the Army to accommodate wives and families within the Military infrastructure.

Biddy Skiddy carries her gravely wounded husband to safety.

Within the collections are objects and archives which reflect the woman's voice. They are not always obvious but are intertwined with the history of the Regiment. Look more closely and their presence becomes more obvious although not always visually like Martha Dollery. 2018 marks the centenary of the vote for women.

As part of a wider celebration, the Museum is linking into a county-wide project entitled 'Women of Cumbria.' From March to May an exhibition in Alma Block called 'Follow the Drum' will display some of our collections and stories gathered from women connected to the Regiment. This is an opportunity to 'hear' those women's voices from within the collections. Ladies - if you have a story to share we would love to hear them! Please contact Jules at: jules.wooding@cmoml.org



Photo credits –

Biddy Skiddy carrying her wounded husband to safety (National Army Museum). Dollery painting (on display in the main gallery of CMofML) Re-enactors at the Castle found that they had recreated Thomas and Martha Dollery.

*We shall pass in summer weather,
We shall come at eventide, . . .*

*. . . One with Cumberland for ever
We shall go not forth again.*

We have in recent months become very aware through the various Centenary Commemorations, of the horrific toll of the 3rd Battle of Ypres of the summer and autumn of 1917. We know it better as 'The Battle of Passchaendaele'.

During those commemorative ceremonies we heard references to the work of a number of those young men we call 'The War Poets'. These references included, along with the better known poets, Welsh poet Hedd Wyn (Ellis Humphrey Evans), and Francis Ledwidge, of Ireland.

But few know that Cumbria, has its own War Poets. One of those was Nowell Oxland, of Alston, in Cumberland.

The small town of Alston sits in a valley of the River South Tyne, in the wild and beautiful North Pennines. It is a market town which is today very reliant on sheep rearing and tourism. In the early 20th century it was surrounded by mines and quarries extracting coal and lead and other minerals. Although life was grim for the majority of the inhabitants our young Cumbrian poet and his friends had the opportunity to appreciate the natural wildness of the hills and moorlands all around them.

Nowell Oxland was the son of the Reverend William Oxland, vicar of St Augustine's Parish Church in Alston. He was born just before Christmas of 1891 and his father decided that the rather unusual spelling of his first name was appropriate. The young Nowell would have fished the river, and seen the variety of wildlife the stark beauty of Alston Moor supported.

A keen rower and rugby player, he attended Durham School and, from 1909, Worcester College Oxford, where he read history. He volunteered on the outbreak of war. Gazetted in 1914 he was posted to 6th Bn Border Regiment. By June 1915 Lieutenant Nowell Oxland found himself arriving in the Dardanelles to join the Gallipoli campaign. It is believed that during that long journey through the Mediterranean he composed the poem we publish here. It subtly links the history of early Greece with his experiences as a boy in Alston.

Lieutenant Oxland and his battalion landed at Suvla Bay on 6th of August 1917. Three days later Nowell was dead. His body was recovered and he is interred in Green Hill Cemetery at Suvla Bay. He would never again walk Alston Moor or catch 'half-pounder' trout in the South Tyne River.

His parents, William and Caroline, remained in the Alston Rectory until 1919. William, unable any more to carry out his pastoral duties, was reluctant to leave the home where his only son had grown up. Eventually they moved to Southsea, near Portsmouth, to live out the rest of their



lives. The two paintings in St Augustine's Church were commissioned by Nowell's father. They depict Nowell as St Michael and as St George. Nowell's name also appears on War Memorials at Durham School and Worcester College.

His mother, unable to accept the death of her only son, or to see his face on those memorials, never entered the church again.



The poem, later found among his personal effects, was published in The Times within a month of his death.

Outward Bound by Nowell Oxland

*There's a waterfall I'm leaving
Running down the rocks in foam,
There's a pool for which I'm grieving
Near the water-ouzel's home,
And it's there that I'd be lying
With the heather close at hand,
And the Curlew's faintly crying
'Mid the wastes of Cumberland.*

*While the midnight watch is winging
Thoughts of other days arise.
I can hear the river singing
Like the Saints in Paradise;
I can see the water winking
Like the merry eyes of Pan,
And the slow half-pounders sinking
By the bridges' granite span.*

*Ah! To win them back and clamber
Braced anew with winds I love,
From the rivers' stainless amber
To the morning mist above,*

*See through clouds-rifts rent asunder
Like a painted scroll unfurled,
Ridge and hollow rolling under
To the fringes of the world.*

*Now the weary guard are sleeping,
Now the great propellers churn,
Now the harbour lights are creeping
Into emptiness astern,
While the sentry wakes and watches
Plunging triangles of light
Where the water leaps and catches
At our escort in the night.*

*Great their happiness who seeing
Still with unbenighted eyes
Kin of theirs who gave them being,
Sun and earth that made them wise,
Die and feel their embers quicken
Year by year in summer time,
When the cotton grasses thicken
On the hills they used to climb.*

*Shall we also be as they be,
Mingled with our mother clay,
Or return no more it may be?
Who has knowledge, who shall say?
Yet we hope that from the bosom
Of our shaggy father Pan,
When the earth breaks into blossom
Richer from the dust of man,*

*Though the high Gods smite and slay
us,
Though we come not whence we go,
As the host of Menelaus
Came there many years ago;
Yet the self-same wind shall bear us
From the same departing place
Out across the Gulf of Saros
And the peaks of Samothrace;*

*We shall pass in summer weather,
We shall come at eventide,
When the fells stand up together
And all quiet things abide;
Mixed with cloud and wind and river,
Sun-distilled in dew and rain,
One with Cumberland for ever
We shall go not forth again.*



Nowell's grieving mother chose this photograph to commemorate her son.

Prepared by James Henderson

The Battle of Arroyo dos Molinos took place on 28 October 1811 during the Peninsular War. An allied force under General Rowland Hill trapped and defeated a French force under General Jean-Baptiste Girard, forcing the latter's dismissal by the Emperor Napoleon. A French infantry division and a brigade of cavalry were destroyed as viable fighting formations.



There will be a meeting on 28th Oct 2017 of the Waterloo Association, North West Branch, at Carlisle Castle. The Castle was the home barracks of 34th (Cumberland) Regiment of Foot during their exploits of the Peninsular War. All are welcome. Members and friends will meet at the new Museum of Military Life, Alma Block, for a tour of the Museum during which they will see the drums and Drum-Major's mace of the French 34^e Regiment, captured by the 34th (Cumberland) Regiment of Foot at the battle of Arroyo Dos Molinos. The tour will begin at 11.00 am, followed by lunch in the museum Function Room. After lunch the guests will receive a presentation by Mr Stuart Eastwood, Museum Curator, who will describe the course of the battle where an entire French Division, and its supporting cavalry, were comprehensively out-manoeuvred by an Allied British and Portuguese force. The charge for the day, including lunch, will be £20. Tickets are available from Janet and David Bromley, Sunnyside, Papcastle, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 0LA, or by application to the Museum. Cheques should be made out to the Waterloo Association.

Car parking is available at the nearby Pay & D car park at Devonshire Way

The Friend's of the Museum

A Wine and Cheese evening for Friends and Guests of the Museum was held on 7th July. The main attraction was the very impressive special exhibition, *'Journey to the Raj: A soldier's Life in India 1820-1947'*. Guests were given the opportunity to view all of the Museum. Various complimentary remarks reminded us that we now have a wonderful facility which will continue to tell the story of those many men and women of Cumbria who, down through the years, risked life and limb in the defence of our country.

An excellent selection of wine and cheeses was provided, a bar was available, and conversation was sociable.



Details of future events appear on page 8 of this Newsletter.

Christmas Cheer

Not all military history has to be about violence, death, and sophisticated weaponry. Often there are moments of farce, and diversions into situations which prompt hilarity within a normally serious context.

On a cold December day in 1975 during Operation Banner (The Army's role in Northern Ireland) a search team of part-time soldiers of the 3rd Bn The Ulster Defence Regiment was carrying out a planned search within their TAOR. Acting on information received the soldiers were carefully sweeping the area for terrorist weapons and material. To their surprise their first find was not strictly terrorist related. It was actually sixty-one bottles of stolen whisky (and whiskey), in various sized bottles from



miniatures to 40oz.

After handing over their spoils to the RUC they continued the search, successfully unearthing a cache of terrorist equipment.



The Bn Ops Officer later penned a little ditty in commemoration;

*Sixty-one bottles of whiskey they found.
Whilst they were having a mosey around.
Hidden under a heap of hay.
With Christmas only a fortnight away.
And me that gave them the task to do
You'd think as a token of thanks,
wouldn't you
That they could have brought me a jar
or two back
But they gave the whole bloody lot to
RUCsack.
(Rucsack was the police radio
Nickname.)*

How the Great War was mapped

On **Thursday 5th October**, we have a special lecture being held at the Museum. The lecture is entitled **How the First World War was mapped** and is a joint venture with the Royal Geographical Society.

This talk will be presented by **Stuart Eastwood**, and more information about the topic can be found on the society's website RGS website. Tickets for this talk are £5, or £3 for members of the Museum Friends and members of the Royal Geographical Society. Tel:- 01228 532774 for tickets. These talks start at 7:30pm sharp.

Tuesday Talks Series

Our Tuesday Talks series continues. All Tuesday talks begin at 6 pm.

Tuesday 19th October
End of Empire - The Aden Insurgency
1962-67 Jonathon Walker

Tue 14th November
VCs of the Border Regiment in 1917
Stuart Eastwood

Tue 9th Jan
Subject and speaker TBC

Tue 13th Feb
Subject and speaker TBC

Tue 13th March
Subject and speaker TBC

And a special Talk on Sat 4th Nov.
David Hewitt will read from, and speak about, his book,
***Joseph 1917* - 1.00 pm for 1.30.**

All Talks are in the Museum Lecture Room unless otherwise intimated.

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Museum Research facilities

If you would like to know more about the service of a Border Regiment soldier (or one of the affiliated Regiments), the Museum may well be able to help.

If you are in the process of some historical research and would like to ask some general questions, or if you would like to pay for a full research enquiry, please feel free to contact the Museum by email on enquiries@cmoml.org or by phone on 01228 532774.

The Museum can conduct research on your behalf for a £25 search fee. This charge is to cover the time spent looking through various source material, and all proceeds go towards the sustainability of the collections.

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This newsletter is printed and posted to members. However if you would like to be among the first to see this newsletter please send your email address to Peter Yorke via the museum website. You will receive future newsletters in PDF format.

This Newsletter is edited by James Henderson UD, on behalf of the Friends of Cumbria's Museum of Military Life, and is currently published tri-annually. Contributions to this Newsletter are welcomed. Features may be up to 600 words and may be accompanied by illustrations. Please send your contribution to; ambus246@gmail.com

Museum open hours

The Museum is open during the following times

Aug-Sept Daily 10am-6pm

Oct Daily 10am- 5pm

Nov till March (Sat to Thur) 10pm-4pm

Closed 24th, 25th, 26th Dec and 1st Jan

Last admission 30 mins before closing.

Tariff; Adult £4.00, Concession £3.00,

Child 5-15 £2.00. Family Ticket, up to 4, £10.00.

Members, and serving Duke of Lancs; Free.

Friend's News

The Friends of the Museum of Military Life have arranged a variety of events and meetings for the following months.

For fuller details please contact the Museum.

Sat 21st Oct - Food and History - Thursby Parish Hall - John Crouch & Stuart Eastwood

Sat 25th Nov - *My Service connections with Malaya and Malaysia* - Sqn Leader Tony Parrini MBE - followed by supper - Museum Lecture Room 1600hrs.

Wed 7th Feb - *Air Defence Radar during the Cold War 1945-1990* - Flt Lt Brian White RAFVR - Museum Lecture Room 1800 hrs.

Our Food and History evenings will continue - details from the museum when available - Tel 01228 532774.

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The Friends Committee has discussed the practicality of a one-day trip to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire in 2018. This would probably be in conjunction with other organisations, the RBL for instance. Would our readers like to indicate their interest in such an event by a Tel call or E mail to the Museum?

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Museum Quiz Night - Including Christmas Buffet

Friday 1st December - 7:00pm for 7:30pm start

- (max 4 persons per team)

- Christmas Buffet

- Licenced bar.

- Prize for the winning team

Tickets £6 each. Places are limited. Please buy your tickets before **Tuesday 28th November**

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We are planning an upgrade of our website to make it even more interesting and informative. However it is still accessible at;

www.cumbriasmuseumofmilitarylife.org/newsletter



"Why can't we have a goat or a donkey like other regiments?"