

THE LION & THE DRAGON



A year of development.

The Museum and its staff have now settled into the new premises, making the most of a bright new layout and considerably better storage and research capacity than was available in the old location.

There is a lot still to be done. The production of narratives, tagging exhibits, and general tweaking of the presentations is still very much an on-going task. Cataloguing the medal cases and associated displays is a mammoth undertaking in itself. Our little team of dedicated volunteers, overseen and stoutly supported by the ever-knowledgeable Stuart Eastwood, has spent many hours identifying, cleaning, and re-ribboning an astonishingly large collection of medals and awards.

The Museum has also been entrusted with the care of a number of War Memorials which required new homes as the original locations were demolished or used for other purposes. Some of these memorials, with refurbishment where necessary, have been placed in a quiet little corner accessible to the visiting public. Others are still in store. However it is hoped that in due course all such memorials will be made accessible to visitors.

The function suite is ideal for temporary presentations and is available for hire by external organisations. Such groups are asked for a nominal fee and may have the use of the projectors and other aids as required. There are also facilities for light refreshments. This of course will benefit the Museum through the financial gain and the additional publicity.

Our Education Officer, Ms Jules Wooding, has organised a number of talks and presentations on specialised subjects. It is hoped that these will become regular events.

The Museum is open every day between November and March 10am – 4pm (closed Christmas and New Year). For further information visit www.cumbriasmuseumofmilitarylife.org.



The Maryport Canvas, one of a number of Memorials and Rolls of Honour which have been given into the care of the Museum when the buildings in which they were originally placed were demolished or converted to other uses.

This Roll of Honour, printed on canvas mounted in a wood frame, lists the men of the Oddfellows Lodge of Maryport who served King and Country during the Great War. While most returned to family and friends some thirty-eight gave their all and would never see their homeland again.

The Loyal Excelsior Lodge of Oddfellows was a fraternal society of young men of a variety of crafts and skills.

While the Canvas is not yet on public display it is hoped that it will eventually be placed in the main function room



When our Patron, Lord "Eddie" Ballyedmond of Mourne OBE JP MRCVS, died in a flying accident in early 2014 the Friends of the Museum knew we had lost a staunch and generous supporter. His friendly and relaxed attitude towards those who came in contact with him was a welcome interlude in a hurried world.

We are fortunate therefore in having his wife Lady Mary Ballyedmond succeed him as our Patron. Lady Mary, a keen gardener and lover of the natural world and a solicitor by profession, is ideally placed to continue the good work of her husband.

With a deep interest and skilled knowledge of antiquities Lady Mary brings a further dimension to the role of Patron.

The Trustees, the staff, and the Friends, welcome her interest and look forward her continued support.

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Cumbria Museum of Military Life was held in the Function Suite in Alma Block on 3rd June 2015.

The Minutes of the previous AGM were presented and accepted.

The Chairman's report was read and commented on.

Mr Stuart Eastwood presented the Curators Report describing some of the highs and lows of the previous year's activities.

The Accounts were presented together with a favourable Auditor's report.

Mr Nigel Lewis presented some suggested amendments to the Constitution. These were proposed and adopted.

Proposals for functions and activities for the coming months were discussed. Those which have been confirmed are detailed on the last page of this newsletter.

The Committee was re-elected with no changes.



Lady Mary Ballyedmond

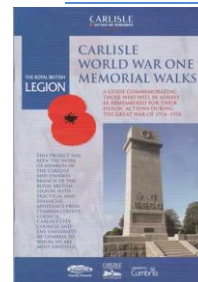
On 20th March the Carlisle and Stanwix Branch of the Royal British Legion launched its contribution to the commemoration of the period of The Great War.

This consisted of two distinct Websites and a small booklet.

The websites contain a wealth of detail about the many Memorials and Rolls of Honour found within the Carlisle Civic region. These stretch from Bewcastle to Cumdivock and from Kirkclinton to Cumrew. In the first edition over seventy memorials are described.

The booklet, with photographs, suggested tours, and map references, is an aid to those who wish to visit the many memorials.

The websites may be accessed at; - www.WW1-heroes-walk-of-honour and www.carlislememorialwalks.co.uk



The front page of the booklet

THE BROCKLEWATH "SPITFIRE." By Chris Hunter.



The grave in Annan Cemetery, D & G, of Flight Sergeant Peter Maxwell Clark. RAAF.

He rests here with his comrades



The grave, in Annan Cemetery, of Flying Officer William Donald Graves. RCAF.

He rests here with his comrades.

I first heard the story of the Brocklewath "Spitfire" back in 1961, shortly after I came to live at "Piperstile". Although interested, I thought no more about it, apart from being sceptical about it being a Spitfire as at that period of the war very few were this far North, they being mainly dispersed in the South East of England.

However the subject was raised during a chance meeting with a member of the Air Crash Investigation Archaeological Unit who, although having knowledge of this accident, had very little information to offer, and what they had was very sketchy, if not possibly inaccurate. My interest being aroused I agreed to undertake an investigation of my own with the aim of setting the record straight.

After spending a lot of time trawling through the R.A.F. records for that period, and with the help of local men, Willie Roper, Walter Robley, and Tommy Baxter, all of whom remembered the incident, I was able to establish fairly accurate map references for the accident. Also, thanks to the power of the internet, I was able to contact aviation museums and crash investigation team records and gradually piece together the story.

Firstly, the Spitfire indeed turned out to be a Hurricane. This mistake is understandable due to the similarity of the two aircraft, and to most people in those days; every fighter aircraft was a Spitfire. There were also two of them. These then are the events of that fateful day.

On the 23rd June 1943 three Hurricanes took off from No. 55 Operational Training Unit Annan on a routine training sortie. One of the aircraft returned safely. But the other two collided in the skies above Cumwhitton.

These were Hurricane Mk 11c number BE 489 piloted by 22 years old Flying Officer W. D. Graves, son of Mr and Mrs Frank and Stella Graves of Ottawa Canada, and Hurricane Mk 11 number Z2687 piloted by Flt/Sgt. P. M. Clark, also aged 22. He was the son of Mr and Mrs Clarence and Alice May Clark of Mudgee New South Wales Australia.

Hurricane Z 2687 caught fire and crashed resulting in the death of Flt/Sgt. Clark. The other aircraft, although not on fire was mortally stricken and incapable of flight and also crashed, killing F/O. Graves.

One of the aircraft impacted in the river shallows close to the Wath or Ford at Brocklewath farm (map ref NY 486 517) narrowly missing the farmhouse. The other impacted in Walter Robley's potato field opposite Randlawfoot approx (map ref NY 492 522).

Most of the wreckage and pilot remains were removed within days. Sometimes deeply buried and heavy items were just covered up and left where they lay.

The pilots are interred in Annan Cemetery, just a few miles from their training base at Chapelcross, in a CWGC plot of 19 other young airmen who died in somewhat similar circumstances. Flt/Sgt Clark and. F/O. Graves lie side by side in graves 17 and 18. Their grave markers bear the insignia of the Royal Air Forces of their respective countries.

These are the hard facts, the mechanics of the event. But there is a human element. We must ever remember the two brave young men who selflessly left the safety of their own land prepared to fight and die in defence of our British Isles. The war never directly reached us here in Cumberland and it was the sacrifice of these men, and others like them that ensured the defeat of Nazism.

We all acknowledge the debt we owe to our war dead. Plans are in progress to place a memorial in or around the local St Mary's Church, in memory of two young men, two out of many, who died for the cause of right and freedom, here on our very doorstep.

Chris Hunter

Sometimes in our interest in the famous and popular we may be forgetful of the many who quietly stand to their duties without fuss or plaudits. Staff Nurse Margaret Ellison Duckers, Queen Alexandria's Imperial Military Nursing Service (R) may be counted with those.

Within the Roll of Honour of the many young men and women of the counties of Cumberland and Westmorland, and later of Cumbria, who served their country in war in a variety of conflicts we find the name of Margaret Ellison Duckers.

Staff Nurse Margaret Ellison Duckers now lies in a faraway land. She died at the age of 25 while serving with Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, and is interred in Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria, in Greece.

Margaret Duckers was born to James Samuel and Jane Duckers, of 20 Edencroft, Wetheral, near Carlisle, in 1893. She had two siblings, an elder brother Scott, and a younger sister Emma. Her father was a Commercial Traveller with a Carlisle confectionary manufacturer.

Margaret appears to have had an interest in medicine from an early age and by her late teens was in training in Liverpool Royal Infirmary, under the tuition of Miss Cummins, previously Matron of the Cumberland Infirmary. She took a First in both Medicine and Surgery. During this time she formed a close friendship with Deborah Anne Ladbrook, who was to serve alongside her in Salonika. Margaret enlisted in Q.A.I.M.N.S. as a Reservist and was posted to a military hospital at 71, Vincent Square, London.

She answered the call for volunteers to serve overseas and by July 1917 found herself in a British Field Hospital in Salonika. When that hospital was transferred to Italy she was attached to a Serbian hospital in Macedonia, originally administered by a French unit, but by then under British command.

She was a competent and popular individual and was widely admired for her compassion and skill. However her health gave out in a combination of work and living conditions – the winter of 1917 was particularly grim, most personnel lived in tented accommodation – and she was sent to a convalescent camp.

On 16th May 1918 Staff Nurse Duckers was found unconscious on the floor of the hospital bathroom. She passed away two hours later.

Staff Nurse Margaret Ellison Duckers received a military funeral. Matrons and Sisters from other Field Hospitals travelled long distances to attend. Floral tributes were received from many friends, of British, Australian, and other nationalities.

Among the mourners was her last link with Wetheral, her friend Nurse Deborah Anne Ladbrook, then of 43 General Hospital, Salonika. Incidentally Nurse Ladbrook had, in 1917, received from the Government of France, the Croix de Guerre for bravery while rescuing soldiers from a burning train. Nurse Ladbrook survived the war and immigrated to the US in 1926.

Staff Nurse Duckers is not forgotten. She is honoured among the Fallen, on the War Memorial in the Lychgate of Wetheral Parish Church, not far from where she was born and gained her interest in medicine.

James Henderson

The Lychgate of St Mary's, Wetheral



The word lych survived into modern English from the Old English or Saxon word for corpse, mostly as an adjective in particular phrases or names, such as lych bell, the hand-bell rung before a corpse; lych way, the path along which a corpse was carried to burial (this in some districts was supposed to establish a right-of-way); lych owl, the screech owl, because its cry was a portent of death; and lyke-wake, a night watch over a corpse (and the Lyke-Wake Dirge).

In the Middle Ages when most people were buried in shrouds rather than coffins, the dead were carried to the lych gate and placed on a bier, where the priest conducted the first part of the funeral service under its temporary shelter.

Lychgates consist of a roofed porch-like structure over a gate, often built of wood.

The gateway was really part of the church. It was where the clergy met the corpse and the bier rested while part of the service was read before burial. It also served to shelter the pall-bearers while the bier was brought from the church. In some lych gates there stood large flat stones called lich-stones upon which the corpse, usually uncoffined, was laid. Most were erected from around the mid 15th century although some are earlier.



“It’s Only Me”. The Tribute in Carlisle Cathedral to Rev Theodore Bayley Hardy, VC, DSO, MC.

Theodore Bayley Hardy, VC, DSO, MC (20 October 1863 – 18 October 1918) was a Chaplain in the British Army and English recipient of the Victoria Cross, the highest and most prestigious award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces. In addition to the VC, Hardy had been awarded the Military Cross and the Distinguished Service Order, making him one of the most decorated non-combatants of the First World War.

Hardy was born 20 October 1863 to George and Sarah Richards Hardy of Exeter and ordained in 1898. He was married to Florence Elizabeth Hastings, who died in 1914.

Hardy was aged 51 when The Great War broke out, and was vicar at Hutton Roof in the Lake District. He volunteered at once but was turned down as being too old. Eventually, in August 1916, he was accepted for army service as a Temporary Chaplain to the Forces, 4th Class and attached to 8th Battalion, The Lincolnshire Regiment. He carried out the following deeds for which he was awarded a series of decorations. First he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) on 18 October 1917. The full citation was published on 7 March 1918:

“ Rev Theodore Bayley Hardy, Army Chaplain’s Dept. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in volunteering to go with a rescue party for some men who had been left stuck in the mud the previous night between the enemy’s outpost line and our own.

All the men except one were brought in. He then organised a party for the rescue of this man, and remained with it all night, though under rifle-fire at close range, which killed one of the party. With his left arm in splints, owing to a broken wrist, and under the worst weather conditions, he crawled out with patrols to within seventy yards of the enemy and remained with wounded men under heavy fire”. —London Gazette

This was followed by the Military Cross (MC) on 17 December 1917, the citation following on 23 April 1918:

“Rev, Theodore Bayley Hardy, D.S.O. Army Chaplain's Dept. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in tending the wounded. The ground on which he worked was constantly shelled and the casualties were heavy. He continually assisted in finding and carrying wounded and in guiding stretcher bearers to the aid post”. —London Gazette

Finally came the VC on 7 July 1918:

“Reverend Theodore Bayley Hardy, D.S.O., M.C., T./C.F., 4th Class, Army Chaplain’s Dept”.

“For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on many occasions. Although over fifty years of age, he has, by his fearlessness, devotion to men of his battalion, and quiet, unobtrusive manner, won the respect and admiration of the whole division. His marvellous energy and endurance would be remarkable even in a very much younger man, and his valour and devotion are exemplified in the following incidents: —

An infantry patrol had gone out to attack a previously located enemy post in the ruins of a village, the Reverend Theodore Bayley Hardy (C.F.) being then at company headquarters. Hearing firing, he followed the patrol, and about four hundred yards beyond our front line of posts found an officer of the patrol dangerously wounded. He remained with the officer until he was able to get assistance to bring him in.

During this time there was a great deal of firing, and an enemy patrol actually penetrated between the spot at which the officer was lying and our front line and captured three of our men.

On a second occasion, when an enemy shell exploded in the middle of one of our posts, the Reverend T. B. Hardy at once made his way to the spot, despite the shell and trench mortar fire which was going on at the time, and set to work to extricate the buried men. He succeeded in getting out one man who had been completely buried. He then set to work to extricate a second man, who was found to be dead.

During the whole of the time that he was digging out the men this chaplain was in great danger, not only from shell fire, but also because of the dangerous condition of the wall of the building which had been hit by the shell which buried the men.

On a third occasion he displayed the greatest devotion to duty when our infantry, after a successful attack, were gradually forced back to their starting trench.

After it was believed that all our men had withdrawn from the wood, Chaplain Hardy came out of it, and on reaching an advanced post asked the men to help him to get in a wounded man. Accompanied by a serjeant, he made his way to the spot where the man lay, within ten yards of a pill-box which had been captured in the morning, but was subsequently recaptured and occupied by the enemy. The wounded man was too weak to stand, but between them the chaplain and the serjeant eventually succeeded in getting him to our lines.

Throughout the day the enemy's artillery, machine-gun, and trench mortar fire was continuous, and caused many casualties.

Notwithstanding, this very gallant chaplain was seen moving quietly amongst the men and tending the wounded, absolutely regardless of his personal safety".
—London Gazette

Captain Hardy was appointed to the honorary position of Chaplain to His Majesty on 17 September 1918.

He was wounded in action when again trying to tend to the wounded and died a week later in Rouen, France, on 18 October 1918, two days before his 55th birthday.

He is buried at St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France, in block S, plot V, row J, grave 1. There are memorials to Hardy at Carlisle Cathedral, at the former Royal Commercial Travellers School, Pinner, Middlesex (now the Harrow Arts Centre), City of London School and in his old church at Hutton Roof in Cumbria.

His medals are displayed at The Museum of Army Chaplaincy (Amport, Hampshire, England).

The quiet devotion of Captain Hardy to his duty of care for his comrades endeared him to all he met.

Raw, David (1988). "It's only me": a life of the Reverend Theodore Bayley Hardy, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., 1863-1918, vicar of Hutton Roof, Westmorland. Gatebeck, Kendal: Frank Peters Publishing. pp. vii, 105. ISBN 0948511451.

A recent Museum acquisition is an original WW1 battlefield grave marker. This is a simple wooden cross of locally grown softwood, of a style produced in their thousands, by each Divisional Workshop just before a battle.

Following an often hurried burial one of these, with a short reference to the casualty included on an embossed metal strip, would be erected over the grave. This procedure was supervised by the Divisional Graves Registration Unit, which would record the details and the place of burial. There were variations in design to take into account the Fallen of other faiths.

When hostilities ended the Imperial (later Commonwealth) War Graves Commission began the enormous task of laying out cemeteries and formally marking each grave. Many burials from scattered graves were concentrated into the major cemeteries. The wooden marker was replaced by the little white Portland stone which is so familiar to us today.

The wooden grave markers, having served their poignant purpose, were formally destroyed by fire to avoid their trade as "souvenirs". However some, for a variety of reasons, survived, and a very few still exist around the UK. This one, on loan from St Kentigern's Church at Cockermouth, was the grave marker of Captain Henry Bell, son of George and Elizabeth Bell, of Walmer House, Bothel, Aspatria.

Captain Bell died of wounds on 25th January 1917 while serving with 5th Bn Border Regiment. He is now interred in Dernancourt Communal Cemetery Ext, grave IV.G.26.



The Grave Marker of Captain Henry Bell, 5th Border Regt, who Died of Wounds on 25th Jan 1917.



The Museum is pleased to have been entrusted with the care of many of the Medals and Honours of those who served over the years. Here is just a small part of a collection which reminds us of the service of the British soldier through the campaigns of Empire right up to the peacekeeping roles of the present day.

Museum Events



Tuesday Talks Series
Tuesday 10 November
The Battle of Solway Moss
with Geoffrey Carter from The Battlefields Trust

BOOK NOW!

All talks start at 6pm
at Cumbria's Museum of Military Life
in Carlisle Castle
Only £5 per talk
Seats strictly limited, pre-book tickets to avoid disappointment.

Expert speakers unravel fascinating detail of battles and operations throughout history
Experience unique insights and get closer to Cumbria's military history

Licensed bar
Disabled access
Suitable for 14 years and over

For info and to book your seat
email: enquiries@cmoml.org
call: 01228 532774

Visit Black, Carlisle Castle, C.A.M.O.L.
www.cumbriasmuseumofmilitarylife.org
T: 01228 532774 E: enquiries@cmoml.org

The Museum's Autumn series of Tuesday Talks concludes on **Tuesday 10 November** with a very special talk on the Battle of Solway Moss. Discover the story of this little known battle where in 1542 against overwhelming odds 3,000 English troops kept an advancing Scottish army of around 18,000 at bay at the river Esk.

Tickets £4 for Friends Members

Call (01228)532774 to book.

Previous talks in this series have been on the Battle of Arnhem in September. The October talk was unfortunately cancelled due to poor pre-booking numbers. If you are planning on attending a talk please book in advance.

Tickets are selling fast for the next **Food & History Evening** at Thursby Parish Hall on **Saturday 24 October**. Enjoy a cooking demonstration and a 3 course Greek buffet by chef John Crouch and an illustrated talk by curator Stuart Eastwood.

Call 01228 710101 today to book your tickets which are only £13!



FOOD & HISTORY EVENING
Greece and the Balkans
The Border Regiment in Greece & Salonika in ww1
and King's Own Royal Border Regiment in former Yugoslavia 1997-2001

Enjoy cooking demo & 3 course Greek buffet by chef John Crouch
and illustrated talk by speaker Stuart Eastwood

Saturday 24th October
at Thursby Parish Hall
(CA5 6PQ)

Doors open 6pm for 6:30 start
Licensed bar available

Tickets: £13
Under 16's: £6.50

Call 01228 710101 to book
and for more information

This event is organised and run by volunteers giving their free time to raise funds for Cumbria's Museum of Military Life. All proceeds go to the Battery run Museum located in Carlisle Castle.

CUMBRIA'S
MUSEUM OF
MILITARY LIFE
www.cumbriasmuseumofmilitarylife.org

E-Newsletter

The Museum endeavours to keep Friends informed of all events but can only effectively do this via email. If you use email and want regular updates please sign up for the Museum's own e-newsletter by either calling the Museum on 01228 532774 or on the website: **www.cumbriasmuseumofmilitarylife.org/newsletter**

Call Up the Men: New Exhibition

The Museum is hosting a new sound art installation by artist Amie Slavin. The installation focuses on bugle calls used by the British infantry to issue orders and reveals a human and humorous side to these calls. Images of the Regimental band's history are also on display adding a local connection to this fantastic installation.

The exhibition is open from October 12 to November 22.

Members of the Friends can see this installation free of charge when next visiting the Museum using their membership card.

