

# THE LION & THE DRAGON



## In honoured memory of Lt Tom Story and his comrades of 11<sup>th</sup> Bn Border Regiment (Lonsdales).

Thomas Story, known to his friends as Tom, was born on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1890, into a well-off farming family in the village of Botcherby, a small agricultural community near Carlisle. It was the home village of several families involved in agriculture and ancillary trades.



Thomas had an above average education for the period and had decided to pursue a career in Banking. By the time he was 24 he was employed as a Bank Clerk in Hull. He would expect to remain in this field of endeavour, perhaps moving up through the ranks to a reasonably comfortable retirement in his later years.

In Sept 1914, just four months after his 24<sup>th</sup> birthday, war intervened. He volunteered for active service.

### Lieut Thomas Story

Attested at Carlisle on 6<sup>th</sup> Sept he was posted to 9<sup>th</sup> Bn Border Regiment as 15259 Pte Thomas Story.

He is described in his documents as 5 feet 8 and three-quarter inches tall, weighing 144 lbs, with 38" chest, and in good physical condition. He was unmarried. His father had died some years earlier so his mother was named his Next of Kin

His talents were recognised very quickly. He was appointed Orderly Room Sgt on 14<sup>th</sup> Sept, eight days after enlisting! However this was not what he had joined for. A month later, and at his own request, Tom reverted to the rank of Private.

It would be another seven months before he again received promotion. Following a few days in hospital for treatment for Scabies he became, on 27 May 1915, a Lance Corporal.

Thomas must have quickly shown leadership qualities as less than three months later we find that he has been recommended for a commission. On 25<sup>th</sup> August 1915 he was appointed a Temporary Second Lieutenant in 10<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Res) Bn Border Regiment. After a short course at an Officer School of Instruction at Cambridge he joined his battalion.

He wrote a new Will on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1915 appointing his brother Robert as his Executor and his mother as his main beneficiary. His pay as an officer then was seven and sixpence per day (37.5p).

By the autumn of 1916 and following until then an injury-free period of action, we find Tom Story leading a platoon of 11<sup>th</sup>

Bn (Lonsdales) Border Regiment during the final days of the Somme offensive. Although the Battle of the Somme was considered to have reached its bloody conclusion by 17<sup>th</sup> November the dying continued. On the morning of 18<sup>th</sup> November Lieutenant Tom Story led his platoon once more into that cauldron of death. Thomas Story, the Bank Clerk and farmer's son, of Botcherby, Carlisle, would not return. However his body was recovered and Tom was eventually laid to rest in Waggon Road Cemetery, Beaumont Hamel. His mother would receive formal notice in due course, and as a beneficiary of his will, the sum of 71 pounds, 14 shillings, and 5 pence. His medals were sent to his brother Robert. On 1<sup>st</sup> April 1919 Mrs Margaret Story made a formal application for a pension for the loss of her son.

On 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 1916 the Cumberland News published a very detailed obituary. It included a letter to his mother from a fellow-officer, Lt W. R. Gillespie;

*"Dear Mrs Story, it is my painful duty to inform you that your son, Lt Tom Story, was killed in action. Probably by now you will have had War Office intimation of the fact, but it does not make this letter any easier to write. The battalion, after lying out all night during the dark on snowy ground, went forward at dawn with the other battalions of the brigade to attack the enemy's trenches. The fire of the enemy artillery was intense, and heavy machine-gun fire was opened as soon as the enemy realised that the battalion was "pushing". Your son's platoon had just reached the enemy barbed wire, Tom at its head, when a bullet brought him down. I am glad to be able to tell you that his death was painless".*



**The family tribute, in Carlisle Cemetery, to Lieutenant Tom Story**

*"He died as I have often heard him say he would have wished to die, leading his men into action. That wintry morning lost us many officers and many men, but no braver heart than you son's. His platoon, to which he was greatly attached, idolised him for his strength, his courage, and his good-nature. We, the remaining members of his company mess, miss him no less. Let me assure you of my deepest sympathy, and that of the two other remaining members of our company mess, as well as that of all the officers in the battalion".*

By James Henderson

### The War *under* the Western Front The RE Tunnelling Companies.

Richard Brown Brisco was born in Carlisle in 1878, the son of Richard and Jane Brisco of Ghyll House, Wreay, near Carlisle and the grandson of Richard and Ruth Brown, of Hayton, near Carlisle. He attended the local village school. He served in the Boer War as a 20 year old trooper in the Duke of Cambridge's Own and subsequently trained as a solicitor.

However he never practiced; instead he sought adventure around the world taking part in several exploratory expeditions, notably in the upper regions of the Amazon. Richard became a successful big game hunter in British East Africa and was in San Francisco during the great earthquake. He came to be known as "The Ubiquitous Richard Brisco."

Richard re-enlisted, in 1914, into 2<sup>nd</sup> King Edward's Horse. Commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1915 he was assigned to 172<sup>nd</sup> Tunnelling Company. In February 1916 he was wounded in the arm but in 3 months was back in action.

172<sup>nd</sup> Tunnelling Company's main task was to undermine German positions along the Messines Salient, constructing deep tunnels packed with explosives in preparation for a major assault. The explosive capacity of these mines was huge. Indeed when 19 mines with a combined capacity of 800 tonnes of Ammonal were detonated simultaneously at 3.10 am on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1917, the sound of the explosion was so great it was heard in London, and even, it was reported, in Dublin. It is estimated that over 10,000 German soldiers were killed in an instant by that blast. The British troops advanced across the resultant empty terrain over a greater distance than in the previous three years combined.

Enemy tunnellers often met each other in the darkness and fierce battles ensued with frantic hand to hand combat, often using sharpened spades and other unorthodox weapons. Fire-arms, particularly rifles with bayonet, were rarely used, being unwieldy and impractical in a narrow space.

Richard Brown Brisco MC, was killed by shellfire at Vimy Ridge on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1917 at the age of 39 and is interred in Ecoivres Military Cemetery in France. He did not live to see the success, two months later, of his specialised skill.



**The grave of Captain Richard Brown Brisco in Ecoivres Military Cemetery.**

An eye-witness describes that morning in June 1917.

*"Suddenly at dawn, as a signal for all of our guns to open fire, there rose out of the dark ridge of Messines and 'Whitesheet' and that ill-famed Hill 60, enormous volumes of scarlet flame throwing up high towers of earth and smoke all lighted by the flame, spilling over into fountains of*

*fierce colour, so that many of our soldiers waiting for the assault were thrown to the ground. The surviving German troops were stunned, dazed, and horror-stricken. Many lay dead in the great craters opened by the mines". — Sir Philip Gibbs.*

**Captain Brisco** had a reputation as an efficient and fearless leader. He was awarded the Military Cross for an action on 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 1915 when he and another officer went to investigate a German counter-tunnel which his miners had broken into. About 80 yards into the tunnel they encountered a German working party. Captain Brisco engaged them with revolver fire while the other officer prepared an explosive charge. They retired to the entrance, blew the charge, and efficiently forestalled a German follow-up.

The regimental diary of 172 Company describes the events of the morning of 9<sup>th</sup> April 1917, the day Richard died.

*"Casualties, Temp Captain R B Brisco KIA" (Killed in Action), Pte Walker E and Pte Tandy N, both attached from 15<sup>th</sup> Sherwood Foresters. (both wounded).*

*05.30hrs. Two C mines blown in connection with the attack on Vimy Ridge.*

*1. From the east end of Goodman Subway into German front line forming trench across No-Man's-Land, 150ft long x 35 ft wide and 15ft deep.*

*The following operations were also carried out in connection with the attack.*

*(i). Three mobile charges exploded in lip of Longfellow Crater in order to make passages for assaulting infantry into the crater.*

*(ii). Two forward units from Goodman Subway opened up into NMLand and saps driven into CT formed by buried mines.*

*(iii). Forward unit from Lichfield Subway opened up for taking signal cables forward into captured trenches.*

*(iv). Assault party went over under Captain Brisco, located Prinz Arnulf Tunnel, investigated for mines, and reopened entrances.*

*(v). Similar party located Volker Tunnel, killing or taking prisoner those inside, cutting the leads of charges, and reopening entrances.*

*(vi). All enemy mine shafts investigated and cleared, all enemy mines neutralised".*



*Richard's mother Jane died when he was six years old. This tribute in Hayton churchyard suggests a dearly loved grandson who would have had considerable contact with his maternal grandparents. He is also commemorated at Wreay, where he and his father lived until he went off on his many expeditions of exploration.*

James Henderson - with thanks to Shaun Halfpenny and Andy Prada



### Every object tells a story;-

The many exhibits we find in our museums around the UK are rarely there for their ornamental value. They are there because they carry a story of some aspect of the evolution of our world and of the endeavours of its many species in the struggle to survive in the constantly changing circumstances of their environment.

Exhibits in museums are generally accompanied by a narrative, necessarily restricted in content because of demands of space, but also intentionally brief due to the limited time the visitor may have to examine the entire collection. But there is always a greater story.

If we have the time and facility for further research we may learn much more about a great invention, or a major breakthrough in medical science, or the story of the survival of a people under great threat. We may learn in detail how nature could become both a friend and an enemy. And we may learn from the mistakes of the past.

Here in Cumbria's Museum of Military Life we have a wonderful collection of military-related artefacts from not just the history of our County Regiments and their antecedents, but also of other aspects of conflicts going back several centuries. Each one of these items has a story not necessarily fully documented within the display, but which involved ordinary people often struggling for survival in a hostile environment.

The following story is the first of a series by our *Learning and Access Officer*, Jules Wooding. It reminds us that war and conflict are rarely honourable and heroic.

### Every object tells a story: □ The baby's Bonnet.

The Museum's collection houses many unusual and interesting artefacts that tell a very different story. One such object is the baby's bonnet found in the well at Cawnpore in India. The history of such a small delicate artefact highlights the trials and tribulations of overseas service in the Victorian era, when the army policed an ever-growing empire and ordinary soldiers found themselves in various outstations around the world.

This year is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Indian independence and the creation of Pakistan. By 1947, there had been a British military presence on the Indian subcontinent for several hundred years. This included the Border Regiment and its antecedent regiments. As the nineteenth century progressed, a European community, with wives and families, grew up in and around the major cities and centres of government.

Like many Museum objects, the baby's bonnet has a story to tell which gives us an insight into a particular historical event. Cawnpore, located 250 miles from Delhi in Northern India, was home to a large British garrison and in 1857 was the scene of rebellion and mutiny. Violence had spread throughout Northern India as some local Indian soldiers rose up against the British motivated by the introduction of new ammunition, aided by local civilians driven by simmering grievances. As news of the violence in Delhi reached Cawnpore, 375 women and children plus 200 soldiers barricaded themselves behind makeshift defences under the command of General Wheeler. The mutineers surrounded the barricade and asked for help from local aristocrat Nana Sahib who, with many personal grievances, thought the British were on the verge of collapse and joined the mutineers to besiege the Europeans. As conditions deteriorated, General Wheeler eventually accepted terms under which the hostages would receive safe conduct on boats down the river.

However, Nana Sahib had other ideas and ordered a detachment of Indian soldiers to ambush these refugees. Many drowned or were shot although 125 people, mainly women and children, survived. The survivors were incarcerated in a nearby British bungalow, many suffering with dysentery and cholera. As a British relief force was making its way towards Cawnpore, Nana Sahib hoped that the hostages would provide him with a bargaining tool but he had no success. Historians debate about who made the decision to order rebellious soldiers to kill the remaining hostages but when they refused, local butchers were drafted in to undertake the slaughter of the Europeans. The bodies were then thrown down the well, including six survivors who suffocated under the corpses. The following day the mutineers abandoned Cawnpore and British troops entered the city to be greeted by an horrific scene. In retribution, they took revenge on the local population by committing further atrocities.



**The baby's bonnet was donated to the Museum years later and is on display in the main gallery.**

It is one of many objects that highlight the Army's connection with the Indian subcontinent.

Many of these objects will form part of an India-themed exhibition (thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund) scheduled from July to October 2017 which, together with photographs and archives, will provide an insight into this connection through the eyes of individual soldiers.

*Jules Wooding Learning & Access Officer*



## The Brutality of Trench Warfare

By 1917 Trench warfare had become the accepted norm. Trench routine had been finely honed, with officers and men working hard to ensure that the trenches would be both strong in the defence, and comfortable enough for long-term occupation. The German Siegfried Stellung - known to the British as the Hindenburg Line - represented the highest art in military construction, with deep dugouts, strongly built and mutually supporting trenches, and belts of seemingly impregnable barbed wire. With the siege deepening, the restlessness of High Command was such that often costly trench raids - to demonstrate the 'offensive spirit', to wrest control of no-man's-land, to test the strength of the defenders and to capture prisoners for information - were a regular occurrence on all fronts.

Of all the items associated with trench warfare, the rediscovery of clubs and knives as weapons is identified with the descent of warfare from the ideal of open battle to the extended and stalemated nightmare of the trenches. Of these, maces or clubs have an ancestry that extends back millennia; they may represent some of the earliest weapons made by man. Their use in trench warfare equates with the need for stealth while carrying out limited assaults or trench raids; in the strict confines of the trench, rifles with fixed bayonets could not be wielded effectively. Where a modicum of surprise was needed, the club, knife, revolver and grenade found favour in night-time trench raids. In the British manual Notes on Minor Enterprises (1916), there was no doubting what was needed: 'Men's faces and hands should be darkened. Men should be armed according to the tasks they are to perform. Revolvers, knobkerries and daggers have been used. In addition to the grenadiers, every man should carry two grenades.' In most cases, clubs were fashioned from whatever was to hand, though they usually had one thing in common - a long handle with a weighted end, usually garnished with some form of fearsome-looking metal.

Private Stephen Graham of the Scots Guards described a typical late-war raiding party: 'The party was to go out armed mainly with clubs, like savages. These clubs were made especially for them by our pioneers. They were made of the iron part of Mills hand grenades clamped to entrenching tool handles. One sharp blow on the head from one of these and your enemy needed no more. The raiders carried no rifles.'

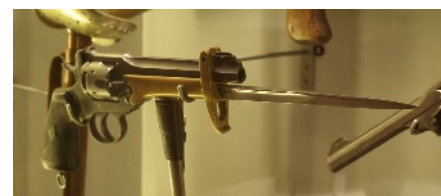


Typical clubs are illustrated, British examples comprising a long turned-wood handle with studs or boot cleats; other nations' efforts would look similar. Many have weighted ends, with lead or cast iron or steel mace ends constructed in workshops. Other examples of these have nails instead of cleats, with at least one known to be from the archaeological excavation of front-line trenches in the Ypres Salient. These types may well have been manufactured in army workshops. Other versions were probably extemporised in the trenches, or even at home, and sent to the front line. Carved wood knobkerries are also known. The short-handled spades used by Germany and France as entrenching tools were also popular, especially with the spade sharpened to lethal effect. Clubs were used by all the combatant nations, and were found on all fronts. As one commentator has put it: 'this medieval weapon, which in times past had come to signify authority and status, now represented the brutality of trench warfare.'

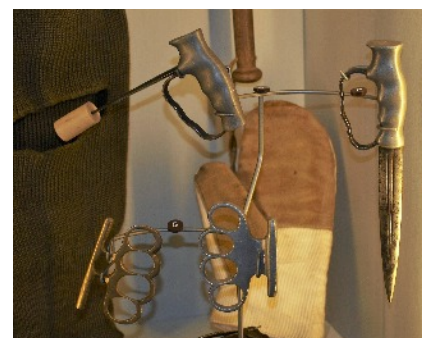
*With acknowledgment to Peter Doyle - The First World War in 100 objects. The History Press [www.thehistorypress.co.uk](http://www.thehistorypress.co.uk)*

***The Museum collections includes a variety of weapons designed specifically for close quarter battle of the kind so prevalent on the Western Front.***

Soldiers fighting in the darkness of night raids in search of intelligence by capturing enemy soldiers would rarely use - or even carry - rifles. Tunnellers also used improvised weapons. When opposing tunnels broke through into one another there was often a mad melee in confined spaces in semi-darkness. The sappers would use all sorts of weapons, mostly improvised, but some manufactured specially for this purpose.



**The pistol with the shortened bayonet is an example of a specialised weapon.**



**Knuckledusters, clubs, and knives, many improvised in unit workshops, are part of a display in the Museum.**

German soldiers taken prisoner in the assault on the Schwaben Redoubt on the morning of 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 complained of the use of sharpened spades by the men of 36<sup>th</sup> Division. It certainly was not a football match.

James Henderson



**This is the story of the short war of Private John Joseph Troghear, 21 years old, a young man of Cumberland,** who had left his widowed father and his home at High Hesket, near Carlisle, to serve his country in the Great War. He died during the First Battle of The Scarfe, near the town of Arras, on the western Front.

The battle began on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1917 and ended six days later.

John Troghear was one of thousands of young men cut down like corn in those few days. He received injuries from which he never recovered.

We do not know at what point he became a casualty or how long he waited for evacuation from that field of carnage. He was just one of many, in agony, and anonymous to the bullets and shrapnel. He would have no choice but to wait for the overworked bearer teams to find him and carry him to a place of relative safety. John would have lain among his dead and wounded comrades for a time, for hours possibly, or even for a day. We cannot tell. He would almost certainly have been in dreadful pain, and if still conscious, would welcome the limited relief afforded by the overstretched staff of the Regimental Aid Post or Advanced Dressing Station. While still within range of enemy artillery he would wait for evacuation to a Casualty Clearing Station, and hopefully treatment and a rail journey back to the coast at Calais. From there a sea journey would bring him to England and eventual recovery in a military hospital. There was even the chance he might find himself receiving visits from his family as he recuperated in Carlisle (Fusehill Street) Military Hospital.

John was evacuated to 43rd Casualty Clearing Station and its railhead at Warlincourt Halte, some fourteen miles south west of Arras. Following treatment here the wounded could expect a relatively comfortable journey by hospital train to the coast.

The fourteen mile journey over damaged roads, from the battlefield to the CCS, would have been torture for someone with even minor wounds. We now know that John's injuries were severe. He is recorded as having gunshot wounds to the neck and back.

At some point on that journey, or during the time he waited on a stretcher for attention by the overworked staff of the CCS, or possibly even on the operating table, John became another of the Fallen. He was pronounced dead on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1917 at that Casualty Clearing Station at Warlincourt Halte, leaving a grieving father, brother, and two sisters to mourn him.

Warlincourt Halte British Military Cemetery was used by a number of Casualty Clearing Stations for most of the war. John lies there now in grave 12, Row D, Plot VIII.

After the Armistice this became a Concentration Cemetery where the dead of scattered battlefield burials and nearby small cemeteries were brought. The cemetery now holds a total of 1296 graves, twenty-nine of which are German, and two French. In thirty-seven of these graves lie the unidentified remains of some of John Troghear's comrades.



**The words "He gave his Life, A ransom for Many", which appear on his CWGC grave marker, were chosen by John's father.**

**The original wooden cross which marked his grave was returned to his family and is now in an honoured place in the Parish church at High Hesket.**

John died while serving with the 1/14<sup>th</sup> London Regiment, (London Scottish). It was part of 168<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> London) Brigade of 56<sup>th</sup> (1st London) Division of General Allenby's Third Army. The 56th Division was heavily involved in various battles around Arras. Although John served with a Scottish regiment he was not Scots; he was born in Cumberland. However the exigencies of war decreed that by 1917 soldiers would find themselves making up numbers in regiments they had never until then imagined they might serve with. And is why John's name appears on the Scottish National War Memorial in Edinburgh Castle.

*High Hesket is a pleasant small village just off the A6 road to Penrith some eight miles south of Carlisle. Roman Legionaries once trod this road. It follows, for most of its path, the route taken by those soldiers of a distant past as they marched north to serve the Empire on Hadrian's great wall.*



*In more recent times the village, in the fertile Eden valley, was an agricultural community when John Joseph Troghear and his neighbours went off to war. This Memorial, just by the churchyard entrance, tells us that the*

*families of nine of the many young men of the community who went off to the Great War would never see their loved ones again. And we learn from the Memorial that a further six families were to be similarly bereaved in WW2.*

James Henderson



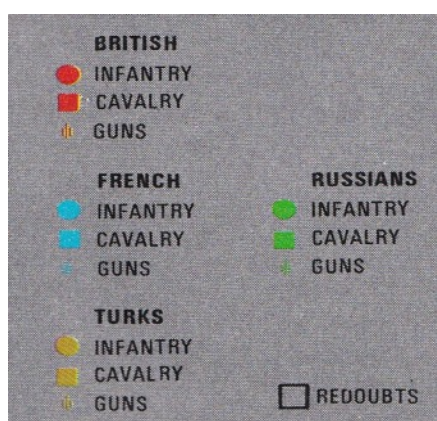
## Into the valley of death - Balacava 25 October 1854

Few of our readers will be unfamiliar with the events described by Alfred Lord Tennyson in his epic poem, *The Charge of the Light Brigade*. He relates an heroic incident of the Crimean War of 1853-1856, a few minutes of confusion and incredible bravery when the strength of a cavalry brigade was reduced from 673 men and horses to just under 200. The Allied armies of Britain, France and Turkey were preparing for an attack from the south on the Russian held city of Sevastopol. This however, made the Allies dangerously reliant on the small seaport of Balacava. As part of the defences of Balacava a series of six redoubts, garrisoned by Turkish artillery, were erected along the ridge of the Woronzoff Road. Close protection was provided by a battalion of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Highlanders.

On the morning of 25<sup>th</sup> October 1854 the allied armies, moving from the northwest, became aware of a pending

Russian attack on the most easterly of the redoubts.

The Light and Heavy Brigades were withdrawn to the valleys on either side of the ridge, with the Light Brigade to the north and in sight of the main Russian force, and the Heavy Brigade to the south. The main body of the Allied Army moved south to intercept the enemy. The battle began.



### Charge of the Heavy Brigade Phases 1 & 2

1&2. A Russian force (of 22,000 infantry, 3,400 cavalry, and 78 guns), approaching from the north-east, begins an attack on the redoubts, drives out the Turkish garrison, and prepares to remove the guns.

3&4. The British commander, Lord Raglan, orders the two British Infantry Divisions to move south to the plain and the cavalry to retire to the extreme west of the valley. The Heavy Brigade withdraws to the south valley, and the Light Brigade to the western end of the north valley.

5. The Russian cavalry bypasses the Light Brigade and swings south towards Balacava, to be met and stopped by "The Thin Red Line" of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Highlanders.

6&7. The Heavy Brigade, moving to support the 93<sup>rd</sup>, sights the main body of the Russian cavalry and prepares to attack. They charge, turning and dissuading the Russian cavalry, in a classic and superb manoeuvre.

### Charge of the Light Brigade Phases 3 & 4

1. Lord Cardigan, commanding the Light Brigade, sticks to the letter of his orders, and keeps the Light Brigade where it is. He permits the remaining Russian cavalry to retire unmolested.

2. The Russians prepare to retire with the guns captured from the redoubts.

3. To prevent this Raglan orders the cavalry to intervene. However he does not realise that the Light Brigade cannot see the captured guns. He fails to make the objective clear. They can only see the guns of the main Russian force.

4. A muddled order and further misleading directions from Captain Nolan, Raglan's ADC, sends the Light Brigade down the North Valley towards the main Russian force and the gun batteries they believed they had been ordered to attack. Lucan prevents the Heavy Brigade from following.

5. The survivors of the Light Brigade take the Russian battery and retire in good order, aided by the intervention of the French Chasseurs d'Afrique.

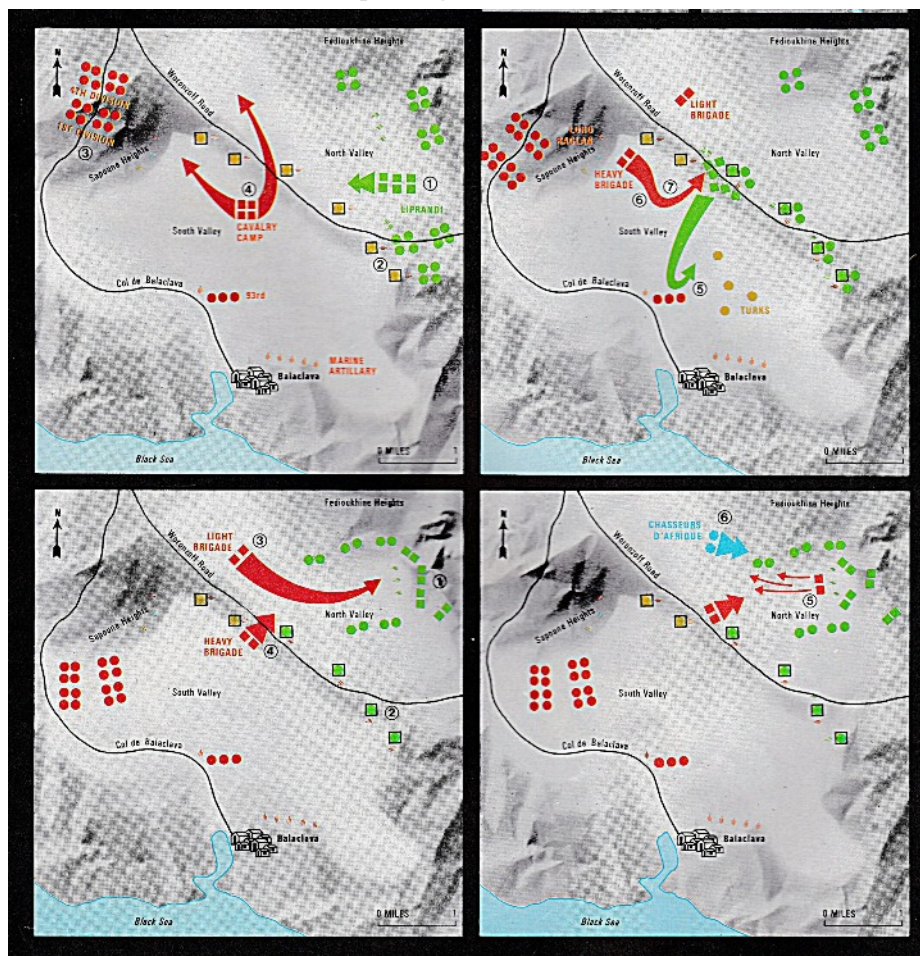


Chart from; *History of the English Speaking Peoples*



### Close call at Balaklava!

The previous page tells us something of that rather muddled episode of the Crimean War we call the *Battle of Balaklava*.

On that wintry morning the Russian army came close to taking the port of Balaklava, the main supply route into the Peninsula for British supplies and reinforcements. And the hospitals through which the wounded were treated and evacuated.

The Russian assault failed because of their commander's faulty interpretation of the forces arrayed against them. The Light Brigade's near-suicidal assault, and the unusual deployment of the 93<sup>rd</sup>, (the 'Thin Red Line') was so unorthodox as to cause confusion in the Russian force. The Russian cavalry could not believe that an infantry battalion would deploy to receive cavalry in such a fashion. They thought it was a trap and that there were much greater numbers behind the Highlanders. The sturdy resistance by the Turks in their remaining redoubts was also a factor.



If the Russians had known that the defence included wounded soldiers hastily called from recovery wards they might have pressed home their assault. Among those wounded soldiers were a number of men of the antecedent regiments of the Border Regiment who had fought at the Battle of Alma the previous month. Although these regiments were not part of the Order of Battle at Balaklava the wounded men of various regiments who "stood to arms", were awarded the Balaklava Clasp. The Museum displays a Crimea Medal set with

Balaklava Clasp, an example of that awarded to Pte Henry Cross of the 55<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot. It is probable that Pte Cross was one of those 'walking wounded' who fought alongside the 93<sup>rd</sup> Sutherland Highlanders on that day.

**The 55<sup>th</sup> Foot** were one of the first Regiments to land in the Crimea and fought in the principal battles of The Alma (20<sup>th</sup> September 1854) Inkerman (5<sup>th</sup> November 1854) and the subsequent Siege of Sebastopol /Sevastopol. Although they suffered a large number of battle casualties these were far outweighed by the large number affected by illness and disease especially cholera which claimed more lives. The 34<sup>th</sup> Foot landed in the Crimea in early December 1854 and only took part in the siege of Sebastopol.

At the Battle of Balaklava supporting the Thin Red Line of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Highlanders was a company of around 100 invalids from various Regiments, including the 55<sup>th</sup> Foot. The Crimea Medal roll records one Officer, one Colour-Sergeant, two Corporals, two Drummers and 23 Privates of the 55<sup>th</sup> who received the Medal with the bar /clasp Balaklava, one of those being Henry Cross.

Feature by James Henderson

### The Patron's Fund Raising Dinner at Corby Castle, Carlisle.

On April 22<sup>nd</sup> the Friends of the MofML enjoyed the second of our formal fund raising dinners. The venue at Corby Castle was generously provided by our Patron, Lady Mary Ballyedmond. This followed the precedent established by her late husband in 2008.

Following an outdoor champagne reception on a lovely spring evening during which Flt Lt. Brian White entertained everyone with song, the guests were invited to a sumptuous banquet served in the welcoming and impressive Opera House. Following Grace by the Dean of Carlisle Cathedral, the Very Reverend Mark Boyling, everyone sat down to an excellent meal of six courses and appropriate wines during which a relaxing background of classical music was provided by the Lakes Quartet.

Major Nigel Lewis, the Chairman of the Friend's Committee proposed the Loyal Toast. This was followed by the Guest Speakers, Col (Rtd) Peter McCall, and Lt General (Rtd) Sir Philip Trousdell. Colonel McCall spoke of his role as the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria, interspersing this with some appropriate anecdotes. General Trousdell, in his role as Chairman of CNPA, emphasised the responsibility of us all to ensure that military museums and all they represent must be supported and maintained.

Major Lewis concluded the evening with thanks to Lady Ballyedmond and the organising committee. He also complimented the staff of Corby Castle for their excellent and efficient service throughout what was a most convivial and enjoyable evening.



The Lord Lieutenant for Cumbria, Mrs Claire Hensman, our patron, Lady Mary Ballyedmond, and some of the guests at the champagne reception preceding the dinner.



## Tuesday Talks Series

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

**Tue 13<sup>th</sup> June**

**Plain Tales, Strong Men and Matters of Honour: The Indian Army c.1850-1947**  
Dr Gavin Rand

**Tue 11<sup>th</sup> July**

**The Third Battle of Ypres 1917**  
*This talk not illustrated*  
Prof John Derry

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept**

Speaker and Subject TBC

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October**

**End of Empire - The Aden Insurgency 1962-67**  
Jonathon Walker

**Tue 14<sup>th</sup> November**

**VCs of the Border Regiment in 1917**  
Stuart Eastwood

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

### NOTICE:

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](mailto: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.

7<sup>th</sup> June 7 pm - AGM of Friends of CMML - Museum - Refreshments and guest speaker.

7<sup>th</sup> July 6 pm - Cheese and Wine evening - Museum.

9<sup>th</sup> July - Curry Lunch - Museum.

10<sup>th</sup> Sept - Curry Lunch - Museum.

30<sup>th</sup> Sept - Evening of Fine Wines - Golden Fleece.

21<sup>st</sup> Oct - Food and History - Thursby Parish Hall - John Crouch & Stuart Eastwood

The Friends wish to publicly thank the staff and all those who have supported the Museum in so many ways. The Museum is still evolving. New acquisitions have been added to the collections and more are promised.

For further information you are invited to telephone the Museum on 01228 532774.

You are invited to have a look at our website;  
[www.cumbriasmuseumofmilitarylife.org/newsletter](http://www.cumbriasmuseumofmilitarylife.org/newsletter)



(Or use your phone to scan the QR Code)



**That precious letter from home! (in the days before the Internet and the mobile phone).**