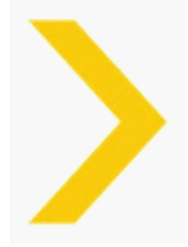


THE LION & THE DRAGON



Devil Take the Hindmost – the VC action at Neuf Berquin 11th-12th 1918 - Captain/Acting Lieutenant-Colonel James Forbes Robertson VC DSO & Bar MC.

After serving with 1st Battalion Border Regiment at Gallipoli in 1915, Captain A/Major James Forbes Robertson was posted to the Western Front in June 1916, first with the Newfoundland Regiment, which he commanded from November 1916 and then with the 16th Middlesex from August 1917. His outstanding leadership and gallantry had already been rewarded by the award of two DSO's and the MC. Following the disbandment of 16th Middlesex, he re-joined the 1st Battalion Border Regiment at Passchendaele on 21st February as second in command. Two days later he was appointed its CO, when Major A/Lt-Col. A. Ellis DSO was promoted to command 86th Infantry Brigade.



1st Border moved back to Watou for training, and then to Poperinghe to provide working parties in the area for the next few weeks. When the great German offensive began it was in camp near Poperinghe. On 9th April orders were received warning the 1st Border Regiment to prepare to entrain for the St. Pol area. At 8.30pm all ranks boarded buses and on the morning of the 10th found

themselves at Neuf Berquin and marched into close billets in the village, putting out outposts to cover the Brigade.

From 10th April to the evening of the 12th, 1st Border and units of 86th and 87th Brigades and others from 31st and 50th Divisions fought almost continuously to hold up the enemy, only withdrawing to avoid being outflanked. By late afternoon on the 12th the German attack had been made in great strength on a front extending from S. of the Estaires— Vieux Berquin Road to the neighbourhood of Steenwerck, and the enemy seemed now to be overcoming all resistance about Douliou and La Becque, forcing the British back in a N.W. direction and forming a gap in the line S.W. of Bailleul. Losses were enormous. The remnants of 1st Lancashire Fusiliers and 2nd

Royal Fusiliers came to 1st Border's HQ with only 50 all ranks. 2/Lt. Chicken of 1st Border, who was wounded reported with 3 men, all that was left of two of "C" Company's platoons. The new line was established a railway cutting under construction and held by officers and men officers of several battalions of 29th, 31st and 50th Divisions, the strength of 86th and 87th Brigades being 11 officers and 352 other ranks, with 12 Lewis and 2 Vickers guns. 86th Brigade's strength was: 1st Border, 8 officers, 195 OR's & 11 Lewis guns; South Wales Borderers, 24 OR's; KOSB, 47 OR's. Fortunately there were no further attacks that night and the defenders consolidated their positions.

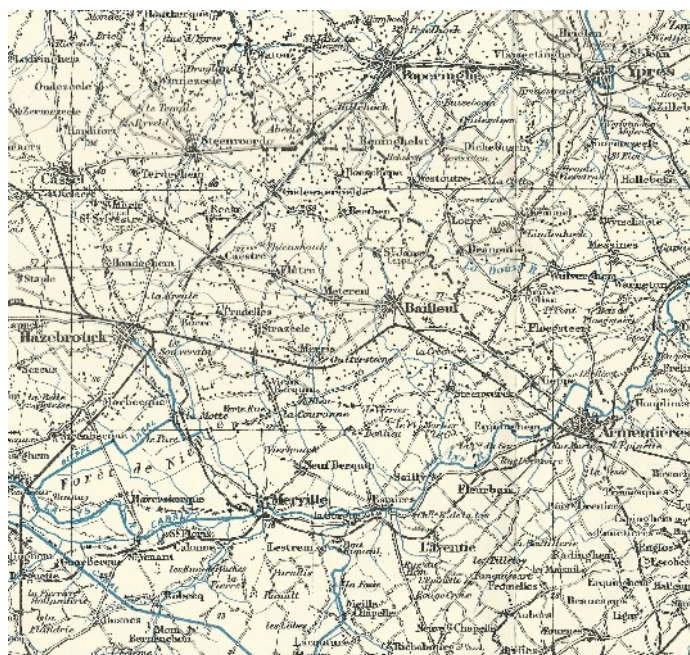
At 9.30am on April 13th the enemy attacked again, was repulsed with heavy loss, but early in the afternoon the KOYLI were mortared out of their posts and the Lancashire Fusiliers shelled out of Vieux Berquin. "A " Company of the Battalion pushed out posts to the right and right rear to connect up with some men of the Lancashire Fusiliers who were seen to be still holding their ground.

An official dispatch of 20th July 1918 summed up the events of 10-12th April: "The troops of the 29th and 31st Divisions, now greatly reduced in strength by the severe fighting already experienced, and strung out over a front of nearly 10,000 yards E. of the Forest of Nieppe, were once more tried to the utmost. Behind them the 1st Australian Division was in process of detraining, and the troops were told that the line was to be held at all costs, until the detraining could be completed. . . . Everywhere, except at Vieux Berquin, the enemy's advance was held up all day by desperate fighting, in which our advanced posts displayed the greatest gallantry, maintaining their ground when entirely surrounded, men standing back to back in the trenches and shooting in front and in rear. In the afternoon the enemy made a further determined effort, and by sheer weight of numbers forced his way through the gaps in our depleted line, the surviving garrisons of our posts fighting where they stood to the last with bullet and bayonet. The heroic resistance of these troops, however, had given the leading brigades of the 1st Australian Division time to reach and organize their appointed line E. of the Forest of Nieppe. These now took up the fight and the way to Hazebrouck was definitely closed. The performance of all the troops engaged in this most gallant stand is worthy of the highest praise."

Continued page 2

Continued from page 1

"No more brilliant exploit has taken place since the opening of the enemy's offensive, though gallant actions have been without number."



Neuf Berquin & Vieux Berquin lie just to the north of Merville

At 10pm on the 13th the remnants of the two brigades withdrew and marched back unmolested through the new line of defence, being dug in rear by the reinforcing Australians, to the St. Sylvestre area. 1st Border reformed as two companies under Capt. Cowburn MC and made up a composite battalion from various units of the Brigade under Lt-Col. Murray of 1st KOSB. During the four days of fighting the Battalion suffered 398 casualties; 1 officer and 42 OR's killed, 7 officers and 160 NCO's & OR's wounded and 3 officers and 185 OR's missing. Further attacks expected did not materialize but enemy artillery fire resulted in another 34 casualties by the end of the 17th. That night the composite battalion was relieved and went back to La Br  arde, where it remained during such time as the Battle of the Lys still endured.

For his actions during the operations of April 11th and 12th Captain A/Lt-Col. James Forbes-Robertson DSO MC, won the Battalion's third VC of the War. The citation, published in The London Gazette of 21st May 1918, read: "For most conspicuous bravery whilst commanding his Battalion during the heavy fighting. Through his quick judgement, resource, untiring energy, and magnificent example Lt. Col Forbes Robertson, on four separate occasions, saved the line from breaking and averted a situation which might have had the most serious and far reaching results.

On the first occasion, when troops in front were falling back, he made a rapid reconnaissance on horseback, in full view of the enemy under heavy machine gun and close range shell fire. He then organised and, still mounted, led a counter attack

which was completely successful in re-establishing our line. When his horse was shot under him he continued on foot. Later on the same day, when troops to the left of his line were giving way, he went to the flank and checked and steadied the line, inspiring confidence by his splendid coolness and disregard of personal danger. His horse was wounded three times and he was thrown five times.

The following day, when the troops on both his flanks were forced to retire, he formed a post at Battalion HQ and with his Battalion still held his ground, thereby covering the retreat of troops on his flanks. Under the heaviest fire this gallant officer fearlessly exposed himself when collecting parties, organising and encouraging.



On a subsequent occasion, when troops were retiring on his left and the condition of things on his right were insecure, he again saved the situation by his magnificent example and cool judgement. Losing a second horse, he continued on foot until he had established a line to which his own troops could withdraw and so conform to the general situation."

The front cover of The Sphere magazine of 15th June 1918

Forbes Robertson received his Victoria Cross from HM King George V in August 1918 and continued to serve until retiring in 1934. He died at Bouton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire in August 1955.

By Stuart Eastwood

* * * * *

The museum is pleased to add another acquisition to its large collection of War Memorial and Rolls of Honour.

The most recent is the Roll of Honour, done in pen and ink on card, of the employees of Hudson Scott Carlisle (Metal Box), who served in the Forces during the First World War. The Roll has the names of 186 men, nine of whom were killed or died whilst serving, 31 were wounded and eight received gallantry awards. It has their ranks and the unit or arm of the Services that the man served in. The Roll was drawn by the same artist who produced the five Officer and Company Rolls of the 11th Lonsdale Battalion, which are in the Museum's collections. This is a significant find and we are most grateful to Major Paul Chandler for presenting it to the Museum. It will be framed and will be displayed as part of the "Lest We Forget – Remembrance" exhibition later this year.

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In our next issue we will continue a story of WW2 aviation in the Carlisle area with a tale of the amazing survival of a young airman when his Wellington bomber crashed in fog on the Caldbeck Fells, completely destroying the plane and killing all of his comrades.

Lest We Forget 2018 – First World War Memorial Plaque



*The Memorial plaque, or Death
Penny, of Joseph Graham*

Within the collections are numerous memorials commemorating individual soldiers who died during the First World War, acknowledging their sacrifice. These include memorial plaques, or The Death plaque, Dead Man's Penny or Widow's Penny as they popularly became known, that were the result of a competition set up by a Government committee in 1916 under the Secretary of the War Office, Sir Reginald Brade. The plaques were to enable close family to have a personal memorial to their lost relative.

Instructions for the competition were published in the Times newspaper in August 1917 - The plaque could be round or rectangular, approximate 18 square inches with a symbolic figure and must include the words 'He Died For Freedom and Honour.' The competition was open to all British-born subjects, with the closing date extended to the end of December 1917 due to the huge amount of interest. Over 800 entries were finally received. The results of the competition were announced in the Times on 20th March 1918, seven prize winning entries and 19 highly commended designs. The designs were then displayed at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Two winning designs were submitted under the name 'Pyramus' each one awarded £250. From these the winning entry was chosen; a Mr Edward Carter

Preston, a painter, sculptor and medallist from Liverpool had produced the designs. His initials E.C.R.P appear on the plaque. Preston's design, cast in bronze, features the figure of Britannia facing to her left holding a laurel wreath in her left hand. Under the laurel wreath is a box for the commemorated serviceman or woman's name. Two dolphins each side of Britannia represent Britain's sea power. In front of Britannia is a growling lion and under its feet is a smaller lion attacking the German Imperial eagle. Around the top edge are the words 'He Died For Freedom and Honour' although 600 have the inscription 'She Died For Freedom and Honour.' The plaques were produced and paid for by the British Government and individually posted out to the nominated next of kin with a memorial scroll and King's Message. Some families mounted and framed the plaques, many put them away for safekeeping, but once divorced from the memorial scroll it can become difficult to identify the named individual as there are no other identifying marks on the plaque.



*WW1 Memorial Gallery of the
Museum of Military Life*

For the Museum, the memorial plaque and many other remembrance related artefacts will form part of the second stage of our **Lest We Forget 2018** project. With a recent award from the Heritage Lottery Fund of £50,000 the Museum will undertake an ambitious year of

commemoration with two exhibitions and supporting activity.

Lest We Forget 2018 focuses on Remembrance, why we remember, and what Remembrance means to us. The Museum would like people to understand more about the origins of Remembrance, how this changed in 1918, and to look at Remembrance today. The first exhibition (May to September) will be an open art exhibition providing a showcase for artworks submitted by members of the public linked to the remembrance theme. From September this year, the Museum will be putting on its own exhibition exploring how Remembrance has developed and what relevance it has today.

'What does Remembrance mean to you?' underpins all our activity in 2018. Check out our website for further details about all our exhibitions and activity in 2018. Additionally, from 23 May - 8 July 2018, the Castle will be hosting Poppies: Weeping Window, by artist Paul Cummins and designer Tom Piper, in its final year of the 14-18 NOW UK-wide tour. **#PoppiesTour** Want to be involved? There will be a variety of volunteer opportunities throughout the year to help support Lest We Forget 2018 and the poppy tour. We are currently recruiting, so if you are interested contact: jules.wooding@cmoml.org for further information.



*Some of the many graves of the Fallen
in our Cumbrian burial grounds*

By Jules Wooding CMML

An unwanted battle honour – Carlisle, 1826

On Tuesday 6 June 1826, in Shaddongate, not five minutes from the Castle, soldiers of the 55th (Westmorland) Regiment of Foot were ordered to open fire upon the citizens of Carlisle. Twenty shots later, two young women lay dead and a further two men seriously wounded. This little remembered episode in the history of one of the Border Regiment's antecedents poses difficult questions as to the nature of its historic relationship with the people of Carlisle.

In the years since the 55th's amalgamation into The Border Regiment, its history has been incorporated within Carlisle's collective memory. Though the 55th was local only in name – it being originally raised in Stirling – its acts are now part of the folklore of the region. Indeed, the building housing our museum is named 'Alma' after a battle honour of the 55th; the dragon at the centre of The Border Regiment badge was taken from the 55th's participation in the First Opium War. So how then did the incident at Shaddongate come to pass? And, what was the nature of the 55th's involvement?

The Britain of 1826 was politically charged. Large sections of the country were politically active or aware, but groaned under the reality that only 10% of the male population had the right to vote. The country was also recovering from the economic hardship it suffered in the wake of the Napoleonic Wars. Particularly affected were the workers of the burgeoning textile industry located largely in the north of England. The increasing use of power looms threatened the lifestyles of hand-loom weavers whose skills were being rendered redundant, and whose wages had suffered accordingly; wages were halved within four years of the war's end. These realities saw a huge growth in demands for social, political, and economic reform which, during an election year like 1826, would find

themselves more openly expressed. It should come as no surprise, then, that the incident of 1826 unfolded in Shaddongate, the hub of Carlisle's weaving community.

The violence of 6 June was triggered by the Tory candidate Sir Philip Musgrave's questionable decision to pursue votes in a suburb inhabited largely by disenfranchised weavers. Contemporary accounts of what followed differ wildly in tone, though not detail, since the in-depth coverage came from rival newspapers, the Tory *Carlisle Patriot* and the Whig *Carlisle Journal*. Both papers agree that Musgrave's entry into Shaddongate was met with scorn, a stone-throwing mob eventually forcing his retreat into a nearby house. Trapped inside by the angry residents, and allegedly forced to work a loom to see for himself how many of the local people were obliged to live, the authorities were sent for. The first attempt at freeing the Tory candidate was unsuccessfully made by a number of hastily sworn-in special constables who were routed by the stone-wielding weavers. The magistrates now made a panicked plea for the soldiers stationed in the Castle to assist. Coincidence had it that the 55th happened to be stationed in Carlisle. Accordingly, 120 men of the regiment, largely fresh recruits yet to complete training, marched out to Shaddongate. Once again the weavers were found waiting, and even after a warning volley and attempt at intimidation with a fixing of bayonets stones continued to be thrown. Orders were given to open fire again, although this time not all shots were aimed high. Isabella Pattison, 13, was shot dead through the window of her classroom whilst holding the hands of two of her schoolmates, and Mary Birril found slumped on her doorstep – the *Patriot* claiming her apron was filled with stones, an allegation claimed as an outrageous falsehood by the *Journal*. The crowd naturally dispersed, and Musgrave was freed. Carlisle was left reeling. An inquest held the next day ruled the deaths as accidental but reprimanded the men of the 55th for having continued to fire

“when the necessity for so doing ... seems to have ceased.” Many in the city agreed, and soldiers of the 55th became pariahs in Carlisle - occasionally attacked in the street - until their timely replacement in the castle on 26 July by the 90th (Perthshire) Regiment of Foot. 55 years later, as the 2nd Battalion of the newly created Border Regiment, the 55th would return to Carlisle a 'local' unit, its battle honours to be memorialised as local triumphs, its violent clashes within the city seemingly forgotten.

* * * *

Before the advent of the principle of a civil police force the maintenance of public order in the United Kingdom was a haphazard affair, often relying on locally appointed Watchmen or Constables, sometimes unpaid, with little formal training or support. This story tells us how impotent such an arrangement was in the face of mob violence or major civil disturbance. In such circumstances the only organised force available to the Magistrate or Justice of the Peace was the military. The legislation used was called “Military Aid to the Civil Power”. Although Edinburgh (1682) and Glasgow ((1800) had formal policing bodies it was not until 1929 and the introduction of Sir Robert Peel's Metropolitan Police Act, that the concept of the modern police service began. Peel was disturbed by the number of incidents where intervention by soldiers untrained in the necessary skills for such a task went tragically wrong. Carlisle was one of a number, the best known being “Peterloo”, where the death in August 1819 of 18 demonstrators and bystanders at a Manchester protest rally was attacked by troops on horseback. It is unusual today to deploy troops in England in a policing role. However the legislation, and the possibility, still exists. Today in the United Kingdom, Military Aid to the Civil Power is one of the three classifications of Military Aid to the Civil Authorities. MACP encompasses the provision of military assistance (armed if necessary.)) in its maintenance of law, order and public safety.

By Ellis Huddart

***"All is at peace. . .
But, never, heart, forget:"***

Our readers are not unfamiliar with the image of the rows and rows of graves of the Fallen of those of many nationalities who died on the battlefields of the two great wars of the twentieth century. Many will have visited these places and seen the attention the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and its equivalents of other nations, gives to the care of the many cemeteries and memorials of those who fell in War. The Commission, originally the Imperial War Graves Commission, has its roots in the work of Fabian Ware, the leader of a British Red Cross unit sent to France in 1914. Philip Longworth's detailed work "The Unending Vigil; *The History of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission*" is recommended reading for those interested in how the tradition of national Remembrance began. It tells us too of the dedication of the Commission as they care for the graves of the Fallen in many corners of the world. Many of those graves are in remote and obscure places and are rarely visited. Most however are accessible and are very popular places of pilgrimage.

And around us in the cemeteries and churchyards of Cumbria and the rest of the United Kingdom we find some of the more accessible graves. These graves of the Fallen of the two World Wars and other conflicts are familiar



to us. Or are they?

Gravestone of local sandstone in Kirkandrews-on-Esk churchyard near Carlisle

When the CWG Commission was charged with finding a more permanent grave marker than the simple wooden cross so hurriedly produced as casualties mounted through those grim years the simple

but dignified grave marker we see today was the result. Identical in size, 76cm (30") tall, 38cm (15") wide, and 7.6cm (3") thick, and with a curved top, they are mainly of white Portland stone. However you may find these in various hues of sandstone, of granite, (in Scotland often with rough-hewn edges) and in Ireland and Wales, of local grey slate. Of course these



regional variations do not indicate nationality; the material has actually been selected as appropriate to the area and in keeping with local architecture.

The design and style remains the same regardless of material used except in some parts of the world where geology and local politics dictate modification. Philip Longworth explains in detail the reasons for such variations.

There are many more references in our civilian UK burial grounds, to the Fallen, than most of us realise. Look more closely at family graves and you will often find a reference to a son or father lost in battle. And while these are rarely the actual grave of the soldier described, a few will be of a soldier brought back to his home badly wounded, only to succumb to his injuries and become another of the war dead. Most of these burials are identifiable by a CWGC grave marker but in some cases the family may have preferred to erect a traditional gravestone. In recent years it has become more common for a soldier who dies in service to be identified by a conventional family headstone. The remit of the CWGC extends only to the care of those who died in or immediately after the two World Wars. The formal limits are from August 1914 to 1st Sept 1921 for the First World War, and 2nd Sept 1939 to Jan 1st 1948 for WW2. Those who died outside these dates are considered to be casualties of "other conflicts" and the recording and care of their

graves is the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence. Confusingly the actual headstone is very similar; it is the same style and dimensions as a CWGC headstone but with the shoulders cut away to a depth of three inches. These graves are often looked after by the CWGC in agreement with the MOD.

The grave of a soldier murdered in Northern Ireland in 1988. This is an MOD gravestone.



Churchyards and cemeteries in the UK and Ireland now invariably have a small sign by the entrance telling us that they contain graves which are the responsibility of the CWGC. These graves may be difficult to find in overgrown or now closed burial grounds. And they may not necessarily have a Commonwealth War Grave headstone. Some graves even have both private and CWGC headstones referring to the same soldier – there is one such grave in Old Church Burial Ground at Brampton, in Cumbria.

Researching the stories of the soldiers named or buried in such places is interesting and informative. But perseverance is necessary.



This gravestone, in Upperby churchyard, Carlisle, was paid for by donations from the comrades of a soldier who died while in training in late 1914. This was

before the founding of the CWGC. His friends did not of course have any idea of the dreadfulness that was to come.

Prepared by James Henderson

We rightly recognise the sacrifice of those thousands of young men who died in the Great War. Our annual Remembrance events continue to be well attended. And we, in private moments, acknowledge the lists of names on our local war memorials.

But we sometimes forget the thousands who returned from that horrendous conflict when it drew to its bloody end in that clearing in the forest at Compiègne. The returning soldiers actually numbered around nine out of every ten of those who, during those fateful years, marched off to an uncertain future. They should have expected to return as heroes. But many were dreadfully damaged in body and mind, and often returned to a grim future of unemployment and extreme poverty. Physically maimed, mentally scarred, they were often unable to find an employer who would be sympathetic to their very changed personalities. Pitifully small pensions and only sporadic support from official sources forced many families to accept help from local charities. It may seem illogical to those who have not been in such a situation that many of those soldiers also carried a degree of guilt, often for the rest of their lives. They had survived when so many died. Of course most of the returning soldiers settled back to a degree of normality. But few would ever forget their lost friends and neighbours.

This is the story of one such soldier.



Hugh Fawcett, 1887- 1959, was one of seven sons of Smith and Jayne Fawcett from Leadgate at Garrigill, near Alston. Four would serve in WW1. The 1911 census states

Hugh's occupation as Platelayer,* and his place of residence as Mill House, Leadgate. Hugh's father was a lead miner, an occupation which Hugh

himself entered when he left school. But by 1914 Hugh was working at Alston for the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway Company, part of the North-Eastern Railway. Hugh married Isabella Bell from Wigton. In 1909, they moved to a house at Leadgate.

** A platelayer is a workman who lays down the rails of a railway and fixes them to the sleepers or ties*

Hugh and Isabella's four children were Mary, born in 1910, Lily in 1912, John Smith in June 1914, and Alice, who was born in December 1916.

Hugh, along with his brothers William and Herbert, were conscripted into the army after the Military Service Act was introduced in January 1916. Hugh had joined the volunteer rifle club that had been set up in Alston in 1914 so it is likely that he was on the reserve list. Herbert served in Salonika and settled in Sunderland after the war. William's regiment and his war activities are not known. Hugh's older brother Matthew enlisted at an earlier period but it is unknown which regiment he served with. He too returned to Alston after the war. Hugh joined the Royal Engineers in 1916 and saw active service till sometime after the Armistice in 1918.

Hugh told his family very little about his wartime experiences. What is known has been pieced together from family recollections and some of the memorabilia and postcards that he brought back with him. We do know that he was involved in the Battle of Messines which took place from the 7th of June to the 14th of June 1917. The Messines Ridges are located near to the town of Ypres in Belgium and had been held by the German army since the war began. Tunnellers of the Royal Engineers had dug from 1500 feet from behind the British line and buried 49500 pounds of explosives 57 feet below the surface. This was detonated at 3.20 am on the 7th of June 1917 resulting in huge casualties. The aim was to destroy large areas of enemy trenches. The task of tunnelling must have been hard physical labour and dangerous but it would appear fitting that Hugh, as a former lead miner, would be engaged in this.

After the Battle of Messines there was very little mining activity and the tunnelling troops were used in construction work and as infantry during the final stages of the war. When the allies began to advance in July 1918 the Royal Engineers worked on making safe the towns and villages they captured, repairing damaged railways and bridges. This explains the postcards that the family have in their possession. These show repairs being undertaken to railway bridges in France and Belgium. Hugh also brought back with him a postcard book from Cologne and a map of the Rhineland. This suggests that he was for a period stationed in or near Cologne in 1918 just before he was discharged from the army.

Hugh received two medals for his war service and returned to Alston to resume his work for the NER at Alston Railway Station. He helped establish the Comrades Club in the town and was for 28 years a member of Alston Co-operative Society. A keen gardener, Hugh had maintained a large allotment adjacent to the Station. He moved with his family to a property at Clitheroe on the Nenthead Road shortly after his return from war and continued his love of growing things. With his wife Isabella he helped found the Over Sixties club in the town. He died aged only 72 in 1959 and is buried in Alston Cemetery.



The work of the Royal Engineers in the closing stages of the Great War. Photos from the Fawcett family

By Val Woods and James Henderson



There are many fields of human endeavour which carry risk of serious injury or possible death. But few require a man or woman to potentially give up their life, or accept horrific injury for others, others who may be strangers which they will never meet. Those men and women are the people which this Story commemorates.



This weapon, on display in the Museum of Military Life, is a variant of a recoilless vehicle-towed anti-tank weapon. Developed in the late 1940s it was mobile and effective against most tanks. Firing a 120 mm projectile of various types it was described as 'recoilless' because some of the explosive effect was discharged to the rear, keeping the weapon more stable on firing. With its rifled barrel it was quite accurate, especially with later models when fitted with 'rifle' sights. It took three men to operate it, knowing that if the enemy saw them first they had little chance of survival.

Some recent versions are of smaller calibre but have more effective ammunition for use against modern armour and concrete emplacements. One of its roles was in air-drop support.

This is a WOMBAT, *Weapon of Magnesium, Battalion Anti-Tank*. It was in use in the British Army until 1979.

Children and students are welcome at the Museum of Military Life. The Museum staff, through a formal programme of Learning and Information, ensure that our younger visitors learn the stories of the struggles of their ancestors in time of war and conflict. Special educational sessions are offered to schools and other groups.



Some exhibits are enhanced by the use of modern electronic presentations.



The history of the antecedent regiments of our modern Duke of Lancaster's Regiment is told in considerable detail, including the story of the 'French Drums'. And of course the Museum pays tribute to the thousands of Cumbrians who served in the many other Corps and branches of our Armed Services.

On this 8th Anniversary of International Women's Day the theme for a special exhibition will be the role of women in military history.

The subject, "Follow the Drum", from 8th March until 13th May, will tell their story.



The Story traces the history of the British soldier from the early days of Empire to the various policing roles which our modern world seems to need so often. The British Soldier has a reputation for fairness and efficiency which is readily recognised by our various allies in such operations.



The British soldier is of course not always a slave to his profession. Here we see him relaxing while on leave during WW2. He may be listening to Vera Lynn or Glen Millar on the 'radiogram', or to Winston Churchill on the 'wireless' as the Prime Minister delivers one of his famous speeches.



The Museum of Military Life has a regular programme of temporary exhibitions. This is a recent such exhibition.

These present a detailed insight into a relevant period of the history of a specific battle or campaign.

Tuesday Talks Series

Our Tuesday Talks series continues. All Tuesday talks begin at 6 pm. All talks are in the Museum Lecture Room

Tue 13th Feb

No Labour, No Food, No War - Farming and the War in Cumbria during WW1 - *Richard Preston*

Tue 13th March

The Battle of Cambrai 1917 - *Niall Cherry*

Tue 10th April

Forbes Robertson VC - *Stuart Eastwood*

Tue 8th May

42 Division at Dunkirk 1940 - *Paul Knight*

Tue 10th July

Marlborough (not illustrated) - *Prof John Derry*

Tue 11th Sept

Subject TBC - *speaker Simon Sole*

Tue 9th Oct

History and work of the CWGC

Tue 13th Nov

The National Memorial Arboretum

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Museum special Exhibitions during 2018 will include:-

Carlisle Castle - *Fortress, Military Depot, and Landmark.*

2nd Jan until 25th Feb

Follow the Drum - 8th March (International Women's

Day) - until 13th May

Remembrance open art Exhibition

21st May until 2nd Sept

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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 *Contact* ref of the museum website. You will receive future newsletters in PDF format.

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 from Easter 2018; Adult £4.50, Concession £3.50,

Child 5-15 £2.50. Family Ticket, up to 4, £11.00.

Members, and serving Duke of Lancs; Free.

Friend's News

The Friends of the Museum of Military Life have arranged a number of events and meetings for the upcoming season.

For fuller details please contact the Museum.

Fri 27th Feb - Air Defence Radar during the Cold War 1945-1990 - *Flt Lt Brian White RAFVR* - Museum 1800 hrs.

Fri 27th April - Friends Open Evening - Museum - 1830 - 2100hrs - *No charge to Friends*

Thur 3rd May - Cumbrian Airfields of WW2 - *Museum 1900hrs* - *John Huggon*

Wed 20th June AGM of Friends of the Museum
Museum - 1930hrs

Sat 15th Sept WW1 Dinner - 1918 menu
Museum - 1900hrs

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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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



"But Colour, I ordered Beef Stroganoff!"

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.