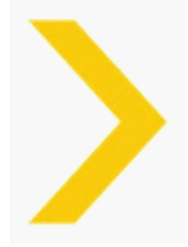


# THE LION & THE DRAGON



As we at the Museum of Military Life move on from our commemoration of the events of the First World War of over one hundred years ago, and our attempts to understand what those times meant to the soldiers who marched from Cumberland and Westmorland, many never to return, perhaps we should leave the last word to those who were there.

**Siegfried Loraine Sassoon, CBE, MC** (1886 – 1967) was an English poet, writer, and soldier. Decorated for bravery on the Western Front, he became one of the leading poets of the First World War. His poetry described the horrors of the trenches and satirised the patriotic pretensions of those who, in Sassoon's view, were responsible for a jingoism-fuelled war. Sassoon became a focal point for dissent within the armed forces when he made a lone protest against the continuation of the war in his "Soldier's Declaration" of 1917, culminating in his – believed enforced - admission to a military psychiatric hospital.

*Sassoon states;-*

*"On behalf of those who are suffering now I make this protest against the deception which is being practiced on them; also I believe that I may help to destroy the callous complacency with which the majority of those at home regard the contrivance of agonies which they do not, and which they have not, sufficient imagination to realise".*

**Erich Maria Remarque** (born Erich Paul Remark; 22 June 1898 – 25 September 1970) was a German author and veteran of the First World War who created many works about the horrors of armed conflict. At the age of 18 he was conscripted into the German army. His best known novel, *All Quiet on The Western Front* (1928), about a close-knit group of German soldiers in the First World War, was made into an Oscar-winning film. His views made him an enemy of the Nazis, who burned many of his works.

*Remarque has one of the characters of his novel tell us;-*  
*"Now if we go back we will be weary, broken, burnt out, rootless and without hope. We will not be able to find our way anymore. And men will not understand us . . . We will be superfluous, even to ourselves, we will grow older, a few will adapt themselves, some others will merely submit, and most will be bewildered".*

**Prescience?**

## Personal Memorials

Within the collection of artefacts which have been entrusted to the museum are a number of personal or family dedications to individual soldiers. These take the form of framed pictures, needlecraft work, and handcrafted wooden articles. Until a generation or so ago these and many like them would be seen on a wall or in a cabinet in the parlour or 'best room' of an elderly lady or gentleman who had lost a relative to war, particularly of the Great War.



Some were simply a photograph of a uniformed soldier in a very basic frame. Others were elaborate and professionally produced montages, often featuring a photograph, a press notice of the death, medals, and perhaps a picture of the grave or memorial. Some would have the "death penny", the bronze plaque every bereaved family received, set in an ornamental wooden mount. Many would include the formal acknowledgment of service, the notice from the Sovereign which begins, *"He whom this scroll commemorates . . ."* Mothers or sisters might prepare an embroidered handkerchief bearing the name of their deceased relative to mount it



under glass as a permanent token of remembrance. This would often include a short poem or epitaph.

Sadly many have since been lost or discarded as links to the period they represent become weaker and memories fade. The tradition of personal

memorials is of course still alive but the occasions which prompted these are, thankfully, very much fewer.

## Friends Newsletter – February 2019

### Curator's Report

A happy New Year to all our Friends. The Museum can look back on 2018 as an extremely busy, but very successful year. The two major exhibitions on the theme of Remembrance attracted a great deal of interest and in particular the second "Lest We Forget", which attracted interest from schools well into December. The Museum is particularly grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund for its support of our Remembrance 100 Project and it has secured nearly £20k of funding from the Ministry of Defence's Covenant Grant Fund for our major 2019 Exhibition of Afghanistan – more on this elsewhere in the Newsletter.

The collections have received a wide range of material during the year. In the last quarter this has included a range of badges and insignia worn by General Sir William "Bill" Scotter KCB OBE MC ADC and a wrist watch presented to him by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess of 1 King's Own Border when he left the Battalion; a WW1 29<sup>th</sup> Division cigarette case; and the medals, documents and photographs of Airborne veteran Len Scully who served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion from 1937 to 1946. Moreover, a significant amount of Regimental Property, which is not required for use or display by the various Battalions and Headquarters of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, has come to the Museum on long-term loan. There are over 50 pieces of silver including the Cavendish Cups the earliest pieces of silver to the 34<sup>th</sup> Foot, presented in 1760 by Field Marshal Lord Frederick Cavendish, Honorary Colonel of the 34<sup>th</sup> Foot 1760-1797 and the medals of Colonel Terry Hodgson DSO MC TD DL, a highly decorated and long serving officer of the Regiment and Honorary Colonel of 4 King's own Border.

Finally a huge thank to all those who have worked so hard for the Museum - the dedicated staff team of Angela, Jules, Matt and Nick; our Board of Trustees; our dedicated volunteers over 20 of them who support our work from front of house, display and exhibition, research, conservation and collection cataloguing and digitisation; and the Friends and many others who support events and in particular our monthly lecture programme.

*Stuart Eastwood, Curator.*



The Cavendish Cups, presented to the 34<sup>th</sup> Foot in 1760 by Field Marshal Frederick Lord Cavendish, Honorary Colonel of the Regiment 1760-1797. Made by John and Robert Garrard, these are the oldest known pieces of silver of the 34<sup>th</sup>.



Some images from our current special Exhibition - *A Stitch in Time* - telling the story of how wounded soldiers were encouraged to learn a new skill while on their way to recovery.



And how that skill became an important part of their link with home and family.



Details on Page 3



## A stitch in time - "100 Hearts"

Cumbria's Museum of Military Life presents, as its spring 2019 Special Exhibition, "100 Hearts". This is part of a nationwide programme to help us understand the difficulties of those of the post Great War decade as they struggled to come to terms with a vastly changed world. Using cloth and thread as both medium and metaphor, Embroiderers' Guild members have created hearts using the artistry of stitch to tell stories of individuals, their comradeship, bravery, victories and setbacks of WW1.

The presentation "A Stitch in Time" features the "100 Hearts", combined with a selection of embroidery of the Museum's own historical collection of soldiers' needlework. The theme is **Recuperation, Remembrance, and Repair**. It has been curated with help from Sara Dennis, an embroidery tutor at The Royal School of Needlework, a lady with long military connections.

During the Great War pin cushions were made by wounded soldiers to send home to their loved ones. Known as 'sweethearts,' these moving mementos were made with love and dedication and proved to be excellent therapy for troops recovering from the horrors that they had experienced. Using a modern interpretation of the theme, '100 hearts' will be on display in Cumbria's Museum of Military Life in Carlisle Castle until 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

Initiated by SSAFA Wiltshire with technical support from The Royal School of Needlework, the hearts have been made by employing a traditional method using just pins to create patterns and insignia on a fabric shape. Many people and organisations were involved in the project, including Combat Stress, The Embroiderers' Guild, and Lt Col Neil Stace, a finalist on the popular BBC programme, *Great British Sewing Bee*.

The concept of love heart pin cushions originates from the Boer War. During WW1 the means to produce similar work was offered to injured soldiers recuperating in hospitals in Northern France. They were seen as romantic objects with a very personal message. Made with felt, buttons and badges and often with the regimental insignia at the centre, they would reflect things the soldier held close to his heart. Some were decorated with poems and messages that were printed on small silk patches that came in cigarette packages with the soldier's rations.



On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February and just in time for Valentine's Day, Lt. Col Neil Stace, will visit the Museum as part of the Tuesday Talks series. The talk is entitled "Sewing on the Front Line".

Tickets are on sale £6 (£5 in advance). Please book early to avoid disappointment. There will also be an embroidery workshop at which Sara Dennis will help visitors to create their own pinned heart. Tickets are £15 and include a £5 donation to SSAFA.



**CUMBRIA'S  
MUSEUM OF  
MILITARY LIFE**  
in Carlisle Castle

# A Stitch In Time

incorporating  
**SSAFA 100 Hearts**  
Exploring the connection between soldiers and sewing  
**21st January - 17th March 2019**

Tel: 01228 532 774  
[www.CumbriasMuseumOfMilitaryLife.org](http://www.CumbriasMuseumOfMilitaryLife.org)

ssafa  
the Armed Forces  
charity

ACCREDITED  
MUSEUM

LOTTERY FUNDED



## What's on...

**Saturday 26 January 11am-3pm**  
Royal School of Needlework Open Day  
Free event but normal admission applies

**Saturday 2 February 10.30am to 1pm**  
**Saturday 9 February 10.30am to 1pm**  
Create your own sweetheart cushion with Sara Dennis  
Cost: £15 (includes £5 donation to SSAFA)  
Limited places - booking essential

**Tuesday 12 February 6pm-7pm**  
"Sewing on the Frontline"  
talk by Lt Col Neil Stace  
finalist in BBC's Great British Sewing Bee  
Admission by ticket only - cost £5

**Wednesday 20 February 11am-3pm**  
Drop-in holiday workshop inspired by the  
'Stitch in Time' exhibition  
Suitable for all the family!  
Free event but normal admission applies

**Saturday 16 March 12am-3pm**  
Looking for help and advice?  
Drop-in between 12 and 3pm and chat to  
Sara Dennis, Hand Embroidery Tutor  
and Stuart Eastwood, Curator.  
An opportunity to view more exciting  
examples of our textile collections.  
Free event but normal admission applies

[www.CumbriasMuseumOfMilitaryLife.org](http://www.CumbriasMuseumOfMilitaryLife.org)



## The Great War is ended!

But at a grim cost that would – *literally* – cripple the return to a normal life of many men who survived the horror of trench warfare. Machine-gun and artillery fire at relatively close range had taken a terrible toll of the human body. It was estimated that as many as 250,000 British soldiers became amputees of a greater or lesser degree. And there



were possibly one million others worldwide.

It is ironic that if antibiotics and modern anti-sepsis techniques had been available to the medical profession of the period this number would have been much greater. Many soldiers, seemingly on the way to recovery following the pain, misery, and shock of battlefield amputation would die of septicaemia and gangrene.

But what of those who survived the traumatic loss of an arm or leg, foot or fingers? They would,

subsequent to as much care as the medical services of the time could give them, find themselves no longer of value on the battlefield. They would be returned to a form of civilian life, and to the care of their families. But sadly in those times there was little after-care. There was a small pension, calculated on the number of limbs lost, but little else.

Dependence on charity, limited as it was, would often be the lot of the family.



To survive in a world without hand-outs, in a society which could afford neither the time nor the cost of providing for those who could not contribute, men – and women – had to be productive in some field of endeavour. And as physical dexterity

was essential to most occupations those without arms or legs were at a disadvantage. Prosthetic limbs were available; many had been developed in the aftermath of earlier conflicts, but most of these were either complicated and expensive, or just rigid wooden imitations of the original limb. Some were devised by the soldier himself, or by a comrade in his local ex-soldier's club.

Many legless soldiers, those who still had hands and sight, would often prefer crutches or a "pegleg", a simple wooden replacement for the missing limb. They would seek an occupation requiring limited mobility, perhaps tailoring or watch repairing, or as a "cobbler" (a boot and shoe repairer).

However these occupations would often require retraining, expensive and not available to everyone. Our legless soldier could just as readily find himself selling matches or newspapers outside a prestigious hotel.



And what of those others with different disabilities, a missing hand, for example - or more. The Government, not without pressure from concerned individuals and organisations, made arrangements for research by manufacturers of

artificial limbs. After Waterloo the British Government had accepted moral responsibility to care for military amputees. However this was restricted to the most basic prosthetics available. Two major firms in the United States, both of whom had developed prosthetic limbs for the physically disabled since the American Civil War, supplied a limited range of devices. However these were heavy, clumsy in operation, and very expensive. Few ex-soldiers could afford them. In the UK the dedicated work of the technicians of Queen Mary's Convalescent Auxiliary Hospital in London - founded in 1915 to care for war amputees - helped many discharged soldiers return to work and regain their self-esteem.

It would take years of ingenuity, imagination, and often the sheer determination of the amputee himself, before prosthetic limbs would become physically, socially, and technically acceptable.

Today, 100 years on, we live in a better and vastly improved world. However we still ask our young men and women to accept the loss of an arm, or leg, or sight, or mental stability in a role for which we have not yet found an alternative. Those ex-soldiers of a century ago, struggling with those awkward replacements for a living limb, would certainly approve of the advances in prosthetics today. The dedication and skill of the early pioneers in this field ensured that nowadays the loss of a limb does not mean the loss of an active and productive life.

Indeed many amputees of the Great War learnt to cope with their disability and lived long and rewarding years.



Photographs courtesy of IWM and Queen Mary's Hospital.

James Henderson

## **“IN CAELO SUSTINEO” – the story of No 14 Maintenance Unit RAF Carlisle**

There will be few over the age of fifty amongst the inhabitants of Carlisle and its surrounding villages who have never heard the term “14 MU”. Some younger people will also have heard their parents or grandparents use this term. So what is (or was) “14 MU”?

By the mid 1930s the country, indeed much of the world, was becoming aware that the peace of the settlement in 1918 which ended the Great War might prove to be illusory. German nationalism was on the rise. Governments began to plan for another conflict and the rapid development of powered flight had ensured that aircraft would be an essential part of the armed forces of combatant nations. However, aircraft and their supporting systems need constant upkeep. 14MU and a number of similar units strategically located around the UK would keep those aircraft flying.

“14MU”, or “Number 14 Maintenance Unit Royal Air Force Carlisle”, to give it its formal title, was once a key part of the defensive structure of the United Kingdom. It may not have flown planes from the 7 sites located north of Carlisle but its role was essential to the system which kept the pilots and aircraft of the Royal Air Force ever ready to come to the defence of the nation. Active from September 1938 until March 1997, when its role was relocated to other bases, it comprised of a number of large specialised warehouses situated around Kingstown Carlisle. The 7 ‘sites’ were Headquarters Site at Crindledyke, Nos. 1 and 5 sites were located between Headquarters site and the railway line, No 2 site was at Harker Road Ends, No 3 site at Harker (2), No 6 Site was at Rockcliffe and No 4 Site was at Cargo where the new Edenside housing development is established.

In November 1937 the Air Ministry, mindful of the need to prepare for a future war contracted J. Laing, a local Carlisle construction company, to build a series of specially designed warehouses. In less than a year, in September 1938, a number of green-field sites became a functioning depot within the supply system of the Royal Air Force. The sites were deliberately spread around the area to reduce the effect of attack from the air. Supplying everything from avionics to clothing, airframe components to specialised tools, chemicals and paints, metals and nuts, bolts, screws and rivets, the civilian workforce of the Maintenance Unit laboured mightily down the years to ensure the RAF would fulfil its role not only during the testing times of WW2, but through Korea and

the Falklands to the Gulf War, and the need to be “ever-ready” in times of peace, 14MU was always at the ready; in every respect, 14MU lived up to its motto – “In Caelo Sustineo” – *I support in the Sky*.

The greater part of the Royal Air Force Maintenance Unit was manned by civilians. It was a major employer in the region through much of its history. There was a small RAF presence, mainly of officers of the Supply and Engineering Branches. For a time during WW2 there was a small contingent of National Servicemen, generally for defence purposes, but it was never a “garrison”. The Unit was dependant on civilian staff and management in most of its departments. Civilians also provided the personnel for the on-site Fire and Emergency services. Headquarters, No 1 and No5 sites had their railway lines and the Unit had its own railway station at Parkhouse!

But by the 1980s the role of the Armed Forces was changing, as were the systems of procurement and distribution. As valves were replaced by microchips and circuit boards, storage requirements reduced; modern communications and the advent of the internet forced changes, and 14MU became redundant. It closed down in March 1997.

With its own sports clubs, with up to 3 generations of the same family employed there and with a corps of long-service personnel it was a close knit community. Many employees had joined after military service during WW2, some had joined from school, a few had moved from other places to become part of it, it had been their lives. It was a sad day when 14MU was finally de-commissioned.

Many buildings, some renovated or rebuilt a short time before closure, are now occupied by a variety of businesses in manufacturing and distribution. You can buy building materials; office equipment, a new kitchen even, in a warehouse which once held the means to keep our people and the nation safe. There is even a waste disposal and materials recycling plant. The site at Cargo is a smart new housing estate. Unfortunately a few of the buildings are still vacant and some are beginning to look a little uncared for; their days as part of the defence of the nation forgotten.

Like an old soldier 14MU has long faded away. But its role was invaluable and those who experienced the RAF’s little gem in Carlisle will remember it with great fondness.



The comcen at 14MU



Just one site of the large complex of specialised warehouses and workshops that was Royal Air Force 14 Maintenance Unit Carlisle. This picture is of the site at

Crindledyke as it begins its transition to a civilian role

James Henderson / Tony Parrini



## The founding of the British Legion

Few people in the UK today will be unaware of the organisation we know as The Royal British Legion.

We know it is a charity devoted to supporting our military personnel when they leave the Service and become civilians again. We recognise that famous 'brand', the red poppy, and all its variations of presentation. We know that as a charity the RBL receives donations from a caring public who recognise the challenges and sacrifices which servicemen and women have accepted down the years, challenges and sacrifices which few who have not served will ever experience.

The British Legion, as it was first known, was a direct result of the awful conflict we know as World War One; and what many called "The Great War". But while its roots were formed in that war it did not become the national organisation it is today until some years after the Armistice of November 1918.

On 15<sup>th</sup> May 1921, as Big Ben struck 9 o'clock, four men stepped forward together towards the newly erected Cenotaph in Whitehall. They each placed a wreath of laurel at the base of the memorial; and four buglers of the Grenadier Guards sounded the Last Post. On those wreaths were embedded the badges of four ex-servicemen's societies which, in this symbolic event, now became a single national organisation. It was to be known as 'The British Legion.'

But the journey to that bright May morning was not an easy one.

Those who served their country in war have instinctively banded together for centuries in mutual friendship. This Relationship, cemented in a climate of death and destruction where life relies on those persons on either side of you is unique. It is a difficult concept to understand by those who have not had such experiences; friendships forged in such a way often do not fit comfortably into non-military society. And so it was during the Great War. Discharged soldiers, many only partially recovered from dreadful wounds and no longer deemed fit for service, were forming associations as early as 1915. They were acutely aware that a 'civilian' society could not understand them. By late 1918 many such groups, from small village gardening and hand-craft clubs to city-wide organisations, were growing in strength.

Two groups in particular were gaining in popularity and competing nationally for members.

One was the 'National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers' (the Association). It grew out of a group which met in Blackburn in Sept 1917 and was at first linked to the Trade Union and Labour Movement. It had some affiliation with the Labour Party. Another was the 'National Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Sailors and Soldiers' (the Federation). Its roots were in London sometime in late 1916 but it did not become a formal organisation until April 1917 when it gained the support of Liberal MP Mr J.M. Hogge. A further group began to organise in summer 1917. This was 'The Comrades of The Great War.' It had the support of a Conservative MP, Lt Col Sir John-Norton Phillips.

There was considerable friction between these groups; the relationship between the Federation and the Comrades was particularly toxic.

In Jan 1920 a fourth group, 'The Officers Association,' was formed. This was the amalgamation of a number of Officers Help Societies, organisations which provided funds for destitute officers. This group, while probably conservative in outlook, did not associate with any political party.

These were the four groups represented at the Cenotaph on that May morning.

In early 1919 another group appeared. This was the National Union of Ex-Servicemen. They tended to be aggressively left-wing and would have approved of the violent Socialism of the Russian Revolution. They created considerable discord for a time but eventually faded away, their membership absorbed by the other organisations.

By mid 1919 the ex-service organisations were in some disarray. Unemployment was rife; many people, including ex-soldiers, were becoming actively politically polarised. A strong potential for civil disorder hung over the whole of British society of the time. There was a need for stability and order.

Fortunately wise heads and good leaders emerged. The Federation led the way under the leadership of Mr T.F. Lister and Mr J.R. Griffin and in a surprisingly short time the four principal groups reached agreement on amalgamation. This movement was stimulated by the support of a remarkable man, Captain E.B. Towse, VC,CBE, KCVO, who had been blinded in action during the South African War. Despite his disability his efforts on behalf of ex-soldiers was untiring. From the start the new organisation declared; "All soldiers should make a sustained effort to counter the pernicious propaganda; they should work together for the good of the country by keeping the soldiers clear of politics." (This was in reference to the current sowing of discontent and revolution such as that which had so seriously destabilised the Russian War effort.)

Discussion on a name for the new organisation settled on either 'The United Services League', or 'The British Legion.' And as we now know, the soldier's society became 'The British Legion.' Gone at last were the rival ex-service groups; and out of them, and in their place, men of imagination and courage had fashioned the British Legion.\*

*\*In May 1971 Her Majesty The Queen granted the title 'Royal' to the British Legion. It was henceforth to be 'The Royal British Legion.'*

In future issues we will learn something of the early years of other military benevolent organisations which, out of the chaos of war, and armed conflict, developed to help those who risk life and limb to defend and protect others.

With acknowledgements to Graham Wooton's 'Official History of the British Legion.'

And 'Keeping Faith, The History of The Royal British Legion,' by Brian Harding.

James Henderson



## Airborne by sea!

*Operation Slapstick* was the code name for a British landing from the sea at the Italian port of Taranto during the Second World War. The operation, one of three landings during the Allied invasion of Italy in September 1943, was undertaken by airborne troops of the British 1st Airborne Division, commanded by Major-General George Hopkinson.

The Airborne Division's service in Italy was unexpected. 'Slapstick', the seizure of Taranto and its immediate area in Apulia, the heel of Italy was an operation brought about by the Italian surrender. It was the first time that the all of the Division had operated as a single unit. Transport, however, was not by air, but by warship.

Field-Marshal Alexander described 'Operation Slapstick' as having an "undignified" name, but one that described the speed and improvisation that planning and completing the operation required. Slapstick's aim was to seize the port of Taranto and thwart "any German attempt to impose their authority on the heel of Italy". As well as Taranto the Division's immediate targets were the ports at Brindisi and Bari. As the Operation continued greater emphasis was placed on securing the airfields around Foggia, which would allow heavy bombers to attack the Germans last significant natural oil supply in Romania.

In August 1943 1<sup>st</sup> Bn Border Regiment were in Tunisia. They had returned to North Africa from Sicily and 'Operation Ladbroke' over several days, with the last group of men arriving on 1 August. On 5th September the battalion was warned to be ready to move by sea. Six days later they embarked for Italy on the cruisers HMS Sirius and HMS Dido.

There are some interesting questions around the role of the Border Regt in Operation 'Slapstick'. The only detailed accounts of their time in Italy cover the patrols they undertook from 19-21 September. There are few personal accounts of the period and none associated with the time when the Airlanding Brigade provided the infantry for a battle group that captured Foggia. And above all there are very few photographs of 'Slapstick' and none of the Borders in action. Hopefully the talk may jog some memories and unlock family archives. And beyond the gaps of our knowledge about the Borders in Italy there are other questions. Was 'Slapstick' necessary? Did it contain elements that should have informed the planning of 'Market Garden'? Had more shipping been available could a



stronger force than lightly equipped airborne troops have been landed? The Germans felt that they had got off lightly and that more mobile troops could have caused them problems.

**On 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2019 Peter Green will present a lecture at the Museum about this unusual sea-borne assault by an "Air-Landing" Division in WW2. Hopefully some of the questions will be answered. The presentation begins at 14.00 hrs. Tickets £5. Tea and scones included.**

***Do you have a family heirloom or interesting collectable you would like to learn more about?***



Paul Laidlaw and the Friends of Cumbria's Museum of Military Life present a special event at St Aidan's Church Hall on Warwick Road Carlisle. Paul is well known for his appearances on the BBC programmes *Antiques Road Trip* and *Bargain Hunt*. He will be pleased to discuss with you your favourite collectible or family heirloom.

Bring your treasured antiques along on Thur 14<sup>th</sup> March at 2 pm. Tickets are obtainable from the Military Museum reception desk -£4 – or you may pay at the door - £5.

Join us for a pleasant afternoon, share your knowledge with like-minded people, and enjoy some light refreshments. Details from the MML Tel 01228 532774

### Tuesday Talks series

All Tuesday Talks begin at 6 pm. Doors open 5.30pm.  
Pre-booked £5 - or £6.00 at the door.

#### 12<sup>th</sup> February

*Sewing on the Front Line* Lt Col Neil Stace

#### 12<sup>th</sup> March

*The Birth of Airborne Forces*  
Becks Skinner (Manager Keswick Museum)

#### 9<sup>th</sup> April

*The Lonsdale Battalion of the Border Regiment*  
Sept 1914 - Nov 1915  
David Bowcock

#### 14<sup>th</sup> May

*One Hundred Years On;*  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Anglo-Afghan War of May 1919*  
Dr Alastair Massie

#### 11<sup>th</sup> June

*D-Day 75*  
Matthew Wood

#### 9<sup>th</sup> July

*Campaign Medals of the Border Regiment*  
Graham Roberts and Alec Graham

#### 10<sup>th</sup> September

*75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising*  
Max Loth-Hill

#### 8<sup>th</sup> October

*The formation of*  
*The King's Own Royal Border Regiment*  
Stuart Eastwood

#### 12<sup>th</sup> November

*WW1 Tank Deborah Project*  
Professor Fiona Graham  
\* \* \* \*

### Veterans Lunch Club

The spring 2019 meetings of the Veterans' Lunch Club are on Mondays 18<sup>th</sup> Feb, 18<sup>th</sup> Mar, 15<sup>th</sup> Apr, 20<sup>th</sup> May, and 17<sup>th</sup> June. A light lunch is served at 1pm. Pre-booking is essential. £3 per head.  
\* \* \* \*

### Reminder! Friends Open Evening Sat 1<sup>st</sup> June

\* \* \* \*

### *Do you have a family heirloom or interesting collectable you would like to learn more about?*

The Friends of the Museum invite you to bring it along to St Aidan's Church Hall on Warwick Road at 2pm on 14<sup>th</sup> March. Mr Paul Laidlow of Antiques Road Trip will be present to answer your questions. Please obtain your tickets £4 pre-booked - at the Museum - or £5 at the door. Tea and scones included.

### 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 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> Dec and 1<sup>st</sup> Jan  
Last admission 30 mins before closing.  
Tariff; 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.

\* \* \* \*

### Experiences of Afghanistan

The Trustees of Cumbria's Museum of Military Life are pleased to announce the receipt of a grant of £19,900 from the Armed Forces Covenant Trust towards the development of a project to gather the stories and reminiscences of those who served in Afghanistan in recent years.

To do justice to this interesting and challenging task the Museum needs the help of veterans and currently serving personnel of that conflict. The Museum staff will expand their stories using objects from the museum collections and the expertise of a professional film producer.

Cumbria's Museum of Military Life asks for volunteers to help steer the project and to be part of a recruitment drive to encourage our veterans of the Afghan operations to become involved by sharing their untold stories and experiences with the people of Cumbria and beyond. One hundred years ago local soldiers were serving in the little known Third Anglo-Afghan War of 1919. This is an opportunity to record for posterity the personal stories of the men and women of the recent conflict, and to recognise the service of those who, a century ago also found themselves in that dangerous and unforgiving terrain.

\* \* \* \*

### Friends of Cumbria's Museum of Military Life

presents, on Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb at 2pm a Talk, *Airborne by Sea*, by Peter Green about the successful assault by Allied troops on the Italian mainland in Sept 1943. Tickets £5 at Museum.

\* \* \* \*

### Museum Research Facilities

The Museum will conduct research on your behalf for a £25 search fee is to cover the time required. All proceeds go towards the sustainability of the collections. Please contact the Museum at [enquiries@cmoml.org](mailto:enquiries@cmoml.org) or 01228 532774.

\* \* \* \*

**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 the museum. You will receive future newsletters in PDF format.

The 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. Relevant contributions are welcome. 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)

