

# The Lion & the Dragon

The Friends of Cumbria's Museum of Military Life

Winter 2019

The Newsletter supports  
Cumbria's Museum of  
Military Life.



## 55th Foot. Still loyal in Illinois.

The scene is a living history event, a British army encampment circa 1776. The history being portrayed happened two hundred forty-three years ago on the east coast of His Majesty's rebellious colonies in America, but this particular day the site is in the countryside surrounding Chicago, Illinois.

A modern teenager has just entered a simulation not only of a different time, but also a different place.

He looks around. About thirty feet away a guard has just been posted at an intersection of a dirt road. He stands with a fixed bayonet and musket at the support. About ten feet to the teenager's left a row of sun-bleached tents are pitched. In front of one there appears to be a very experienced soldier taking a break. He uses a full knapsack as a pillow and his cocked hat is shifted to block the sun from his eyes. Not far away a corporal is taking three men through His Majesty's Manual of



### Contents

55th Foot. Still loyal in Illinois

Regimental vehicles - Saracen

Woodhall Spa Memorial window

Full Museum Accreditation

Cumbria Militia archive appeal

Bookshelf

Duke of Lancaster's News

Museum & Friends News

Diary

Lest we forget

### Welcome

Museums are not just storehouses of objects. They offer chances to study and they encourage an interest in history. Both objectives that are shared with living history groups.

'The Lion and the Dragon' is grateful to the 'Recreated 55th Regiment of Foot', from Illinois, for providing a glimpse of one of the antecedent regiments to the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.

Thanks to the '55th Foot' we can revisit the American War of Independence and learn a little of everyday life in the colonies 250 years ago.

**Peter Green**  
Editor

**Re-enactment groups**

There are six groups who portray our local regiments.

'The Queen's Regiment' are a UK-based group. They re-enact a typical foot regiment with yellow facings from Queen Anne's reign, which included Hamilton's Regiment, later 34th Foot.

'34th Regiment of Foot' are a US group who portray the regiment during the American War of Independence. '34th the Border Regiment Arroyomolinos' from Spain, depict the 2nd battalion during the Peninsular War.

'The 55th Regiment of Foot', described here.

'2nd Battalion Border Regiment Great War Living History' are also a US-based group.

'Border Regiment Living History' are a Dutch group who portray 1 Border during 'Market Garden'.

Arms of 1764. They are, what would have once been called, the awkward squad. Good enough with their drill to be fielding, but new and not quite good enough to avoid the extra drill.

Behind the teenager, well out of the corporal’s line of sight three men with shifty expressions stand around a drum using a bell of arms as partial cover from undesired observation. There was pay call today and unlike their rebel opposition they have been paid. Coins are on the drum, and so are dice as they gamble away their meagre pay. These same three men do this every time they are paid, a reminder of why some men did not receive full pay from the army until they were mustered



out (Officers could withhold part of a man’s pay for his own good).

Near them, a woman is teaching a child to sew. Women and children in a military camp are expected to work, and in this camp, they are arguably more industrious than the men, seldom taking a break.

With everyone else seemingly occupied the teenager approaches a man who has just finished cleaning a musket.

### QUESTIONS

First the inevitable question, “Are you hot in those clothes?”

“Not really, it can’t be warmer than 72 degrees today and I am in the shade. Wool breathes a lot better than you would expect and this coat is 100% wool. It’s quite another thing if in Virginia during July.”

“What regiment do you guys represent?”



“Well let me tell you first who we are not. We are not grenadiers, light infantry, highlanders, or light dragoons. We are not Guardsmen or from a Royal regiment like the King’s 8th. We are Captain James Taylor Trevor’s Battalion Company of the 55th Regiment of Foot. We are representing what you might call standard British infantry, not the top 1%, but more like 80% of the army. Without fancy titles or a doting colonel (one ended up in debtor’s prison) the 55th Foot served the Crown, performed with professionalism and got the job done.”

### CAPTAIN TREVOR’S COMPANY

The 55th Regiment of Foot started out as the 57th Regiment of Foot in 1755 during the Seven Years War but was 55th in the line by 1757. Three of its colonels died in the war including Lord George Howe, the only man to earn a monument in Westminster Abby funded by Americans. Among other exploits the Regiment attempted to storm Fort Carillon (n/k/a Fort Ticonderoga) with the 42nd Foot in 1758, suffering great loss. It returned to Great Britain and was stationed in Ireland when the American rebellion broke out.

The 55th Foot was supposed to arrive in Boston in 1775 and most of it did. But two companies (including Captain Trevor’s Company) were on a transport that was damaged in a storm and made an unplanned detour through Antigua so they were not able to join General William Howe’s offensive force until the fall of 1776. The 55th Foot participated in the New York Campaign and the Philadelphia Campaign before being redeployed in the Caribbean to counter the French in 1778.

### BATTLE IN THE SNOW

One particular battle stands out. On January 3, 1777 the regiment found itself in a tight spot near Princeton New Jersey when the entire Continental army attacked it along with the 17th and 40th Foot regiments. Ironically it was this defeat that would lead to the creation of the recreated 55th Regiment of Foot two hundred and twenty-two years later.

### RECREATING IN THE SNOW

In 1992 Americans Mark Tully and Ralph Briggs were portraying ragged Continental soldiers in the recreated 6th Virginia Regiment and on chilly days they



experienced the full meaning of “ragged and cold.” Upon discovering some men of the 6th Virginia acquired British regimental coats and knapsacks at the Battle of Princeton it seemed a red wool coat was a perfectly accurate solution. Out of the three possible regiments they chose the 55th Foot because the 6th Virginia dislodged them from Frog Hollow during the battle. But in the process of researching the 55th Foot something took hold and the project evolved and blossomed into a new primary impression. They picked Captain Trevor’s company as Captain Trevor died in a duel with Ensign Power also of the 55th and this in itself was interesting. On May 28, 1994, the recreated 55th Foot took the field for the first time with five men under arms and three female camp followers.

The Mission of the recreated 55th Regiment of Foot, Trevor’s Company is to accurately present a living picture of a British battalion Company at the beginning of the American War of Independence using Trevor’s Company as the inspiration and model.

### UNIFORMS

As the Company was a late arrival to General Howe’s task force most of the uniform is straight out of the regulations of 1768 with few modifications. There is not a lot of evidence that the 55th Foot’s pre-war colonels (there were three between 1774 and 1775) were investing a great deal of money on the regiment before its arrival in America. According to the last pre-deployment inspection return the regiment’s privates were “not very highly dressed nor well appointed.” This is reflected in the recreated regiment. There are no brass plates on the cartridge pouches nor marked plates of any kind on the enlisted men.

For many years the recreated 55th Foot had regimental pattern coat buttons and its distinctive coat lace but plain unmarked waistcoat buttons. No examples of a regimental waistcoat button had been found so it was assumed the regiment used plain ones. When a waistcoat button from the 55th came to light the recreated company added them to the uniform.

The Orderly books of the 55th Foot covering 1776 were lost at the Battle of Princeton and allegedly are presently in the hands of an unknown private collector. If rediscovered, they could provide valuable information and possible updates to the appearance of the recreated regiment.

It is no simple matter to put together an accurate 18th Century British soldier’s uniform. The fit of the clothing

is difficult to get right and requires a specialised tailor. In 1993 there were no well preserved 1776 era 55th Foot buttons available, so Mark Tully drew a pattern with the best available information to manufacture replicas. When better images of an original button became available the design was improved. It used to be difficult to obtain coat wool with the appropriate red madder colour that did not contain at least some polyester. Now, one can acquire, at some expense, wool made from an 18th century breed of sheep with madder red colour matched to the original dyes used.

### ACTIVITIES

The recreated 55th Regiment of Foot has been a member of three umbrella organisations, the Northwest Territory Alliance, the Brigade of the American Revolution and the British Brigade. In addition to battle re-enactments hosted by these organisations the recreated 55th Foot has participated in events hosted by historical sites such as garrisoning historic Fort Michilmackinac in the dead of winter (complete with eleven foot high snowdrifts) and helping portray Lord Cornwallis’ occupation of Colonial Williamsburg (in the middle of summer with temperatures in excess of 100 degrees).

The recreated unit has also done a few private events such as tactical war games with rebel factions in a wilderness area and musket accuracy experiments using live fire on life sized targets of an enemy platoon at various ranges.

If you attended a public event with the recreated 55th Foot you would almost certainly witness drilling. Depending on the event and time you might also witness a changing of the guard, a pay call, issuance of rum rations, a knapsack inspection, gambling, a visit by a doctor to pull a sore tooth, or a mess dividing rations. You might also be invited to be trained tactics with a wooden training musket.

When public hours are over the Company remains in 18th century attire, usually engaging in song, ale and banter before calling it a night.

### RECRUITS

With a history spanning over twenty-five years the recreated company has had more members than the original Trevor’s company, just not at the same time. In the past members were issued rack numbers, which might be stamped on a musket such as 55-F-9. This had to change when the Company ran out of rack numbers to give without recycling old numbers.

Recruits come from a variety of occupations and age groups. The recreated 55th Foot has been fortunate to have in its ranks authors of historical books, as well as talented craftsmen, tailors, artists, educators, technology experts, brewers of historic beverages, public entertainers and even a veteran of the British army! They all have brought different perspectives to the recreated regiment’s collaborative culture and contributed to its mission to keep history alive and vibrant.

## Captions

1: *The face of the 18C army?*  
Rick Holmes © Brian Schultz

2: *Lorne Knutson strikes a period pose* © Scott Hancock

3: *Pay Day, with Doug Johnson and Ralph Briggs* © Peg Matthews

4 *Mary Briggs does some 18C Spud Bashing*  
© Lorne. Knutson

5: *Michael Mathews after a hard day in the sun* © Lorne Knutson

6: *James Clary, drummer in his coat with reversed facings*  
© Molly Roberts

7: *Members of the 55th re-enactment group* © Marianne Knutson

8: *The 55th Foot on parade at Saratoga*

## More information

Find out more about the Historic 55th Regiment of Foot, including several historical records at: <http://mrtully.com/55th/>

And follow the recreated unit on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/55thFoot>

# Regimental vehicles Saracen

The Editor

After the end of the Second World War, the Fighting Vehicles Research and Development Establishment began the design of the FV600 series of armoured fighting vehicles.

## FV600 SERIES

The first three models in this series were the FV601 Saladin armoured car, the FV602 command vehicle (which was cancelled) and the FV603 Saracen Armoured Personnel Carrier. Owing to the situation in Malaya in the late 1940s the development of the Saracen was given precedence.

## ALVIS

The Saracen was manufactured by Alvis and introduced in the early 1950s. The hull of the Saracen armoured personnel carrier was constructed of all-welded steel armour, with the engine at the front and the personnel compartment at the rear.

Saracens could carry eight men plus a troop commander, driver and radio operator. The vehicle remained in production until the mid-1970s.

## ROLLS-ROYCE ENGINE

The Saracen weighed 12 tons and was 15' 6" long. It was powered by a Rolls-Royce B80 Mk 3A or Mk 6A, 8 cylinder petrol engine generating 160 hp. It had an on-road top speed of 45 mph and a range of 250 miles.

They were last used in Hong Kong by the Saracen Troop of 28 Squadron, the Queen's Own Gurkha Transport Regiment (now 10 The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment) in 1993.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

Saracens saw service in Northern Ireland into the 1980s. King's Own Royal Border Regiment was issued with Saracen in 1972.

## COLLECTABLE

Today Saracens are widely collected by



enthusiasts. One in running order, but still needing restoration, will set you back around £7,000.

## MEMORIES

A driver's memory, *"The steering wheel was oddly canted in by your knees. It was slightly away from the driver whilst by your stomach/chest it was quite close."*

And this from service in Northern Ireland.

*"I remember one Saracen at Strabane, it was covered in many different colours of paint. I noticed what looked like smoke coming off the vehicle, as I got closer I realised it was a large patch of acid which was causing the paint to smoulder. I think a lot of lads would agree that the Saracen saved many lives and troops from serious injuries."*

# Woodhall Spa Memorial window

Jackie Goodall

The Lion and the Dragon is grateful for this account by Jackie Goodall from Woodhall Spa.

"Arnhem holds a special place in the history of Woodhall Spa. The three battalions of the 1st Airlanding Brigade were based there from 1943-1944.

## MARKET GARDEN

As part of the 75th commemoration of 'Market Garden', a stained-glass window was commissioned for St



Peter's church.

## SYMBOLIC DESIGN.

Central to and running down from the top of this window is a band of vertical blue streaky glass. This colour is symbolic of the sky but also signifies the healing power and heavenly love of the word of God. A mix of yellow/ochres with areas of purple toned glass is used since these colours are representative of martyrdom and sorrow.

## EX- PARA DESIGNER

The initial design was created by John Ward was a local man and a member of the Lincoln branch of the Parachute Regiment Association. John and I



discussed the idea of a stained glass window back in 2014 so this is now a reality at last.

## BINOCULARS

The stained-glass was created by Glenn Carter is a self employed artist. He has specialised in stained glass and has worked within the diocese of Lincoln for many years. He now lives and works near Plymouth, teaches and still makes stained glass windows.

Glenn told me that whenever anyone wanted to look at a stained glass window they should take a pair of binoculars with them because otherwise so much fine detail is lost. This is certainly true for our window."

# Museum Accreditation Success

Stuart Eastwood  
Curator

In early October the Museum Trust received the wonderful news from Arts Council England that it has granted the Museum full Accreditation as part of the Accreditation Scheme for UK Museums and Galleries.

The Scheme sets nationally agreed standards for UK museums. To qualify museums must meet standards on how they are managed, for the services they offer and on how they



care for their collections. **ACHIEVEMENT**

This is a great achievement for both Staff and Trustees and has resulted from a great deal of hard work. The Museum has enjoyed Full Accredited Status since 1989, but, during the move to Alma Block in 2014, the status became provisional until the project was completed.

All the necessary requirements were met some time ago, but the delay in granting the full lease to Alma Block by English Heritage prevented Full Accreditation being awarded. As the signed lease is now imminent the stumbling block has been removed.

# Cumberland Militia archive appeal

Helen Cunningham

The Cumbria County Archive Service is indexing the Cumberland militia ballot lists. The militia was a defensive force of able-bodied men aged 18 – 45 years and lists were compiled annually.

## FAMILY HISTORY SOURCE

The returns survive for three of the five wards of Cumberland, giving names, age, occupation and number of dependent children, and occasionally information on physical infirmities, poverty, and other reasons for exemption. Each parish had several township lists.

## MOST EXTENSIVE COLLECTION

Such lists survive in only six counties in England;

Cumberland's lists being the most extensive series. The Indexing project has highlighted information that was previously difficult to access such as the percentage of males who remained single, injury and disability within the male population, the trades carried out in each township, changes in occupation throughout the period.

## EMPLOYMENT CHANGES

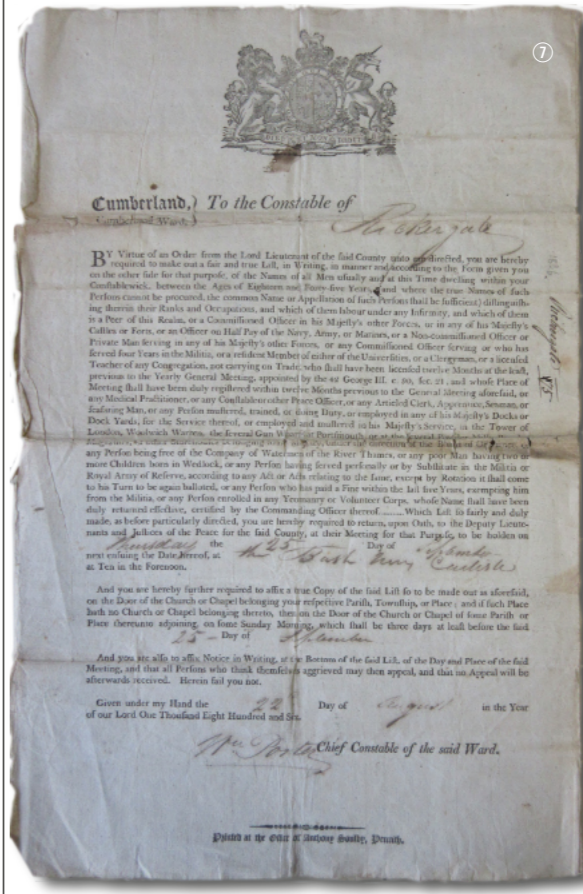
For instance in Carlisle in 1806, 510 men described themselves as weavers; by 1818, it was only 43 men

as the transition from handloom weaving to weaving by machine in mills took hold.

## VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are always welcome to help with the indexing as less than 15% of the collection has been indexed.

You can reach Helen Cunningham at Cumbria's Archives by email [helen.cunningham@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:helen.cunningham@cumbria.gov.uk)



## Captions

1: Bessbrook, Northern Ireland

2: Desert ambulance, Abercorn Barracks, Ballykinler, Northern Ireland 1972

3: Crossmaglen, South Armagh, Northern Ireland

4: Standard bearers at the dedication service at St Peters, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire

5: The memorial window at St Peter's Church

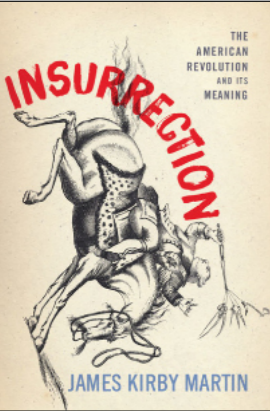
6: The Museum's education activities are a key part of its accreditation

7: The formal instruction requiring the creation of a list of men for the militia ballot from Rickergate Parish, Carlisle, in 1806, from the Cumbria Archive. The list that was compiled included Hugh Graham, Blacksmith, aged 35 years, with one leg removed and five children under 14 years.

Book shelf

Peter Green

American politics and the Revolution



**Insurrection: the American Revolution and its meaning James Kirby Martin Westholme £13.59**

At the end of the Seven Years War the idea that the British colonies in North America would be at war with their home country would have been unthinkable.

**WHO OWED WHO?**  
In the economic slump that followed the War’s end and the benign neglect of the Colonial administrations James Martin sees the creation of a fertile ground for revolution. The removal of the external threat of the French was an opportunity for philosophising and politics. Separated from Westminster by three thousand miles of sea, the maturing colonies began to question their position as just one part of Empire.

Whilst for Westminster this was an opportunity to strengthen its control over

the 13 colonies. Some colonial voices felt that their contribution to the recent victories had failed to be recognised or rewarded. Daniel Dulany, a wealthy Maryland lawyer believed that “... the general exertion of the colonies in North America not only facilitated, but was indispensable” to the successes of 1763.

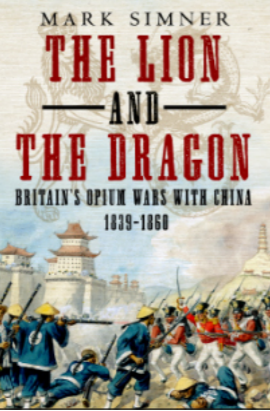
George Grenville, British Prime Minister, took the view that they should contribute more to Britain, “The Nation has run itself an immense debt to give them protection,” he told the Commons.

The national debt had sky-rocketed, transferring some of the costs of Empire to the colonies appeared a logical. One British official summarise the official line as, "The colonies ... Have been of late darling object of their Mother country's care: we are not yet recovered from a war undertaken solely for their protection."

**SUCCESS BRED REBELLION**  
Martin’s analysis of the years before 1770 gives a basis for understanding how rebellion turned into revolution.

The success of the 13 colonies combined with a British government that lacked the imagination to see that the colonies deserved recognition as mature potentially self-governing states led to independence. Ironically it would be British sea-power that enabled the South American colonies of Portugal and Spain to gain their independence 20 years later.

A new book on the 55th's history

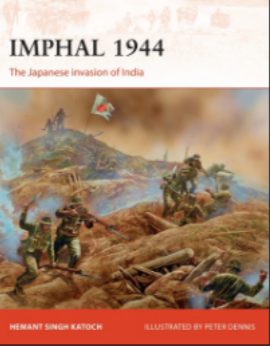


**The Lion and the Dragon: Britain's Opium Wars with China 1839-1860 Mark Simner Fonthill £22.40**

It is tempting to view the Opium Wars simply as a means for the British Empire to force upon the Chinese a narcotic in order to make money.

Indeed, it was, but the Chinese were not entirely innocent, many Chinese merchants often ignored imperial edicts and actively sought the trade in order to likewise profit, while corrupt Chinese officials, personally benefited from the illegal sale of opium.

Border's in Burma Background



**Imphal 1944 Hemant Singh Katoch Osprey £14.99**

In March 1944, the Japanese Fifteenth Army launched an offensive into India from Burma. Named

"U Go," its main objective was the capture of the town of Imphal, which provided the easiest route between India and Burma. Whoever controlled it, controlled access between the two countries.

**14TH ARMY**  
Facing the Japanese was the British Fourteenth Army and its Imphal-based 4 Corps. For the next four months, over 200,000 men clashed in the hills and valley of Manipur in what has since been described as one of the greatest battles of World War II

Although numbers vary, it is estimated that some 30,000 Japanese soldiers died and 23,000 were injured at Imphal–Kohima in 1944 due to fighting, disease and in the retreat back to Burma. It remains the largest defeat on land ever for the Japanese Army.

'Imphal 1944' has full colour artwork and maps especially created for the book.

Where to buy the books we feature

The Museum bookshop does of course have the best range of histories of Cumbria's regiments.

But for other publications we recommend 'Bookends', between Carlisle Castle and the Cathedral at 19 Castle Street, Carlisle. They are happy to order titles. Its associated shop 'Bookcase' has a vast range of second-hand military books. Ring them on 01228 529067 or email bookscumbria@aol.com.

Last minute Christmas Gift suggestions from the Museum Shop



King's Own Royal Border Regiment tie worn by the members of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment. Available from the museum shop at £10 includes postage.



Friends of the Museum tote bag. Ideal as your 'sustainable' shopping bag. £5 from the Museum shop or £6 by post.

Duke of Lancaster's Regiment News

Kingsman Kian Helm visited Regimental Head Quarters yesterday before he sets off on his epic row across the Atlantic with the Force Atlantic team.



Kian was presented with a Regimental Flag to take with him on his journey, which will last around 40 days.



The outgoing Commanding Officer of the 4th Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment, Lt Col Justin Tancred handed over to Lt Col Nick Kennon. From Carlisle, Nick has served on operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Falkland Islands and Cyprus. Justin moves on to be SO1 Air Manoeuvre for 16 Air Assault Brigade forward-operating out of Army HQ in Andover.

Museum News

**MAJOR MIKE BRANDWOOD TD**  
Mike Brandwood sadly passed away in October aged 72. Mike was born in Whitehaven into a Border Regiment family. His father Peter served with the 5th Battalion during WW2 and was awarded a Military Cross. Mike was educated at St. Bees School and worked in the banking sector in the county, served with the 4th Battalion King’s Own Royal Border Regiment TA and from 1999 to 2012 was Assistant Regimental Secretary King’s Own Royal Border Regiment and County Secretary The Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment at Carlisle Castle. He took a great interest in the Museum and served as a Trustee from 1999 to 2012. His funeral at Wythop near Embleton was attended by a great many friends and former comrades. Our condolences are extended to his wife Kate and son Roger and family.

**CLOSURE**  
Closure of the Area HQ Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment at Carlisle Castle 1875-2019

In September, the Area HQ of the Regiment at the Castle closed. The building had been used continuously since it was built c. 1875 as the Officers’ Mess for the Border Regimental Depot. It was used from 1959 by the 4th Battalion Border Regiment TA, as an area HQ and then Regimental HQ of The King’s Own Royal Border Regiment until 2006 and then by the Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment.

Friends News

Can you help The Friends? We need new general committee members to assist in organising fund-raising and publicity, and helping at the museum. Interested? If so please contact me, phone and email details below.

**NEARLY £2,000 RAISED**  
The WW1 Dinner was an excellent event that recreated the meal served to 11th (Lonsdale) Bn The Border Regt in 1917. It was served in the museum with silver from the museum’s collection. The event raised just under £2,000 for the Museum

**RETIREMENT**  
We bid farewell to Jeffrey Mills on his retirement from the Friends' Committee. He organised the establishment of The Friends and has been a committee member from the start. We are very grateful to him for all his efforts on our behalf and for his wife Ann's support.



**PICTURE PROJECT**  
NEXT year we are focussing our Fund raising on a restoration project for a picture ( Off Duty in the Crimea by Paul Protais) The Museum will select a contractor shortly. Current estimates are around the £6,000 mark. The committee has agreed to try to raise £4,000 in a year towards that sum.

**Nigel Lewis 07787 411756 nigel.d.lewis1@btintern et.com.**

Diary

**4 December, Wednesday, 1930 hrs**  
Combined Services Carol Service, the Cathedral, Carlisle. All welcome. Dress for servicemen will be No2/SD whilst Veterans should wear a jacket and Regimental Tie.



**9 December, Monday, 1300 hrs**  
Veterans Lunch Club, the Museum

**2020 14 January, Tuesday 1830 hrs**  
Talk, 'Reverend Theodore Bayley Hardy VC, DSO, MC or The most highly decorated non-combatant in WW1 (from Cumbria)', Chester Forster

**11 February, Tuesday 1830 hrs**  
Talk, 'The last drop: the British 6th Airborne Division and Operation Varsity 1945', Matthew Wood

**28 February, Friday**  
'Ladysmith Day', Border Regiment anniversary

**10 March, Tuesday 1830 hrs**  
Talk, 'The Territorial Army', Gary Sheffield

**14 April, Tuesday 1830 hrs**  
Talk, 'British Forces in Germany', Dr Peter Johnston, National Army Museum

**8 May**  
VE Day 75th Anniversary



**8, 9 and 10 May**  
King’s Own Royal Border Regimental Weekend, 'The Shepherds Inn & Auctioneer', Montgomery Way, Rosehill Estate , Carlisle CA1 2RW

**11 May, Monday**  
Fontenoy Day, Regimental anniversary, 34th Foot



**12 May, Tuesday 1830 hrs**  
Talk, 'Walking away from the Americans: two prison camps in Germany 1945', Peter Green

**10 June, Wednesday**  
Guadeloupe Day, Regimental anniversary, 55th Foot

**22 June**  
Anniversary of the lifting of the siege of Imphal, and Kohima, Border Regiment anniversary

**1 July**  
Anniversary of the formation of the Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment

**15 August**  
VJ Day 75th, Anniversary

## Our Heritage

The regiment that became the 34th Foot was raised in 1702, as Robert, Lord Lucas's Regiment. When Lucas died in 1705 they became Hamilton's Regiment of Foot.



34th Foot Officer's cross-belt badge 1800-1832



Carlisle Volunteers Officer's cross-belt plate c 1807



Border Regiment Officer's cap badge 1905-1952 (silver or silver-plated with enamel centre) worn on the peaked cap, side cap or beret

The 55th Foot were raised in 1755 by Colonel George Perry. They were originally the 57th Foot, but when lower numbered regiments were disbanded, they became the 55th Foot.

In 1782, all infantry regiments were given territorial attachments. Our regiments became the "34th Foot or Cumberland Regiment", and the "55th Foot or Westmorland Regiment".

In 1881 the two regiments were brought together to become the 1st and 2nd Battalions of "The Border Regiment".

In 1959 The Border Regiment and the King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) were combined to form the King's Own Royal Border Regiment.

In 2006 The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, merged with others to form The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.

In addition to the regular battalions there have been trained bands, militia companies and volunteer battalions that have all contributed to Cumbria's military heritage. A heritage that goes back beyond the Middle Ages.

## Lest we forget

Events and distinctions of the Cumbrian regiments from the winter.



### December 1778, St Lucia, Caribbean, 55th Foot

The capture of St Lucia, in the Caribbean resulted



from a 10 day campaign in mid-December 1778 by British land and naval forces. St Lucia had been a French colony.

### 21 December 1914 Private Abraham Acton VC, 2 Border & Private James Smith VC, 3 Border (attached 2 Border), Rouges-Bancs, France

The citation: "For conspicuous bravery on 21st of December at Rouges-Bancs and rescuing a wounded man who had been lying exposed against the enemies' trench for 75 hours. And on the same day again leaving the trench voluntary under heavy fire, to bringing to cover another wounded man. They were under fire for 60 minutes whilst conveying wounded men to safety."

### 12 February 1702, The 34th Foot, raised.

The Regiment was raised as Lord Lucas' Regiment in Norfolk and Essex.



### 27 February 1814, Battle of Orthez, France, 2/34th Foot

The penultimate battle of the Peninsular War, Wellington's army attacked the French army led by Marshal Nicolas Soult. After stiff fighting Soult was compelled to retreat, which became a scramble for safety.

### 28 February 1900, The Relief of Ladysmith, Boer War, Border Regiment

British forces entered Ladysmith on the afternoon of 1 March 1900.



### Crimea

For having thrown a lighted shell that fell into the trench over the parapet and thus saved many lives.

*The VCs and medals of Privates James Smith and William Coffey can be seen in the Museum at Carlisle and those of Abraham Acton in The Beacon Museum, Whitehaven.*

*Acton and Smith portraits are © CMOML, others are Creative Commons.*

## Contacts

### Cumbria's Museum of Military Life

Alma Block  
Carlisle Castle  
Carlisle  
Cumbria  
CA3 8UR  
01228 532774  
enquiries@cmoml.org

Opening hours  
1 April–30 September  
Every day 10 am–6 pm

October  
Every day 10 am–5 pm

1 November to 31 March  
Saturday to Thursday  
10 am–4 pm closed on Fridays

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

c/o Alma Block  
Carlisle Castle

Editor's email:  
peter.castra@gmail.com

Facebook:  
<http://bit.ly/2W2XbmU>  
Twitter:  
@TheLionTheDrag1

### Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

Fulwood Barracks  
Watling Street Road  
Preston  
PR2 8AA

### Cumbria Army Cadet Force

HQ  
Carlisle Castle  
Cumbria  
CA3 8UR

