

The Lion & the Dragon

The Friends of Cumbria's Museum of Military Life

Summer 2020

The Newsletter supports Cumbria's Museum of Military Life.

CUMBRIA'S MUSEUM OF MILITARY LIFE



© Lion & Dragon

Pikemen & Hat Companies

Companies are the building blocks of infantry regiments. But they have changed more often than the regiments that they make up. And, apart from the final major change in 1913, with far less political rancour and debate.

NO PIKES FOR THE 34TH

The British Army as we know it has its origins in the Restoration of Charles II in the 1660s. Infantry Regiments then included pikemen and musketeers. Pikes continued in use in the regular army until the late 17th Century. The Cumberland and Westmorland Militia still had pikes in 1715.

By the time that the 34th was formed in 1702 English line

regiments no longer had pikes. The 34th would have between 10 and 13 companies of musketeers, depending on its Colonel's preferences. Each company would have had a notional establishment of 100 to give an establishment of around 1,000 men.

Men would be allocated to platoons once formed up in line of battle and these allocations would not necessarily respect Companies. Platoons were used to give the rolling volley fire that the British Army used in preference to other European armies firing by ranks.

GRENADIERS

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Welcome

The first Carlisle Military Festival was to have taken place appropriately enough on 6 June, 'D-Day'. Sadly the coronavirus emergency has forced us to postpone it till Saturday 5 June 2021.

The Festival is a collaboration between the Museum and 'Bookends' Carlisle's independent bookshop.

Not all the work for the Festival has been wasted. We have been impressed by the support that we have received for the event and with over a year to plan, it should be bigger and better than we could have hoped for in 2020. If you would like to have a stand or contribute in any way please get in touch.

But join us next year at the Festival and help celebrate Carlisle's long and fascinating military history, whilst supporting the Museum's future.

Peter Green

Editor

peter.castra@gmail.com

Where do the names come from?

Battalion: The word originated in Italian as 'battaglione' in the 16th century. It comes from the Italian word for battle, 'battaglia'. The first use of battalion in English was in the 1580s, and the first use as a part of a regiment is from 1708.

Company: The word comes from the Old French 'compagnie' – a society, friendship. This in turn comes from a Latin word 'companio' one who eats bread with you. Military companies originate in Sweden in the 17C as units of around 150 men within regiments.

Platoon: The word has its origins in French. In the 17C it referred to a small body of musketeers who fired together in a volley. These groups were organised as appropriate on the battlefield. The word is from the 17C French 'peloton', from 'pelote' a small ball. The platoon as a formal part of a British Army Company dates from the 1913 restructuring of infantry battalions.

One of the 34th's companies would have been consisted of the tallest and fittest men, armed with grenades as well as muskets. This was the Grenadier Company. They wore conical hats, not tricornes to make swinging their muskets across their backs easier before throwing their grenades. Grenadiers first appear in the British Army in the 17th Century, when the eight oldest line regiments were instructed to add a Company of 'Granadeers'.

" this new arm was GRANADEERS, or soldiers armed with hand-granades, small bombs made for throwing with the hand. For duty as granadeers a certain number of men were at first selected from each Company..."

But within 30 years Grenadiers had stopped carrying grenades. They remained the regiment's elite and took the right of the battalion line. The other Company's were known as 'Battalion Companies' or 'Hat Companies'.

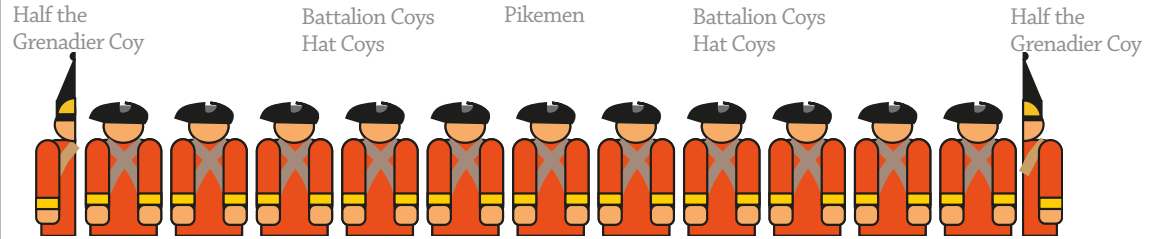
LIGHT COMPANY
From the mid- 18th Century the model of a 9 or 12 company



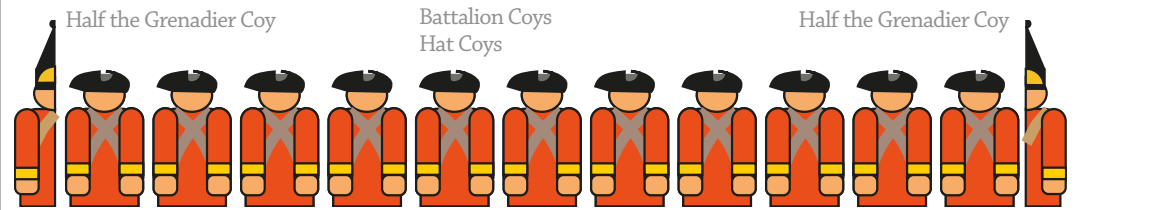
Battalion Companies plus a Grenadier Company was modified by the addition of a second specialist Company. Fighting in North America against the native American allies of the French during the Seven Years War led the British Army to employ light infantry: agile, quick thinking men capable of independent action. Lord George Howe, Colonel of the 55th Foot was a pioneer of the new tactics and the 55th became one of the first to operate as a light infantry battalion in the British Army.

Men in the 'Light Company' had their coats cut shorter to allow for easier movement and a 'jockey cap' hat rather than

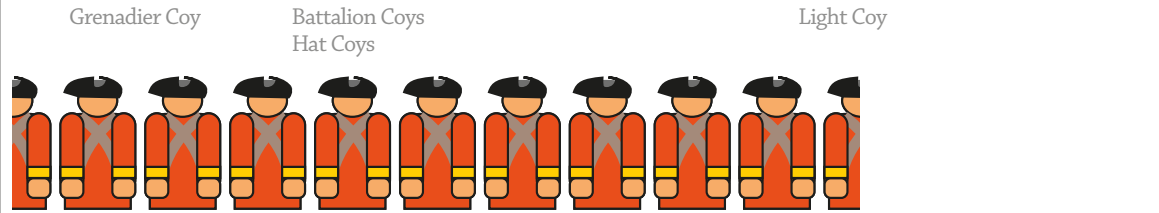
Line infantry battalions 1690 – 1825



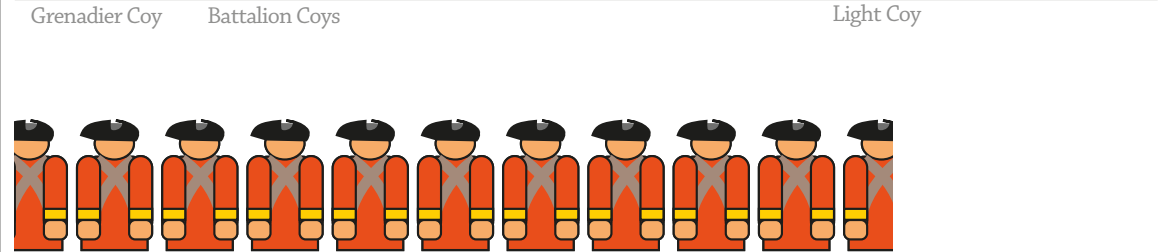
1690 – War establishment of 145 pikemen, 60 Grenadiers and 570 musketeers.



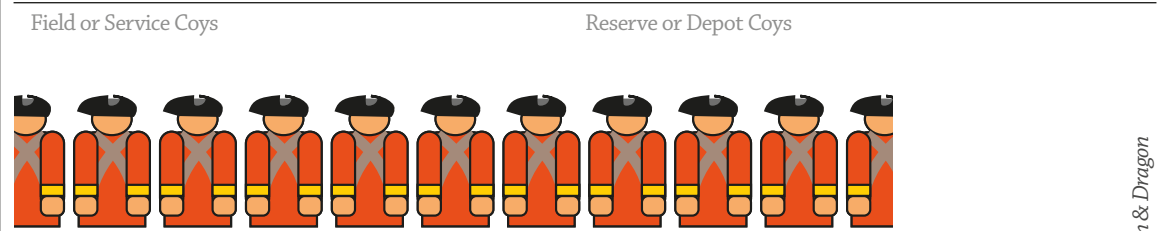
1740 – Grenadier Company and then 9 or 11 Battalion Companies. Each company having 80 – 100 men.



1780 – With two flank companies and eight Battalion Companies.



1792 – Still 10 Companies, but the Light Company is brigaded with other, light infantry.



1825 – 'Service' Companies had 86 men, 'Depot' Companies of 56 men were to provide reserves for the regiment.

© Lion & Dragon

the more bulky tricorne. But whilst the Grenadier was celebrated in song, light infantry were treated with suspicion. This was one comment on Light Company officers.

"For the most part Young and insolent puppies, whose worthlessness was apparently the recommendation to a service which placed them in the post of danger..."

On parade, the Battalion or Hat Companies would be flanked on the right by their Grenadier Company and on their left by the Light Company. The two specialist Companies were therefore known as Flank Companies.

The 1792 "Rules and Regulation for the Formations, Field Exercise and Movements of His Majesty's Forces", issued by the Adjutant-General's Office stipulated that a line infantry battalion should have one Grenadier Company, one Light Company and eight Battalion Companies. Each Company to have three officers, six NCOs and 80 men.

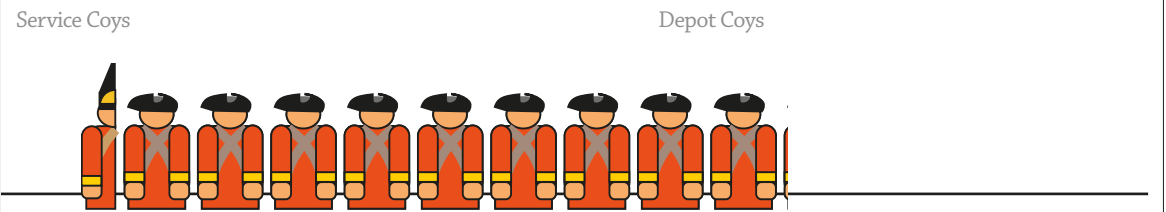
RECRUITING PROBLEMS & MONEY
During the 19th Century army reorganisation aimed to provide a more effective army, whilst keeping a lid on costs. In 1825 Palmerston as Secretary of State for War re-organised infantry battalions to six 'Service' or 'Field' Companies, supported by four 'Reserve' or 'Depot' Companies. Depot Companies were intended to train recruits and help get more men to join up.

The flank Companies were still referred to as 'Grenadier' and 'Light', although they were now no different to the other companies. The names were abolished after the Crimean War. In 1871 the Cardwell reforms gave battalions eight Field Companies and two Depot Companies.

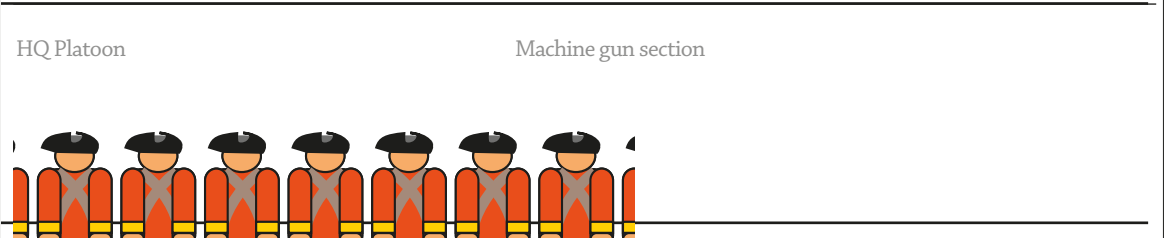
DOUBLE COMPANY BATTALIONS
The beginning of the 20C was dominated by debates about the fire-power of modern weapons and infantry movement. One of the conclusions, in Britain, was that infantry fire-power

Peter Green
The Editor

Line infantry battalions 1871 – 1944



1871 – Eight Field companies and two Depot Companies.



1913 – 'Double Companies' , with four platoons to a Company.



1944 – Four Rifle companies and an HQ Company and a Support Company with 6pdr ant-tank guns

© Lion & Dragon

and movement was more effective and better controlled by fewer, but larger companies than the traditional eight in a battalion. This had been debated since the 1870's. Indian Army units and most other armies already had larger companies.

In December 1911 the Royal United Services Institute held a conference chaired by General Sir John French at which Brigadier-General Maxse presented a paper on the advantages of four company battalions. In his opinion, larger companies gave more effective fire control, and coped better with men missing on training courses or, where a regiment had recruiting problems, than the half-company system then in place.

The discussion that followed included this comment by Major G C M Sorel-Cameron, Cameron Highlanders:

"... in spite of the eight companies system a battalion was generally organised for purposes of communication and control into four double companies both in attack and defence. Under modern conditions of tactics the less the number of units to whom orders and explanations had to be given the better..."

The General Staff decided in 1913 that battalions should have four companies of around 200 men. Companies had four 'sections' - what became platoons - each commanded by a lieutenant, with a Sergeant as his 2 i/c.

ANTI-AIRCRAFT OR ANTI-TANK?
In 1939 the number of companies had risen to five: a Headquarters company and four rifle companies. The HQ company contained anti-aircraft and mortar (support) platoons. In 1943 the HQ and Support functions were separated into complete companies. And the emphasis now was on an anti-tank capability.

Captions

Opposite top: Early 18C military headgear, from the left: grenadier cap, tricorne hat worn by 'hat companies' and light infantry cap.

Background

David Chandler & Ian F. W. Beckett (eds.), *The Oxford Illustrated History of the British Army*

David Chandler. *The Art of Warfare in the Age of Marlborough*, Batsford

Michael Locicero, et al, eds, *'A Military Transformed? adaption and innovation in the British Military 1792-1945'*, Helion

Edward Spiers, *'The Late Victorian Army'*, Manchester University Press 1992

Shelford Bidwell and Dominick Graham, *'Fire Power: The British Army Weapons & Theories of War 1904-1945'*, Pen & Sword 1982

Tim Travers, *'The Killing Ground'*, Pen & Sword, 2003

Unique
Regimental
souvenir

Len Moran, formerly KORBR, has begun producing classy 'Lion' walking sticks for past members of the Regiment and their friends.

These handmade 'Lion' walking sticks can be personalised to make a unique item even more special.

The canes are hardwood with a lion's head handle, KORBR regimental badge and other regimental insignia. They are handmade and can include your name, rank, Company or other information that is special to you.

PRICES start at around £50. Further information from Len via email at moran_lenny@yahoo.com



Aiding the
Civil Power

The Editor

The 'COVID Support Force' of military personnel is the latest in a long and honourable tradition of the Armed Forces providing assistance for public services and the civilian authorities.

One of the earliest records of assistance to the Civil Power is Pepys Diary, where in 1666 he recorded efforts to pull down houses to create fire breaks.

"..the King commanded me to go to my Lord Mayor, and command him to spare no houses, but to pull down before the fire every way. The Duke of York bid me tell him that if he would have any more soldiers he shall."

Most recently flooded communities have benefited from their professional skill and discipline serving personnel.

Before that it was the destructive moorland fires of 2018. Further back the military, including The Duke of Lancaster's have provided fire cover during industrial action by firemen.



Regimental
vehicles –
Bedford RL

David Allerdice

The Bedford RL was based on the Bedford SCL, a civilian 7Ton truck. The military version had all-wheel drive and bigger wheels to increase ground clearance.

3 OR 4 TONS?

Originally conservatively rated at 3 tons, all RL GS (general service) trucks in British Military service were, at a late stage in their service lives, re-rated at 4 tons; the weight referring to its rated cross-country payload weight.

The last RL rolled off the production line in the early 1970s, a total of 74,000 being produced - the ubiquitous 4 Tonner! The RL was powered by a 4.9 litres petrol engine producing 110 bhp, although some were fitted with diesel engines.

AIR DEFENCE

During service with the BAOR, the threat from the Warsaw Pact highlighted the vulnerability of soft-skinned, low-mobility, defenceless troop carrying vehicles.

An enterprising REME soldier devised really quite a good GPMG weapon mount for the cupola found in the roof of the cab between the driver and front seat passenger.

It was known as a 'SCAT' mount, standing for 'Shouldn't Cost a Tenner'. It worked well and provided some ground and air defence for the vehicle. However, once the experts got their hands on it – a Trials and Development Unit and the Ordnance Board, they made it unaffordable! Typical!

A GODDESS

The 3Ton RL chassis was used to build the Green

Goddess Fire Engines (!) used by 1 King's Own Border during the Fire Strike in 1977/8.

MY EXPERIENCES

My first memory of the 3, or was it a 4Tonner in those days, was seeing one used to host a white screen whilst we watched the film 'Get Carter'. We were on Battle Camp. It was my 21st birthday. I was exhausted. I managed one can of Tennents Lager, and fell into a deep sleep. Oh well! It is actually one of the few vehicles that I have never driven.

I recall moving with my Rifle Platoon to Londonderry from Ballykinler by 4Tonner. The windows in the cab were covered in Makrolon, with 3, I think, small holds drilled through the plastic to provide

air. My fears were that either I, or the driver, or both of us would fall asleep during the drive.

Of course, there were no communications between vehicles, or with the troops in the back, or with the HQ of the unit Tactical Area of Responsibility that you were transiting as this was long before the introduction of twin-frequency simplex radios like the Pye that provided Province-wide comms. We had to rely on Larkspur radios at platoon-level, the A41 with a working range of 3-5 kms – not much use if you were ambushed crossing the Glenshane Pass in County Londonderry.

The other issue that bothered me was where should I sit in a 4 Tonner:



isolated in the cab with the driver but separated from the troops in the back? Or should I travel in the back? I never really resolved that issue, but trying to regain control following an ambush would be easier having travelled in the back.

FOND MEMORIES?

I am sure that we all remember the 4Tonner fondly. You usually needed someone's help to climb aboard – two holes cut into either side of the tail-board and the rope to pull up on. I never liked jumping off the back of the vehicle. You could permanently damage your knees and/or ankles on landing when wearing webbing.

If you fell out, there was sufficient height to allow you to get into the 'free-fall stable position' before embedding yourself in the concrete/mud/ruts below. Later on, it was felt that sitting with your back to the canvas side-wall was dangerous, and so the seats were installed along the centre-line of the vehicle.

Fond memories indeed.



Captions

1. Green Goddess, GNU Free Documentation License

2 On manoeuvres in Germany © John Hobbin, former KORBR

3. Aden 1967, © Edward Boyle former, KORBR

4. Belize 1991, © Gary Stewart, former KORBR

5. Aden 1967, © Edward Boyle, former KORBR

More Piggery

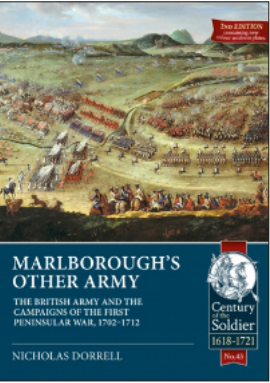
Ian Benson spotted himself, in the Spring edition, with what he describes as a "a lovely but very smelly dog" in the back of a Pig at Fort George, Londonderry. The dog's name remains unknown. The Editor's money is on 'Rusty'.



Book shelf

Peter Green

100 years before Arroyo



'Marlborough's Other Army: The British Army and the Campaigns of the First Peninsular War, 1702-1712' Nicholas Dorrell Helion & Company £21.95

The 34th Foot fought in two Peninsular Campaigns. The second was under Wellington, but 100 years earlier they had fought in Catalonia during the War of Spanish Succession.

There is relatively little information available about the First Peninsula War. This work not only provides a detailed look at the army that fought the Spanish and Portuguese campaigns of Marlborough's war, but it also offers an insight into the course of the war in Iberia.

AN ALLIED ARMY

It provides more detail and understanding of a relatively little known part of a war that helped to shape and strengthened Britain's position amongst the main European players. The work concentrates not only on the reasonably well known British contribution but also on the equally important role

of the less well known Austrian, Dutch, Palatine, Portuguese and Spanish contingents.

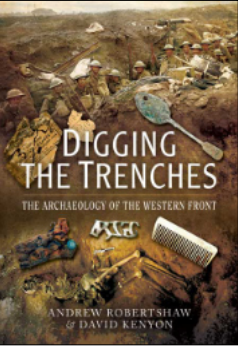
These chapters provide general information about the units involved, their organisation, tactics and other relevant detail. In other chapters the work concentrates in detail on the developments in the Spanish and Portuguese campaigns in each year of the war.

TEN YEARS CAMPAIGNING

Details of the composition of the armies in each campaign, their activities and battles, the size of the units, if known, in each year are provided. Attention is paid not only to the most famous engagement at Almanza but also to the other battles and skirmishes of the Iberian campaigns.



Western



Front

Digging the Trenches: The Archaeology of the Western Front Pen & Sword Andrew Robertshaw and David Kenyon £11.99

This is a very impressive book. Modern research methods – archaeological, historical, forensic – have transformed our view of the past.

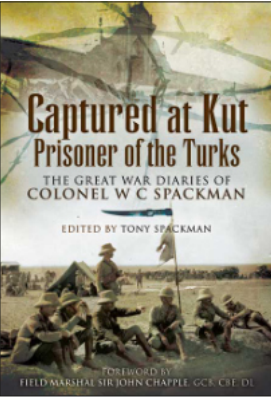
ARCHAEOLOGY

In this, the first comprehensive survey of this exciting new field, Andrew Robertshaw and David

Kenyon introduce the reader to the techniques that are employed and record, in vivid detail, many of the remarkable projects that have been undertaken. They show how archaeology can be used to reveal the position of trenches, dugouts and other battlefield features and to rediscover what life on the Western Front was really like. And they show how individual soldiers are themselves part of the story, for forensic investigation of the war dead is now so highly developed that individuals can be identified and their fate.



More WWI



Captured at Kut, Prisoner of the Turks: The Great War Diaries of Colonel William Spackman Pen & Sword £19.99

This edited diary is Colonel Bill Spackman's extraordinary personal record of his experiences as the Medical Officer of an Indian Infantry battalion during the Mesopotamian Campaign 1914 - 1916. In particular he describes the harrowing events of the five month siege of Kut and, after the surrender of the 10,000 strong garrison in April 1916, the hardships of the 1,000 mile forced march to Anatolia in Turkey.

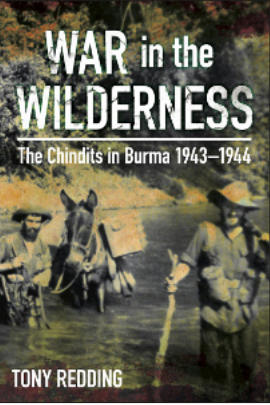
As a doctor he witnessed at first hand suffering the and deaths of many POWs, both

British and Indian.

The book goes on the record life in Turkish captivity which was relatively relaxed and fortunately, in sharp contrast to their earlier experiences.



Chindits



War in the Wilderness, Tony Redding History Press £14.84

War in the Wilderness is the most comprehensive account ever published of the human aspects of the Chindit war in Burma.

The ease with which the Chindits troops infiltrated North Burma had a profound effect on Japanese thinking. After Operation Longcloth, the 1943 Chindit expedition, the Japanese decided that their defensive posture in Burma was no longer viable. Accordingly, they decided to mount an offensive against Assam, aimed primarily at Imphal and Kohima. This led to their eventual defeat and undoing in Burma, during 1944 and 1945.



Two Crimean prints from the Museum shop



"Off Duty In The Grimea" Soldiers of the 34th & French Zouaves playing skittles in the camp before Sebastopol, Grimea 1855" by Paul Alexandre Protais 1861 which is displayed in the museum Size approximately (500mm x 300mm) £15.00



Watercolour "The 55th Foot clearing the Rifle Pits at Inkerman 1854" by Orlando Norrie which is displayed in the museum Size approximately (500mm x 300mm)

News round-up

Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

On 18 March the Defence Secretary announced a COVID Support Force to assist public services with the response to the coronavirus outbreak. As of 23 March, there are 250 personnel deployed to assist civil authorities with the response. They are part of 20,000 armed forces personnel currently stood at readiness to take part.

TANKER DRIVERS

Training began at an Air Products facility in Carrington, near Manchester, on Monday 23 March. The first group of military personnel have now completed their training to fill the oxygen tankers, drive them safely and deposit the oxygen at NHS facilities.

Cadet Force



A team from Cumbria Army Cadet Force has recently returned from the Turks and Caicos Islands in the Caribbean.

Sadly the Cadet Exchange Programme with the Turks and Caicos Islands Cadet Force has been put on hold due to the Coronavirus emergency.

Museum News

As of last Wednesday, the Museum temporarily closed. From Sunday, Museum staff set up working from home.

VIRTUAL MUSEUM

We are conscious that we are unable to provide the service that we used to, but are actively planning ways to continue promoting the Regimental history and engage with virtual users and veterans. Take a look at our museum online tour.



We are a small team. It's tough with no-one coming through the door, or visiting the site. We value your support , so that over the next few months so that we can show everyone how the Museum is a vital part of the Regimental family looking after your heritage.

We will be posting news on the Museum Face Book page, our twitter account and through our website. I have also set up a blog - https://chattingbehindthelines.blogs.pot.com/ so why not take a look? We are lucky that we are fit and well and hope that you all are too. Stay safe out there folks. We need to support each other over the next few months.

The Museum's Facebook Page is here:

https://www.facebook.com/cmoml/



Friends News

The great news is that the Friends has raised £1,903 so far for the 'Off duty in the Crimea' painting appeal. Brilliant!

The bad news is of course that our plan for a 'Hog Roast' fund raiser has had to be put on the back burner because of government restrictions during the Coronavirus Emergency.

HELP YOUR FRIENDS

In the meantime if you are having to stay at home you can help the Friends from the comfort of your own settee by offering your time to the Friend's Committee or writing for 'The Lion & the Dragon'.

HELP YOUR NEWSLETTER

It is one of the Editor's objectives to involve as many as possible in contributing to the newsletter.

We already have what is jokingly described as our 'Motoring Correspondent' in David Allerdice, whilst Ted Carter has been delving into the history of the Yeomanry to create a three part history of Cumbria's soldiers on horses.

Maybe you could write a letter to the editor? He has broad shoulders so complaints and corrections are as welcome as bouquets. He can be reached by email on peter.castra@gmail.com or 07866 727141



Diary

Sadly events are subject to cancellation or postponement due to the Coronavirus situation. Please check the Museum web site for the latest position.

The Museum is shut to visitors from 18 March until at least 1 May 2020.

See the Museum web site for the latest information.

15 June, Monday 1230 hrs

Veterans Lunch Club, The Museum

16 June, Tuesday 1830 hrs

Talk at the Museum, 'Haig Reconsidered', Prof John Derry

22 June, Monday

Border Regiment Anniversary of the lifting of the siege of Imphal



7 July, Tuesday 1830 hrs

'Cumbrian Bravery Medals' talk at the Museum Alec Graham and Alan Roberts

9 July, Thursday

'Operation Ladbroke', Sicily 1943, Border Regiment Anniversary



20 July Monday 1230 hrs

Veterans Lunch Club, The Museum

17 August Monday 1230 hrs

Veterans Lunch Club, The Museum



9 September, Wednesday

'Operation Slapstick', Taranto 1943, Border Regiment Anniversary

21 September Monday 1230 hrs

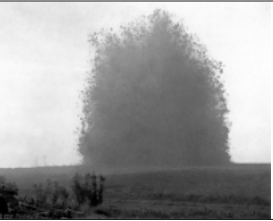
Veterans Lunch Club, The Museum

13 October, Tuesday 1830 hrs

Talk at the Museum, 'The 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain: remembering the Polish contribution, Max Loth-Hill

19 October Monday 1230 hrs

Veterans Lunch Club, The Museum



10 November, Tuesday 1830 hrs

Talk at the Museum the 'Hawthorne Crater uncovered', Fiona Graham and Paul Ottey

16 November Monday 1230 hrs

Veterans Lunch Club, The Museum

14 December Monday 1230 hrs

Veterans Lunch Club, The Museum

Our Heritage

Cumbria's military heritage goes back beyond the Middle Ages, but more recently includes 'Trained bands', militia, volunteer battalions and Territorials, as well as regular battalions.

Our modern regiments are linked to the past through the Castle. In 1782 it became the home of the 34th Foot or 'Cumberland Regiment' and retained its regimental connections until 2019. The regiment that became the 34th Foot was raised in 1702, as Robert, Lord Lucas's Regiment.

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. The "55th Foot or Westmorland Regiment".

The 34th were combined with the 55th or 'Westmorland Regiment' in 1881 to form 'The Border Regiment' and in 1959 they joined the King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) to become the King's Own Royal Border Regiment.

In 2006 the King's Own Royal Border Regiment were merged with others to create 'The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment'.

Lest we forget

Events, distinctions and memorials of our local regiments and their men.

June 1813, Vittoria, Spain, 34th Foot

The decisive battle of the Peninsular War that saw the end of the French occupation of Spain.



June 1918, Piave, Italy, Border Regiment

The Piave River was the last major offensive by the Austrians. Defeat led to the collapse of morale in the Austrian army. The Border Regiment was part of an Anglo-French contribution to the Italian Army.

June 18 1855. Private John Joseph Sims VC, 34th Foot, Sevastopol, Crimea

The citation: "For having, after the regiment had retired from the trenches from the assault on Redan, gone out over the open ground under a heavy fire in broad daylight and brought in wounded soldiers outside the trenches."

July 9 1943, Operation Ladbroke, Sicily, Border Regiment

The Border Regiment with the South Staffs, attempted to seize the Ponte Grande Bridge at Syracuse as part of the invasion of Sicily. Most gliders were released too soon and landed in the sea.

27 July 1915 Rest in Peace

Corporal R Brewer DCM, 2 Border France, Lillers Communal Cemetery

August 1840-42, China, 55th Foot

The 55th played the major role in the campaign and captured an Imperial Standard.



August, 1915 'Landing at Suvla', Gallipoli, Border Regiment

The amphibious landing made at Suvla as part of the final attempt to break the deadlock of the Battle of Gallipoli. Initially successful the landing at Suvla was mismanaged and conditions quickly reached stalemate.



August 1762, Havana, 34th Foot

One of Britain's 'Oceanic' victories during the Seven Years War. Despite suffering from Yellow Fever troops captured the capital of Spain's Caribbean Empire. Sir Joshua Reynolds painting shows the British Commander General Keppel.

August 4 1855, Brevet Major Frederick Cockayne Elton, 55th Foot, Sevastopol, Crimea

"For distinguished conduct during night when in command of a working party in the advanced trenches in front of the Quarries in encouraging and inciting his men, by his example, to work under a dreadful fire, and when there was some hesitation shown in consequence of the severity of the fire, going into the open and working with a pick and shovel, thus exhibiting the best possible example to his men."

Contacts

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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
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Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

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Cumbria Army Cadet Force

HQ
Carlisle Castle
Cumbria
CA3 8UR



CUMBRIA'S
MUSEUM OF
MILITARY LIFE



ACCREDITED
MUSEUM



heritage
lottery fund

LOTTERY FUNDED

Printed by Stramongate
Press, Kendal
01539 720448



Women's Home Guard
Auxiliary badge. Worn on a
left lapel or hat, brown



11 Battalion
(Lonsdale) Border Regiment
Officers cap badge, 1914-



1918
51st Field Regiment
(Westmorland & Cumberland
Yeomanry)
Royal Artillery cap badge,