

The Lion & the Dragon

The Friends of Cumbria's Museum of Military Life

Summer 2019

The Newsletter supports Cumbria's Museum of Military Life, the Regimental Family of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment and all things military in Cumbria.



Blood, sweat and tears – Afghanistan, the untold story

COLLECTING experiences: create an exhibition. That was the idea behind the new exhibition at the Museum that runs until 4 September 2019.

THE Museum wanted to make service personnel aware of the value of 'their history' and showcase their stories of serving in Afghanistan.

The project worked with veterans to collect their experiences and explain to Cumbrian audiences the role of the military in Afghanistan. History is not just what

happened 100 or even 50 years ago. It is being continuously created and if not recorded can be lost. The connection to previous conflicts in Afghanistan allowed the Museum to demonstrate the continuities in conflict for Cumbrian soldiers. Families were separated during both conflicts which put a strain on personal lives.

The Museum has collected the recent military experiences in Afghanistan through oral history interviews, film and objects, encouraging participants to tell their story. As volunteers, participants have worked

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Welcome

Dear Friends

The Lion & Dragon has a new look and a new editor – Peter Green who "volunteered" (no bruises show!) to replace Jim Henderson. Jim sadly had to resign due to ill health after doing a wonderful job establishing the newsletter. I hope that you find it interesting and that it stimulates you to spend more time at the Museum in Carlisle which is probably the best one as Regimental Museums go and covers all aspects of Cumbria's military history.

Nigel Lewis
Chairman

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

The First Afghan War 1839-1842

Fear of Russian influence in Afghanistan led the British Army to enter Kandahar. Two years of insurrection followed and in early 1842, 4,500 British and Indian troops with 12,000 camp followers left Kabul and almost all were killed in the retreat. In the summer of 1842, the British evacuated the country.

The Second Afghan War 1878-1880

The Viceroy invaded in November after the Amir signed a treaty with Russia and refused a British envoy. In 1880, Lord Roberts famously marched from Kabul to Kandahar where he defeated Afghan forces besieging the city.

The Third Afghan War – 6 May to 8 August 1919

Declaring independence from Britain, led the Afghan Army to invade the North-West Frontier province of Indian Afghanistan. This led to a series of skirmishes which was over by June. A peace treaty recognising Afghan independence was signed on 8 August 1919.



to highlight their stories. Additionally, participants have worked with existing Museum collections to showcase the soldier of a hundred years ago in Afghanistan in 1919.

THIS article can only give a flavour of a thought provoking exhibition. Men's experiences; their memories; will become an increasingly valuable, part of the Museum's collection and Cumbria's military heritage.

Supply and Support

THE Royal Engineers built over 100 patrol bases in central Helmand, ranging from small checkpoints with five soldiers to forward operating bases housing more than 300. Some had no cover, no water and some had tented accommodation, running water, a cookhouse, communications and welfare facilities. Located near Lashkar Gah, Camp Bastion became the main base in Helmand. The size of Reading, its perimeter wall was more than 20 miles long.

"...we arrived in Camp Bastion, a tented city in the desert, and an unbelievable feat of engineering; everything you would expect to find in a normal built up area. It comprises a hospital (one of the best the UK can offer), NAAFI shop, snack bars, gymnasiums, laundries, cookhouses and a chapel to name but a few of the amenities; not to mention the power and plumbing to run it all." WO2 (RQMS) P L Thompson, *The Kingsman* 2009



Life in Afghanistan

MILITARY personnel had to sleep, eat, stay healthy and survive in a hostile climate, where conditions could be harsh and the terrain unforgiving. .

"Horribly hot and humid in the Green Zone, dry heat in the desert to the north." Rob

"The heat. Sweat dripping from body. Uniforms soaked through from your own sweat. Sweating at 4am on sentry duty in Sangars with beads of sweat dripping down your back." Charlie



"Being ginger wasn't the best in summer!" Danny

"The night sky was amazing "Beauty in a place where a lot of shit is going down" Tony

"Camel spiders were horrible. They would make a funny noise and hide in your shadow where it was cool. It made it seem as if they were chasing you!" Tony

"A large part of the job was driving around the local area to familiarise ourselves with Kabul and to be a presence in the city." Emma

Hearts and Minds

It was important that the forces on the ground gained support from the local population. This varied from distributing seeds to farmers on a seed programme to handing out sweets to local children. When patrolling in a local area, Armed Forces relied on the support of the local population.

"Local people were scared of you – in full camo and guns – they were just farmers. But the Taliban were causing them grief too. Some of them eventually came round to you" Mike

Afghanistan



"Everyday we went on hearts and minds patrols... to get the locals on your side...Being nice to us could cause their families to be tortured or killed." Pete

"I got pencils from the Derwent factory in Keswick. I bagged them up and gave "them out to the kids at the local school" Jimmy

"The most memorable day on tour was during the Muslim holiday of Eid when we celebrated with the Afghan National Army. We all had a party with the Afghan soldiers who lived with us in Folangi where we ate lots of local fresh food cooked by the ANA, followed by a dance competition with them!" Kingsman Jackson, The Kingsman 2010

Casualties of War

PRE-deployment included first aid training, and basic trauma kits were issued on operations to provide immediate help, as time was of the essence. Combat medics provided medical support on operations but the aim was to get to the main hospital in Camp Bastion. Originally a tented hospital established in 2006, it was replaced with a purpose-built hospital in 2008 and became a world class trauma hospital before it closed in 2014.

"On my first day out there two were injured; I hadn't realised how many casualties there were going to be." Del

"We started with 120 men. 10 were killed in action: Will Aldridge and James Backhouse were just 18 years old. Cyrus Thatcher had 3 older brothers, Jay Horne and Paul MacAleese were married with wives and young children. 28 men were wounded, some with life changing injuries, Alex Horsfall had his left leg and arm blown off, Paul Jacobs was blinded in both eyes as he attempted to defuse an IED, Dave Dyche permanently lost his hearing after he was blown up." Rupert

Life after deployment

DECOMPRESSION - a scheduled period following deployment on Operations in which personnel are given time to mentally and physically unwind.

"We were going home. 40 minutes later we were on the ground at Camp Bastion, two days later we were

in Cyprus for 24 hours decompression and a day later I was home." Rupert

"It meant I could have a good booze up without the wife and kids giving me grief for being pissed as soon as I got home, cos normally you get home and it's as if you've never been away, cos you are straight back into doing normal married stuff." The Totally Unofficial RAF Rumour Network Forum; 23/11/09

How did Military personnel cope when returning home?

MILITARY personnel serving in Afghanistan had different experiences. For some it was a difficult adjustment which had a major effect on their lives back home.



"When I left and we had settled into our new home, my wife went to work and my children went to school and I was left at home injured and unable to work. After about a week of going from 72 hours a week to nothing in a heartbeat. I sat at my living room table and lined up all my tablets and thought, life would be a lot better without me." Kenny

"I didn't tell my parents I was going to Afghan, as I didn't want my Mum to worry. I would phone them every month and tell them I was on Exercise. I only told them when I got back home." Kav

"It was strange. I felt unprotected. I had carried a rifle with me everywhere for 6 months." Ben

"Luxurious. I still save water instinctively and am grateful for small luxuries such as cold drinks, showers and a proper loo! Lucky. I made it but others didn't." Rob

**Words and pictures by
Afghanistan Veterans and Museum staff
The exhibition runs until 4 September.**

*CAPTIONS overleaf:
Winning hearts and
minds is key to success in
Afghanistan.*

*OPPOSITE page left: The
Indian-Afghanistan border
in 1919.*

*OPPOSITE page right top:
The bazaar at Nad-e-Ali*

*OPPOSITE page right
bottom: Chinooks were
our main transport;
'Tony'*

From the Collection

RIGHT: A toy Jingly Truck brought back from Afghanistan and below the real thing.



THE Museum actively looks to collect objects that reflect the broad and varied history of the Regiment. It is often the more recent periods of history that we lack items, especially the more ordinary objects!

WITHIN our current Afghanistan exhibition Blood, Sweat & Tears there are a variety of artefacts loaned to us by participants of the project. From Charlie's sharpie pen used to write on casualty cards or Rupert's picture drawn by a child and sent out to soldiers, the exhibition reflects the human side of conflict. One object on display is a model of a red Jingly Truck. Many of the Afghan participants spoke with fondness of these trucks during their interviews.

So what is a Jingly Truck? Brightly-coloured, elaborately decorated and almost garish, these trucks travel around Afghanistan but can also be seen in Pakistan and India. The nickname 'jingly' or 'jingle' trucks come from

soldier's service whether in a conflict zone or as part of peace-keeping role. Throughout the Museum collections there is evidence of travels afar with objects offering us an insight into different cultures and experiences



the chains which hang round the bumpers of the vehicle. For many Afghan drivers, these trucks are their home, reflect their personality, contain decorations for good luck as well as safety which can be found in messages such as 'Keep Distance' or 'Horn Please'. Drivers spend lots of money on these truck decorations and are proud of the artistic work.

BRINGING back souvenirs of their time abroad has long been part of a

through a soldier's eyes. The jingly truck gives us an insight into a part of Afghan local life that many of these soldiers remember from their tours of the country. Thank you to George for allowing us to include this in the exhibition.

Jules Wooding
Cumbria's Museum of
Military Life

History in the making

THIS summer 1 and 4 Lancs will deploy to Iraq as part of 'Operation Shader', to train Iraqi and Kurdish security forces. 'Operation Shader' is the British contribution to the continuing military intervention against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).



THE Duke of Lancaster's Regiment The Regiment is a specialised light infantry unit, using Jackal 2 light reconnaissance vehicles.

OPERATION Shader began in September 2014, following a formal request for assistance by the Iraqi government.

THE number of British Army personnel involved in the mission against IS has steadily grown since the beginning of the operation. In 2014/15 there were 500 of them, but by 2017/18 it had almost quadrupled with a total of 1,920 Army personnel involved in 'Operation Shader'.

Dutch reenactors

THE War Department Living History Association is a Dutch group dedicated to telling the story of the 1 Border during the Battle of Arnhem. The wooded area

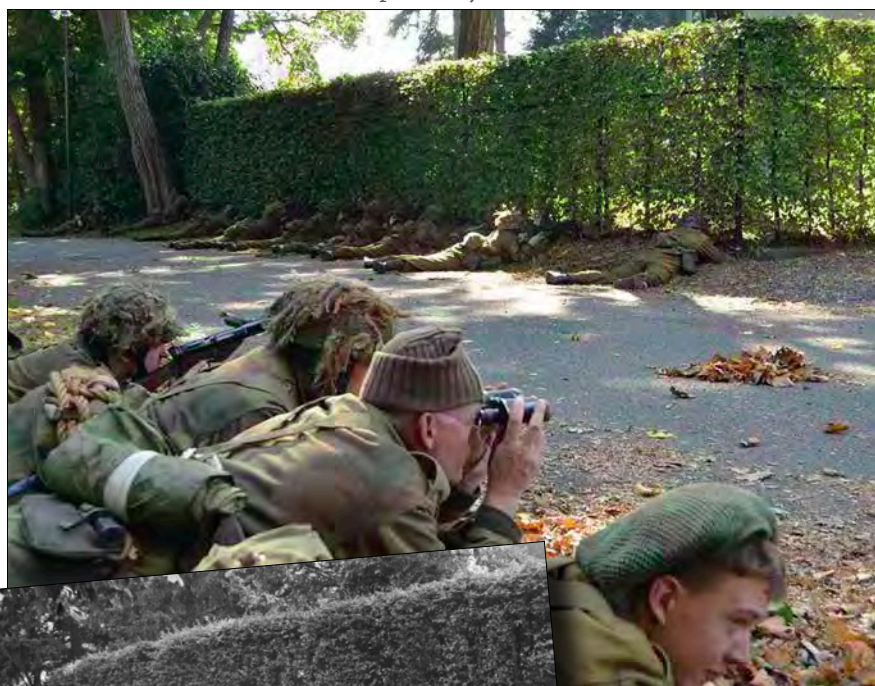
correct manner to be as realistic and respectful as possible. The association focuses on education and remembrance. Highlight is the annual September Airborne remembrance weekend at Oosterbeek.

DURING this weekend they organize a sober wreath laying ceremony at the Westerbouwing, where B Company 1 Border fought.

In The past few years War

From time to time the association is asked to perform ceremonial duties during remembrances. There are close ties with the Royal British Legion Holland Branch and the Royal Netherlands Army.

MEMBERS come from across the Netherlands and have backgrounds varying from students to mechanics to professional soldiers. What these



of their Battalion sector still bears the scars of this heavy fighting, with slit trenches and trees filled with shrapnel easily to be found.

THE association's aim is to keep this story alive by showing what these 'sky-soldiers' looked like, what they brought with them and how they trained and operated. This is done in an historical and military

Department have created a 'living museum' in the Oosterbeek Concert hall, recreating the Divisional Headquarters or a Main Dressing Station. They also take part in the annual Airborne Marches, marching in '40's Battle Dress and on Ammo Boots.

OTHER activities are supporting Battlefield tours, school projects and liberation events.

men, most of them young adults, have in common is a passion for telling the story of what happened in their country during the Second World War. By doing so they try to do their share in remembering those who fought and died for the liberation of Europe. Because dying for freedom isn't the worst that could happen, being forgotten is. Lest we forget.

Joey Post
The War Department
Living History
Association
<http://bit.ly/2MetWtD>

Friends News

Committee news

MIKE Rosling has taken over as Membership Secretary and Carl Stitt has taken over as Treasurer.

THE full Committee is:

N. Lewis – Chairman

A Chandler - Deputy Chairman

C. Stitt – Treasurer

J. Mills – Secretary

M. Rosling – Membership Secretary

P. Green – Newsletter Editor

S. Eastwood– Museum Curator

MRS B. Stitt

M. Milbourn

MRS M. McArdle

MRS D. Parsons

G. Stitt

Curator's Report

THE Afghan exhibition has had a good response from veterans and there has been lots of interest and material brought in. There have been many donations of books. Some have gone into the library.

SOME 2nd World War German material has been brought in including a rare grenade box.

THE Crimean War painting of men playing bowls needs renovation and could be a focus for fund raising.

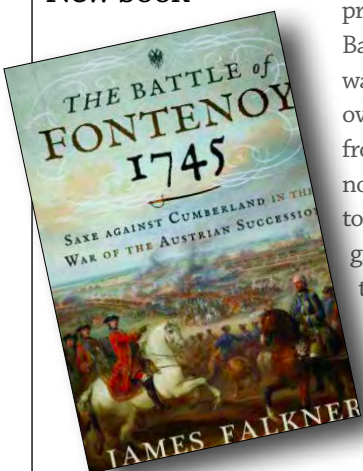
Stuart Eastwood
Cumbria's Museum of
Military Life

LEFT top: 'Dutch reenactors, The War Department', recreate an iconic Border Regiment photograph. In deference to the modern Arnhem community they have not dug slit trenches.

LEFT bottom: the 1944 photograph of 15 and 16 Platoon, C Company, 1 Border.

NEW and in print books covering aspects of Cumbria's military history.

New book



The Battle of Fontenoy 1745: Saxe against Cumberland in the War of the Austrian Succession
James Falkner
Pen & Sword
£19.99

A war fought over a woman becoming Holy Roman Emperor. A war that had Britain, including the 34th Foot, fighting alongside Austria, Hanover and The Netherlands against France, Prussia, Spain and Bavaria, sounds unlikely even by 18th Century standards. And it was a war that, for Britain, was interrupted by the return of a Stuart claimant to the Throne, and led to the last siege of Carlisle Castle.

DESPITE the title, Falkner covers far more than just the battle of Fontenoy.

HE gives the background to a war that it had several threads not all directly related to Marie-Theresa's

disputed succession. Only Charles-Albert Duke of Bavaria had a direct interest in the Austrian succession. For Charles-Albert it was a chance for his family, the Wittelsbachs, to return to the big time and become Holy Roman Emperors as they had in the Middle Ages, before the Hapsburgs. France had promised their support to Bavaria in its claim, but it was continuing concerns over their north-west frontier and what we now know as Belgium to Austria, that was the greatest attraction for them. Prussia saw a chance to detach the commercial wealth of Silesia from Austria. Spain, with interests in Italy, found it

hard to avoid the lure of Austrian possessions in Italy. And the Stuarts and Carlisle Castle? They were a convenient excuse for their supporters, the French, to open a second front with the British.

ALL this Falkner explains in an eminently readable manner. With the background in place, Falkner provides a summary of 18th Century warfare and the main protagonists of the battle. Warfare, where infantry exchanged volleys of one ounce lead musket balls at 80 paces. The French were led by Marshal Saxe: the Allies by the Duke of Cumberland. Saxe, as a 12 year old had accompanied a contingent of Saxon troops in the Duke of Marlborough's army, now he was fighting the British and her allies. Cumberland was the second son of George II. The battle of Fontenoy in May 1745, was the

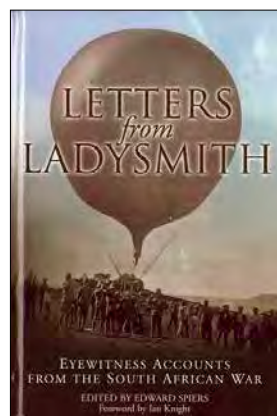
result of French attempts to capture the frontier fortress of Tournai. Cumberland with an army of British, Hanoverians, Dutch and Austrians, 50,000 in all marched to relieve the siege by 71,000 French. Even leaving 15,000 to maintain the siege, the French still had 56,000 men in front of Cumberland. Falkner's description of the battle leaves no room for doubt that despite the odds against them, the Allies came very close to pushing the French off the centre of the field and claiming victory. But with their flanks intact an advance through the centre was unsustainable. The British with the 34th Foot in the second line disengaged and left the field in good order. They had won their battle but it was not enough. Cumberland's army was unable to stop Tournai capitulating.

MEANWHILE trouble had been brewing in Scotland. The Young Pretender had landed in Scotland in August. By November he had seized Carlisle. Cumberland was recalled from Flanders and with him 10 battalions of infantry, including the 34th Foot. The French diversion had paid off, though it was the Scots who paid the price.

THE Battle of Fontenoy' is a book that provides a detailed insight into 18th Century warfare and the battle of Fontenoy in particular. It is an essential addition to the library of anyone interested in Cumbria's military heritage.

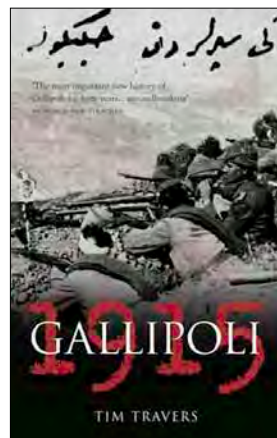
Peter Green
Editor

And did you miss?



Letters from Ladysmith: Eyewitness Accounts from the South African War
Edward M Spiers
Postscript Books £4.99

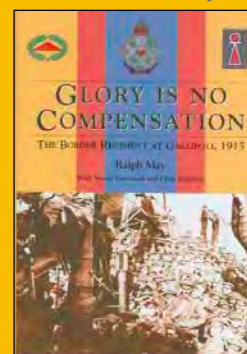
MILITARY historian Edward Spiers presents, with commentary, 250 letters written by soldiers and civilians from the beleaguered town and originally published in British newspapers. They provide vivid accounts of the siege and the desperate attempts to relieve Ladysmith.



Gallipoli 1915
Tim Travers
The History Press
£12.99

WHY was the Allied naval assault of February/March 1915 so unsuccessful? The Border Regiment and Kings Own Royal (Lancaster) Regiment have battle honours from Gallipoli. Travers has produced a startling new interpretation of the 1915 conflict.

From the Museum Shop



'Glory is no compensation'
Ralph May, Stuart Eastwood & Clive Elderton
Cumbria's Museum of Military Life
£13.00

Using the first hand accounts of the men who were there Ralph May describes the background to the 1st and 6th (service) Battalions The Border Regiment from 1907 to 1914 in Gibraltar, India and Burma, followed by their fortunes throughout the Gallipoli Campaign. The conditions under which the soldiers lived and fought are graphically described with extracts from diaries, letters and official documents. They suffered terrible casualties, were never out of range of the Turkish guns and endured the extremes of heat and cold and the unsanitary conditions of the front line. Yet morale and discipline were maintained throughout.

Our Heritage

THE regiment that became the 34th Foot was raised in 1702, in Norfolk as Robert Lord Lucas' Regiment.

THE 55th Foot were raised in 1755 at Stirling, by Colonel George Perry. They were originally the 57th Foot, but when lower numbered regiments were disbanded in 1757, 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.

JULY 2006 saw The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, The King's Regiment, and The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, merged to form The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (King's, Lancashire and Border).

AND the 'Lion & the Dragon'? The Lion was the symbol of King's Own Royal Regiment and the Dragon, that of the Border Regiment. Our yellow theme comes from the 34th Foot's yellow facings.



The Border Regiment



The King's Own Royal Border Regiment



The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

The Diary

May - September 4,

Blood, sweat and tears: Afghanistan the untold story, Exhibition, The Museum

June 7, Friday, 1830 hrs for 1900 hrs

Friends Open Evening and supper, The Museum

June 11, Tuesday, 1800 hrs

Talk, 'D Day', the British and Canadian experience, The Museum

June 17, Monday, 1300 hrs

Veterans Lunch Club, The Museum

June 25, Tuesday 1830 hrs

Friends AGM, The Museum

June 29, Saturday

Armed Forces Day – celebration

July 9, Tuesday, 1800 hrs

Talk, Campaign Medals of the Border Regiment, The Museum

July 15, Monday, 1300 hrs

Veterans Lunch Club, The Museum

September 10, Tuesday, 1800 hrs

Talk, 75th Anniversary of the Warsaw uprising, The Museum

September 11, Wednesday, 1400 hrs

Antique valuation by Paul Laidlaw St Aidan's Church Hall, Warwick Road, Carlisle

September 16, Monday, 1300 hrs

Veterans Lunch Club, The Museum

October 8, Tuesday, 1800 hrs

Talk, The formation of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment, The Museum

October 12, Saturday 1900 for 1930

World War 1 Dinner, Fund-raiser for Friends

October 19

The Gallipoli Landings, talk, The Museum

October 21, Monday, 1300 hrs

Veterans Lunch Club, The Museum

October 26, Saturday, 1900 hrs

Arroyo Day celebration, Apple Tree Pub, Carlisle

October 28

Arroyo Day – Regimental anniversary

November 5

Inkerman Day – Regimental anniversary

November 12, Tuesday, 1800 hrs

Talk, The WWI Deborah Tank Project, The Museum

November 18, Monday, 1300 hrs

Veterans Lunch Club, The Museum

December 4

Combined Services Carols Service, The Cathedral

December 9, Monday, 1300 hrs

Veterans Lunch Club, The Museum

Diary 2020

May 8, 9 and 10 May 2020

King's Own Royal Border Regimental Weekend, Carlisle

Lest we forget

EVENTS from the summer period, that are part of Cumbria's military heritage.

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 1-13 1916. 'Albert', France, Border Regiment

THE battle, 'Albert', was the northern opening action of the battle of the Somme. Unlike the Anglo-French attacks further south, few gains were made. British casualties included 10,000 men killed.

August 1842. 'Dragon', 55th Foot, China.

THE 55th played a major role in the campaign. It captured an Imperial Standard and as a result they were awarded the distinction of a Dragon inscribed 'China' on their colours.

Friends of Cumbria's Museum of Military Life Membership Application Form

Single payment

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Please send me the Newsletter by email

Please credit the account of "The Friends of Cumbria's Museum of Military Life" at HSBC Bank, PO Box 5, 29 English Street, Carlisle, Cumbria CA3 8JT. Sort code 40-16-22 Account number 42022788

I/We enclose a cheque payable to the Friends of Cumbria's Museum of Military Life

Please tick the appropriate annual subscription

Single person Family Senior Youth Corporate Institutional Life (minimum donation)
£20 ☐ £30 ☐ £10 ☐ £5 ☐ £200 ☐ £30 ☐ £150 ☐

with the sum of £ on the (date) (year) and with the same sum on the same date annually for (years) or until further notice.

Signed

Please return completed forms to The Treasurer, The Friends of the Cumbria's Museum of Military Life, Alma Block, The Castle, Carlisle, Cumbria CA3 8UR Registered Charity number 271943

Gift Aid declaration – for past, present & future donations

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made (please tick the one that applies):

Today ☐ In the past 4 years ☐ In the future ☐

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is equal to the amount of tax that all charities or Community Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

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Please notify the charity if you: want to cancel this declaration; change your name or home address; or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

Home address

If you pay Income Tax at the higher rate or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Signature Date

Contacts

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

October every day 10-5

1 November to 31 March
Saturday to Thursday 10-4
closed on Fridays

Friends of Cumbria's Museum of Military Life

c/o The Museum

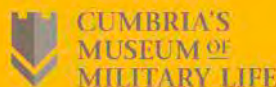
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