

The Lion & the Dragon

The Friends of Cumbria's Museum of Military Life

Spring 2020

The Newsletter supports Cumbria's Museum of Military Life.

CUMBRIA'S MUSEUM OF MILITARY LIFE



Contents

Skittles and bingo – Museum appeal
Stuart Eastwood, Curator, a tribute
Regimental vehicles – Humber 'Pig'
VE day and VJ Day celebrations
Bookshelf
News round-up
Diary
Lest we forget

Welcome

The guard has changed at the Museum. Stuart Eastwood, has retired as Museum Curator and has been succeeded as Museum Manager by Jules Wooding.

Jules' challenge is to ensure that the Museum continues Stuart's success in making the Museum a significant part of Cumbria's cultural life.

We wish them both all the very best in the future.

Finally two great Cumbrian military books have just been published. 'My Dad's Army: The White Gurkhas', personal accounts of 9 Border in Burma and 'Fifty First Field', a Cumbrian Yeomanry artillery unit. Details on page 6.

Peter Green
Editor



Skittles and bingo

'Off duty in the Crimea', is the most iconic of the paintings in the Museum's collection. But it is in urgent need of restoration. Now the Museum is appealing for contributions to pay for the work.

Men from the 34th Foot are shown playing bowls with their French allies in a lull during the siege of Sevastopol in the Crimean War. Behind them a group of French soldiers play bingo. A Mediterranean blue sky completes the Arcadian scene and contrasts with what we know of

the harsh conditions under which the men lived and fought in the Crimea for most of the time.

PAUL-ALEXANDRE PROTAIS

The picture is by French artist, Paul-Alexandre Protais, who painted historical and military scenes. He was born in Paris in October 1825. After working in the Post Office, he became a student of Auguste-François Desmoulins, who was also a painter of military and historical scenes.

Protais in the Crimea

The Crimean War had its origins in disputes between Roman Catholics and Greek Orthodox Christians over sites in Jerusalem, but rapidly became a struggle to prevent Russia gaining influence over the ailing Ottoman Empire.

Protais was attached to the staff of General Bosquet, the French commander who made the famous comment about the charge of the Light Brigade, "C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas la guerre: c'est de la folie" — "It is magnificent, but it is not war: it is madness."

Roger Fenton photographed Protais (seated left) with General Cissé, Bosquet's Chief of Staff, and other officers and soldiers of General Bosquet's Division in the Crimea.



born in Paris in October 1825. After working in the Post Office, he became a student of Auguste-François Desmoulins, who was also a painter of military and historical scenes.

REVOLUTIONARY PAINTER

PROTAIS was influential in moving military art away from 'La Gloire' to the normal routines of military life. A critic at the time described Protais as being " ... one of the first comers in the modern field of military-painting; he belongs to the school of those who merely seek to report the facts of War, without forcing the note of pathos, or colouring them with the light of romance."



DESMOULINS certainly painted with the "light of romance". Compare his 'Death of Prince Louis-Ferdinand de Prusse' with Protais' 'The Finding of the body of Prince Louis Napoléon' (illustrations 2 and 4). But at the same time Protais was known as "the elegiac painter of dreamy 2nd-lieutenants".

IN the Crimea, Protais was attached to the staff of a French General, Bosquet. Protais also spent time with the French army during the Franco-Austrian War and the Franco-Prussian War. He was wounded three times and made Chevalier de Legion d'honneur in 1865. He died in January 1890, aged 65.

ROYAL FAVOURITE

PROTAIS was a favourite of the French Imperial family, and of Queen Victoria. It was for Victoria that Protais painted 'The Finding of the body of Prince Louis Napoléon'. Prince Louis, the heir to Napoleon III was killed whilst serving in the British Army during the Zulu War.

As the 19th Century wore on Protais' paintings began to be seen not as revolutionary, but in fact as romanticising warfare. It is the images of British photographer Roger Fenton that are now seen as ground-breaking. However given the technology that Fenton used, many of his pictures, for example the 'Wounded Zouave' are staged (illustration 3).

OUR PAINTING

THE Museum's painting (illustration 1) is relatively small, 39 x 65 inches. It was spotted by an officer of the Border Regiment in a Art dealer's showroom in London in 1956. It was displayed in the Officer's Mess for several years.

SKITTLES

THE British soldier waiting to bowl is from the 34th Foot. His forage cap has the regimental number and a bugle, symbol of the light company. His jacket has the yellow facings of the 34th. A serving officer described the jacket as being,

"...made of cloth little better than a coarse flannel and hardly meeting the waistband of the trousers, with a high collar to cover the tight stock and tight sleeves."



IN the Musée de Grenoble is another Protais painting of a military skittle game. 'Soldats jouant aux quilles'. 'Soldiers Playing Skittles' is a small, 10" x 14" picture that shows seven French soldiers, chasseurs à pied, zouaves and one artilleryman, playing skittles in a woodland clearing (illustration 7). The bowling figure is almost identical to our painting - though the cheese is held higher in the Grenoble picture.

BINGO

THE seated group in the right background of our picture are playing bingo, known at the time in Britain as 'housie-housie' or in France as 'Lotto'. The extreme right-hand figure lying down has a board in front of him, the man seated next to him has a number in his right hand and is calling the numbers (illustration 5). 'Lotto' was a common French military pastime. Eugène Bellangé devoted an entire painting to soldiers playing lotto whilst at camp in Châlons in 1864 - 'La Partie de lotto; souvenir du camp de Châlons' (illustration 6).



OUR painting shows rows of tents in the background. A view that is almost identical to a Roger Fenton photograph of the Light Division's camp taken from General Bosquet's quarters in 1855 (illustration 8).

MEN IN HAREM PANTS

THE soldiers wearing baggy trousers are French Zouaves. Major Tylden identified them as belonging to the 2nd Regiment of Zouaves, known as 'The Jackals of Oran'. Zouaves were first raised by the French in Algeria. The uniform became fashionable during the mid-19C and at one time there were British, American, Polish and even a Vatican Zouave unit. The 'Zuavi Pontifici' were of course modelled on Arab and hence were emulating Muslim troops. The British units were the West India Regiment, the Gold Coast Regiment and the West African Frontier Force. The uniform is still worn by the Barbados Defence Force band and the Jamaica Military Band.

THE men in red kepis, dark blue jackets and red trousers are French infantrymen. Major Tylden, who wrote an article about the picture in the 'Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research' in 1958, thought that they were chasseurs à pied - light infantry.

34TH AT WAR

THE 34th Foot landed at Balaclava in December, 1854. The battalion was under-strength having left 200 young soldiers in Corfu, who were thought unable to cope with the Crimean winter. The 34th were first posted to the trenches around Sevastopol. But from June until early September 1855 they took part in a series of assaults on the Russian defences, 'The Redan'. Casualties were extremely heavy on both sides, but the Russians were able to hold their positions. However on 9 September they abandoned the town and slipped away northwards. Warfare in the Crimea now wound down as winter approached. An armistice followed and peace was signed in Paris in March 1856. The 34th left Russia in June 1856.

RESTORING OUR PAINTING

'Off duty in the Crimea' has been in a fragile state for some time. Lancashire Conservation Studios, Lancashire County Council, have examined the picture. Their report states that:

"The painting requires major treatment. It cannot be displayed in its present condition and it is difficult to store. The frame requires joinery work to make it fit for purpose again."

THE cost of the restoration is estimated at £6,000.

YOUR £££ TO RESTORE THE PAINTING

IF you would like to contribute directly to the restoration of this painting, please see the information enclosed with this newsletter, or alternatively contact the Museum directly. They can be reached by phone on 01228 532774 or by email at enquiries@cmoml.org.

THE appeal is already a third of the way to success, help us get it over the finish line as soon as possible.

The Editor

Captions

1. 'Off duty in the Crimea'. Paul-Alexandre Protais, 1861, Cumbria's Museum of Military Life

2. Detail of 'The death of Prince Louis-Ferdinand de Prusse, 1806', 1837, Auguste-François, Château de Versailles

3. Detail of 'Wounded Zouave', 1855, Roger Fenton, The Royal Collection Trust, Royal Collection Trust © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2020

4. Detail of 'The Finding of the body of Prince Louis Napoléon', Paul-Alexandre Protais, 1880, Royal Collection Trust © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2020

5. The bingo players from 'Off duty in the Crimea'

6. French infantrymen playing lotto, 'La Partie de lotto; souvenir du camp de Châlons', 1864, Eugène Bellangé, Musée de l'Armée

7. 'Soldiers playing skittles', undated, Protais, Musée de Grenoble

8. Detail of 'Camp of the Light Division taken from General Bosquet's quarters, Roger Fenton, Royal Collection Trust © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2020

Far left Roger Fenton detail, from the Library of Congress Collection, USA

Stuart Eastwood – a retirement tribute

Peter Green

the King's Own Royal Regiment Museum's collections at Lancaster.

STUART arrived at Carlisle in 1992 as Curator of the then 'King's Own Royal Border Regiment Museum'.

are more than objects in display cases. He devoted much of his time to communicating his knowledge and enthusiasm via educational events of all types and the media.

CHAIRMAN of the Friends of the Museum, Major Nigel Lewis commented on Stuart's commitment, "He has always been totally focused on the Regiment."

AND David Israel, former Colour Sergeant KORBR, agreed, "Stuart is a guy with a passion for the regiment that is second to none."

LEADING MUSEUM

WITHOUT a doubt Stuart's greatest achievement has been to transform the collection into one of the leading Museums of military life in the Country. This culminated in the recent successful move from Queen Mary's Tower to Alma Block.

COLONEL Andrew Dennis, Chair of the Museum Trustees, is clear that, "The Museum move would not have happened without Stuart's drive, sheer hard work and dedication."

STUART has set a very high standard to follow.

The Editor

VE Day and VJ Day

Jules Wooding

VICTORY in Europe Day (VE), was the name chosen for the day that Germany surrendered on 8 May 1945. It is often associated with the end of the Second World War but although this marked the end of the war for millions of civilians affected by the conflict in Europe, the war would not be over for many soldiers. Not only was a huge clear up operation to deal with throughout Europe, many soldiers, including the Border Regiment, were still serving in the Far East. It would be another three months before the war was officially over.



This year marks the 75th anniversary of both VE day and VJ (Victory over Japan) day. The Government have moved the first May bank holiday to Friday 8 May to coincide with VE day and celebratory events are planned around the country. Here at the Museum we will commemorate both dates. The focus for VE day is for the Museum to connect with young people.

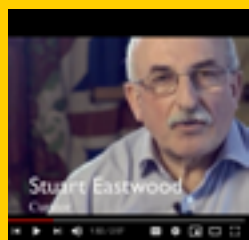
Stuart Eastwood - a personal tribute from the Editor

If you want to see Stuart at his most impressive, look at the short videos about the Museum's '100 Objects Exhibition', on YouTube.

Stuart talks, without a script, direct to camera.

You are immediately captured by his voice. It's warm, friendly, authoritative and very sincere. This is someone who not only knows his stuff, but loves it and loves enthusing others with his belief of its significance.

Search YouTube for 'A History of the Regiment in 100 Objects' or use the QR link on page 7



FOR almost 30 years, Stuart has guided the development of the Museum; passed on his enthusiasm and pride in the local regiments to visiting parties of all ages; and played a significant part in the regimental family.

CAREER IN MUSEUMS

BORN in the East Riding, Stuart has spent time on both sides of the Pennines. His degree is from Lancaster University in Archaeology and Medieval History.

HIS first museum experience was at Rotherham. Whilst there he had his first experience of military collections, overseeing the transfer of the York and Lancaster Regiment Museum from Sheffield to Rotherham and the creation of a new Regimental Gallery.

IT was not his first military experience: at school Stuart had been an Army Cadet.

IN 1986 Stuart became Keeper of Military History and Deputy Curator with responsibility for

PEOPLE CRUCIAL

STUART has always encouraged connections with veterans. One of the early results was the illustrated history of 1 Border in WW2, 'When Dragons Flew', written in partnership with two former officers from the regimental family. It set the Gold standard for other Arnhem regimental histories.

AND a continuing example of Stuart's interest in former members of the regiment are the monthly Veteran lunches at the Museum.

PASSION FOR THE REGIMENT

STUART has always thought that museums



CARLISLE COLLEGE

WORKING with Carlisle College, we will be hosting a VE day event covering both Friday 8 and Saturday 9 May. Students will be working on an exhibition, conducting interviews with people who experienced events in May 1945, and are developing plans to produce a variety of supporting WW2 themed activities to entertain visitors.

CADETS

CADETS from the Castle detachment will be involved with the event. The cadets' activities will include comparisons between the 1940s and more modern military kit.

YOUNG PEOPLE GROUP

THE Museum Young Peoples' group are complimenting these activities. The group will record young peoples' reactions and their understanding of VE day today.

THE Museum believe that working with young people is fundamental. The Young Peoples' group was established in 2015 to work on a Gallipoli themed project. Two of the group gave a presentation at a national Gallipoli conference in Birmingham. It is this age group that will continue to commemorate and celebrate in years to come and this may be the last generation to have direct contact with people that lived through the Second World War.

THIS is an opportunity to give them a voice, involve them in our commemorative events and raise their awareness about these important anniversaries.

Regimental vehicles Humber 'Pig'

David Allerdice

THE Humber Armoured 1 Ton 4x4 Truck – 'Pig' – entered service around 1956.

It could carry a eight men: a commander, driver and six in the rear. Powered by a Rolls-Royce 6-cylinder petrol engine it developed 120 bhp at 3750 revs.

THE suggestion is that it was nicknamed the 'Pig' because of its ugly appearance.

GERMANY

1 King's Own Border Regiment was issued with the 'Pig', as well as the Saracen, whilst serving in Wuppertal in 1962-4.

ULSTER

THE obvious need for ballistic protection for soldiers on operations in Ulster, saw the introduction of the 'Pig' onto the streets in about 1971. It was designated as the AT-104, and was an up-armoured version of the original 'Pig', the FV 1611.

IN 1976 it was driven by soldiers from the Royal Corps of Transport who were attached to the Bn. KORBR 'revisited' the 'Pig' during the Palace Barracks Tour in 1985/6.

FELIX PIG

'Felix Pigs' were used to portee the 'Wheelbarrow' that was a critical part of the ATO's tool-kit. Their unit's call sign was Felix as in "Felix the Cat with nine lives"

ANOTHER significant variant saw the vehicle equipped with 'wings' –

Flying Pig – that could be deployed during crowd dispersal operations.

MEMORIES

THE Pig was used extensively by the 1st Bn in its TAOR West Belfast in 1976. Observation from the crew compartment was limited, and it was common to drive with the back doors open and two riflemen looking out.

WHILST it did not have advanced ballistic protection, I always felt 'safe' in one moving about our TAOR.

IT seemed to be a pretty reliable vehicle. Whilst in its original 1950s configuration it may have been 'Fitted for Radio', my experience was that the crew had to rely on the Pye or Cougar man-portable radio for any form of communications to any other vehicle.



Picture credit

Stuart Eastwood © The Cumberland News

Glossary

ATO: Ammunition Technical Officer, in civvy parlance a 'Bomb Disposal Officer'

TAOR: Tactical Area of Responsibility

Other Piggies

Variants of the vehicle attracted other names.

'Foaming Pig' – Vehicle with a foam laying capability to make explosive devices less destructive

'Holy Pig' – had a rooftop hatch surrounded by Perspex screen like a Popemobile

'Kremlin Pig' – with defences against rocket-propelled grenades supplied by the Soviet Union

'Squirt Pig' – with a water canon

Captions

1. Labrador explosives search dog, handler from KORBR © Les Rudd, former KORBR

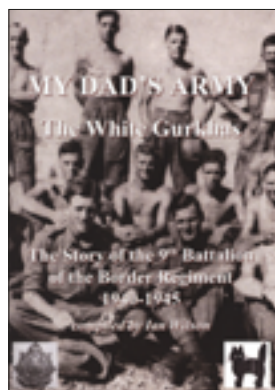
2. Men of KORBR, taking cover behind a Felix Pig Belfast 1985

3. Flying pig, Belfast, 1985

Book shelf

Peter Green

New book – Burma Border memories



My Dad's Army: The White Gurkhas
Compiled by Ian Wilson
Bookcase
£18.00

IAN Wilson has compiled a very valuable account of 9 Border in Burma from the memories of veterans, including his father, Simon MacKenzie Wilson, Signals Platoon. Three Border battalions served in Burma and their contribution to victory deserves to be better known.

HISTORICAL THREAD

THE men's accounts are linked with an historical narrative that starts in the autumn of 1940 at Workington when 9 Border were created.

IN early 1941 the battalion took over the defence of the coast between Berwick and Bamburgh. They were not destined to stay long. In May 1942 they were on a troop ship bound for India. After intensive training to acclimatise them to jungle warfare,

LUCKY CATS

9 Border joined 17th Indian Division, 'The Black Cats'. The bulk of the Division were Gurkhas. The Border's achievements led to their nickname 'The White Gurkhas'.

THE Division played a key role in the battle of Imphal that saw the Japanese army's advance stopped and then turned into retreat.

SOCIAL HISTORY

BEING based on men's memories Wilson's book has descriptions of men's everyday life as well as combat. Fighting in Burma was as much about learning to live in the jungle as combat. Descriptions of morning stand to and the chance to make a brew convey more about the battalion's time in Burma as stories of ambushing Japanese patrols.

DISEASE was rife and the accounts include matter of fact comments about coping. As well as travelling across country so rugged that it could take all day to get from one side of a valley to the next.

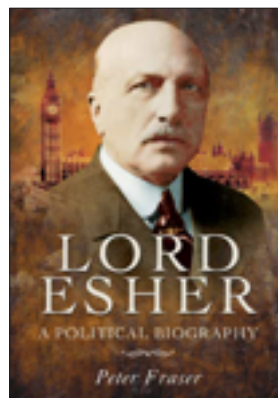
JAPANESE POW

AFTER Imphal the battalion pressed on through the jungle and down to the plains around Rangoon and after heavy fighting took part in the Japanese surrender. Included in the hardships overcome, is one man's account of becoming a Japanese POW.

VALUABLE RECORD

WILSON's book is an important addition to the Regiment's history and a tribute to the men who fought in country so very different from their own.

Politics and the 20C army



Lord Esher: a political biography
Peter Fraser
Pen and Sword
£25.00

WHY is a political biography of an unknown Lord relevant to military history? Simply, it was Esher who ensured that the Haldane reform of the militia and volunteers were successful.

TERRITORIALS

IT is Esher that we have to thank for the Territorial Army and its relationship to the regular Army.

ALTHOUGH wielding huge influence in late Victorian and Edwardian political life, Reginald Baliol Brett (1852 – 1930), was an enigma to his contemporaries, and still remains a puzzle to historians. He is largely unknown by the general public.

DESPITE his lack of military service he was instrumental through his work on the Committee for Imperial Defence and its Secretariat for the wholesale reorganisation of the Armed Forces.

BENEFICIAL

IT could be said that Esher, with his grasp of power without responsibility, was a unique and beneficial phenomenon in British history.

A true classic



Bren Gun Carrier: Britain's Universal War Machine
Robert Jackson
Pen & Sword Military
£13.50

ONE of the most versatile fighting vehicles in the British army and many other forces for a quarter of a century, the Universal Carrier – better known by its original title of Bren Gun Carrier – was developed as a fast infantry-support vehicle.

INTERNATIONAL

CARRIERS served in every theatre of the Second World War. With the war over, it was operated by many belligerents in a string of conflicts around the world, including Israel's struggle for independence and the war in Korea.

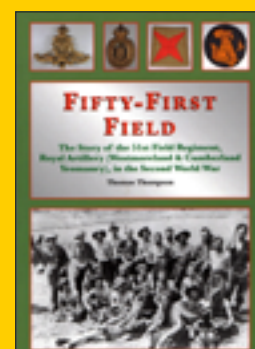
Bookshop

'THE Lion & the Dragon' recommends 'Bookends', at 19 Castle Street, Carlisle, between the Castle and the Cathedral. 'Bookends' are happy to order titles.

THEIR associated shop 'Bookcase' has a vast range of second-hand military books, including many that are out of print.

RING Bookends on 01228 529067 or email bookscumbria@aol.com.

New! From the Museum Shop



Fifty First Field - The story of the 51st Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (Westmoreland & Cumberland Yeomanry), in the Second World War, Thompson
Cumbria's Museum of Military Life
£12.50

A new book from Cumbria's Museum of Military Life "Fifty-First Field" is the story of the 51st Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (Westmoreland & Cumberland Yeomanry) during the Second World War written by Thomas Thompson who lives near Carlisle.

The book follows them across the world, first to Norway then to North Africa and finally to Burma in 1944

Thomas Thompson, himself a gunner was the last Commanding Officer of the 51st successor unit and was the last Commanding Officer of the 4th Territorial Battalion Border Regiment 1967-1969.

News round-up

Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

NEW CO DINED-IN

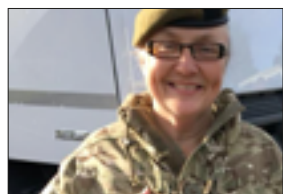
THE Officers' Mess, 4 Lancs, dined-in their new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Nick Kennon, at the Museum. Alma Block was the Officers Mess of the Border and King's Own Royal Border Regiments.



Cadet Force

ADULT VOLUNTEERS

WE are recruiting Adult Volunteers. Are you over 18? Looking for something exciting to do in your spare time? Like the idea of inspiring and leading young people?



NO particular experience is required and we provide all necessary training. So if you can give up one or two evenings a week and want to do something different with your free time, this could be for you.

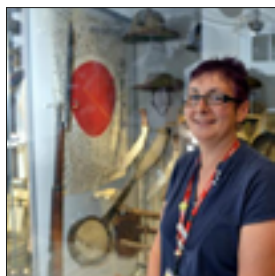
YOU can register an interest in becoming a Adult Volunteer online or by ringing the Army Cadet Force in Carlisle on 01228 516223.

AND of course any young people aged 12 or over and in at least Year 8 at school are also very welcome as cadets.

Museum News

NEW MANAGER

JULES Wooding has been appointed Museum Manager on the retirement of Curator, Stuart Eastwood.



JULES is the Museum's current Learning and Access Officer. Her previous posts include the Tullie House Museum in Carlisle, the National Army Museum and Northampton Museums.

MUSEUM APPEAL

IN order to carry out the restoration work on 'Off Duty in the Crimea', the Museum must raise £6,000. We are setting ourselves the goal of reaching this target by the end of 2020. We have already raised nearly £2,000.



IF you would like to contribute directly to the restoration of this painting, please see the information enclosed with this newsletter, or contact the Museum directly.

AND the Museum has recently signed up to the online fundraising scheme 'Give as you Live'. This scheme allows you to raise money for a chosen

charity when shopping online, without any additional cost to you. The registered online retailers will donate a portion of their profits.

To sign up for the scheme go to <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/cmoml> and select 'The King's Own Royal Border Regiment Museum Fund' as your charity.

THIS year, everything raised through 'Give as you Live' will be put towards the restoration of the painting 'Off Duty in the Crimea'.

Friends News

EVENT

WE will hold one major fund raising event in 2020. This will be in the summer at Corby Castle, courtesy of Lady Ballyedmond.

FUNDS raised will go towards the restoration of the picture 'Off Duty in the Crimea' as our project for the year.

STUART EASTWOOD



The Friends dined Stuart out and presented him with a picture of Carlisle Castle and a model of an LNER loco that was shedded at Hull Diarycoates. Railways are his other passion!

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

WE continue to need to replace long-serving the committee members. If you'd like to know more please give me a ring.

Nigel Lewis
017687 78108

QR Codes

'The Lion & the Dragon' is making connection between the Internet and the newsletter easier by using 'Quick Response' codes. They are the boxes of patterns below. Scan them with a 'QR Scanner App' on your phone to go directly to the appropriate URL or create an email.

Email the Museum to give to the Protais Appeal



Register an interest in the Army Cadet Force



Register for 'Give as you live'



Join the Friends of the Museum



Stuart Eastwood on You Tube



Diary

10 March, Tuesday, 1800 hrs

Talk at the Museum, 'The Territorial Army In the Second World War', Gary Sheffield

14 April, Tuesday 1800 hrs

Talk at the Museum, 'British Forces in Germany', Dr Peter Johnston, National Army Museum

8 May, Friday

VE Day 75th Anniversary

8, 9 and 10 May

King's Own Royal Border Regimental Weekend, 'The Shepherds Inn & Auctioneer', Montgomery Way, Carlisle CA1 2RW

11 May, Monday

Fontenoy Day, Regimental anniversary, 34th Foot

12 May, Tuesday 1830 hrs

Talk at the Museum, 'Walking away from the Americans', POWs and others' stories from 1945, Peter Green

6 June, Saturday, 0930 onwards

'Carlisle Military History Festival', talks by authors of military books, at the Museum. Jointly with 'Bookends', Carlisle. Prices will start at £7.50 for a single talk, with day tickets up to £32.50. Tickets from late-March.

10 June, Wednesday

Guadeloupe Day, Regimental anniversary, 55th Foot

16 June, Tuesday 1800 hrs

Talk at the Museum 'Haig reconsidered', Professor John Derry

15 August, Saturday

VJ Day 75th Anniversary

Our Heritage



55th Foot button
mid-18th Century,
found at Fort George,
Antigua, West Indies



Westmorland and
Cumberland Yeomanry
cap badge 1914



King's Own
Royal Border Regiment
Other Ranks cloth beret
badge 1983 - 2006

CUMBRIA's military heritage goes back beyond the Middle Ages, but more recently includes 'Trained bands', militia, volunteer battalions and Territorials and Yeomanry, 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 and added Cumberland to its title. The Castle 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, they were given the geographic link and name '55th Foot – Westmorland Regiment'

IN 1881 the 34th were combined with the 55th to form the 1st and 2nd battalions of 'The Border Regiment'. 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 and distinctions of our local regiments from the spring.

10 – 13 March 1915, Battle of Neuve Chapelle, Border Regiment, France

The British broke through German defences in a salient at the village Neuve-Chapelle but the initial success could not be exploited. Unexpected delays and communications failures prevented the momentum being maintained. The Germans had time to send in reinforcements and create a new defensive line.



March – July 1944, Imphal, Border Regiment, India

Japanese armies attempted to destroy the Allied forces at Imphal and invade India, but were driven back into Burma with heavy losses. Three battalions of the Border Regiment were involved in the fighting.



11 – 12 April 1918 Captain (Acting Lieutenant Colonel) James Forbes-Robertson VC, DSO and Bar, MC, 1 Border, Battle of Lys, Berquin, France

The citation: "For most conspicuous bravery whilst commanding his

battalion during heavy fighting. Through his quick judgement, resource, untiring energy, and magnificent example, Lieutenant Colonel Forbes-Robertson, on four separate occasions, saved the line from breaking and averted a situation which might have had the most serious and far-reaching results."

22 April – 9 May 1917, Border Regiment, Doiran, Macedonia

In April 1917 the British attacked the Bulgarian defences around Doiran and on the Vardar as a diversion from the main Franco-Serb offensive to the west. Both attacks failed.



27 April 1859 Private George Richardson VC, 34th Foot, Kewan Trans-Gogra, Indian Mutiny

The citation: "Richardson did, despite the fact that his arm was broken by a rifle bullet and leg slashed by a sabre, rush to the aid of his officer, who was attacked."

22–26 May 1940, the River Escaut, Belgium, 1 Border

The battalion along with the rest of 4th Infantry Brigade fought a four-day rearguard action during the British Army's retreat from Belgium towards Dunkirk.

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

Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

Fulwood Barracks
Watling Street Road
Preston
PR2 8AA

Cumbria Army Cadet Force

HQ
Carlisle Castle
Cumbria
CA3 8UR



CUMBRIA'S
MUSEUM OF
MILITARY LIFE



Printed by Stramongate
Press, Kendal
01539 720448