

# The Lion & the Dragon

The Friends of Cumbria's Museum of Military Life

Winter 2020

The Newsletter supports  
Cumbria's Museum of  
Military Life.

 CUMBRIA'S  
MUSEUM OF  
MILITARY LIFE



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## SITREP

ONE of the requests from our Questionnaire was for more articles about ordinary military life. So I am pleased to be able to announce a 'Lion & the Dragon' special, a 16pp A5 booklet about some of the men and woman who have been part of our Regimental Family since 1702. It is free if you take out, or renew as, a Family Membership at the Museum, otherwise £2.50. Details are inside.

ALSO in this edition Mike Kippin, In Pensioner, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, introduces Sergeant Henry Mills, 34th Foot, and his patriotic song written at the outbreak of the Crimean War.

THE Covid situation continues to affect all of us, but the good news is that the Museum is now open. Details of the opening arrangements are on the back cover.

Peter Green  
Editor  
peter.castra@gmail.com

# Burma Borders

THE Regiment's connections with the East go back to the 34th and 55th Foot in the 19th Century. The early 20th Century saw the Borders in Burma and then the North-West Frontier, but it was World War 2 that brought the largest number of men from the Regiment to India and Burma.

### JAPANESE HIGH TIDE

THREE battalions of the Border Regiment served in the region during the Second World War. 2 Border and 9 Border in

Indian Army Infantry Divisions and 4 Border in the Chindit long-range penetration force, all three units were part of General Slim's 14th Army. And in the Spring of 1944 the three battalions faced the last major Japanese offensive in Burma an attempt to reach India.

### 2 BORDER - 20TH INDIAN DIVISION

2 Border had arrived in Calcutta in 1938. When mobilised for service with the Indian






Fighting the climate

In Assam the rainy season ran from from July to October, although temperatures dropped it is accompanied by torrential rain. Traditionally fighting stopped during the monsoon.

From March until July the weather is hot, with the occasional rain shower creating very humid conditions. The early part of this period is drier.

Average rainfall in Assam during the monsoon is around 120".

By 1944 Slim's 14th Army was able to fight through the rainy season.



Army in Burma in 1942, the battalion lacked Bren guns or modern signalling equipment.

THE Japanese advance was so fast that the Borders were recalled from Burma and returned to Calcutta. A transfer to Sri Lanka followed and intensive training. They returned to India from Sri Lanka and reached Burma and the hill town of Imphal in October 1943. They were now serving alongside two Indian Army battalions as part of 20th Indian Division.



4 BORDER - 23 BRIGADE CHINDITS

4 Border had arrived in India at the start of 1942 as part of 70th Division. They were to have formed part of the troops defending Burma, but the speed of the Japanese advance confined them to India. Here they spent some time carrying out internal security duties, before the Division transferred to special duties and became Chindits.

UNITS were re-organised so that each battalion was divided into two columns. The Borders became columns 34 and 55 in 23 Brigade. Training in jungle survival was intense and malaria was rife. They were to operate against the communications of Japanese Thirty-third Army operating in north-eastern Burma, however by the time the Japanese offensive against Imphal started 23rd Brigade, with the 4 Borders columns, had yet to be inserted alongside the other Chindits.



9 BORDER - 17TH INDIAN DIVISION

9 Border had arrived in India in July 1943. They joined the 17th Indian Mountain Division in Assam. The battalion's organisation as a 'light' battalion was a HQ Company and four Rifle Companies. The battalion had a small number of jeeps, but was expected to rely on mules and ponies.

1943

JUNGLE warfare training, mule transport, the Chindits, re-equipping with modern equipment, developing air supply, these were all responses to the poor jungle fighting capability that had led to the fall of Burma. By the end of 1943 General Slim had been appointed commander of the British 14th Army, following the failure of the 1943 Arakan offensive. As well as the Indian Army, the American General Stillwell was operating on the China-Burma-India region building a road to make it easier to provide supplies to the Chinese. The Japanese had reached northern Burma.

THE JAPANESE PLAN FOR 1944

THE Japanese commander, Lieutenant-General Renya Mutaguchi, believing that the widely scattered British and Indian troops facing him were of low quality, decided to attack into Brahmaputra Valley from northern section of the Burma-India frontier. The terrain made resupply for the Japanese difficult and their troops had to rely on what they could take with them or by capturing British depots.

IMPHAL sat in a bowl surrounded by hills on the road that led north and then west into the Brahmaputra Valley. If Imphal was the door to India, Kohima to the north was its bolt. Both needed to be taken if the the Japanese were to succeed.

SOME Japanese planners' had doubts about Mutaguchi's plan, but they were over-ruled. It was possible that exaggerated British claims for the ability of troops to survive in the jungle following the first Chindit operation, the previous year, was a factor in the plan being approved.

OPERATION HA-GO

THE Japanese hoped to draw British troops south away from Imphal by an preliminary offensive towards the Arakan by their 28th Army. Initial success in surrounding the

defending troops led to disaster for the Japanese, when they ran out of food and supplies. The surrounded Indian and British troops were supplied from the air by American and British aircraft. It was a sign of things to come.

THE offensive showed how far British troops had come in learning the lessons of jungle warfare. Units might be ambushed or surrounded, but both situations could be overcome and did not mean they had been defeated. Air supply would be a major factor in the coming battles at Imphal and Kohima.

OPERATION U-GO

THE Japanese offensive started in March 1944. One axis of their attack was through 2 Borders positions on the Tamu road into Imphal from Burma. 2 Border were directly on the India-Burma frontier, above the Chindwin river, with the rest of 20th Division and were the most advanced British troops. 9 Border and 17th Division were a little further south.

GENERAL Slim was aware of the planned attack and intended to pull his troops into defensive boxes at Imphal and make the Japanese fight at the very limit of their logistics. 20th Division withdrew as planned but the move of 17th Division took place later than planned.

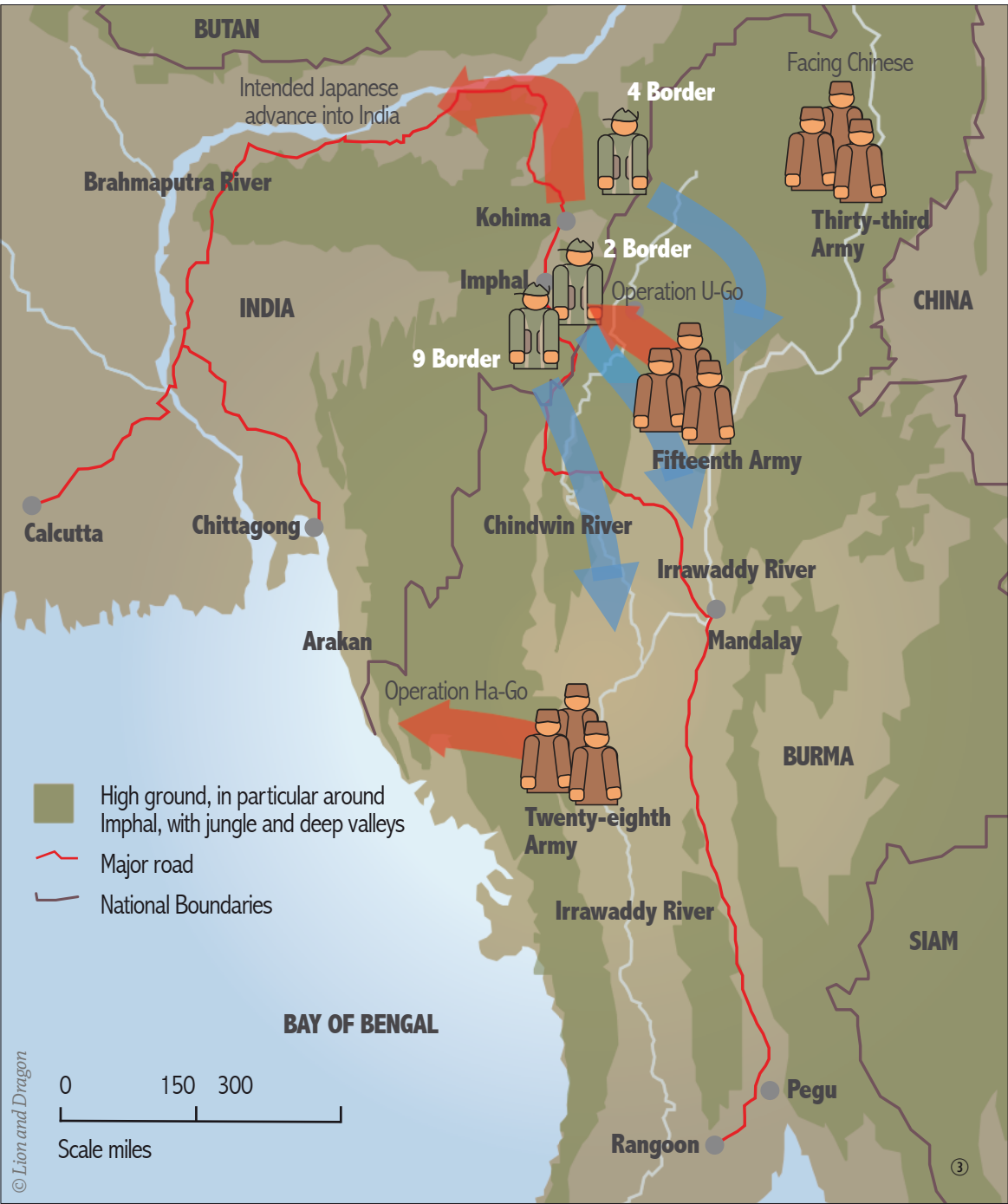
BORDERS BESIEGED

9 Border had their withdrawal blocked by Japanese troops who had got round their flank. Three Military Medals were won as they fought their way north and joined the Imphal perimeter. Throughout April Imphal was under siege. Whilst 14th Army were supplied by air: the Japanese starved.

2 Border were dug in on steep hillsides on the south-east of Imphal. The position of 'A Company' was overrun and despite artillery bombardment, air attack and attacks by the battalion and 3/1 Gurkha, the enemy could not be evicted. However they failed to get any nearer to Imphal and the Borders retained their other positions.

AT the same time Kohima on the road into Imphal was also was surrounded. With British IV Corps committed at Imphal, XXXIII Corps was brought from southern India with the task of clearing Kohima and relieving Imphal from the north. Road access to Imphal was regained on 22 June.

WHILST their sister battalions were occupied in close quarter fighting at Imphal, 4 Border and the rest of 23 Brigade,



had been preparing for a deep penetration by air behind the Japanese Thirty-Third Army, who were facing Stillwell's Chinese-US forces. As the fighting at Imphal intensified 23 Brigade remained in India guarding the left flank of XXXIII Corps.

COUNTER-ATTACK

AT the end of May, Slim launched his counter-offensive. 23 Brigade hooked around Kohima and cut off the retreating Japanese. It was horrible country. 23 Brigade's route took them through jungle, up and down steep hillsides often 4,000'

high. Five miles on the map might take a day of hacking a way up and down valleys. And in the midst of everything the monsoon arrived. But 14th Army were ready for it and fought on.

AFTERWARDS

2 Border spent most of the monsoon in camp at Imphal. In early 1945 they joined the advance by 20th Indian Division, with the objective of Mandalay. They formed the assault battalion for the crossing of the Irrawaddy

4 Border were withdrawn in July 1944, with a large number of men suffering from malaria and dysentery. In February 1945 the Chindits were disbanded. The Battalion undertook security duties in Burma before amalgamation with the 9 Battalion in October 1945.

9 Border moved into Imphal in July and in September were withdrawn to Ranchi in India to rest and reorganise. They then played a major part in the advance into Burma in early 1945. The 17th Indian Division had the initial objective of Rangoon, but before they reached the city it fell to seaborne assault.

Captions

Cover: Men of 2 Border on a ferry ready to cross the Chindwin River, © IWM Non-commercial licence. The badges are 20th Division Indian Army, 17th Division Indian Army and the Chindits.

- 1. The Imphal battlefield © IWM Non-commercial licence
- 2. The open country that 9 Border reached in the Spring of 1945 © IWM Non-commercial licence
- 3. Border battalions in Burma early 1944. Countries and cities have been given their 1944 names
- 4. Private George Little, 4th Battalion, 55th Chindit Column, Burma June 1944 © IWM Non-commercial licence

Further reading

"My Dad's Army: The White Gurkhas", Ian Wilson, Bookends 2019, is a collection of the recollections of veterans from 9 Border. 'My Dad's Army' is published by Bookends, Castle Street, Carlisle

George MacDonald Fraser's 'Quartered Safe Out Here', published by Harvill, is a wonderful description of what the Borders went through in Burma, by former Border soldier (on and off Lance-Corporal) and novelist.





CUMBRIA’S CAVALRY –  
HARD TIMES

MUCH of the 19th was spent in upholding the laws of the land. Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry were a familiar sight throughout the counties as they drilled, paraded and acted almost as a mounted police force. However, the end of the Century saw a dramatic change in role. Britain, now embroiled in the second Boer War with two independent Boer states in South Africa, suffered a string of defeats in1899 leading the government to realise that they would need more troops than just the regular army.

Gentlemen's Cavalry Part 2

Ted Carter, a former member of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment casts his eye over our local cavalry.



**SERVE ABROAD**  
ACCORDINGLY, in December 1899 the government signed A Royal Warrant, which enabled volunteer forces to serve in abroad in South Africa. Yeomanry regiments were asked to send 'service companies' of approximately 115 men each for the Imperial Yeomanry. Their role was deemed as seeking out and combatting the Boers who were proving to be an elusive and extremely effective enemy. The regiment formed the 24th (Westmorland and Cumberland) Company of the 8th Battalion in 1900. They were based at Portland Place in Penrith at this time. The war department supplied some things, but the unit had to provide horses, saddlery and uniforms.

THE early hours of a

snowy February morning in 1900 saw The men gathered. Equipped now with their new buff coloured uniforms produced by a local company, and slouch hats, and armed with the new 10 round magazine fed Lee Enfield rifle, they gathered in Victoria Road to move off to the railway station on their way to South Africa.

DESPITE the terrible weather the town turned out to wish their troops farewell. As the town band broke into 'John Peel' and with the echoes of cheers and applause in their ears the men moved off to catch their train to Liverpool from where they

were to sail to Africa. Arriving on 4th March 1900.

**SOUTH AFRICA**  
IT is fair to say that during their time in South Africa, the men of the Westmorland & Cumberland Yeomanry performed as one would expect. Their duties included, escorting supply convoys and being sent in pursuit of Boer commando units. The regiment criss-crossed the combat zone and took part in a number of conflicts.

**FABER’S PUTT**  
THE most serious was the battle at Faber’s Putt farm in May 1900 in which the unit, along with a battery of Canadian guns were caught unawares.Trooper Simpson wrote to his mother,

*“All went well up to six o’clock in the morning, when the camp was awaked by a fearful fire from the enemy from three sides.”*

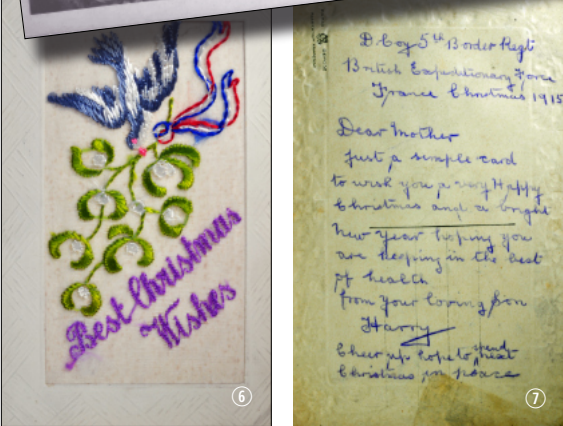
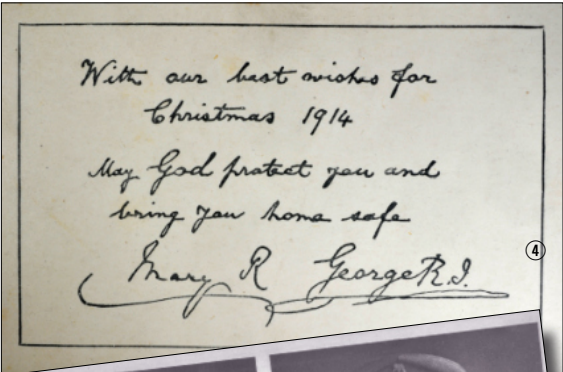


THE column drove off their attackers, but sadly six men from the Yeomanry were killed and six wounded.



Christmas wishes & thoughts

A Royal Christmas Gift and cards from the Museum's collection.



PRINCESS Mary's tin is a relatively common piece of family memorabilia, but few still have their original contents as the one in the Museum's collection does.

IT wasn't the first time that soldiers were sent a gift from the Royal Family. In 1900 Queen Victoria had sent a tin of chocolate to men in South Africa as a New Year's gift.

The Editor  
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Paymaster Colour Sergeant Henry Mills, 34th Foot

An occasional series to introduce members of the regimental family. Mike Kippin, In Pensioner, The Royal Hospital Chelsea, describes Henry Mills, 34th Foot and patriotic songsmith.

HENRY Joseph Mills was born in Stafford on 29th December 1823. He enlisted in Portsmouth, joining the 34th (Cumberland) Regiment of Foot.

HENRY Mills was promoted to Corporal on 10th April 1844 and to sergeant just seven months later on 25th November but only two days after this promotion he found himself under arrest in the regimental guard room on unknown charges.

**ARRESTED**  
MILLS then appeared before a Regimental Court Martial and was sentenced to be reduced to the rank of Private. He then seems to have changed his ways and was 30 promoted to Corporal for a second time on 28th November 1848.

**GOOD CONDUCT**  
IN November 1849 he received a Good Conduct badge together with one penny a day good conduct pay. However a leopard never changes its spots and Corporal Mills was back in the guard room on 1st April 1851! He was court martialed again and again reduced to the rank of Private, he also forfeited his good conduct badge and pay.

**SONGSMITH**  
ALTHOUGH the 34th Foot went to the Crimea, Private Mills remained in England. He was promoted to Corporal once more in April 1854 while he was stationed at Chapeltown Cavalry Barracks in Leeds. On 10th June 1854 The Leeds Intelligencer published a poem by Mills

entitled "Reveille on the Battle Plain".

HENRY Mills eventually seems to have settled down to army life and had his good conduct badge and pay restored from 6th April 1854.

He was promoted to Sergeant on 8th December 1854 and in 1855 he was appointed assistant Paymaster clerk for the Depot battalion in Fulwood barracks in Preston.

HE clearly succeeded in this job as he was appointed Paymaster Sergeant on 6th October 1856.

HENRY Mills went with the rest of the 34th to India and w as promoted to Paymaster Colour Sergeant on 1st April 1857. For his service in India, Henry Mills received the Indian Mutiny medal with the clasp "LUCKNOW".

**DISCHARGED**  
SERGEANT Mills was discharged from the army at Netley Hospital on 14th May 1863, he had served for 21 years and 139 days. Despite being court martialed twice his conduct was still considered to be very good.

HENRY's wife died in 1864 leaving him with two teenage children to bring up, both had been born during Henry's time in Preston.

HENRY received an army pension from the 18th August 1875 and was admitted to The Royal Hospital Chelsea on 1st August 1880. He died at the Hospital on 6th March 1883 and was buried in Brompton Cemetery three days later.

Mike Kippin

REVEILLE  
ON THE BATTLE PLAIN

Charge, Boys, and Cheer.

Air – Cheer, boys, cheer!

Arouse, men, arouse ! the Northern horde's  
advancing  
Thousands have crossed o'er the Danube's turbid  
tide,  
The sun's golden beams on their polished helmets  
dancing;

Onward they come in their stubborn northern pride.  
Comrades, arouse! the trumpet calls us loudly;  
Swiftly battalions are mustering around.  
Britain and France with bosoms beating proudly,  
Shall fight side on the bloody battleground.

Chorus  
Arouse, men, arouse !

Arouse, men, arouse ! for honour is before us!  
Hurl stern defiance, and make our foemen hear;  
Make heavens ring with bold and martial chorus;  
God and fair Freedom ! Comrades, charge and  
cheer!

See o'er the plain the Russian's coming legions,  
Horsemen and foot in phalanx broad and deep.  
Soon shall our guns wake the echoes these regions,  
Soon shall they find that their foemen never sleep.  
Comrades, we'll meet them! with levelled steel

we'll meet,  
Bayonet to bayonet we'll drive them from the field.  
Though they were myriads, our valour shall defeat  
them

Charge, boys, and cheer! Let us die before we  
yield!

Chorus  
Arouse, men, arouse.

One cup, ere we go, to those who fondly love us,  
To those who our absence vainly, fondly mourn :  
One cup to our sovereign, and may our deeds  
approve us,  
Worthy the laurel when we home return.  
Scots-men remember bold Bruce's martial story!  
Erin's brave sons peal the Fag-a-ballagh cry!  
Englishmen! the deeds a thousand years of glory  
hov'ming around you!  
Conquer, men, or die!

Chorus  
Arouse, men, arouse.

Henry Joseph Mills, Corporal 34th Foot  
Cavalry Barracks Leeds.  
6th June 1854

More

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The author

*Mike Kippin writes, "I was born on the Wirral in September 1944. My father was in The Parachute R and was killed on operation Varsity in March 1945, so I never knew him.*

*With my father being army and his father before him, it was a forgone conclusion that I would join the army as well. In February 1963 I became Private M Kippin of The Royal Sussex Regiment and served with them for about 9 years reaching the rank of Sergeant.*

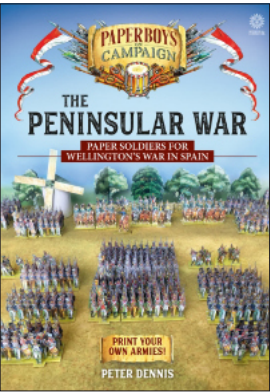
*In 1971 we were in N. Ireland (again) and I was the battalion Intelligence Sergeant. I then applied for a transfer to The Intelligence Corps to do the job as a professional. I served with the Intelligence Corps for 24 years and finally retired in May 1995 after 32 years and 96 days!*

*At the time of my retirement I was a WO2 and Company Sergeant Major."*



Book shelf

New books and ones that you may have missed. All can be ordered from 'Bookcases', Castle Street, Carlisle.



**The Peninsular War**  
**Paper Soldiers for**  
**Wellington's War in Spain**  
**Peter Dennis,**  
**Helion & Company**  
**£9.95**

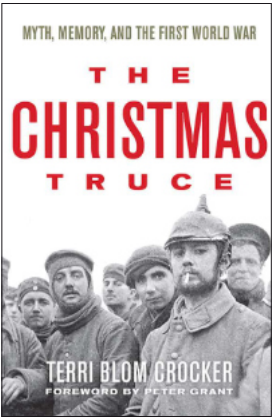
THIS would make a great Christmas present! Refight Arroyo dos Molinos on the dining room table, but maybe move the Christmas dinner first.

ARROYO IN PAPER

THERE are 46 pages of pictures enabling you to make French, British, Portuguese, Spanish, and several other countries' troops which fought alongside, or against, the 2nd Battalion of the 34th Foot during the Peninsular War.

THE 'source book' idea is that the reader can scan or copy the pages as often as they need to build their army.

SIMPLE rules are available free of charge on Helion's web site.



**The Christmas Truce:**  
**Myth, Memory, and the**  
**First World War**  
**Terri Blom Crocker**  
**University of Kentucky**  
**Press**  
**\$24.95**

IN late December 1914, German and British soldiers on the western front initiated a series of impromptu, unofficial ceasefires. Collectively known as the Christmas Truce, these fleeting moments of peace occupy a mythical place in remembrances of WWI.

YET new accounts suggest that the tale ingrained in the popular imagination bears little resemblance to the truth.

IN this detailed study, Terri Blom Crocker provides the first comprehensive analysis of both scholarly and popular portrayals of the Christmas Truce from 1914 to present.

THE vast majority of these accounts depict the soldiers as acting in defiance of their superiors. Crocker, however, analyses official accounts as well as private letters that reveal widespread support among officers for the informal truces.



History's waiting room

Extracts from original copies of 'The Lion and the Dragon', in this case from Spring 1969.

BORDER MUSEUM

“EARLY in September 1968, Messrs. Sotheby’s, announced the sale of medals which included “VC won by Pte Coffey of the Border Regiment.” Sotheby’s were at once informed, that Pte Coffey’s VC was in the Border Regiment Museum and had been so for many years. At their request this medal was at once sent to them, who dispatched it, with the one they had for sale, to Messrs Hancock, the official makers of the decoration, who adjudged that the one in the position of the regiment was not genuine.

IT was thereupon decided by all concerned, that the museum should try to buy the original, then offered for sale. This was reflected at a much lower price, than had been expected and the museum now as in consequence, the original and the replica. How the latter came to be made, or why, is not known, and probably never will be. On the original model, it is clear, that at some time efforts have been made to scratch out to the name of the recipient.

MISS G A Knowles of Leeds, in whose possession the VC was before sale, has informed me, that it was originally bought from a dealer in Hove in 1901, by her father, who was a collector, who at his death left her his collection, which she recently decided to sell.

SHE expressed herself was very pleased, that Corporal Coffey’s VC has, as she turns it now gone home, which I am sure it’s what every member of the regiment is feeling.”

To the Editor

I am always pleased to have comments or corrections via email, Facebook. Letters should be sent c/o The Museum.

MESSAGES VIA THE BORDER REGIMENT FACEBOOK GROUP

“MY Grandfather was K I E Johnson Lt, who was captured at Dunkirk and was a POW in Rotenburg an der Fulda. I believe he reached the rank of Lt Col in the Territorial Army post WW2. I also have relations from WW1, Capt S F Johnson, killed in 1917 and buried in New Munich Trench Cemetery near Beaumont Hamel. He had two other brothers all of whom were in The Border Regiment.”

Doug Watson  
Scotland

JOINING THE FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM.

“ANSWERED the call Peter, cheapest membership I’ve seen in many years. God bless all our fathers who answered their call. All gave some and some gave all.”

Jeff McKinlay,  
Arnhem Veteran's Son  
Fife, Scotland



A BORDER FAMILY

“My granda Cecil Charles Nicholls, 2nd battalion Border Regt. Drummer boy when he joined and captured and spent WW1 as POW in Poland.... My granda Carruthers was in 3rd battalion Border Regt, he was POW in France.”

Erica Elliott  
Carlisle

[In all Erica has 5 Borders in her recent close family, can anyone beat this?- Ed]

Still serving

News from the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, our successor regiment, and the local Cadet Force

CONGRATULATIONS TO 1 BORDER VETERAN WILF OLDHAM



WILF Oldham, who celebrated his 100th birthday on 28 August 2020, was awarded an MBE in the delayed New Year’s Honours. Wilf served with 1 Border at Sicily, Taranto, Arnhem and Norway.

THE presentation was made by Deputy Lord Lieutenant Karen Philips in Manchester in October.

WILF is the only surviving member of the battalion who fought at Oosterbeek during ‘Operation Market-Garden’ in September 1944.



KENYA

THE 4 LANCS short-term training team has been deployed to Kenya, where they are helping to train the Kenyan Defence Force (KDF) before they deploy on the ‘African Union Mission in Somalia’.

THE KDF keenly share their experiences from previous deployments to increase the realism of the training that the rural team conducts.

Museum, Friends and Reenactors

News from those who proudly support our heritage.

REGIMENTAL BENCH FOR THE MUSEUM



LES Rudd and Paul Quinn, former KORBR, have created a KORBR memorial bench that has been installed at the Museum.

“VISITORS have already commented on how lovely it is,” said Jules Wooding, when thanking Les and Paul, and everyone who contributed to the project.

PATRON OF THE FRIENDS RETIRES

LADY Ballyedmond has decided to retire as patron for personal and family reasons. She will be greatly missed as a supporter of the Friends.

LADY Ballyedmond stepped in as patron after the death of her husband in an helicopter accident. She has constantly supported the Friends in any fund raising activities, allowing us to use Corby Castle as a venue and has supported events at the museum. We wish her well in her retirement.

THE Friends Committee has great pleasure in making Lady Ballyedmond an Honorary Member of The Friends.

HOWEVER I am happy to report that her daughter, The Hon Caroline Haughy QC, has agreed to take over the role as patron. Caroline, as well as a QC with a reputation in prosecuting modern slavery cases is married and a mother of four.

THE committee is looking forward to working with Caroline as Patron.

Nigel Lewis, Chairman

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

THE Museum is open. Pre-booked visits by ticket only - we are offering a joint ticket to visit the Castle and our Museum - available through the English Heritage web site. Friends need to book, though of course access is free.

WE are opening 7 days a week, 10:00am - 5:00pm (Last Admission 3:00pm)

THE main gallery is open with social distancing in operation.

GIVE A FRIEND MEMBERSHIP OF THE FRIENDS

A great Christmas gift for a historically-minded friend. You can sign them up at the Museum or online at the Museum web site. Membership rates are: Retired £10, Individual £20 and Family £30.



REMEMBER THE MUSEUM

THE Museum is always on the look out for material to add to its collections. Not just the rare, but the also the quirky - “Pluto” for example.

NOT only objects, but diaries, letters and photographs too. And why not remember the Museum in your will?

TO donate material ring the Museum or email them. Contact details are on the back page.

REENACTMENT GROUPS

THE Editor is working on a list of all reenactment groups relevant to our Regiments from Spain in 1702 through North America, to Arnhem. Please get in touch if you’d like your group included.

THE list will be published on our web site and relevant Facebook Groups.



COMPETITION TIME – RECRUIT A FRIEND, WIN BOOKS

GET a friend to join the Friends and you could win a copy of ‘Marlborough’s Other Army: the British Army and the campaigns of the first Peninsular War 1702-1712’, and the ‘The Light Division’.

OUR ancestral regiment, fought in Spain in 1704 and the 2/34th Foot fought alongside the Light Division just over 100 years later.

TO enter you must be a member of the Friends. Then email the editor with your name and the name of the new Member you have recommended by 1 January 2021. Once they have signed up we’ll put your name into a draw to select the winner. The email address is peter.castra@gmail.com.

WE’LL announce the winner in our Spring 2021 edition.



‘OUR FAMILY’ A LION AND DRAGON SPECIAL

'OUR Family’ is a Lion and Dragon Special. Thirteen men and woman who have been part of the Regimental Family. Women like Mollie Ellis, kidnapped on the North-West Frontier in 1923 or George Bell, an eyewitness at Arroyo.

THE booklet costs £2.50 (£3.20 inc postage) from the Museum or is free if you take out a Family Membership at the Museum.

Diary

Sadly events are subject to cancellation or postponement due to the Covid-19 situation. Please check the Museum web site.

CORONAVIRUS & EVENTS

DUE to the restrictions on public gatherings due to the Covid situation, the Museum has regretfully had to cancel all public lectures and events at least those in 2020.

VJ-DAY ANNIVERSARY PARADE



THE parade to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the ending of the War against Japan was held albeit in muted fashion, despite the Coronavirus situation. Pictured from the left are: Richard Otway, David Allardice, Ronnie Kidd, Dave Thompson, Bill Caley and Taffy Evans.

2021

Carlisle Military Festival 2021

**5 June 2021, Saturday,**  
**The Museum and**  
**'Bookends', Castle Street**

THE first 'Carlisle Military Festival'. Talks by authors, military vehicle display and evening reception. Details to follow.

PLEASE get in touch with the Editor if you’d like to have a sales pitch or would like to provide a demonstration.

A decision on whether or not it is possible to proceed with the Festival will be made in early 2021.

Index

A miscellany of military history from all periods and from all countries.

NEWSPAPER CUTTING

THE Times, Wednesday, Dec 25, 1799. "Four hundred of the Cumberland Militia were last week dismissed at Penrith, by their Colonel Lord Lonsdale. Each man received 27/- . His Lordship, before he dismissed them, proposed to give employment to as many of them as chose to accept it at Lowther or Whitehaven."



BORDERS' CHRISTMAS DINNER 1915

OFFICERS of 1 Border, at Christmas lunch, Mena Camp, Egypt, 1915.

AN ABYSSINIAN MEDAL

19C Slang, dating from the Abyssinian War of 1868, for a shirt button in the belly area that has come away from its buttonhole. Usually awarded after Christmas meals.

CAPTAIN COOKE 43RD LIGHT INFANTRY, SPAIN, CHRISTMAS 1809

"... The band struck up a bolero; that being concluded, the male peasantry retired, leaving their mistresses to hop down our country dances, and to instruct us in those figures we had attempted to teach them.

Generals, and all ranks, mixed in these rustic dances, where a variety of little coquetries were practised on the half-enamoured swains. The smell of garlic was scarce tolerable; but these were no times for niceties."



## Our Heritage

Cumbria's military heritage includes 'Trained Bands', Militia, the Yeomanry, Volunteers and Territorials, as well as the regular battalions.

OUR modern regiments are linked to the past through Carlisle Castle. In 1881 it became the home of the Border Regiment and retained its regimental connections until 2019.

THE regiment that became the 34th Foot, and in time the 1st Battalion of the Border Regiment was raised in Essex in 1702, as Robert, Lord Lucas's Regiment. In 1704 it stayed at the Castle briefly, whilst recruiting

FROM the mid 18th Century regiments ceased being known by their colonel's name, and became known by their number. In 1782 it was given the regional title (Cumberland).

THE 55th Foot were raised in 1755 by Charles Perry Esquire. They were originally the 57th Foot, but when two lower numbered regiments were disbanded in the summer of 1756, they became the 55th Foot.

IN 1782, the 55th Foot were given the territorial title 'Westmorland Regiment'. They were at the Castle in 1826 briefly.

THE 34th were combined with the 55th in 1881 to form 'The Border Regiment'. At the same time the Cumberland and Westmorland Militia were re-organised as the Special Reserve. Finally in 1908 the Rifle Volunteer battalions became the Territorial Force.

THE King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) joined the Border Regiment to become the King's Own Royal Border Regiment in 1959.

IN 2006 the King's Own Royal Border Regiment were merged with other regiments to create 'The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment'.

## Lest we forget

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

### November 1914, Ypres, France, Border Regiment

The first battle of Ypres came towards the end of attempts by both the Allies and the Germans to outflank each other, but which ran out of space when the armies reached the Channel coast.



### 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. Picture: Creative Commons, NMM



### Battles of the Nive 9-13 December 1813, 34th Foot

Wellington's army, which included the 2nd Battalion 34th Foot, having advanced into France defeated Soult in a series of battles on the Nive immediately south of Bayonne. The picture shows General Service Medal with Nive and Orthes [Orthez] clasps Picture: Creative Commons, Auckland War Memorial Museum



### 17 January 1917, Sergeant Edward Mott VC, 1 Border Le Transloy, France

For most conspicuous gallantry and initiative when in an attack, the company to which he belonged was held up at a strong point by machine gun fire. Although severely wounded in the eye, Sergeant Mott made a rush for the gun, and after a fierce struggle seized the gunner and took him prisoner, capturing the gun. It was due to the dash of the non-commissioned officer that the left flank attack succeeded.

### January 1803, 34th Foot, India

The Regiment provided garrisons in Sri Lanka and India during the 2nd Maratha War between the East India Company and the Maratha Empire.



### January 1945, 1 Border Germany

The Battalion begins a posting at Hannoversch Münden (Han. Münden) in Lower Saxony, as part of British Forces Germany. Above, Field Marshal Montgomery reviews a guard of 1 Border, during its posting. Picture: CMOML

## Contacts

### Cumbria's Museum of Military Life

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### Winter opening hours

From 12 November to 12 February we will be closed mid-week but open at weekends 10-4pm. Friends wishing to visit must book beforehand via telephone 01228 532774.

The Museum will be open 10-4pm from 1 November to 31 March and closed on Fridays outside of 12 Nov to 12 Feb period.

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

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Border Regiment  
Officer's forage cap badge  
late 19th Century



55th Foot shako plate  
Other Ranks  
Mid-19th Century



14th Army cloth badge  
Border Regiment  
Burma 1943-45