

The Lion & the Dragon

The Friends of Cumbria's Museum of Military Life

Spring 2021

The Newsletter supports
Cumbria's Museum of
Military Life.

 CUMBRIA'S
MUSEUM OF
MILITARY LIFE



Contents

Renumbering the 57th Foot
Aberfan and the KORBR
Regimental vehicles - Ferret
'Gentlemen's Cavalry' - 3
Bookshelf
'History's waiting room'
'Still serving' news
Museum, Friends &
Reenactors news
Diary
'ENDEX' - a military
miscellany
'Lest we forget'

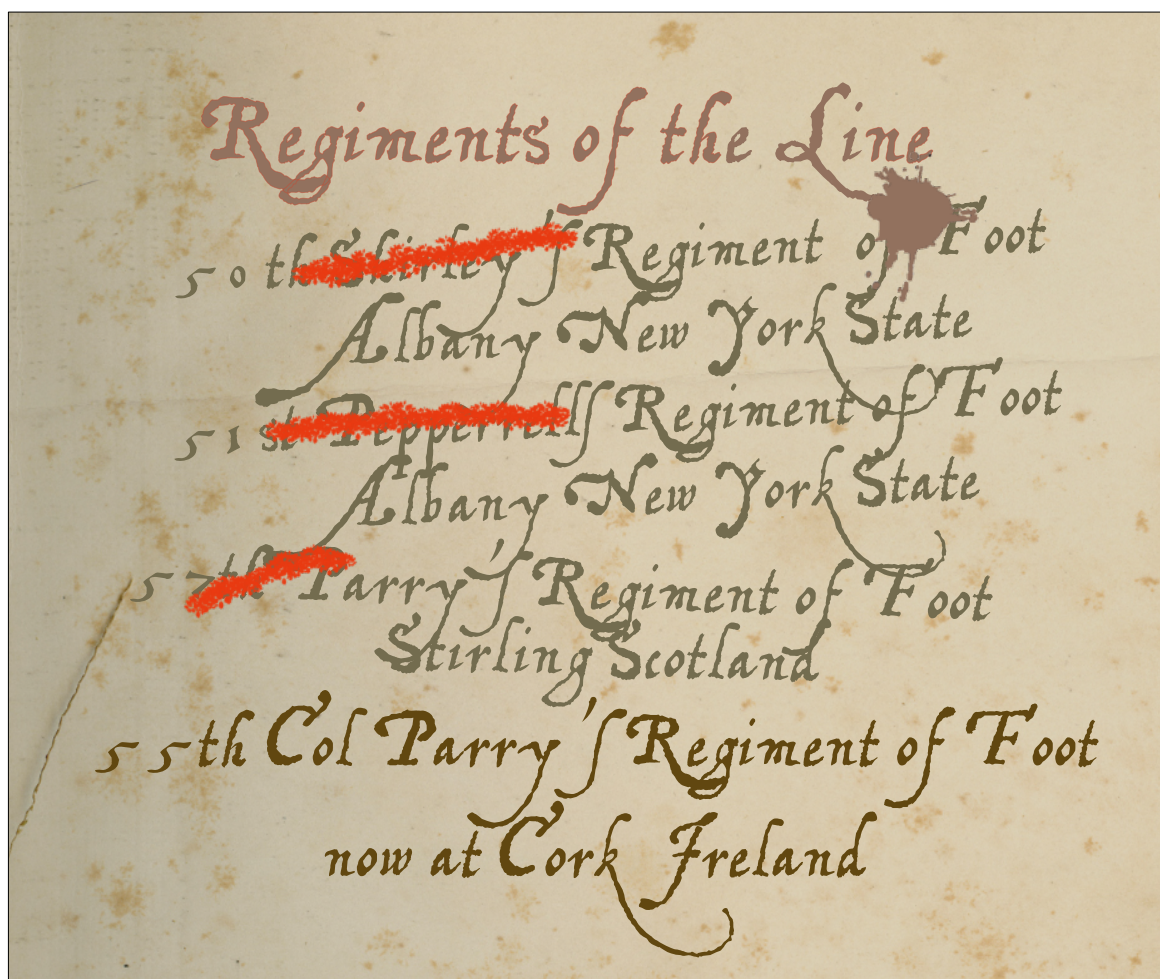
SITREP

LOCKDOWNS allow for reflection. Aberfan was one of the saddest moments in my life. It is clear that for members of the KORBR that it was a massive part of theirs. Gaynor Madgwick was one of the survivors in 1966. Since then she has gained an enormous amount of respect in Wales and in the Regiment for her work to understand that appalling day.

THE harsh contrast that the Regiment experienced in 1966 is shown by the extract from the original 'The Lion and the Dragon' of March 1966 reprinted here on page 6; that the Regiment would undertake ceremonial duties in London that year.

ALTHOUGH the Museum is closed again, the shop is open online. You can also do your bit to help the Museum by getting a friend to join the 'Friends' also online.

Peter Green
peter.castra@gmail.com



Renumbering the 57th Foot.

THE creation, and the almost immediate renumbering, of the 57th Regiment of Foot to the 55th Foot, has its origins in war in North America. And in particular the actions of George Washington and dishonour for the 50th and 51st Foot.

WASHINGTON'S attack on the French in 1754 led to, open warfare in North America that merged into a global War. Britain needed more troops. Amongst the regiments

raised were the 57th Foot in Scotland.

BRITISH & FRENCH RIVALRY

THE population of the British colonies was growing. With both Britain and France claiming ownership of the same land conflict was inevitable. The flash point came in the area around the Ohio River. The French began to build forts south from Lake Erie. Attempts to expel the French from Fort Dusquesne (now Pittsburgh) by Colonel George Washington



failed. But the attempt led to full-scale war with France that rapidly merged into a global conflict, with Prussia and Britain ranged against France, Austria and Russia – the 'Seven Years War'.

IN 1755 General Braddock was sent to command the Army in North America, to capture Dusquesne and eliminate the French threat

once and for all. Governor William Shirley of Massachusetts persuaded Braddock to include an assault on Fort Niagara that sat between Montreal and Dusquesne . The Niagara expedition would use the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers for most of the way from Albany to the shore of Lake Ontario at Oswego, before sailing the along the coast to Niagara. But the French also had a new commander, the Marquis de Montcalm de Saint-Veran. And he too had his mind set on Oswego as the gateway to the state capital at Albany.

NEW REGIMENTS IN NORTH AMERICA

SHIRLEY was given command of the Niagara expedition. His forces included two new REGULAR army regiments, and several companies of Colonel Schuyler's Colonial militia 'The Jersey Blues'.

THE two new regular regiments were the 50th of which Shirley was Colonel and the 51st raised by Sir William Pepperrell. Shirley and Pepperrell were successful soldier politicians, veterans of wars with the French. Pepperrell was known as 'The Lion of Louisbourg' for his part in its capture in 1745. Although raised in America, they had English officers and were on the British Army establishment. Whilst raising his regiment Pepperrell was promoted to Major-General and he did not accompany the expedition.

THE regiments had been raised as part of the British Government’s plan to send Braddock to America and remove the French from North America. The third paragraph of his orders from the King began:

“And Whereas, there will be wanting a number of men to make up ye designed complements of our said Regiments, from 500 to 700 each: And Whereas, it is our Intention yt Two other Regiments of Foot, to consist of 1000 men each, shall be forthwith raised & commanded by Govr Shirley and Sr Wm. Pepperrell ...”

BRADDOCK ignored his other instructions from the Commander in Chief of the British Army, the Duke of Cumberland that required him to post the new units away from combat:

“As soon as Shirley's and Pepperel's regiments are near complete, his Royal Highness is of opinion you should cause them to encamp, not only that they may sooner be disciplined, but also to draw the attention of the French and keep them in suspense about the place you really design to attack.”

NEW REGIMENTS IN BRITAIN

SOON after the decision to create the 50th and 51st the Government raised ten more new Regiments in Britain. War in America and fears of invasion by France made it imperative that the size of the Army was increased.

IN December 1755, Charles Perry, Esquire, of the Foot Guards was given a commission to raise one of the new regiments. Perry's Regiment was to be raised at Stirling, though not as a Highland Regiment, as the 57th Regiment of Foot.



HALF-WAY TO NIAGARA

MEANWHILE in North America in July 1755 Braddock's army had been routed at Monongahela on the road to Fort Dusquesne and Braddock killed. The following month Shirley's expedition reached the shore of Lake Ontario. Oswego was a small trading post, with an old fort. Facing it on the other side of the lake 80 miles away, was the bigger French Fort at Frontenac. Frontenac is now Kingston-upon-Ontario.

SHIRLEY’S Niagara expedition stalled when it reached Oswego. They were half-way to their objective, but incapable of further movement. By the time Shirley joined them in early September the troops had little food. They had not been paid, so nor could they buy provisions from local merchants.

THREE hundred men were sick. There had been a mutiny and frequent desertions. Courts martial had sentenced men to death and lashings. In September the senior officers of the 50th and 51st wrote to Shirley complaining that their muskets were "almost unfit for service." Shirley blamed the food and equipment shortage on the men contracted to transport it. Shirley decided that they should overwinter at Oswego; build larger boats to carry them westwards along the lake the next year; and that they should improve the local defences.

A report from the garrison sent to the Duke of Cumberland's described the defences as:

"The old Fort, or Trading House; which was in a ruinous Condition, nor designed at first or ever capable of resisting Artillery, built several years ago ... and two New Forts, erected on the aforementioned Eminences; The Fort Ontario to the Eastwd unfinished and the other to the Westwd scarcely begun."

GOD’S ELBOW

SHIRLEY returned to Albany. He had been promoted Commander-in-Chief in North America to replace Braddock. The Niagara Expedition's new commander was Lieutenant Colonel John Mercer of the 51st Foot. Mercer described Oswego as the “back of God’s elbow.” He wrote to his brother:

“Our campaign in this corner has proved inactive; the navigation of these immense lakes is impracticable with the Batteaus we use, and the long way we have to bring our provisions, the want of roads, the scarcity of carriages and horses, is the cause we could not proceed...”

THE French were in two minds about attacking Oswego. The Governor of Canada reported to Paris in February 1756 that it would be impossible. Others took the view that they could have taken Oswego in 1755, were they not

pre-occupied with other "affairs." Mercer was certainly expecting the French to attack. He wrote to a friend in February in optimistic vein:

“... we are threatened here by the Enemy who the Indians report are making great preparations to attack us: I am busie putting the Place in a posture of defence...”

MERCER’S command was severely depleted by sickness and desertion. Some reinforcements did arrive, but two other line regiments ordered to Oswego, the 44th and 48th Foot were held up by lack of provisions. Boat building continued. John Cross was a ship builder from Massachusetts who had been recruited, along with others to build ships at Oswego. His journal records that on 22 June:

"the officers had a Barbacue and high frolick, though it was Something Rainy."

WHILST they were frolicking, the skirmishes and harassment grew worse. In June Colonel Schuyler's New Jersey Militia drove off a party of French and Indians that he estimated as being 1,000 strong. In July Colonel Bradstreet leading a group of boatmen, supported by the grenadiers of the 50th Foot, reported defeating a party of 400. And still the garrison was short of food and clothing. Indian activity made carriers unwilling to go beyond the 'Great Carrying Place', where merchandise was transferred to carts to cross the watershed from the Mohawk River. Despite this, in July Mercer wrote to his brother:

"I have nothing new or entertaining to write you from this forest; if anything has happened in America worth your attention it has not reach'd us..."

THE STORM BREAKS

BUT something was very much about to happen.

ON 11 August 1756 General Montcalm crossed Lake Ontario from Fort Frontenac and arrived on the eastern

side of Oswego. He had about 3,000 men. Three regular battalions, de la Sarre, Guyenne and Béarn, provided 1,300 men, the rest were militia and Indians. The French artillery, cannon and mortars, arrived the following day. Some of the artillery had been captured from Braddock's army the previous year.



FORT Ontario was garrisoned by Pepperrell’s regiment. Shirley's and Schuyler's Regiments held Fort George in the west. The French began their bombardment of Fort Ontario on the 13th. At first the garrison returned fire, but that evening the garrison withdrew to the western side of the river. The next day, the 14th, the French cannon were able to, fire directly into Fort Oswego and the settlement of Oswego.

MONTCALM now sent men swimming or wading across the river to cut off the Old Fort from the other defences. Colonel Mercer ordered Colonel Schuyler to take a detachment and throw them back, but almost immediately Mercer was killed by a cannon ball and his order was not carried out. The French were now on both sides of the Oswego River.

COLONEL Littlehales, Shirley's Regiment, assumed command. He held a Council of War and the Council agreed that defence was no longer possible. A truce was sought. Men present during the siege later gave this account:

“Colonel Littlehales, on whom the Command devolved, then

called a Council of War and demanded of the Engeniers (sic) their opinions; they declared the place not tenable either against Cannon or a Generall Assault...”

DISGRACED OR ABANDONED?

SOME accounts of the siege of Oswego presume that the British forces at Oswego outnumbered the French and that the surrender was a needless capitulation. Using the numbers captured by the French, the garrison was not that much smaller than the attackers, but its morale was poor, men were half-starved and the defences in some places no more than timber stockades that were no match for the French artillery.

MERCER'S small naval squadron had not been able to prevent Montcalm landing his artillery. And once the defenders were not able to deny the high ground to the French and their artillery could fire directly into the remaining fortifications defeat was almost inevitable.

ON their surrender the 50th and 51st regiments and the New Jersey militia lost their colours, which were taken to Montreal, paraded through the streets and laid up in the Parish Church. The men were taken from Canada to France and there exchanged for French prisoners held in Britain. The 50th and 51st regiments were disbanded and the precedence of other regiments all moved up by two numbers.

FROLICS OR REINFORCEMENTS

DID poor moral affect the British commanders? John Cross's reference to a 'frolic' in June is puzzling as is the bored, tone of Mercer's letters. Bradstreet had warned Shirley of the poor condition of the Oswego garrison. Cumberland had asked that the Shirley's and Pepperrell's Regiments be kept away from combat. Shirley appeared to understand that the fort needed reinforcing, but failed to ensure the fort's relief.

WHEN Oswego surrendered, reinforcements, the 44th Foot, were on the way, but had only reached Schenectady. Shirley denied being an accessory to the Oswego disaster, claiming that it had "happen'd seven weeks after the Expiration of my Command..." But the Earl of Loudoun who replaced Shirley as Commander-in-Chief complained that getting things done was hindered by Provincials “rights and privileges”. And on top of all, Shirley was then accused of corruption.

LOUDOUN again:

"...an Expedition, as it has hitherto been managed in this Country, has been looked on as a Rock on which particulars find very good fishing."

AS it was the War that would bring the 'Year of Victories' in 1759, got off to the worst possible start: first Braddock's death during the unsuccessful assault on Fort Dusquesne, and now capitulation at Oswego.

MEANWHILE IN BRITAIN

IN February 1757 Lieutenant John Knox, in his journal described the arrival at Cork of Parry's Regiment. They are no longer 57th, but now, with the 50th and 51st gone, they are the 55th Foot.

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Oswego surrender terms

"Article 1. It has been agreed that the English Troops shall surrender themselves prisoners of war: that the officers and soldiers shall be allowed to preserve their effects: That the said forts shall be given up at two o'clock in the afternoon, with generally all the effects, munitions of war, provisions, barks, rigging and other property in general whatsoever, without any injury being done thereto by their troops.

Article 2. That all their arms shall be deposited in a store at the moment one-half the troops are embarked to cross the river; that a number of French troops are passed over by the returns to take possession of the fort, and that the remainder of the troops shall retire at the same time. The flags and drums shall likewise be deposited in said store with the officers' arms.

A new inventory shall be made of the property in the stores, and of the artillery, powder, bullets, provisions, barks and rigging conformable to the returns made to me. The officers shall in passing, each takeaway their effects with them."



Captions

1. Governor William Shirley, painted by Thomas Hudson, in the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

2. The Oswego theatre of operations 1756

3. Portrait of the Marquis de Montcalm de Saint-Veran by an unknown artist. The original is in the Library and Archives Canada.

4. John Campbell, 4th Earl of Loudoun, Commander in Chief North America, painted by Allan Ramsay. The original is in the National Gallery.

Gaynor Madgwick’s Book

‘Aberfan: a story of survival. Love and community in one of Britain’s worst disasters’, Gaynor Madgwick. Published by Y Lofa, 2016.



GAYNOR Madgwick was eight years old, when No 4 tip slid into the village. The vast pile of sludge hit the school and 18 houses. 116 children and 28 adults lost their lives. She wrote later:

The sound got louder and louder: I remember thinking something terrible is going to happen. I got up from my chair and tried to run for the door. I never made it. Then this hellish mass came through the window and everything literally went black. When I woke I was inside a terrifying nightmare, pinned to the back corner of the classroom. Debris fill the room; there were children everywhere. I was crushed behind a large old radiator, which had been wrenched from its fittings. It’s massive pipes had protected me from suffocation but had also smashed my leg.

Around me was a wall of sludge, 5 feet high. A couple of my classmates were lying underneath me and at the side of me. ”

Aberfan

The King’s Own Royal Border Regiment is for ever linked with the aftermath of the Aberfan Disaster in the autumn of 1966.

FIFTY years on Gaynor wrote an account of the disaster that took away the village’s future and left the survivors still taking one day at a time.

HER book should be read for the insight into the courage of the survivors and the spirit of all who helped in that awful autumn of the Swinging Sixties.

THE King’s Own Royal Border Regiment were amongst those who helped. Aberfan will always be part of the history of Wales; another sad memorial to “King Coal,” but Aberfan will also remain part of our heritage.

GAYNOR has lived with her demons for over 50 years. It is hard not to think

that the National Coal Board deserved greater censure, but she is not bitter.

GAYNOR quotes Jamie Bullock, KORBR,

“An apology would have to be from the heart and not just to wipe the slate clean and yet, 50 years on, at whose door do you lay the blame?”

Those responsible are long dead, but no its never too late to apologise, as long as it doesn’t come over as an insult to the people of Aberfan; they deserve better.”

IN October 1966 the Regiment were at Honiton. That summer they had mounted guard at Buckingham Palace. Three days after the disaster the Regiment was labouring in the black sludge and helping to create order from the chaos. Men worked 12 hour shifts, two companies, at a time, digging for bodies, clearing wrecked houses and doing their utmost in the

black debris.

THE Regimental history describes the saddest task that was undertaken:

“...the digging of the mass graves and filling them in after the burial, which was carried out at night ...”

GAYNOR is now part of the Regimental family. She is spoken off with respect and, some awe, by men, who had seen most things during their Service life.

THE men of the KORBR are proud that they played their part, but still wish most fervently that Number 4 tip had been properly maintained and that their help had not been needed.

The Editor

THE Ferret came into service in about 1952. There were two standard marks of the in-service Ferret with the British Army.

were issued with Mk2s.

MARK 2

THE Signal Platoon had one Ferret for the Regimental Signals Officer

Regimental vehicles – Ferret

David Allardice reflects on the Ferret scout car

THE Mk1 had a crew of two and was turret-less, but get this, it is suggested that it actually had a crew of three – driver, commander and radio operator

THE Mk2 also had a crew of two, but sported a one-man turret with a .30 M1919 Browning MG, the same type sported by the Saracen I. Infantry Battalions serving within the BAOR

(RSO), and a Mk2 to act as the Battalion/Battlegroup Rebroadcast Vehicle.

THE Mk2 was still being used by the UNFICYP (Cyprus) Armoured Squadron during our UN Tour in 1987/88, not surprisingly, they were painted white.

TECHNICAL STUFF

THE Ferret was developed



in 1949 by Daimler to replace its Dingo Scout Car of WW2 vintage. It was produced between 1952 and 1971 with 4409 of them built in 16 variants. It saw service the Malayan Emergency, the Suez Crisis, Aden and early NI. The basic vehicle weighed 3.7t, was 12ft 2 (3.7m) long, 6ft 3 (1.91m) wide and its height depended on the variant. The wheel base was 7ft 6 (2.29m). It was powered by a 4.26 litre 6-cylinder Rolls Royce B60 petrol engine developing 116bhp at 3300 rpm. It was protected by 6-16mm of armour except for overhead (Mk 1). It had an operational range of 190 miles (310k) at up to 58mph (93kph).

MY EXPERIENCE.

I have very limited experience of the Ferret. I commanded a Mk2 on one armoured exercise during the Regimental Signal Officers Course on Salisbury Plain.

HOWEVER, the Mk2 with its turret was always feared as it was considered to be top heavy, and therefore, prone to rolling. It is my understanding that soldiers were killed or seriously hurt commanding Mk2 over poor terrain.



Tennyson, summits and bugles

An artistic diversion from the Editor.

TENNYSON, wrote a few verses that could have been written about Carlisle and distant winter views of the Cumbrian mountains.

'THE splendour falls on castle walls' is taken from a longer poem 'The Princess', which was published in 1847, although the castle section was added a little later, after he had visited Ross Castle at the Lakes of Killarney in Ireland.

The splendour falls on castle walls

And snowy summits old in story;

The long light shakes across the lakes, And the wild cataract leaps in glory.

Blow, bugle, blow, set the wild echoes flying, Blow, bugle; answer, echoes, dying, dying, dying.

BENJAMIN Britten included the poem in his 'Serenade for tenor, horn and strings', as “Nocturne”¹. Listening to the French horn is a reminder of John Peel, his hunting horn and our Regimental traditions.



AFTER the end of the second Boer War, and because of lessons learned, the British Army started to make changes.

were not liable to serve abroad. However, at the outbreak of WWI, many went and joined the Imperial Service. Additionally, it was

Gentlemen's Cavalry - 3

Ted Carter continues his account of the Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry

AFTER a review by Lord Haldane, Secretary for War from 1905 until 1912, A ‘Territorial Force’ (TF) was created under the Territorial and Reserve Forces Act. 1907. This provide a far better organised and effective force for home defence. In the yeomanry, cavalry tactics were shelved. Replaced by those for ‘Mounted Infantry.’ Shooting practice was increased and some units, were required to hand over their swords.



MODERNISATION

MODERN and new sections were formed. Armoured Car, Wireless & machine gun. Indeed Major Beddington, at his own expense, equipped his Squadron (B Squadron. Penrith) with a portable radio section.

THE regiment came under command of ‘The Welsh Border Mounted Brigade’ in 1909 and were deployed throughout the county as before.

IN 1911 a detachment of 1 Officer and 25 Other Ranks, was sent to join the 2nd Yorkshire Battalion of a Yeomanry brigade for the coronation of King George V.

TRAINING and annual camps continued as normal, but all was to change in 1914.

WAR!

INITIALLY, Territorial Force Troops, as in the past,

found that there was need of Territorial troops to fight in the front line which they did, from 1915, until war’s end. In early August and September, the TF was split into initially 2, then 3 battalions. The 1st for service abroad due to the horrendous number of casualties being suffered, second as a second line, training and reinforcement unit and later, a third as a reserve & training force. Remaining in Britain to train up and reinforce the frontline troops in Europe.

NO HORSES

1916 and with much disgust within the unit, saw The Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry lose their horses. They were replaced by Bicycles as their new mode of transport.

DURING WWI Westmorland and Cumberland squadrons were dispersed amongst several front-line units serving on the Western front, the Middle East and in Ireland.

BY 1917, most had converted to Infantry, including the Westmorland and Cumberland. Also in early 1917, many TF 3rd battalions were disbanded or absorbed into reserve units. In the Westmorland and Cumberland, many went on to serve in the 7th Battalion the Border Regiment.

IT is fair to say that men of the Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry were present at many of the major, well known campaigns of the first World War.

Captions

1. *Mk II Ferrets of the KORBR follow one from 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards in the Queen’s Birthday Parade, Berlin, 1982. Attributed to MOD.*

2. *Taken from “Lions and Dragons”, the history of the King’s Own Royal Border Regiment. Driver training in a Mk I Ferret at Bordon Training Area, Hampshire in 1973.*

3. *Regimental Ferret © Jo-Anne Boardley*

4. *Driver’s position, a preserved Mk I vehicle at the Gloucestershire Steam Fair 2019 © Peter Green*

“Lions and Dragons: history of the KORBR ” is available from the Museum Shop online, price £25



5. *A Bugler on the castle walls. The Cumbria’s Museum of Military Life*

6. *A romantic view of the early 19C castle. The Cumbria’s Museum of Military Life*

7. *Isotta-Fraschini Armoured Car, Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry, 1915*

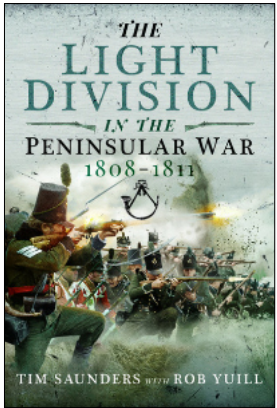
Notes

¹ *This links to Britten’s music.*



Book shelf

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



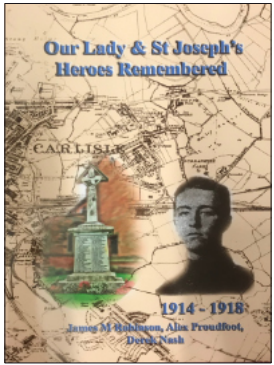
‘The Light Division’

Tim Saunders with Bob Yuill
Pen & Sword
£25.00

FOR the 34th Foot in Spain during the Napoleonic Wars was the Second Peninsular War in which the Regiment had taken part. The 34th Foot fought as part of Lord Hill’s Second Division. Its more famous counterpart was the Light Division. Pen & Sword’s new history of the Light Division is based on memoirs from across the division, including the artillery, the King’s German Hussars and others.

BRITISH light infantry had its origins in the forests of North America and the 55th Foot had played a pioneering role in its birth.

‘THE Light Division’ explains how light infantry tactics were developed, as well as describing battles under Sir John Moore and “Black Bob” Crauford in the Duke of Wellington’s Army.



‘Our Lady & St Joseph's Heroes Remembered 1914 -18’

James M Robinson, Alex Proudfoot & Derek Nash
£20.00

IN the grounds of Our Lady & St Joseph’s Church, Carlisle, is an 18ft White Marble Memorial bearing witness to the 75 men who fell in the Great War. Little was known of those men, some of whom are remembered without their Christian name or initials.

FOLLOWING four years of research, the authors' have been able to trace the lives 73 of these lost men all of whom made the supreme sacrifice for their King and country far from home. This book has traced their parents, siblings, careers and sadly the last few days leading to their loss.

INCLUDING seminarian Francis McNiff shot down over the English Chanel on his first flight; James Murray who was discharged, for ill discipline, from the Navy then joined the Army using a false name; Arthur Henry was imprisoned for being underage, before being returned to Carlisle.

THE book is illustrated with over 200 illustrations and graphs.



History’s waiting room

Extracts from original copies of ‘The Lion and the Dragon’, in this case from March 1966.

LONDON DUTIES

THE first battalion is to carry out ‘London duties’ during August and September. Records disclose that the King’s Own previously carried this out in 1907. It is a great honour and everyone will wish the battalion fine weather and a successful tour. The Commanding Officer proposes to have an Open Day, a Beating of Retreat and an Old Comrades Reunion on Saturday, September 3. He has also agreed that the Annual Officers’ Dinner may take place in Chelsea Barracks – our grateful thanks are due to Officer Commanding 2 Scots Guards with whom we share the barracks during our tour – so this has been fixed for Friday, September 2.

THIS year, 1966, also sees the first mixed Officers’ Luncheon – instead of the Officers’ Regimental tea party – and this too has been arranged for September 2.

EVERYONE should, therefore, earmark this weekend to visit and support the first battalion in London.

ARNHEIM MEMORIAL CARILLON

THE Regimental Trustees have subscribed £25 on behalf of the regiment towards an Arnheim Memorial Carillon in the church at Oosterbeek. As 1 Border took part, the bell is engraved with the Border badge...

Letters to the Editor

We are always pleased to have comments, corrections, brickbats or even praise.

CHINDIT CORRECTION

ON page 2 of the printed ‘Burma Borders’ we had 4 Border in Chindit Columns 34 and 35. It should have been *Columns 34 and 55*. My apologies. And well done those who spotted the error.

Editor

MORE ON REGIMENTAL FAMILIES

“THINK I can equal Erica Elliott’s Border connection’s, my grandfather, father, two great uncles, uncle and an aunt who after regular service served with 4 Border in the 1950’s, and of course myself joining 4 Border in 1966.

JUST a point of passing interest, my grandfather Rosling, served in 6th, 3rd and 2nd Bn’s (first day on the Somme etc) in WW1, 4th Bn in the 1920’s and the 70th(HG) Bn in WW2”

Mike Rosling

[Thanks Mike, an article about Erica’s family is scheduled for the next edition; your family after that perhaps? - Ed]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

“Does the name Shaw mean anything to you? He was in Göttingen in 1957 when Dad was posted there, and welcomed us on arrival. He was known as Tiny Shaw, but I don’t know his proper name or rank, though I suppose he could have been the CO. He had a daughter Diane. I’ve always wondered what happened to them when we moved to Berlin later that year.”

Ian Thirlwell

[If you can help Ian please email me at peter.castra@gmail.com and I’ll pass the message on - Ed]

Still serving

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

1ST BATTALION’S NEW COMMANDING OFFICER

BEFORE the 1st Battalion departed to enjoy a well earned Christmas break they bid farewell to the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Moore and started a new chapter with Lieutenant Colonel Carr.



COLONEL Moore has led the Battalion on two simultaneous operations to Iraq and South Sudan. As well as on overseas exercises and most recently the Battalion’s commitments to support the national response to Covid-19.

HIS final act as Commanding Officer was to award the titles of Best Kingsman, Best JNCO, Champion Company and to give out some well deserved promotions.

RETIREMENT



COLOUR Sergeant Steve Fazakerley officially retired from The Band of The Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment (Volunteers) in December 2020 after an amazing 51 years service to military music.

Museum, Friends and Reenactors

News from those who proudly support our heritage.

COVID

“THE Museum has temporarily closed due to the new Covid lockdown. Museum staff are working from home,” writes Jules Wooding, Museum Director.

VIRTUAL MUSEUM

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

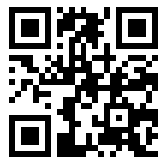


WE are a small team. It’s tough with no-one coming through the door, or visiting the site. We value your support, so that over the next few months so that we can show everyone how the Museum is a vital part of the Regimental family looking after your heritage.”

THE Museum will be posting news on the Museum Face Book page, our twitter account and through our website. I have also set up a blog - chattingbehindthelines.blog.spot.com/



and the Museum’s Facebook Page is at www.facebook.com/cmoml/



GEORGE MACDONALD FRASER’S BUSH HAT

THE family of George MacDonald Fraser, who served with 9 Border in Burma, have donated his bush hat to the Museum.

OUR picture shows Simon Fraser and his wife, Fiona at the Museum on 20 October 2020., When they presented the hat to Jules Wooding.

JOIN THE FRIENDS

MORE than ever the Museum needs friends. If the memories and achievements of our parents and grandparents are to be preserved for our children we need to safeguard the Museum’s future.

THERE are a range of options to becoming a supporter of Cumbria’s Museum of Military Life starting at just £10.00. You can join online at the Museum site. Please think hard about getting a Friend to join.

DIARY

SADLY events have been cancelled due to the pandemic. Please check the Museum web site for the latest news.

CARLISLE MILITARY FESTIVAL 2021

ALTHOUGH we all hope that the Covid situation will allow a Festival to be run soon, we have postponed it until 2022. This should allow us to start active planning this autumn. If you’d like to be mount a display or have a sales stand next year please get in touch.

<peter.castra@gmail.com

OUR FRIENDS OVERSEAS

THE Regiment has friends around the world and groups dedicated to keep its memory alive in Canada, the United States of America, Spain and The Netherlands.

34TH REGIMENT OF FOOT WAR OF INDEPENDENCE USA

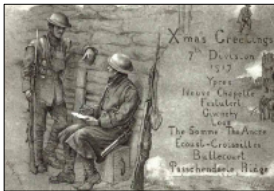
LATER this year we will publish “Counter insurgency Ireland and America” by Matt Zembo from this group. Meanwhile some advice on coping with snow.

General orders to the British garrison in Rhode Island, 17 December 1777: "The Barrack Master to issue to each Regiment, 3 boards of 16 feet long, and 12 or 13 Inches wide, of which they are immediately to make 12 Snow Shovels."

FORT MALDEN HISTORIC SITE - CANADA

THE fort at Malden, Ontario, was manned by the 34th Foot in the 1830’s. Laurie Brett, a local Canadian writer has written an article about the fort for the Summer edition of ‘The Lion & the Dragon’.

BORDER REGIMENT GREAT WAR LIVING HISTORY - USA



AND finally a little late, but still welcome, an original 1917 greetings card from 2 Border’s re-enactors. Interestingly by Christmas 1917, 2 Border were in Italy.

BORDER REGIMENT LIVING HISTORY - THE NETHERLANDS

And more seasonal greetings, but sadly this was not under my Christmas Tree, from our friends in The Netherlands.



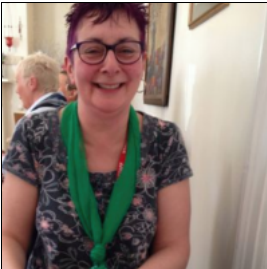
Behind the desk and behind the scenes

Occasional pen portraits of people from the Museum and the Friends

JULES WOODING

IN the absence of Museum events we will run a series of short biographies of some key people at the Museum, starting with the Museum Director.

“I am one of those ‘Army brats’ with my father serving 22 years in the Royal Military Police. After leaving school, I spent three years working at the Royal Pioneer Corps Training Centre before University.



DRAWN by Lieutenant Paterson, ‘Burma Company’ from “The Lion and the Dragon” 1995.

FAVOURITE CAKE?

“CARROT cake”, is the Army’s favourite cake according to a survey for “Help for Heroes” in 2019. The Navy opted for lemon drizzle and the RAF went for chocolate.

CUSTER AND THE INDIANS

“THE Army is the Indian’s best friend.” General George Custer,

FLYING LORRY?



A powered version of the Hamilcar glider, big brother of the Horsas 1 Borders used in 1944.

ENDEX

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

RUSSIAN MILITARY SERVICE

“THE chief attraction of military service has consisted, and will consist, in this compulsory and irreproachable idleness”

LEO Tolstoy

MILITARY TRAINING



Our Heritage

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



55th Foot
Officers' Prince Albert pattern
shako plate



1st Westmorland Rifle
Volunteers cap badge 1900



Border Regiment
cigarette card, 1910

THE regiment that became the 34th Foot and then the 1st Battalion of the Border Regiment was raised in Essex in 1702, as Robert, Lord Lucas's Regiment.

FROM the mid 18th Century regiments 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'.

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 and 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'.

THE Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry joined the Artillery Volunteers in 1923 and in time became 51st Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Lest we forget

Events and distinctions from the history of the Regimental Family.

12 February 1702, The 34th Foot, raised.

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

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

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

28 February 1900, The Relief of Ladysmith, Boer War, Border Regiment British forces entered Ladysmith on the afternoon of 1 March 1900.



March 1915, Battle of Neuve Chapelle, France, Border Regiment

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 create a new defensive line. *Picture by James Beadle (1863-1947) Maidstone Museum*

March - July 1944, Imphal, India, Border Regiment,

Japanese armies attempted to destroy the Allied forces at Imphal and invade India, but were driven back and from then on XIV Army advanced through Burma to Rangoon.



29 March 1855, Private William Coffey VC, DCM, Crimea, 34th Foot

For having thrown a lighted shell that fell into the trench over the parapet and thus saved many lives. *Picture Cumbria's Museum of Military Life*



14 April 1923, Mollie Ellis abducted at Kohat, North West Frontier

A gang broke into the bungalow of Major A J Ellis DSO whilst he was away, murdered Mrs Ellis, and kidnapped Mollie their 17 year old daughter. She was eventually rescued by a Eileen Starr, a mission nurse, and Risalder Mohgal Baz Kahn, formerly of the Indian Army's Corps of Guides. Mollie seated in front with Eileen standing behind her. *There is more about Mollie in the 'Our Family' booklet, £2.50, from the Museum Shop.*

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

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."

Contacts

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Opening hours
1 April-30 September
Every day 10 am-6 pm
October
Every day 10 am-5 pm

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

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Carlisle Castle

Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

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PR2 8AA

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CUMBRIA'S
MUSEUM OF
MILITARY LIFE



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MUSEUM



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