

# The Lion & the Dragon

£1 Free to Members of the Friends of the Museum

Summer 2021

The Magazine of  
Cumbria's Museum of  
Military Life, published by  
the Friends of the  
Museum.



CUMBRIA'S  
MUSEUM OF  
MILITARY LIFE



## Territorials against the odds

THE 4th Battalion of the Border Regiment were part of the Territorial Army. In August 1939 Major W Gubins, Commanding 'B' Company, recalled that year's summer camp in his diary:

*"Training this year, as compared with previous years, was of a more strenuous nature. Longer route marches, more night operations including digging by night, and the use of our more recent weapons - the .55 Anti Tank Rifle, the Bren Gun and the Bren Carrier."*

LESS than a month later the Territorials began to mobilise and at the end of September 4 Border were on the

Northumberland coast as part of 126th Infantry Brigade, 42nd (East Lancashire) Division.

### FRANCE

IN October 4 Border left the Brigade and went to France as lines of communications troops. They were one of the first TA units to go to France. The battalion sailed from Southampton and arrived at Cherbourg on 17 November. They were allocated the area around Morlaix, in Brittany. For six months they guarded ammunition stores and petrol dumps. Major Gubbins, described the dumps as

*"...situated along roads which were not often frequented by the*

## Contents

Territorials against the odds  
Brigands and Pirates  
A family in the Regiment  
Gentlemen's Cavalry - 4  
Ferretting for spares  
Bookshelf  
'History's waiting room'  
'Still serving' news  
Museum, Friends &  
Reenactors news  
Diary  
'ENDEX' - miscellany  
'Lest we forget'

## SITREP

THIS is an edition of  
coincidences.

PAGE 6 carries an  
update on the recent  
Integrated Defence  
Review. Under which the  
Duke of Lancaster's will  
contribute to a new  
Ranger Regiment. But  
also on page 6 we have  
an extract from news of  
a defence review that  
was reported in the  
original 'The Lion and the  
Dragon' in 1969. And then  
on page 7 there's a reference  
to one of the original  
Ranger units.

I don't believe that  
history repeats, but I do  
believe that it echoes down  
the years. The 55th Foot  
under Lord Howe were  
arguably the first British unit  
to act as Light Infantry,  
having trained with Rogers'  
Rangers in late 1756, early  
1757.

IT is a fine tradition and I  
am sure that we all look  
forward to Colonel Howe's  
21st Century successors  
achieving great things.

Peter Green  
Editor



France 1940

10 May  
'Fall Gelb', the German attack in the West starts with the invasion of The Netherlands and Belgium.

12 May  
Germans launch attack on France from the Ardennes

15 May  
The Netherlands surrender.

18 May  
Germans reach Amiens

26 May  
Evacuation from Dunkirk starts.

5 June  
'Fall Rot' the German attack south of the Somme starts

6 June  
Dunkirk evacuation ends

25 June  
The last British troops evacuated from St Jean-de-Luz on the Bay of Biscay close to the Spanish border.



general public and were nowhere near any railways. The guards were on duty for 24 hours. From 9.00 am two NCO's and 6 men were on each dump..."



GUARD duties left little time for training. It was the Phoney War. A time when Prime Minister Chamberlain" could claim that "Hitler had missed the bus." It was presumed that action, when it came, would be in Belgium or Holland. The Allied plan was to respect Belgian neutrality until Belgium was attacked. 4 Border's role, if this happened would have been to take-up guard duties south east of Lille.

ALL the line of communications units were short of weapons, ammunition and vehicles. General Kerslake, who took command of the Corps of lines of communication troop in May 1940 as the disaster in France unfolded, found that a typical battalion had no more than 3 Boys anti-tank rifles and five bren guns.

THE BUS ARRIVES

ON 16 May 1940 it became clear that Hitler had not missed the bus. Germany began its offensive against France and the Low Countries. Within two days The Netherlands had surrendered. On the same day 4 Border were ordered to concentrate at Rennes to move to Rouen by train. They were now part of 'Beauman Division' under the command of Acting Brigadier Beauman.

THIS was an ad hoc grouping and, despite its title, not a Division in the normal sense of the word, though it did have three Brigades. 'A' Brigade was considered the most effective as the units were the most highly trained. As well as 4 Border the Brigade contained:

- 4th Battalion Royal East Kent Regiment (Buff's)
- 1/5th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters
- Brigade Carrier Platoon
- Machine Gun Company (Cheshire & Manchester Regiment)

THE Borders reached Rouen in the evening of 18 May. Most of the battalion were immediately tasked with guarding bridges over the River Seine 12 miles south of Rouen, however 'B' Coy was sent to guard a large ammunition dump 20 miles to the north west at Saint-Saëns. The battalion now



had an RASC company with 3 ton lorries attached and was designated a 'motor battalion'. An urgent search started to find the Beauman Division some artillery.

ATTACKING BRIDGES

ON the 23rd, the Battalion, less 'B' Company, were transferred to the newly arrived 2nd Armoured Brigade part of 1st Armoured Division. They were to replace the the Division's own infantry, some of which had gone to garrison Calais with one of its tank brigades. 1st Armoured Division also lacked artillery. The Borders, with tanks from the 2nd Dragoon Guards (The Queen's Bays,) were to attack three German-held bridges over the Somme west of Amiens, at Dreuil, Ailly-sur-Somme and Picquigny. The Bays' tanks were lightly armoured 'cruisers' designed to exploit breakthroughs, not take part in assaults on prepared positions.

THE attacks went in on 24th May. 'C' Company successfully crossed the bridge at Ailly despite strong opposition and two platoons reached Saint-Sauveur on the main road from Amiens to the coast. But without further support their success meant little. Heavy shell and mortar fire forced them to retire back over the river. Captain Thompson won the Military Cross during the action. Despite local successes the attacks, at Savuese and Picquigny, failed to reach their objectives. At Picquigny 2nd Lieutenant Deighton, 'D' Company, won the Military Cross for organising the unloading of ammunition from burning trucks, whilst under shell fire.



MAJOR Hopkinson, 'D' Company in his diary described the confusion that 4 Border found themselves in as they attacked the Somme bridges.

"...the headquarters of the tank unit concerned was unable to tell us which troop we were cooperating with or anything about them and when orders to move came we still did not know who they were, their route or their plans, beyond the fact that we were both due to cross the starting line at the same time and the same place..."

FOR a few days the Germans were content to hold the Somme line. Their attention was focused further north on Calais and the BEF at Dunkirk.

DEFENDING BRIDGES

THE battalion remained attached to 1st Armoured around Forêt du Hellet. They were joined by 'B Coy' who had now relieved from guard duties at Saint-Saens. The woodland provided cover from the Luftwaffe who had the skies almost to themselves. 1st Armoured were on the inland flank of 51st Highland Division. The 51st although part of the BEF had been in the Saar when the German attack began. It had been rushed north to the Somme. They eventually came under the command of French 10th Army. But the Borders were not to stay with the Armoured Division for long.

ON 5 June they rejoined 'A' Brigade of Beauman Division. Their task now was to provide a defence line on to which the 51st could retire. It was a confused and fluid situation. On the 5 June orders for them to retire to the rear being almost immediately countermanded. As elsewhere the German advance was faster than Allied decision-making and inadequate resources made defensive plans unrealistic. 4 Border were now ordered to clear the enemy from the Forêt d'Eau and maintain control of the bridge across the River



Bresle at Incheville. Whilst troops struggled to disengage and reach Le Havre, other German units were scything through southern Normandy.

SIX DAYS AT INCHEVILLE

'D' Company under Major Hopkinson were given the task of holding Incheville. It would become the scene for one of the Regiment's most courageous actions. The village of Incheville is on slightly higher ground than the river and its bridge. The railway line from Treport south ran between the village and river. 'D' Company now consisted of three platoons - 16, 17 and 18. Major Hopkinson had Captain Buchanan as his second in command and Lieutenants Clancy (16 Platoon), on the north of the village, Crossley (17 Platoon), as reserve and to cover the rear, and Deighton (18 Platoon), covering the bridge from the railway station. In all there were less than 100 men. 'A' Company were a little further west behind the village.

"SEE NO ONE COMES OVER THAT BRIDGE"

THE bridge over the Bresle had been blown, but although damaged it was passable by infantry. Lieutenant-Colonel Tomlinson arrived and confirmed the bridge was passable. He promised reinforcements and left with the order, "For God's sake see no one comes over that bridge!" More men arrived in the form of Lieutenant Watton and his mortar platoon, and later Lieutenant Williamson and his carrier platoon, but with no carriers, they had been left at Rouen.

IT soon became clear that Incheville was surrounded. German troops had crossed the river elsewhere. On 9 June the battalion was ordered to withdraw. Attempts to reach 'D' Company failed. A small party from the Company, led by

Major J F Hopkinson, did get out, but were told by the Brigade HQ that nobody could possibly be still holding Incheville. In fact the village was held until 16 June, long after the rest of the battalion had either been captured or evacuated.

EVACUATION FROM LE HAVRE

THOSE who had got out struggled westwards. The roads were clogged as 51st Division desperately tried to reach Le Havre. Around 250 men of 4 Border eventually reached the port. Along the way 'B' Company ran into German troops at Fecamp coming towards them from the direction of Le Havre. They would join 'D' Company in captivity. Captivity which would last for 5 years.

THE lucky few who reached Le Havre, were put onto a boat on 14 June and taken to Cherbourg.

EVACUATION FROM CHERBOURG

AT Cherbourg 4 Border were moved inland before half the battalion were put in a train to Brest. They were eventually found a boat and reached Southampton on 19 June. The remainder had already left Cherbourg for Poole, which they reached on 17 June. The last days of the battalion in France were confused. The brothers of Private Thornton, having been told he was missing in action, were shocked to meet him walking along the front at Arnside.

4 Border's Normandy Campaign was at an end. Their performance, especially that of 'D' Company in holding Incheville, was over and above what was expected of Territorial Army battalions in 1940.

Captions

Cover: 4 Border assemble at Kendal Railway station before travelling to Northumberland in September 1939. Picture CMOML

1. An ammunition dump in woodland near Nantes in Brittany. Picture Imperial War Museum

2. 4 Border in one of their attached RASC vehicles near the Somme. Picture Imperial War Museum

3. The 4th Battalion, Border Regiment on the Somme. Picture Imperial War Museum

4. Major J F Hopkinson, 'D' Company 4 Border, from 'The Lion and The Dragon', Spring 1969

The Editor





①

THE loyal inhabitants of Essex County, Upper Canada, were thrown into a state of high anxiety in the spring of 1838. After three incursions<sup>1</sup> by American-based ‘brigands’ and ‘pirates’ claiming to offer liberation from the yoke of British rule, the removal of Her Majesty’s troops and artillery from the garrison at Amherstburg seemed to signal that the western

newspaper, Western Herald, 31 July 1838), reported that

*“the whole frontier is to be shortly put in a complete state of defence.”*

#### MALARIA

ONE can only imagine what Lt. Col. Airey thought when he inspected the fort and found it uninhabitable. This passage from a Parks Canada report – ‘The Impact

## Brigands, Pirates and the 34th Foot

The Lion & the Dragon is pleased to welcome this contribution from Laurie Brett a writer from Ontario,.

frontier had been abandoned.

THE local magistrates – men of the highest distinction empowered to act on behalf of the government in far-away Toronto – gathered as an ad hoc council amid rumours of a new villainous scheme taking shape on the American side of the Detroit River. They issued a public resolution to Sir George Arthur, Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, expressing “the deepest anxiety, alarm and astonishment” at their current state of defencelessness and raising concerns about the seeming indifference with which officials treated the border region.

#### 34TH FOOT ARRIVE

IN response, Lt. Gen. Sir John Colborne and four companies of the 34th Regiment, commanded by Lt. Col. Richard Airey, deployed from Halifax. When they arrived at Fort Malden at the end of July, the local

of the Upper Canadian Rebellion on Life in Essex County, 1837-42’ by Katherine McKenna – paints a grim picture of the situation:

“WHEN Airey and the 34th Regiment arrived with Colborne in late July, they found Malden a shambles. He had over 450 men and nowhere to house them.

AIREY was forced to quarter them all over the area, with disastrous results. They had arrived in Essex at the peak of the malaria season and suffered severely. By late August, 127 men were ill.”

#### BUILDING BARRACKS

AIREY received permission to renovate the decrepit fort without being subject to the usual system of requisitions and estimates. The 34th spent the next four months raising barracks, restoring fortifications, and building an additional blockhouse on Bois Blanc

Island, strategically positioned at the mouth of the Detroit River.

DESPITE extensive defensive preparations at Amherstburg, the rebels still managed to surprise the Canadians. On 4 December, they crossed on a stolen steamer, landed north of Windsor, and attacked the temporary barracks housing a militia unit.

#### AMERICAN SPECTATORS

THE close proximity of the two countries was underscored in the account of the battle printed the following day in the Western Herald:

“ON arriving midway between Sandwich and Windsor, our ears were assailed with vociferous shouts of encouragement to the pirates who had landed on our soil, by the ‘free and enlightened’ citizens of Detroit, which thronged and blackened their cursed shore.”

#### RED COATS

ACCORDING to the newspaper report, when the rebels caught sight of red coats approaching, they panicked and fled into the woods. The “red coats” were actually Capt. Sparke’s militiamen, who were mistaken for the 34th. The Battle of Windsor was essentially over before the 34th arrived from Amherstburg.

#### FROZEN LAKE

THE Patriot schooner Anne bombarded Amherstburg in January 1838 but was taken by the local militia when it ran aground. In February, rebels walked over the frozen Detroit River and occupied Fighting Island but failed to land on the mainland due to thin ice. In March, a large rebel force left Sandusky, Ohio, walked across the large, frozen expanse of Lake Erie, invaded Pelee Island and were quickly expelled by British troops and Canadian militia.

THE words ‘Regimental Family’ have more meaning for Erica Elliot than most. She knows of six members of her family who have served in The Border Regiment from the end of the 19th Century to WW2. But there is also a mystery.

## A Family in the Regiment

Erica Elliotts’ Carlisle family has more reasons than many to think of the Regiment as her family.

HER maternal grandfather, Cecil Charles Nicholls had perhaps the most colourful life.

#### WINDSOR CHOIRBOY

HIS family came from Windsor, but he was born in Pimlico, in 1895. Cecil was good singer and a musician. He sang in the choir of St George’s Chapel Windsor Castle. Being a member of the choir meant that he attended St George’s School at Windsor.

THE Nichols family had a tradition of joining the Guards, but Cecil was too short. So, for reasons Erica has not been able to discover, when he was 16 he joined the Second Battalion of the Border Regiment.

IN September 1914 the Regiment were included in a new unit, the 7th Infantry Division. A month later they were rushed to Zeebrugge in an ultimately unsuccessful attempt to help the Belgian army to defend Antwerp. The Division fell back into northern France and then took part in the First Battle of Ypres.

#### CAPTURED

SOMEWHERE on the retreat from Bruges, Cecil was captured. He was taken first to a prisoner of war camp at Göttingen. For some of the next four years he worked in a salt mine in Poland.

NOW we come to the mystery. Erica believes that he repatriated to the Netherlands on 9 April 1918. Was he medically repatriated or did he escape from Germany? He spent the next eight months in The Netherlands, not arriving back in the UK until 18 November. His first post-War posting was a physical training instructor with the Regiment at Carlisle, which argues against him being medically repatriated from Germany.

#### AROUND THE WORLD

HE continued in the battalion. Serving in Malta, then Khartoum and then back to Malta, before being sent to Shanghai. He went on to serve in India and the North West Frontier before returning to Carlisle.



②

DURING his earlier time at Carlisle he had met Catherine Whelan who worked at Huthart and Company’s Haberdashery business in the town. Catherine’s father had also served in the Regiment. They married and Catherine followed Cecil on his foreign postings. A daughter, Evelyn, was born in Aldershot, but sadly died in Shanghai; their son Roy was born in Malta in 1926; and a second daughter, Mona, in Shanghai.

#### THE MUSEUM

ERICA was aware that her family had connections with The Border Regiment but it was only brought home to her when she visited the Museum and was met by a photo of Cecil by the front desk.

ERICA has donated items from her families’ military past to the Museum. Including a collection of Cecil’s favourite music in its maroon leather cover.

*The Editor*

WITH the end of WWI, came the end of four years of bloody confrontation. Modern weapons and tactics had shown that the use of horses in warfare was all but over. Additionally, it was felt that there were too many Yeomanry regiments in the Territorial Force<sup>1</sup>. The end of WWI, brought about the end of the Westmorland & Cumberland Yeomanry, in its historic and original form.

## Gentlemen’s Cavalry - 4

Ted Carter brings us almost up-to-date with the Yeomanry

THE fourteen senior Yeomanry regiments remained, whilst the vast majority were converted to other types of unit, many becoming artillery units. The Westmorland & Cumberland Yeomanry becoming part of the 93rd Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry Brigade, Royal Field Artillery (R.F.A.) as the 369th Westmorland Yeomanry & 370<sup>th</sup> Cumberland Yeomanry battery’s R.F.A.

IN 1922, it became part of the 51st East Lancashire & Cumberland Brigade R.F.A.

1924 saw the Royal Field Artillery (R.F.A) Renamed the Royal Artillery (R.A.), and in 1938, the RA Brigades were re-designated ‘Regiments’.

#### WWII

THROUGHOUT WWII 51st Field Regiment served with distinction in all theatres. Indeed, except for a short break in Scotland for re-fitting, they served overseas until November 1944. April 1940, saw 203

Battery, taking part in the short-lived Norwegian Campaign. The end of the year saw the regiment on its way to North Africa, At Tobruk the 51st engaged German Artillery over open sights at only six hundred yards!

#### BURMA

FEBRUARY 1942 saw the Regiment in Ceylon whilst in February 1943 they joined

the 70th Infantry Division in India.

SEPTEMBER the same year saw them placed in ‘suspended animation’ only to have them attached as infantry to the well known long range penetration group, better known as the Chindits, where they were jokingly given the name of “The amateur infantry’ by some of their regular infantry colleagues. Once again, the regiment performed in the manner for which they had become rightly lauded.



③



④



⑤

AS the Regimental Signals Officer in the 1st Battalion, I came across two Ferret Mk IIs (I think) being used as targets on Warcop Training Area.

## Ferreting for spares at Warcop

David Allardice adds to his Ferret article in the last edition.

MY very enterprising Radio Sergeant, Alan Moses (RIP), took some of the Boys forward, and like a pack of hyenas, stripped the vehicles of anything that was of value to us for the provision of comms to the Battalion.



⑥

WE left the Training Area with radio-trays, ‘armoured’ cables, junction boxes, antenna bases and much more.

#### INITIATIVE NOT REWARDED

SHORTLY after our return to Barracks in Weeton, the then Quarter Master (Tech) – a former member of the Signal Platoon – confiscated the Platoon’s ‘working reserve’ of Larkspur equipments.

BOY was I angry.

I even complained to the CO, an ex-Regimental Signals Officer, but to no avail.

WE were, after all, a UK-based ‘Type B’ Battalion with little call on spares or replacements!

*[If you have any Larkspur Radio spares DON'T send them to David – try Ebay – Ed]*

### Captions

1. Fort Malden, (formerly Fort Amherstburg). The site is managed by the Canadian National Parks Service. Picture © John Stanton
2. Huthart’s haberdashery shop Carlisle, from an old postcard.
3. “Motor scouts of the Westmorland & Cumberland Yeomanry” from ‘Kitchener’s Army & the Territorial Forces’, Newnes, 1916(?)
4. 25pdr gun/howitzer that equipped the Regiment from the middle of WW2. © Albert Moffat
5. A detachment from ‘F’ Troop and their Quad, 1942 © Mrs Valerie McIntosh
6. Larkspur radio spares were gold dust. Test your knowledge by naming this one.

### Notes

<sup>1</sup>The Territorial Force, established in 1908 from the Volunteer Battalions become the Territorial Army in October 1921.

<sup>1</sup>Fifty-First Field: the story of the 51st Field Regiment Royal Artillery (Westmorland & Cumberland Yeomanry), in the Second World War’ Thomas Thompson Priory Ash £14.50 plus P&P

Is available from the Museum Shop



#### Laurie Brett



Laurie Brett is a freelance writer from Ontario in Canada. She is the former editor and publisher of The Essex Free Press, Ontario.

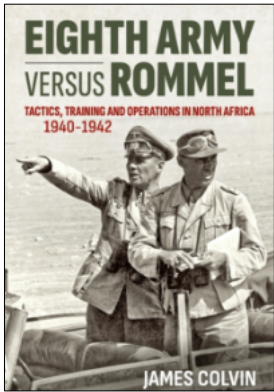
She is the author of ‘Colchester 225: 150 Historical Facts’ and she maintains a family history blog, ‘Hanging on a Limb’.





## Book shelf

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



**Eight Army versus Rommel: Tactics, Training and Operations in North Africa 1940-42 James Colvin Helion 2021 £29.95**

Eighth Army Versus Rommel is a riveting account of the Desert War from 1940 through Montgomery's celebrated battle of Alamein in 1942.

RICH in previously unpublished material, it examines the undertrained and underfunded pre-war British Army, contrasting its leadership with its opposite numbers in Germany, and demonstrates how and why Eighth Army had difficulties in its first 18 months of fighting the Afrika Korps.

THIS volume also examines the battles from the perspective of the commanders, the decisions they made and how cultural influences effected tactics and decisions of the Eighth Army high command.



**The Changing of the Guard Simon Akam Scribe £25.00**

Over the first two decades of the twenty-first century, Britain has changed enormously. During this time, the British Army fought two campaigns, in Iraq and Afghanistan, at considerable financial and human cost. Yet neither war achieved its objectives. This book questions why, and provides challenging but necessary answers.

COMPOSED FROM documentary research, field reportage, and hundreds of interviews with many soldiers and officers who served, as well as the politicians who directed them, the allies who accompanied them, and the family members who loved and — on occasion — lost them, it is a strikingly rich, nuanced portrait of one of our pivotal national institutions in a time of great stress.

JOURNALIST Simon Akam, who spent a year in the army when he was 18, returned a decade later to see how the institution had changed. His book examines the relevance of the armed forces today — their social, economic, political, and cultural role. This is as much a book about Britain, and about the politics of failure, as it is about the military.



## History's waiting room

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

### EDITORIAL

IT is at last possible to record that the regiment was in itself unaffected by the 1968 infantry reorganisations, but this phase saw the demise of Lancastrian brigade and the birth of King's Division. This latter guide is the destinies of an amalgam of the former Lancastrian, Yorkshire and Irish Brigade is of infantry. It would seem to be the last practical grouping short of a Royal Corps of infantry. The powers that be have put on record that a Division of Infantry is the optimum size "for convenience of administration" and, therefore at the moment there is no movement towards a Corps.

### 4TH (TERRITORIALS) BORDER 'D' (WESTMORLAND) COMPANY

IT is with extremely heavy heart that your scribe attempts to write these final notes for the company whose name is synonymous with that our Auld Grey Town and its surrounding districts. ...

OUR role has varied over the last few years and with the reorganisation in 1967 we accepted the challenge of making our home defence force go with a bang. In this role we could be of active use in the true community service sphere, as well as the pure military...

OUR sincere hopes for the future are that the present policy will not beer proved wrong and that the Cadre, which will carry forward the name of a fine regiment, will live up to the high standards expected of them.

## To the Editor

The Editor is always pleased to have comments, and corrections via email, Facebook or post.

### GERMANY 1955-57



THE photos show my step-dad, Alick Moor, during his National Service in Gottingen, Germany between 1955-1957. He served with the Machine Gun platoon within a rifle company of the Border Regiment. Although he was a Proud Prestonian, he was shipped up to Carlisle Castle for his training. I think that the Regiment had recently moved from Egypt? The picture of the lads having a drink (nothing changes!) shows the LCpl sitting next to Alick, with the Border Regt patch on his shoulder (glider) and the 4th Division Flash. Is that correct? Alick loved his short time in Germany and later married my Mum, a German National from Lunen.

Yvonne Neville

### OVERSEAS

“THE newsletter is great, I spent six months working at a coal mine near Pittsburgh and the place is steeped in history of the American War, hope you are all OK? See you soon.”

David Carr

*(Thanks David, a perfect lead in to remind everyone that you can become an Overseas Members for £10 and receive a PDF version of the magazine.*

*You can join online at <https://bit.ly/39ZgB16> – Ed)*



## Still serving

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

### INTEGRATED DEFENCE REVIEW

THE results of the Review have been announced and the welcome news for us is that the Regiment will live on. There appears to be no change for either the 1st or 4th Battalions The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.

A new Ranger Regiment of four battalions is being formed from the current Specialist Infantry Battalions. As one of these, the 2nd Battalion will contribute to the new Regiment.

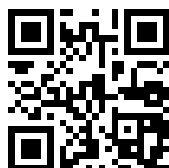


### SANDHURST

CONGRATULATIONS to Colour Sergeant Smith from 2nd Battalion and Sergeant Dearden from 1st Battalion who have been selected to become instructors at The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

### DUKE OF LANCASTER'S ASSOCIATION WEB SITE

DUKE of Lancaster's Association has a new web site. <<https://bit.ly/2Pi8HT5>> The site provides access to welfare support, as well as the Association and the Regiment's heritage.



## Museum, Friends and Reenactors

News from those who proudly support our heritage.

### CURATOR'S REPORT

AS I write this piece, the Museum is working towards a re-opening date of Monday 17th May. Since Christmas, staff have been furloughed, or partially working from home, and individuals have been going into the Museum to check the collections and remember why we work within the heritage sector.

SADLY silent, the building and collections are all fine...just missing one vital component – people! Of course, the staff have been busy making model aeroplanes, walking dogs, decorating houses and researching their family tree so its not all been Netflix and baking cakes.

### REOPENING 17TH MAY

HOWEVER, there is plenty to do before reopening. We have to reassess the building and update the risk assessment, schedule a deep clean and complete half-finished tasks.

FROM mid-April, staff will be safely returning to the Museum and we will welcome our first KickStart placement, Anna, who is joining the team on the Government funded scheme for the next six months, to look after our social media.

WE will once again be working with English Heritage on joint ticketing, but please remember as a Friend you have free access to the Museum - do phone 01228 532774 to book your visit direct.

### THANK YOU

AND lastly, thank you for all your support over the past 12 months. We would look forward to welcoming you back at the Museum.

## Zooming through lockdown

FRIENDS committee meetings have continued throughout lockdown. We have taken the opportunity to sort out a few administrative niggles and renew the Committee as well as supporting the museum with grants for new laptops and confirmation of the funds for the refurbishment of the Crimean War picture.

IN collaboration with the Museum's Trustees we have made some technical changes to the Friends structure. And as part of this we have welcomed Mark English to the Committee as a full committee member but also to represent the Trustees and David Allardice to represent the Regimental Association.

OTHER Committee changes have seen Doreen Parsons, Geoff Stitt and Barbara Stitt and Jim Henderson retire after making long and fruitful contributions. We have welcomed Khal Moualem and George McGarr as new ordinary Committee members. There are still vacancies on the committee for anyone who may wish to help us.

MORE details about the new structure of the committee, its personnel and relationship with the Trustees in the next edition of Lion & Dragon.

THE Friends hopes to restart its fund raising in the Autumn.



### A LITTLE PIECE OF THE BORDERS IN SUSSEX

THE gravestone of 'Harlequin' the foxhound mascot of 9 Border, who was killed by a car in Eastbourne in February 1915, has been

damaged by a falling tree. The grave is in the grounds of the Compton Croquet Club, Eastbourne.

THE Croquet Club is on part of Saffrons Sports Ground, where 9 Border were billeted from December 1914 to March 1915.

THE Eastbourne Local History Society are hoping to restore the headstone and the Friends have offered their support.



## Celebrate Cumbria's Military Heritage

### THE CARLISLE MILITARY FESTIVAL JUNE 2022

PLANNING continues for this Festival with our partners 'Bookends', Carlisle's independent bookseller and publisher.

ORIGINALLY planned for 2020, but postponed because of Covid, the Festival will be a mix of speakers, displays, sales stalls, VIP guest and a reception. Please let me know if you would like to have a stall or participate in any way <[peter.castra@gmail.com](mailto:peter.castra@gmail.com)>.



### SNOW AND ICE

MEMBERS of the '55th Regiment, Company. of Light Infantry (1759-1764)' reenactors, who are based in Wisconsin, USA, spent time in the snow recently at 'Forts Folle Avoine Historical Park' alongside members of Rogers' Rangers reenactors.

IT must have been very like the training that Rogers gave Colonel Howe and a party of officers and men from the 55th in the autumn and winter of 1757. *Picture © Brandon Moses Enck*

## Behind the desk and behind the scenes

Occasional pen portraits of people from the Museum and the Friends

### PETER GREEN

IN the continued absence of Museum events due to Covid, here's another short biography. This time the Editor.



MY father, Alan Green, commanded 20 Platoon, 'D' Company at Arnhem. I grew up very aware of Market Garden, but knew little about his precise involvement until he wrote the history of the battalion during the battle.

SO when Stuart Eastwood suggested, whilst I was relaxing in a Carlisle pub after walking the Hadrian's Wall path, that I might become the next editor of the newsletter I couldn't refuse.

MY background is that I was a Government Press Officer. I trained as a Graphic Designer at Manchester College of Art and my first job was in Kellogg's advertising department. I have worked in Government press relations or advertising covering the countryside, space research, overseas aid, transport, even MP's morals.

I wrote an account of the final days of the POW camp, that held my father after Arnhem, 'The March East 1945', published by History Press.

AND latterly I created an online science news service for the world's media 'AlphaGalileo'.

I am now retired and live in Swindon.

## ENDEX

A miscellany of military snippets from all periods and places; some serious , some not.

### 'BROWN BESS' MUSKET

JAMES Ferguson, Royal Armouries. "... 'Brown Bess' could be the name of a cow, or for a low-status woman. ... The two words combined reinforced the message; 'Bess' might suggest that a woman was not necessarily a 'lady', but 'Brown Bess' was definitely not a girl that a respectable young man would take home to mother..."

### IMPERIAL SPELLING

Ernie Wise "My name is Colonel Napoleon Davenport, DSO MC OBE" Eric Morcambe "That's a funny way to spell Davenport."



### ATHLETIC BATTALION

9 Border won many of the Army athletic events held in the early part of 1915 as Kitchener's New Army trained. Here Lieutenant V A Grace, 9 Border, receives the trophy for best battalion after an Aldershot meeting. *Picture British Newspaper Archive*

### THE IPSWICH JOURNAL JUNE 1811

THIS day 200 of the Hertford Militia and 500 of the Cumberland Militia marched from their Barracks, the former to Shotley, and the latter to Felixtow (sic), where they are to encamp.

THE men are to be employed on the towers and batteries erecting on that part of the coast.



## Our Heritage

Cumbria's military heritage includes the Militia, the Yeomanry, Territorials, as well as the regular battalions and specialist units.

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'.

IN 1923 the 51st Field Regiment, Royal Artillery was created that included the Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry. In time the Gunners joined the Territorial Army battalion of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment.

## Lest we forget

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

### 8 May 1915, Frezenberg, France, 2nd Battalion Border Regiment

A German counter attack during the 2nd Battle of Ypres.

### 16 May 1811, Albuhera, Spain, 2nd Battalion 34th Foot

A French attempt to relieve the siege of Badojaz was repulsed by General Beresford leading a division of Wellington's army.



### 21 May 1940, Rest in Peace, Private J. George Reid, 5th Battalion Border Regiment, 3595908

Private Reid died 21 May 1940, aged 27. He was from Cockermouth and is buried in Dunkirk Town Cemetery.

*Picture CWWG*

### 22-26 May 1940, the River Escaut, Belgium, 1st Battalion Border Regiment

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.

*Picture IWM*



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

The citation reads: For having, after the regiment had retired from the

trenches from the assault on Redan, gone out over the open ground under a heavy fire in broad daylight and brought in wounded soldiers outside the trenches.

*Picture Creative Commons*



### 21 June 1813, Vittoria, Spain, 2nd Battalion 34th Foot

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

*Picture by Heath & Sutherland in the A.S.K. Brown collection*



### July 1-13 1916, Albert, France, Border Regiment

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

*Picture IWM*



### 9 July 1943, Operation Ladbroke, Sicily, 1st Battalion Border Regiment

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

*Picture IWM*

## 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

### 'The Lion & the Dragon'

Published by the Friends of Cumbria's Military Museum

Editor: Peter Green  
peter.castra@gmail.com  
Writing team: David Allardice, Ted Carter, and John Conway



CUMBRIA'S  
MUSEUM OF  
MILITARY LIFE



ACCREDITED  
MUSEUM



Supported using public funding by  
ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND



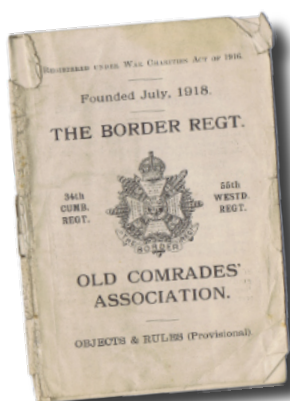
Printed by  
Stramongate Press  
Kendal 01539 72044



Penrith Local Militia  
early 19th Century



55th Foot belt buckle  
mid-19th Century



Border Regiment  
Old Comrades Association  
Rule Book, early 20th  
Century