

The Lion & the Dragon

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Autumn 2021

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

CUMBRIA'S
MUSEUM OF
MILITARY LIFE



Ranger training – the 55th in 1757

“When we're on the march, we march single file, far enough apart so one shot can't go through two men.”

BASIC instructions for men, including the Colonel of the 55th Foot, Lord Howe, learning to fight and live in the wilderness of North America, as Rangers, over 250 years ago.

IN 1757 the 55th Foot were part of an Army whose objective was to defeat the French in North America and eliminate 'New France'. The European tradition of closely grouped bodies of men firing volleys in the direction of the enemy – what Frederick the Great called his 'mobile

batteries' – was not suitable for fighting an enemy scattered in cover behind the trees and who used aimed fire to pick off officers. The closely packed regulars provided easy targets, whilst the regulars themselves could often see no enemy to fire at.

A NEW APPROACH

THE new Army Commander in North America the Earl of Loudoun had arrived with instructions from the Duke of Cumberland, Commander-in-Chief, to make his regulars “act as irregulars”.

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SITREP

EARLIER this year, the Ministry of Defence announced their intention to create a new Special Operations Unit that would be deployed to assist partners delivering defence and security.

INCLUDED in the Unit will be a new Ranger Regiment, based on the existing specialist battalions. These include the 2nd Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.

AS I noted in our last edition one of the regiments we celebrate, the 55th Foot, were arguably the first British unit to operate as a light infantry regiment after their Colonel, Lord Howe, had spent time with Robert Roger's Rangers in North America.

THIS edition explains how the 55th came to play a pioneering role in creating the modern infantryman.

The Editor



'Butcher' or 'Reformer' Cumberland?

Prince William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland was the third and youngest son of King George II.

He is perhaps best known by the nickname 'Butcher' Cumberland, that he gained from putting down the Jacobite Rebellion.

He had fought at Dettingen in 1743 under his father - the last time a reigning British monarch led his troops in battle - and Less successfully as Commander at Fontenoy in 1745. He commanded at Culloden in 1746.

As Commander-in-Chief he was unsuccessful in reforming the British Army. His reforms would have included limiting the purchase of commissions and creating a standing force capable of operations overseas. Both issues that taxed reformers during the Nineteenth and early Twentieth Centuries.

As Commander of a Hanoverian Army he negotiated the Convention of Klosterzeven that led to the French occupying Hanover. In this he was as much a victim of politics as poor generalship. He retired from public life and died in 1756, aged 44.

TRAINING

ROGER'S journal lists training nine officers and 46 men. The cadets came from nine regiments: 4th Foot, 22nd Foot, 27th Foot, 42nd Foot, 44th Foot, 48th Foot, 55th Foot, 2/60th Foot and 3/60th Foot. Only the 55th Foot provided all officer 'cadets': Mr Christopher, Mr Still, Mr Hamilton and Mr Young. Hamilton and Young were Ensigns. It hasn't been possible to identify the ranks of the other two cadets.

THE 22nd Foot, 42nd Foot and 48th Foot provided no officers. George Howe was the only Colonel who spent time with Rogers.

"In one of these parties, my Lord Howe did us the honour to accompany us, being fond, as he expressed himself, to learn our method of marching, ambushing, retreating, &c. and upon our return expressed his good opinion of us very generously."

ROGERS took personal command of the Cadet Company. His journal gives 28 separate instructions to his men. They include:

If you are obliged to receive the enemy's fire, fall, or squat down, till it is over, then rise and discharge at them.

Don't ever march home the same way. Take a different route so you won't be ambushed.

Don't sleep beyond dawn. Dawn's when the French and Indians attack.

Don't stand up when the enemy's coming against you. Kneel down. Hide behind a tree.

Let the enemy come till he's almost close enough to touch. Then let him have it and jump out and finish him up with your hatchet.

Before you leave your encampment, send out small parties to scout round it, to see if there be any appearance or track of an enemy that might have been near you during the night.

If you have the good fortune to take any prisoners, keep them separate, till they are examined, and in your return take a different route from that in which you went out, that you may the better discover any party in your rear, and have an opportunity, if the strength be superior to yours, to alter your course, or disperse, as circumstances may require.

LOUDOUN APPROVES

IN November Loudoun visited Rogers and his Rangers at their camp on an island in the Hudson river opposite Fort Edward, 60 miles north of Albany. Although the army was going into army winter quarters, Rogers and his rangers, with their cadets, continued to patrol the disputed forests and lakes that lay between British and French North America.

IN early 1758 the cadets returned to their units and as Loudoun had envisaged they help created groups of light infantrymen within their regiments. The new Light Companies became regimental elites alongside their grenadier companies.

A PROTO-LIGHT INFANTRY REGIMENT

BUT Colonel Howe went further. He converted the whole of his regiment as light infantry. Captain Pierre Pouchet, who commanded the French fort at Niagara, recalled Howe in his Memoirs. Howe, or as he spells the name 'Ho' and sometimes 'Hau', is described: *"He had induced all the officers to put themselves on a level with the common soldier, through fear of the event of Braddock's defeat, where the officers were fired upon by preference."*



He induced the army to cut their hair short, leaving it not more than two fingers' breadth long, and all the officers and soldiers were supplied with a kind of gaiters like those worn by the Indians and Canadians and called Miiuzzes. Their haversacks were rolled up in a blanket, which they carried as did the Indians and Canadians. They had each thirty pounds of meal, a pound of powder and four pounds of balls, besides their cartridge boxes full, so that an army thus equipped would need no magazine for a month...

...The officers and men had only one shirt a piece, which was doubtless of cotton, and well made. Lord H. set the example, by himself washing his own dirty shirt, and drying it in the sun, while he in the meantime wore nothing but his coat."

MRS Anne Grant was the daughter of Lieutenant Duncan Macvicar of the 55th. Her descriptions of the regiment's time at Albany, were written long after the event: she was only two when the 55th were preparing to attack Ticonderoga.

"[Colonel Howe] forbade all displays of gold and scarlet, in the rugged march they were about to undertake, and set the example by wearing himself an ammunition coat, that is to say, one of the surplus soldiers' coats cut short...he ordered the muskets to be shortened, that they might not, as on former occasions, be snatched from behind by these agile foes." *'Memoirs of an American Lady', Mrs Grant, 1808.*

THE 55th certainly did wear scarlet.

GAGE'S 80TH FOOT

WHILST Howe was training his regulars to live and fight like Rangers, Colonel Thomas Gage, 44th Foot, suggested to Loudoun that he should be allowed to create an entirely new regular regiment of "light-armed infantry". A Royal warrant was agreed and the 80th Foot established, with Gage as its Colonel. Although the 55th Foot, as an existing unit, deserve the honour of the being the proto-light infantry regiment in the British Army, it was "The 80th Regiment of Light Armed Infantry" who were the first to abandon red coats. The 80th were dressed in brown - more appropriate for forest warfare.

GATEWAY TO MONTREAL

IN the summer of 1758 the 55th and the newly raised 80th formed the advance guard for an assault on Fort Ticonderoga on the frontier with French North America.

THE army was led by General James Abercrombie, with Howe in command of the vanguard. As they approached Ticonderoga they blundered into a French detachment. The French were defeated.

"When we had proceeded half way our light infantry & Marksmen were attack'd by a body of 6 or 700 French Scouts, who after an engagement of an hour or little more, were entirely routed..."

Charles Lee letter, 1758, extracted from the 'Lee Papers'

HOWEVER in the skirmish Colonel Howe was hit by a musket ball and killed. Captain Pouchet again:

"the enemy's army and its advance guard under Lord Ho, who attacked them while passing a dangerous rapid. The French detachment was beaten, and not more than a score of men escaped, with a captain of the Queen's regiment and Trepezec, who was mortally wounded. The English took 110 men and 4 officers prisoners, the rest being left on the battle field. 1 Lord Ho was killed in this affair."

GENERAL Wolfe described Howe as, "the best officer in the British Army". Rufus Putman, another Ranger, agreed:

"Lord Howe was the idol of the army, in whom they placed the upmost confidence, from the few days I had to observe his manner of conducting, it is not extravagant to suppose that every soldier in the army had a professional attachment to him."



THE next day Abercrombie launched a frontal assault on the fort without artillery support. The attack failed and the British suffered over 2,000 casualties. Abercrombie retired to Albany. The 55th took no further part in the fighting that year. Without Howe's influence they returned to the traditional line infantry role.

THE FUTURE

IN 1759 the 55th's grenadier company was brigaded with others to seize Oswego and Fort Niagara at the west end of Lake Ontario and cut French communications between Canada and Louisiana. The column was commanded by Brigadier Prideaux, Colonel of the 55th. The rest of the regiment took part in the successful capture of Ticonderoga. A year later they were part of the offensive that took Montreal and ended French rule in Canada.

THE 80th Foot survived the disaster at Ticonderoga. But with the arrival of peace in 1763 they were disbanded. Light Companies survived in line regiments, often brigaded together, during operations.

IT would not be until 1800 and experiments with a corps of riflemen and a few years later, with Sir John Moore at Shorncliffe, that light infantry became firmly established in the British Army.

The Editor

Captions

Overleaf: A reenactor from Rodgers' Rangers demonstrate what Robert Rodger's training in 1756/7 would have been like.

Picture © Rick Seidemann

1. A 'representation' of Robert Rogers 1776. There are no known likenesses of Rogers drawn from life. From the Anne S. K. Brown Military Collection

2. Colonel Augustus George Howe, by Sir Joshua Reynolds

3. Lord Loudoun, painted by Allan Ramsay, National Gallery of Scotland.

4. The Duke of Cumberland, by David Morier, Creative Commons

5. Rick Seidemann, portrays a private of the 55th in 1758, © Rick Seidemann

6. The strategic position in North America 1750's. Not all the French forts are shown.

7. Operations by the 55th Foot 1757/9

Notes
In the 1750's Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain was better known as Fort Carillon. Just to its north was another French fort Fort Saint Frédéric. They guarded the overland route from the south to Montréal, the capital of New France and in their turn they allowed the French to threaten Albany and New York.

AFTER their illustrious efforts during WWII. With the Desert Rats & and in India & Burma, The Regiment got to return home.

FURTHER reorganisations followed. The 1960s saw it reduced to battery strength with 'Q' battery, Carlisle becoming the 851st Westmorland &

again re-constituted. This time becoming B (4th Border Regiment) Company of the Northumbrian Volunteers in 1971. Here, the lineage sadly ended.

Gentlemen's Cavalry – 5

Ted Carter completes his history of the Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry

THE TA reformed ON the reformation of the Territorial Army in May of 1947 they were re-designated the 251st Westmorland & Cumberland Field Regiment Royal Artillery T A under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel, The Lord Rochdale.

RECRUITMENT was high and, when in 1950, the War Office disbanded the 309th Field Regiment RA TA in Whitehaven, the 251st took over in their area. Forming New Batteries, 'P', 'Q' AND 'R' with a Regimental HQ in Carlisle.

YEOMANRY RETURN
SOME years passed. In 1962, the Army Council was approached with a request to 'bring back' the designation 'Yeomanry' into the regiment's title. This was approved and the regiment became the 251st Westmorland & Cumberland Yeomanry Field Regiment RA (TA) in September of 1953.

BORDER REGIMENT

Cumberland Independent Field Battery RA. Whilst the Whitehaven and Workington Batteries became the Mortar, and Anti-Tank Platoons of the 4th Battalion the Border Regiment. In 1967 851 battery, in Carlisle, became B (Westmorland & Cumberland Yeomanry) Company 4 Battalion of the Border Regiment. Reduced to a cadre in 1969, it was

INTO THE HISTORY BOOKS

IN truth however, to many of the remaining yeomanry's eyes, the regiment had ceased to exist in 1917, when they lost their horses. That said, throughout their 152 year history, The regiment, as cavalry, infantry and gunners, served with distinction and honour. They have become part of the history of the Lakes and Fells of Cumberland and Westmorland. It is to be hoped that their history, service, and sacrifice may never be forgotten by those of us who follow.

A Border POW in 1945

Lance Corporal Seymour's amazing end of War story that he added to his Liberation Questionnaire on 12 May 1945. Discovered during the editor's research into Arnheim POWs.

IN April 1945, Lance Corporal Tom Seymour's working party had been marched away from the open cast mine at Falkanau near Dresden, where they had been working and into what is now the Czech Republic. By 6 May they had walked 130 miles south to Klatovy. That night Seymour and his fellow POWs over-powered their guards.



SEYMOUR was 23 years old. He served in the Company headquarters of 'B' Company 1 Border and had been captured at Oosterbeek on 23 September. He came from Yarm-on-Tees in Yorkshire and in civvy street was a lorry driver.

NEWS of the men's exploit reached Sušice 18 miles from Klatovy and the town appealed to them for help to round up the German troops in their town. This they did but as Seymour wrote,

"There were a few SS whom we dare not tackle as they were heavily armed and there were only 10 of us British and Canadians."

SEYMOUR and his comrades were evacuated before the climatic battle of the War in Eastern Europe, as German troops in Czechoslovakia tried to fight off the Russians and partisans, so as to be able to surrender to the Americans.

A recap on Yeomanry history books

Bardgett, Colin, 'Better by far a Cumberland Hussar: a history of the Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry', Hayloft Publishing. In print.

Barlow, L, and Smith R J, 'The Uniforms of the British Yeomanry Force 1794-1914: Number 4 Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry', Robert Ogilby Trust. Out of print.

Thompson, Thomas, 'Fifty-First Field: the story of the 51st Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry), in the Second World War, Priory Ash. In print.

Eastwood, Stuart, 'Lions and Dragons: An illustrated history of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment 1959-2006', Silver Link. In print.

As always, in print books are available from the Museum or Bookends, Castle Street, Carlisle. Out of print books are often available via the Internet.

IF you drove a desk in HQ Infantry looking after Establishments, as I did, the Defender 90 was actually a Truck Utility Light (TUL) General Service (GS), or Fitted for Radio (FFR).

driven by specialist drivers from the RCT. It was subsequently deployed to Iraq where several were attacked, with disastrous results.

BACK to the Defender

Regimental vehicles – Land Rover

David Allardice completes his current series of articles on The Regiment's vehicles

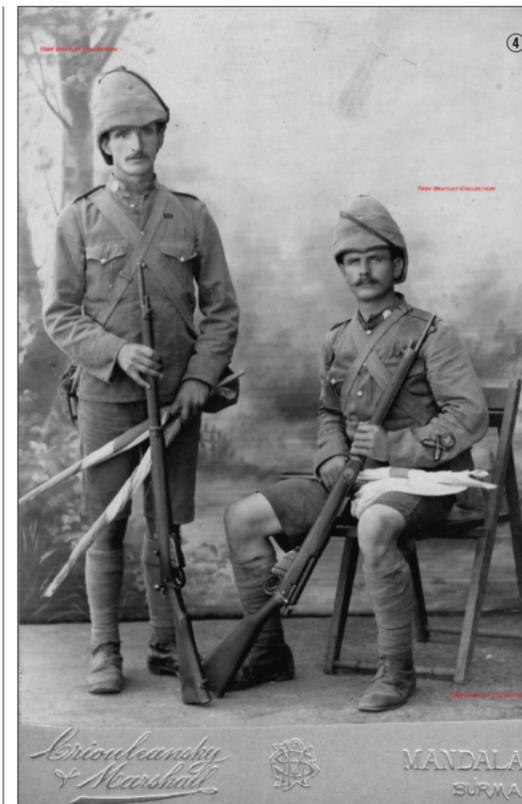
THE Defender 110 was the Truck Utility Medium (TUM). The Wolf was an improved Defender, and was powered by a 2.5ltr Naturally Aspirated Diesel engine. The 110 was 4.47m long, 1.8m wide, 2.12m high and weighed about 2.1t (empty). The Snatch, or Armoured Patrol Vehicle, was introduced into service in NI in 1986. Not only was it up-armoured (3.05t), but the transmission, engine and braking systems were up-graded.

IT was a monster to drive. Transport Branch HQNI proposed that it should be

TUM (FFR), it was the most under-powered and gutless vehicle that I had the privilege of travelling in – add a loaded trailer and the problem was compounded. Both driver and passenger sat over the fuel tanks, and why were the windscreen wipers so pathetic?

FURRY DICE

I recall that my long-suffering driver/radio operator, 'Warbie', was often given a hard time at BG HQ as my vehicle sported an eye-catching set of furry dice! I was tempted to get the 'sun strip', Dave and Warbie, but I bottled!



Eastern Borders

Toby Brayley writes about a recent addition to his collection of Victorian and Edwardian photographs.

THIS one most probably takes the number one spot in my collection. A stunning cabinet card featuring two Privates from the 2nd Battalion of the Border Regiment taken in Mandalay, Burma c.1903.

THESE two men are easily identifiable as Border Regiment not only by their collar badges, but if you look closer, at the tops of their puttees the regiment and their numbers can be made out. The markings are vertical.



SEATED is No 446 of the 2B (2 Borders, stationed in Burma from 1902 to 1905),

his number possibly identifies him as No 446, Private Peter Baker.



ON his left cuff above the crossed rifles is a rare view of the 'S' in a wreath badge, as worn by trained scouts in 'India stations'.

HIS colleague has the ribbon for the 1895 India General Service Medal (IGSM), not surprising given the 2nd Battalion had been in India since 1890.

THIS card provides some superb details of their uniform and equipment, including the rarely seen 'Indian Pattern' water bottle, signal flags, Magazine Lee-Enfield Rifles that, for once, have been nicely arranged for the photograph!

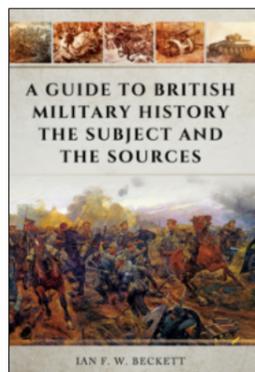


Captions

1. Armistice Day salute, 1958, fired by a gun of 'R' Battery, 251 Field Regiment.
2. The final parade of 851st Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry Field Battery, Carlisle Castle 16 October 1966.
3. The Battery's guns being 'driven off' the Castle Parade Ground, 1966
4. Two signallers from 2 Border whilst stationed in Burma at the turn of the 20C.. © Toby Brayley collection
5. Close-up of the regimental and personal number on the puttee of the seated man. © Toby Brayley collection
6. Sharpshooter badge © Toby Brayley collection
7. Truck Utility Light, Port Stanley 1983 and the only one on in Stanly at the time. © Carl Barlow
8. Truck Utility Medium fitted for radio (FFR). Photographed during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. © LCPL Andrew P. Roufs, USMC

Book shelf

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



Guide to British Military History: the subject and the sources

Ian Beckett
Pen & Sword
2016
£14.99

WHAT exactly is military history? Forty years ago it meant battles, campaigns, great commanders, drums and trumpets. It was largely the preserve of military professionals and was used to support national history and nationalism.

NOW, though, the study of war has been transformed by the "war and society" approach, by the examination of identity, memory and gender, and a less Euro-centric and more global perspective. Generally it is recognised that war and conflict must be integrated into the wider narrative of historical development, and this is why Ian Beckett's research guide is such a useful tool for anyone working in this growing field.

IT introduces students to all the key debates, issues and resources. While European and global perspectives are not neglected, there is an emphasis on the British experience of war since 1500.



History's waiting room

Extracts from original copies of 'The Lion and the Dragon', in this case from Spring 1976.

EDITORIAL

...READERS will note with pleasure the inclusion of the Women's Royal Army Corps notes for the first time in the Lion and the Dragon. We are delighted to see them wearing the regimental badge on the tunics and wish Lt Oonagh Jolliffe and her young ladies a very happy future with the regiment

WRAC DETACHMENT

THE distinction of being the first WRAC officer of the battalion goes to Lt Oonagh Jolliffe transferred from RARO to take up this appointment, after a gap of 10 years in her TA service. First commissioned at Edinburgh University OTC in 1957, Lt Jolliffe has seen Service with a transport company of 319 Battalion WRAC (TA) and with 42 Signal Regiment (TA).

REGIMENTAL BAND KNELLER HALL INSPECTION

EVERY five years, military bands of the British army or eligible for a thorough inspection which covers every aspect of the musical and administrative proficiency. October 13 was our day of reckoning ... The Inspectorate were most impressed by many aspects of the Regimental Band and Corps of Drums, they have a dignified style and a quality of performance that is a credit to the Regiment and Army Music.

THE whole Band are to be congratulated on their performance and deservedly have earned a very high grading of "Exceptionally good".

To the Editor

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

REQUEST FOR HELP 4 BORDER

"MY mum is searching for her father (my grandfather) we know little about him apart from his name Private Charles Taylor 4th Batt. Border Regiment. He was taken prisoner in France in June 1940 and was in Stalag 8. Prison number: 16768. We don't know his date of birth.

MY mother is 80 years old and not in good health. She just wants to visit his grave and pay her respects. She never met him.

WE believe he survived the war. She has been told that she can't get anymore info on him (like his date of birth etc) as she is not "family". Her parents split up before he was posted overseas and he never got to see her. He was not put on her birth certificate."

John Willcox, via Facebook

4 BORDER AND KENDAL
A comment on the Summer edition lead on 4 Border in Normandy.

"...JOHN Watton was a friend of my fathers as they both worked at 'K' shoes in Kendal as well as both being in 'D' Coy in the mid thirties, he was a very talented artist and ended up at Colditz Castle where surprise surprise he became the document forger..."

Mike Rosling, via email

REPLY TO LAST EDITION REQUEST

"...PLEASE pass the attached [photographs] on to Yvonne Neville. I was in Gottingen with Alick & attended events in Preston with him..."

John Little, by post

Still serving

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

FAREWELL 2 LANCS HELLO 3 RANGERS?

THE 2nd Battalion Duke of Lancaster's Regiment will provide the foundation for the new regiment, along with 1st Battalion Royal Regiment of Scotland, Second Battalion Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and the Fourth Battalion the Rifles. The Ranger Regiment will be established by August 2021. The new regiment will be "open to anybody in the Armed Forces", according to the Chief of the Defence Staff, General Sir Nick Carter.



4 LANCS AND COVID TESTING

KINGSMAN Michael Bennett from the 4th Battalion Duke of Lancaster Regiment at the Trafford Town Hall which was converted into a Covid-19 testing facility. 4 LANCS have been working alongside the NHS in testing the public for Covid-19.

NEW BARROW BRANCH ADDRESS

THE Barrow branch Secretary of the Regimental Association has new contact details:

Mr Allan McMurray
Secretary
Barrow Branch
The Duke of Lancaster's
Regimental Association
10 Roosecote Terrace
Barrow in Furness
Cumbria
LA13 0TB
07858 480262
allanmcmurray5@gmail.com

Museum, Friends and Reenactors

News from those who proudly support our heritage.



WE ARE OPEN...AGAIN!

ON Monday 17th May we opened our doors to the public, nearly five months since we closed our doors in December last year.

IN April we welcomed Anna, followed by Megan in May, both of whom are part of the Government's KickStart scheme for young people. They will be with us part-time for six months, Anna looking after our social media and Megan on the front desk.

WE are looking forward to restarting our events programme as restrictions allow and have already had two enquiries from local schools. Friends of the Museum you can by-pass the booking procedure by contacting the Museum direct on 01228 53274. There's more on our web site.



MUSEUM OPEN EVENING AND BUFFET

On 18 September 21 from 1830 hrs. The museum will be open for Friends and friends of Friends to enjoy a tour; see the new acquisitions and handle those items which will not suffer from handling; meet the committee and museum staff; and have a cold supper with wine.

The bar will be open. Free for Friends but £5.00 donation for any guests.



OBITUARY TONY GODDARD

IT is with great sadness that we have to announce the death of former assistant curator, and ex 4KORBR, Tony Goddard.

TONY worked at the Museum for 11 years, helping to move the Museum into Alma Block in 2014. He was passionate about military history and, with a team of volunteers, was instrumental in constructing the WACO glider that can now be found in the gallery.

TONY retired from the Museum in 2015 but continued to be a supporter until he passed away on 26th May. He will be sorely missed.

OBITUARY JOHN PEARSON

JOHN Pearson, ex 4 KORBR and dedicated Museum volunteer, who could turn his hand to anything from re-framing pictures to cleaning military equipment, arriving for the day armed with sausage roll and meat pie, full of enthusiasm for the days' tasks. John's storytelling meant he was a natural with visitors and in school holidays could be found in the gallery with his cabinet of curiosities chatting about anything from soldier's pay in WW1 to .303 ammunition. He will be greatly missed by staff and volunteers alike.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

COLONEL (Retired) George McGarr OBE has joined the Committee. He was brought up in Carlisle, commissioned into the Light Infantry, later transferring to the RAOC. He retired from the Army in 2010.

GEORGE told the Lion and the Dagon, "I recall visiting the Border Regiment museum in Carlisle Castle on many occasions as a youngster and now I'm delighted to be supporting Cumbria's Museum of Military Life."

NEW AMERICAN PARTNERS

WE are delighted to welcome the '34th Regiment of Foot' as an associate. The 34th are an American War of Independence reenactment group based in New York State.

MATT Zembo from the Group has contributed a fascinating article on the 34th in Ireland in the early 1770s. It will be our lead in the Spring of next year and Matt will also join us for the Military Festival next year.

THE Museum is keen to reinforce its links with other museums and heritage groups working to safeguard the memory of our regiments. If you would like to partner us please get in touch.

<peter.castra@gmail.com>



CARLISLE HISTORIC QUARTER

NEW NETWORK

"THE Historic Quarter Network, promotes the amazing area of Carlisle located between the cathedral and the castle. We want to find ways to work together with local businesses to support each other," Nick Turner, 'intro PR'.

Diary

Please check the Museum web site for any changes or additions as we emerge from lockdown.

2021

19 July, 1230-1430
Veterans lunch. All lunches will be held outdoors.

16 August, 1230-1430
Veterans lunch. All lunches will be held outdoors.

14 September
1800hrs Evening talk at the Museum: title and speaker to be confirmed, see the web site for details

Saturday, 18 September, 1830hrs
Friends of the Museum Open Evening, a chance to meet colleagues at the Museum and see new acquisitions. Friends free, their guests £5 each.

20 September, 1230-1430
Veterans lunch. All lunches will be held outdoors

Tuesday 12 October
1800hrs Evening talk, title and speaker to be confirmed

Tuesday 9 November
1800hrs Evening talk, title and speaker to be confirmed

2022

May,
King's Own Royal Border Regimental Weekend
Venue to be agreed



Cumbria's Military Festival

Saturday, 4 June, all day
Carlisle's First Military Festival

Speakers and displays at the Museum. VIP guest, Brigadier Allan Mallinson, historian and novelist, and formerly KORBR, will speak at the closing reception at 'Cakes & Ales Café', Castle Street, Carlisle.

ENDEX

A miscellany of military history, some serious, others less so, from all periods and from all countries.

COMMAND

"To command is to serve, nothing more and nothing less." - Andre Malraux, French novelist and politician

THE MILITIA 1

*"The country rings around with loud alarms,
And raw in fields the rude militia swarms;
Mouths without hands;
maintained at vast expense,
In peace a charge, in war a weak defence..."*

John Dryden 1668-1688

THE MILITIA 2



A drawing by George Townshend, 1st Marquess Townshend © National Portrait Gallery, London

WATERLOO

*Said Wellington, "What's the location
Of this battle I've won for the nation?"
They replied Waterloo
He said, "That'll do
What a glorious name for a station!"*

Frank Richards

REDCOATS

The official adoption dates from February 1645, when the English Parliament of passed the New Model Army ordinance. Red was a cheap dye and has nothing to do with hiding blood stains.

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, not by their Colonel. 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.

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.

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.

August 4 1855, Brevet Major Frederick Cockayne Elton VC, 55th Foot, Sevastopol, Crimea
"For distinguished conduct during night when in command of a working party in the advanced trenches in front of the Quarries in encouraging and inciting his men, by his example, to work under a dreadful fire..."



9 August 1915, Gallipoli, Rest in peace
2nd Lt Nowell Oxland, 6 Border and poet. Killed in action.

Picture by courtesy of The Provost and Fellows of Worcester College, Oxford.

17 September 1705. Barcelona, Colonel Hamilton's Regiment of Foot
Grenadiers from Hamilton's Regiment of Foot along with the other grenadiers of Lord Peterborough's Anglo-Dutch army, storm the bastion at Montjuïc on the south side of Barcelona, during the War of Spanish Succession.



17 - 25 September 1944. Arnhem, The Netherlands, Border Regiment
1 Border's dogged defence of the western perimeter of 1st Airborne's position at Oosterbeek during 'Operation Market Garden'.



15 September 1900 South Africa, Rest in peace
Private John Thornborrow, 1st Volunteer Service Company, The Border Regiment. Died of enteric fever (Typhoid), Pretoria, South Africa. Memorial at St Mary's Church, Kirkby Lonsdale, Kirby Lonsdale
Picture © David Green former KORBR.



October 1799, Egmont-op-Zee, The Netherlands, 55th Foot.
An Anglo-Russian army attempted to drive the French and their Dutch revolutionary Allies out of the Low Countries. Coordination with the Russians was poor and despite some successes the action as a whole was a failure.

Painting of the evacuation of British troops by Jan Anthonie Langendijkby



28 October 1811, Battle of Arroyo, 34th Regiment of Foot
During the battle the 2nd Battalion of the 34th Foot captured most of the French 34e régiment d'infanterie, including their drums and Drum Major's Staff.



1st Westmorland Rifle Volunteers, cap badge mid-19th Century



11th Battalion (Lonsdale) Border Regiment 1914-1918



34th Regiment of Foot button, 1778

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1 April-30 September
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October
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1 November to 31 March
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'The Lion & the Dragon'
Published by the Friends of Cumbria's Military Museum
Editor: Peter Green,
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Writing team: David Allardice, Ted Carter and John Conway



CUMBRIA'S
MUSEUM OF
MILITARY LIFE



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Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



Printed by
Stramontgate Press
Kendal 01539 72044