

The Lion & the Dragon

Celebrating the past whilst championing the future

Summer 2022

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



CUMBRIA'S
MUSEUM OF
MILITARY LIFE



£1 Free to Members



Carlisle's first regulars?

THEY were probably German cavalrymen.

MEN who had been on the wrong side in a civil war and whose reward was to be transferred to a remote, province by the Emperor; part of the Roman Army. Their regiment, Ala Gallorum Sebosiana had been stationed in the Rhineland, before fighting on the losing side in Italy in 69 AD. During the Roman advance into what is now Scotland, during the early 70's AD, they were stationed at Carlisle or as they knew it Lugovalium.

THE EVIDENCE?

EXCAVATIONS discovered written records, discarded over 2,000 years ago in ditches and latrine pits where BBC Cumbria now have their studios. Two refer to Ala Sebosiana. The records are on pieces of wood, as thick as heavy cartridge paper about the size of a large postcard. The deposit dates to around 120 AD, but it contains earlier material. One includes the

beginning of a word "seb...". But the more significant fragment reads:

"to [missing name] trooper of the ala Sebosiana, singularis of Agricola."

A singularis was a mounted bodyguard and Gnaeus Iulius Agricola Governor of Britain from 77-84 AD campaigned in the North. Was the trooper staying a few nights at Carlisle? Did he take the opportunity to throw away some old letters? Or had he returned to his parent unit and it was the Regiment that was clearing out its old 'paperwork'. Expert opinion is that the latter is the more likely.

OTHER tablets show that the regiment at Carlisle was a cavalry unit of around 500 men strong. There is record of a wheat and barley issue: wheat for the men, barley for their horses.

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'Lest we forget'

SITREP

2022 is a year of celebrations. Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, along with our own first Military Festival in June and Hadrian's Wall 1900th birthday.

THE Lion & the Dragon celebrates Cumbria's military past and champions its future, and in this edition we look at Roman military life, whilst carrying news of The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment and offering some Royal memories.

THE Victorians loved to compare the British and Roman Empires. It may not be helpful to draw parallels with Empires: instead let's recognise the similarities of daily life for soldiers across the ages.

Peter Green

Cumbria's Military Festival
3 & 4 June 2022 Tickets from the Museum
and Bookcases, Castle Street. Supported
by Story Contracting
STORY



A legion at Carlisle?

The fort at Carlisle is possibly too big to have housed a single cavalry regiment. There is space for an extra cohort of infantry – a further 480 men.

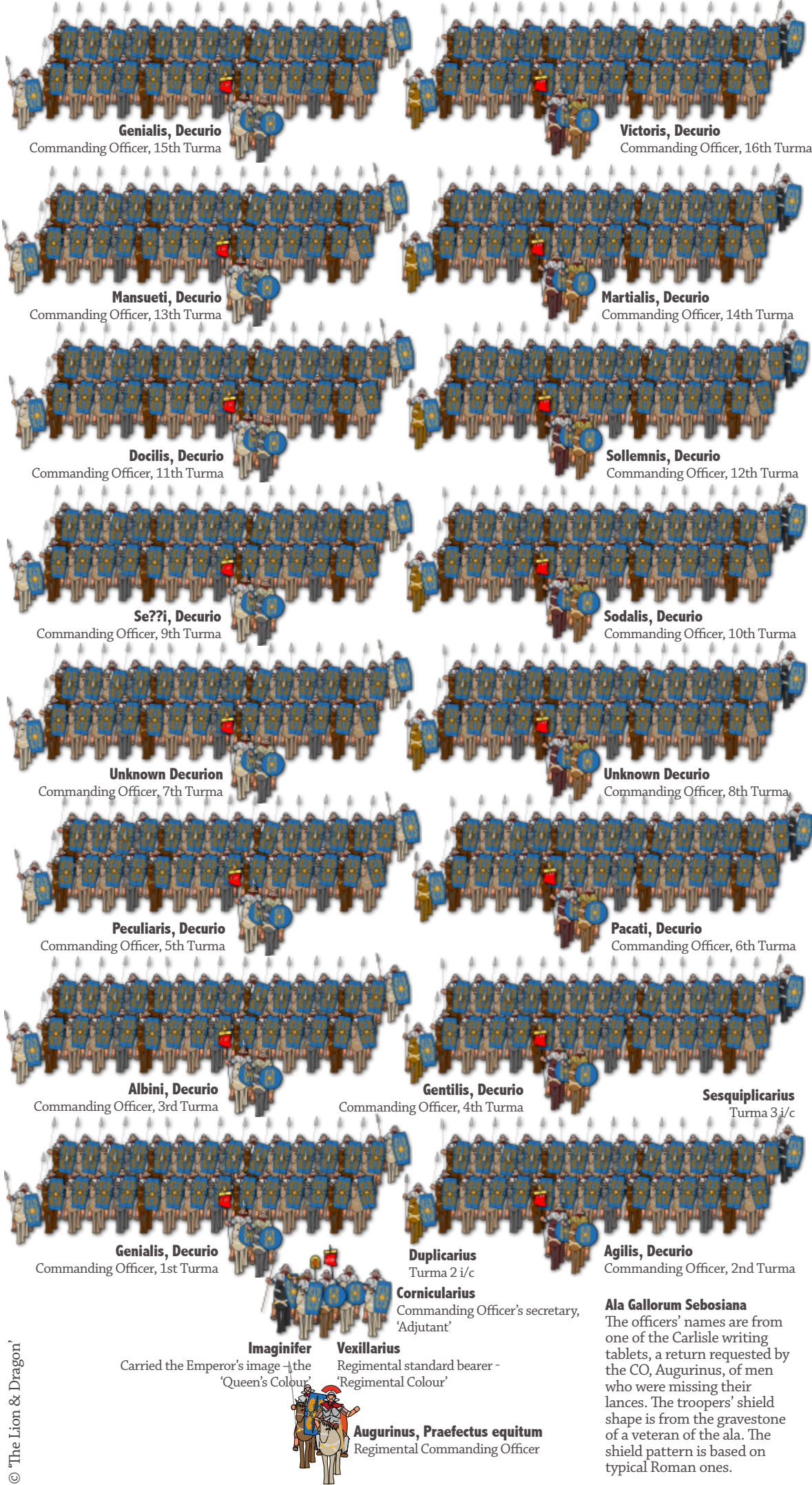
So it is possible that a legionary cohort shared the site. This was not unusual in Britain in the 70's and 80's AD. If so it could have been the legion most associated with Cerialis, the Ninth Hispana Legion.



However on a wax tablet – a tablet where the message is inscribed in a wax covering – from Carlisle a man of the XX Valeria Victrix legion, recorded his debt of 100 denarii to another man on 17 November 83 AD.

The Governor of Britain, Agricola had commanded the XXth so were they at Carlisle when the fort was built along with Ala Sebosiana?

In either case the indications are that Carlisle was a busy and important depot for the Roman Army.



REGIMENTAL HISTORY

IT all adds up to the garrison being identified as Ala Gallorum Sebosiana. The name means Ala - cavalry; Gallorum - probably raised in Gaul; and Sebosiana - raised by a man or an early commander called Sebosus.

HAVING been formed in Gaul, probably around 20 AD, the unit was transferred to the Rhineland and a fort at Worms. Roman forts were closer to regimental depots than Medieval castles. Roman policy was to dominate territory by patrolling. It was standard practice to move new units away from their origins. In the second century, units raised in Britain garrisoned forts on the German frontier. Once transferred the unit would recruit locally. Since Roman cavalryman served for 25 years, by 70 AD Sebosiana would have been manned by Germans. There is a gravestone of a trooper at Worms that reads:

'Leubius, son of Claupus, cavalryman discharged from the ala Sebosiana, lived 75 years, lies here, his son Gratus, an infantryman, did this according to his will'.

THE troop commanders on the Carlisle writing tablets have names common in German provinces, which would fit with a regiment that had spent around thirty years in the Rhineland.

THERE are striking similarities between the Roman and the British Army. Like British regiments Roman units had two colours: one regimental, the other the Monarch's. Though the latter was a sculpted image of the Emperor. Standards were accorded the same respect as those of a modern regiment and were kept in the regimental shrine. The Regiment celebrated the sovereign's (the Emperor's) birthday. And, as archaeology at Carlisle, Vindolanda and London, has shown, this was a literate Army that kept records.

FOUR EMPERORS IN ONE YEAR

IN 68 AD, with Ala Sebosiana in Upper Germany, open revolt over the behaviour of the Emperor, Nero led him to commit suicide. In the following year there would be civil war and four Emperors. In January 69 the Emperor Galba was murdered and Otho seized the throne. Within the month Aulus Vitellius the Governor of Upper Germany threw his hat into the ring. He was supported by the Army in Germany and Britain.

ALA Sebosiana was part of the German army that Vitellius took to Italy. For eight months Vitellius was Emperor, but then an army arrived supporting the claim of the Flavian, Titus Flavius Vespasianus, the Governor of Palestine. Vespasian had supported Galba and he based his bid on correcting the injustice of both Galba's successors.

WITH troops loyal to Vespasian arriving from Hungary, and the east Ala Sebosiana were posted to guard one route into north-east Italy. The Roman historian Publius Cornelius Tacitus, describes the advancing Flavians receiving a report:

"...that three cohorts of Vitellius' auxiliary infantry and a regiment of cavalry, Ala Sebosiana, were established at Forum Alieni¹, where they had constructed a bridge."

THE report also described the defenders as not being very alert. The Flavians attacked at dawn.

"Instructions have been given that only a few should be killed and the rest frightened into changing sides."

ALA Sebosiana changed sides. Titus Flavius Vespasianus, won the throne and becomes the first Flavian Emperor, Vespasian.

CHANGES IN BRITAIN

A new Emperor and a new governor, Quintus Petillius

Cerialis. Cerialis brought with him units from Vitellius's beaten army including Ala Gallorum Sebosiana and Ala Gallorum Petriana. For them a British posting was a reward for backing the losing side. The Province did not have a good reputation. Tacitus described Britain:

"The climate is objectionable, with its frequent rains and mists."

IT is unlikely to be a coincidence that both cavalry units, Petriana and Sebosiana, were placed on the two main Roman routes North: Ala Sebosiana at Carlisle and Ala Petriana in the west at Corbridge.

CERIALIS was an arch-loyalist of the Flavian regime; possibly the son-in-law of the Emperor. He had served in Britain commanding the IX Hispana legion and had narrowly escaped death, when he took a detachment of the legion to confront Boudicca, but misjudging the scale of her rebellion, the legion suffered heavy losses. Roman generals marched to towards 'the sound of the guns'.

THE historian Tacitus does not give Cerialis anything more than a grudging credit for fighting the Brigantes, the tribe living in the Pennines. Tacitus was son-in-law of Gnaeus Iulius Agricola, who arrived as Governor around 83 AD. And it is Agricola that Tacitus praises for campaigning in the north. But archaeology at Carlisle shows that the fort was established by Cerialis around 72 AD, although that its main gate was restored in 83 AD. Agricola arrived as Governor around 78 AD. Like Cerialis, he had served in Britain during Boudicca's rebellion, though Agricola had served with the XXth Legion.

NORTHERN BATTLE

SEBOSIANA were likely to have been present at Agricola's final victory somewhere between the Moray Firth and the River Tay. Tacitus calls it the battle of Mons Graupius and without a Medieval monk's copying error, we would have the Graupian Mountains in Scotland today. Tacitus's description of the battle includes:

"The Britons on the hilltops had so far taken no part in the action, and had the leisure to note the smallness of our numbers with contempt. They now began to make a slow descent and envelope are victorious rear. But Agricola had anticipated just such a move, and throwing in their path four regiments of cavalry, which he was keeping in hand for emergencies. He thus broke and scattered them ...".

SEBOSIANA's more usual combat experience would have been operations against cattle thieves and tax evaders. Full scale raids across the Northern frontier occurred, but for most soldiers they would have been exceptional.

AND THEN THEY'RE GONE

THE Regiment's name appears on a writing tablet at Vindolanda that dates from 97-105 AD and they are recorded on a gravestone near Inveresk, in the Lothians. It is another trooper on the Governor's guard, but this dates to around 160 AD, and another advance into Caledonia.

THERE is an inscription to mark their restoring the bath-house at Lancaster around 260 AD, by when they have gained the title 'Postumas' Own'. Postumas was a general who set himself up as Emperor until he was murdered in 269 AD. Presumably their new name was a temporary one

THE Regiment is not included in the late Fourth document, the Notitia Dignitatum that lists troops in the Roman Army. Perhaps they were taken to Gaul by in a bid for the throne made by another usurper. We may never know, but they can claim to have been in at the beginning of Carlisle's military heritage.

The Editor

Captions

Cover: Roman Cavalry reenactors, a collage from original images © David Friel, Licensed under Creative Commons.

Main picture: Sebosiana at full strength from around 70 AD.

In the box: A tile stamp used by the IX Hispana legion. The Legion used both IX and VIII.

Note

¹ The precise location of Forum Alieni is not known for certain. Ferrara on the River Po is one candidate.

Other sources

Cerialis A biography of Cerialis is reviewed on page 6.

Tullie House Museum Castle Street Carlisle. A permanent exhibition of significant items plus others on loan from the British Museum.

The Roman Army Museum, Greenhead, Cumbria CA8 7JB The Museum tells the story of the Roman soldier from an Empire-wide perspective through to daily life on the frontier.



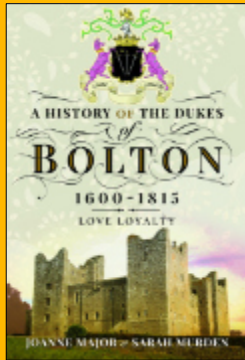
Hadrian's Wall Festival. This is the year of Hadrian's Wall 1900th birthday <<https://bit.ly/3GMuePE>>

The Bolton Family

Bolton in Yorkshire, not the one in Lancashire was the centre of the Pawlett/Paulett/Pawlet estates in the north of England.

Most of their land was in Hampshire and Dorset, where the family provided variously the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, the Governor of the Isle of Wight and Warden of the New Forest.

There's more in this recent biography of the family is a fascinating introduction to a one of our most entertaining and foremost aristocratic families.



A History of the Dukes of Bolton
Joanne Major & Sarah Murden
Pen & Sword
£25.00



IS there a link between the 55th Foot and cricket? It is possible but there are some missing connections if we are to be certain. The MCC have no information. Nor have the authors of a recent Bolton family history - reviewed on page 6.

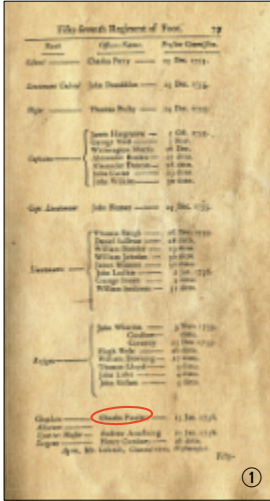
Odds on Chaplain

The editor discovers a possible link between the 55th Regiment of Foot, a gambling parson and cricket.

FIRST SOME FACTS

THE first Colonel of the Regiment, Charles Perry, was the illegitimate son of the 2nd Duke of Bolton, Charles Powlett. The family name was spelt Powlett in several ways, including Paulett, Pawlet and Pawlett.

THE first Chaplain of the Regiment was a Charles Pawlet. He is recorded in the



‘List of the General and Field Officers as they rank in the Army...to May 1756’. Pawlet is no longer Chaplain by 1767.

SOME SUPPOSITIONS

THE Reverend Charles Powlett, born 1728, was the step-nephew of Perry. He was made Deacon in 1753 and Priest in 1754. For a month of 1754 he was Chaplain to the 5th Duke of Bolton. And again for a month in 1759 he was the 6th Duke’s Chaplain.

THEN there is a gap in records until 1769 when he becomes the Vicar of Kingsclere in Hampshire, where the Powlett family were major landowners.

COUNTRY PARSON

HE was a leading sponsor of early cricket (and gambling) at Hambledon Cricket Club. Eighteenth Century Parsons were more likely to hunt and gamble than take Bible classes, indeed they often employed

others to take services.

THE Oxford Dictionary of National Biography describes Reverend Charles Powlett as

“...first entering the army and then the church.”

SO WAS HE?

WAS Pawlett of the 55th also the Powlett of Hambledon? The different spellings of the name are not a problem, the family used several versions. It was not unusual for Chaplains to be relatives of the Colonel.

AND the gaps in Charle’s religious appointments match the 55th’s Chaplain, Pawlett’s time in North America.

AN INTERESTING LIFE

CHARLES’ mother Lavinia Fenton was the actress who played ‘Polly Peachum’ in the first production of ‘The Beggar’s Opera’ in 1728.

IN 1754 when his father died the title passed to his uncle Harry Powlett. Charles having been born before his father married Lavinia in 1751.

CHARLES was parson, squire and sportsman, that is



he hunted and gambled. His parishes were near Hambledon, an important early cricket club. At the time the nobility saw cricket as an opportunity to gamble.

CHARLES was part of the Committee that revised the ‘articles’ of cricket in 1774. For the first time these stipulated the width of the bat and introduced the lbw law.

CROOKED

GAMBLING was a large part of cricket for Charles. His most outrageous gambling incident was in 1775. Hambledon played an ‘All England’ team. Charles and friends switched their bets from Hambledon to All England, who were looking the better side, then as the home team recovered, Hambledon were instructed to lose the match.

DEREK Birley, author of ‘A social history of English Cricket’, describes Powlett and his moneyed friends as “utterly crooked”.

IS it enough to link the 55th with cricket? Maybe , but a fascinating, maybe.

PICTURES of some of the Regiment’s Royal heritage to mark Her Majesty the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee .



Right Royal

Some of the Regiment’s Royal connections



FROM the top: when Her Majesty the Queen visited Carlisle during her Silver Jubilee in 1978 the 1st Battalion provided a Guard of Honour. In 1958, she attended the City’s 800th anniversary celebrations and the 4th Battalion provided the Guard of Honour.

THE Regiment undertook London Duties in 1966 the first time since 1907.

IN March 1944 King George VI visited the 1st Battalion at Woodhall Spa.

KING George and Queen Mary at Edenside in 1917.

GENERAL STUFF.

FOR the first half of the 20th Century, the British Infantryman carried variations of the Short Magazine Lee Enfield (SMLE) Rifle, ranging from the Mk1, the backbone of the British Infantry in WW1, to the No1 Mk3. It derived from the earlier Magazine Lee Enfield (MLE). It fired a .303in round with terrific accuracy courtesy of its long barrel and excellent sights, both battle and leaf. The No4 Mk1 was accepted into service in 1931.

THE .303in round was also used by the RAF in the Hurricane and Spitfire fighters as well as the turreted guns in such aircraft as the Lancaster and the Defiant. It was not the same round. The RAF round used a different propellant.



Designed in 1948, it was trialled in 1951 but only 55 were produced. It lost the NATO Standardisation battle that saw us move to 7.62x51mm (NATO) round. There was a sniper variant of the Mk4, which was retained as a re-barrelled 7.62x51mm variant – the L42A1.

TECHNICAL

THE No4 Mk1 had a short bolt meaning that the

(Vickers belt-fed), despite being .303in, fired the Mk8z round.

BUT, you ask, why did we retain a bolt action rifle when our American allies had gas operated semi-automatics throughout WW2! Their M1 30.06in Garand held a clip of 8 rounds but could not be reloaded until the clip of 8 was finished. Their .30in M1 Carbine weighed 5.8lbs loaded and had a 15 or 30 round magazine accurate out to 300yds. Never understood why we didn’t buy the Garand, except that we had shedloads of .303in ammo!

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

WHEN I joined the Cumberland Army Cadet Force in 1965 in Carlisle, I was taught to handle and fire the No4 Rifle. I started full-bore shooting at Wan Fell Range east of Plumpton off the A6 just north of Penrith. I was a good shot even though the rifle was almost as long as I was tall.



I did compete at Bisley and won a ‘Cadet 100 Badge’. The only down-side was that we used flannelette for ear-defenders – I had tinnitus before I joined the Army in 1970! I loved the No4 Rifle.

WHAT’S that you say? Speak up!

ALLAN Mallinson joined the Regiment in 1969 and was Regimental Signal Officer and commanded Chindit Company for a year before he was lured away to the 13/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary’s Own). He served with the KORBR in Northern Ireland, Malaysia, Cyprus and Germany, and played rugby for the Regiment.

Brigadier Allan Mallinson

The Military Festival’s celebrity speaker.



HIS last Service appointment was as Military Attaché in Rome. Brigadier Mallinson began writing whilst still serving – a history of the regiments that made up the new Light Dragoon Regiment formed in 1992.

HE has written several revisionist histories of the First World War. ‘1914: Fight the Good Fight’ won the British Army’s ‘Book of the Year’ Award. Its sequel, ‘Too Important for the Generals’ examines British strategy, the leadership of the British Army, and alternatives to the blood letting on the Western Front.

HIS series of historical novels follows the career of a fictional cavalry officer, Matthew Hervey. In ‘The Tigress of Mysore’ Hervey contemplates his future whilst looking at the memorial* to the commanding officer of the 55th Foot killed during the Coorg War in 1834.

Military Festival
June 2022

Captions

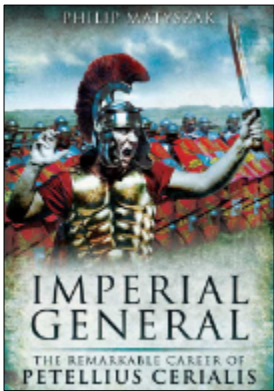
1. The Army List of 1756, with the 57th not yet renumbered to the 55th, following the disaster at Oswego.
2. Lavinia Fenton, later Duchess of Bolton, the Chaplain’s mother? Painted by Charles Jervas (1675?-1739) and not by Hogarth as written on the picture
3. An 18th Century cricket match played by American reenactors, with underarm bowling and two very short stumps. Thank you the ‘4th Coy Brigade of Guards’, © Gregory Starace
4. Short Magazine Lee Enfield (SMLE) Rifle No4 Mk1
5. EM2 Photo @N.R. Jenzen-Jones/Armament Research Services (ARES)
6. L85 A2 with Elcan LDS and 2009 upgrade
7. David Allardice and his ‘Cadet 100 Badge’
8. Brigadier Allan Mallinson.



* The Memorial of Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Mill, 55th Foot, in Madras Cathedral.

Book shelf

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



Imperial General: The Remarkable Career of Petellius Cerialis
Philip Matyszak
Pen & Sword Military
£25.00

CERIALIS is one of the few Imperial Roman officers whose career it is possible to follow in detail. A mixture of Black Adder and hero.

HE was in Britain when Boudicca's revolt erupted and he marched to confront her. He lost most of his force and narrowly escaped with his own skin intact. In 69 AD, the infamously tumultuous 'year of the four emperors', he was in Rome, the seat of conspiracy.

WHEN his uncle, decided to make his own bid for the imperial purple (he was to become the fourth emperor that year), Cerialis' life was at risk of being killed as a traitor and had to escape from the city to join his uncle. A short while later he was commanding a force on the Rhine when the Batavian mutiny broke out. This time he only escaped death because he was in bed with a local girl rather than in his own tent.



History's waiting room

Extracts from original copies of 'The Lion and the Dragon', in this case from 1991

EDITORIAL

I have deliberately delayed my contribution to the magazine until we were certain of the outcome of operation Granby. What wonderful news the victory has been, coupled with the fact that the coalition achieve the aim with a minimum of casualties. ... Serving in the Gulf was our regimental band in their medical role, and I know that there is more news of their activities in this magazine. It is certainly a unique moment in regimental life as they could return to Colchester with more medals than the rest of us.

A NOTE FROM YOUR BAND IN THE SAND

ALL bandsman are well and dreaming of Colchester. The past 15 weeks I've gone very well with much time spent training on both medical and NBC roles. After an initial two weeks in Saudi Arabia serving with 33 General Hospital we moved to Bahrain to join 22 Field Hospital, a unit used to quick deployment having often being part of the International Red Cross assistance to disaster areas throughout the world.

1ST BATTALION EDITORIAL

WE live in curious, volatile and challenging times. History is in the making of the peoples of Eastern Europe, the USSR and the Middle East question their future. A new world order is in inevitable; and yet I wonder whether options for change will be any further forward by the time you browse these notes.

To the Editor

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



COLOURS?

WHY do the Border Regiment colours on the Regimental tie and the Regimental plaque include purple? Several people have asked.

[The purple colour appeared after 1881 on Border Regimental ties, blazers, etc and was possibly introduced to be more distinctive, because other post-1881 regiments had green and yellow as their colours. Though why the 55th got broader stripes than the 34th is still unknown - Ed]

FROM FACEBOOK

I thought you might be interesting to see this image of the headstone of William Coffey VC DCM who is buried in Spital Cemetery, Chesterfield.

Steven Henman
Commonwealth War Grave
Commission Volunteer



Still serving

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



FALKLANDS

ANZIO Company, 1st Battalion, is currently deployed as the Resident Infantry Company in the Falkland Islands.



ROUGH DRIVING

THE Motor Transport Platoon of 4th Battalion have been brushing up on their off-road driving skills on Catterick's Training area.



CONGRATULATIONS

OFFICER Cadet Dunn has been awarded top student and top shot on the Combat Infantryman Course (Res). She wanted to complete CIC and gain experience before she attends the Regular Commissioning Course later this year.

Museum, Friends and Supporters

News from those who proudly support our heritage in Cumbria and beyond.

MUSEUM NEWS

WE are gradually getting back on track, and the Museum Events programme is slowly reopening after two years of restrictions. Attendance at our Veterans' Lunches are increasing. Jess is developing our family programme for 2022, schools are slowly taking up our education offer and we are currently recruiting speakers for the relaunch of our ever-popular Tuesday Talks programme.

THE talk in September 2022 will kick-start our 90th birthday celebrations and plans are afoot to use this anniversary as an opportunity to raise our profile and widen engagement. Further details of our birthday plans will be in the next magazine.

LONG-term, we are seeking funding for a collections care audit which will assess our storage to inform part of a five-year collections plan and prepare us for Accreditation in 2024. As we incorporate new items into the Museum, we need to maximise space and ensure collections are stored correctly.

BEQUEST

WE are extremely grateful for the recent bequest from the Todhunter Estate. Mr Todhunter's father served in the Border Regiment during the First World War and his kindness will have a long-lasting impact. It enables us not only to care and conserve our collections but enhance our education service and share our history through exhibitions and events.

LEGACIES and bequests can really make a difference to the Museum and help protect

our heritage for future generations to enjoy. Please contact the Museum if you would like to find out more.

THANK YOU FRIENDS

WE would like to thank the Friends for their recent contribution towards some bespoke conservation-grade shelving which will enable us to consolidate our framed items within the collection.



WORK AT THE CASTLE

ENGLISH Heritage are undertaking major conservation work and scaffolding is enveloping the Keep as conservators work to protect the building. The Museum is working with English Heritage to ensure that the visitor experience is not affected.



MUSEUM BEER

THE latest of the Museum's beers has arrived! £3.50 for a 500ml bottle.



9 BORDER MEMORIAL EVENT

THERE will be an 9 Border memorial event and formal unveiling of Harlequin's repaired gravestone on 25 May 2022 at the Compton Croquet Club, Eastbourne. Anyone able to get to Eastbourne will be made very welcome.

CLEANING the gravestone showed that it was white Carrara Marble that had been painted white!

OBITUARY LT-COL. THOMAS THOMPSON TD MA 1931-2022

TOM was born in Carlisle, educated at Rickerby Park and St. Bees Schools and Corpus Christie College, Oxford where he read law. He qualified as a Lawyer and later worked for the family construction firm in Carlisle, Michael Thompson Ltd. He also maintained a strong interest in farming and wildlife conservation.

HE joined the Royal Artillery for his National Service, was commissioned in July 1950 and then served in the TA until 1969, with 251st (Westmoreland & Cumberland Yeomanry) Field Regiment RA TA, and its successor from 1961, 851st (Westmoreland & Cumberland Yeomanry) Independent Battery RA TA. Promoted Major in 1963, he commanded 851st until it was disbanded in 1967 and absorbed into the 4th Battalion The Border Regiment TA, which Tom commanded until disbandment in 1969; he was the last surviving CO of a Border Regiment Battalion. In 1966, he was awarded the Territorial Decoration (TD).



TOM'S strong interest in military history, the Gunners, Cumbria's County Regiment and its Museum was reflected in his two books, published by the Museum in 2007 and 2020 - "With the Cumberland Artillery in The Great War - The Papers of Lt-Col. Dan Mason DSO TD of Workington" and "Fifty-First Field - The Story of the 51st Field Regiment RA (Westmoreland & Cumberland Yeomanry)" in WW2. Tom passed away on 18th February 2022 and leaves a widow Alison and daughter Mary, to whom we extend our condolences.

Diary

Events at the Museum and elsewhere that affect the Regimental Family.

6-8 May, weekend

Regimental Weekend. The event is open to all serving and former members of The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment and its antecedent Regiments.

11 May, Monday

Fontenoy Day, Regimental anniversary, 34th Foot

25 May Wednesday, 1500 hrs

9th Battalion The Border Regiment, 1915, memorial event, Compton Croquet Club, Saffrons, Eastbourne.



3-4 June Friday and Saturday

Vehicle displays and reenactors at the Museum

4 June, Saturday

Speakers and displays in the Museum. Headline speaker is Brigadier Allan Mallinson, historian, novelist and former KORBR officer. Allan's theme is "Why dwell on the past?"

Talks will be ticket only, but will include access to the Museum. Discount for Friends. Ticket options and prices on the Museum web site.



3 September, Saturday

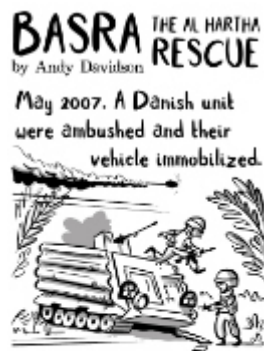
4th Battalion Reunion, at the Museum, Duke of Lancaster's Regiment and all antecedent regiments, more from Mark English <m.english@live.co.uk>

28 October

Arroyo Day, Regimental anniversary, 34th Foot.

And almost finally

Memories of Regimental life by Alex Paterson, former KORBR.



The Danes escaped to a building but were trapped under heavy fire.



The 2 LANCs ops room were tasked to extract them.



Into battle went BLENHEIM Company in 14 warriors. As soon as they left camp they came under heavy fire from all directions. But they set up a cordon and sent in a platoon to rescue the Danes



The Kingsmen took up position and put down heavy fire before moving in to pull out the trapped soldiers.



The Danes were bundled into the Warriors, the whole company still under fire.



One Dane was killed but all the Kingsmen returned safely.

illustrated by Alex Paterson

ENDEX

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

ENEMY SPAM

Asino Mòrto – ‘Dead Donkey’, WW2 Italian issue tinned beef. Its German nickname was ‘alt mann.’ The names came from the "AM" stamp on the cans – “amministrazione militare”.



GENERAL 'RIP VAN' CREALOCK

Major-General Henry Crealock, who when leading the 1st Division in the Zulu War in 1879 took 10 hours to cover 3 miles.

OLD NOLL

"A few honest men are better than numbers." Oliver Cromwell



HADRIAN'S WALL IN ROME

“THIS stone from Hadrian's wall the northernmost boundary of the ancient Roman Empire was placed here at the wish of the citizens of Carlisle, England, in commemoration of the Cumbrian servicemen who died during the Second World War.”

Inscription in the Commonwealth War Grave, Rome

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 were combined with 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.

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.

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

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



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

The decisive battle of the Peninsular War that saw the end of the French occupation of Spain. *Picture by Heath & Sutherland, A.S.K. Brown collection. Creative Commons*



June 1918, Piave, Italy, 2nd Battalion Border Regiment

The Piave River was the last major offensive by the Austrians. Defeat led the collapse of morale in the Austrian army. The Border Regiment was part an Anglo-French contribution to the Italian Army.

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

The citation: "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."

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.

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

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

20 July 1758 Fort Niagara, North America



Colonel John Prideaux of the 55th dies in 1759 during the siege and capture of Fort Niagara. He walked in front of a mortar as it was fired. *Creative Commons Attribution-Share*



23 July 1916 Rest in Peace

Private W F Taylor (Number: 15942), 1 Border, Mailly Wood Cemetery, France. Husband of L V Gillian (formerly Taylor) Glasgow.

Information

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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

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Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

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