

# The Lion & the Dragon

Celebrating the past whilst championing the future

Winter 2022

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



CUMBRIA'S  
MUSEUM OF  
MILITARY LIFE

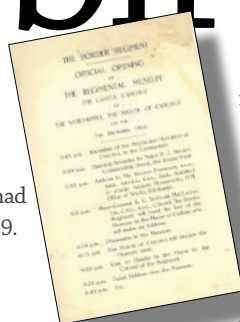


£2 Free to Members



## The Museum's 90th birthday

THE establishment of a Regimental Museum at the Border Regiment Depot in Carlisle Castle was largely driven by the First World War and the large number of men who had served in the Regiment between 1914 and 1919. There were two principal reasons for having a museum – firstly, to preserve and promote the history of the Regiment to past and present



members of the Regiment and their families especially new recruits. Secondly, for years the Castle had been accessible to the public as a 'tourist attraction.' The Regiment, with its Cumberland and Westmorland connections, was part of this history.

IN 1929 the Office of Works (now Historic England) offered the Regiment two rooms in the Castle

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'ENDEX'  
'Lest we forget'

### SITREP

THE Museum will celebrate its 90th birthday in December. For our special birthday edition we have increased to 12 pages. Stuart Eastwood reviews of the Museum's past, whilst others provide ideas for the future.

AND more obviously for this special edition only we have used the 55th Foot's Green, because colour is another theme of this edition. There are articles by Mike Rosling about Kendall Green and its significance to the 55th; the 34th's original grey colour facings; and 1 Border's maroon berets.

ENJOY!

Peter Green

Museum 90th Birthday  
special 12 page edition





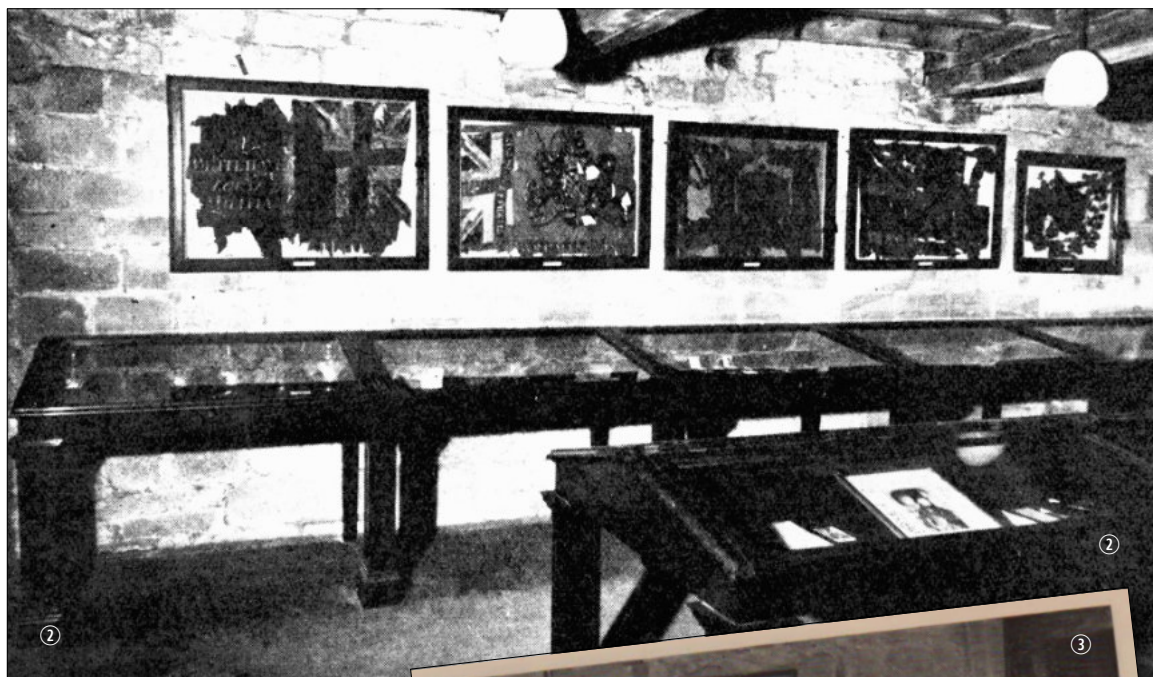
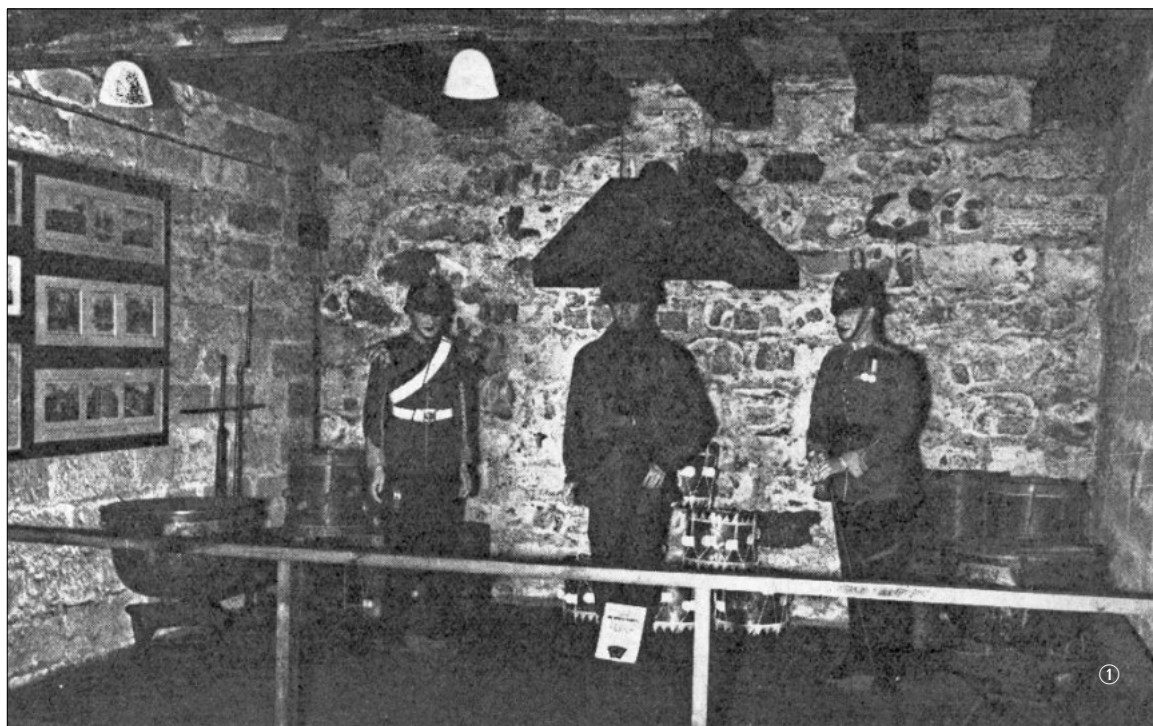
## A history of Museums

Until 17th century, the word 'Museum' was a name for collections of curiosities such as John Tradescant's collection in Lambeth.



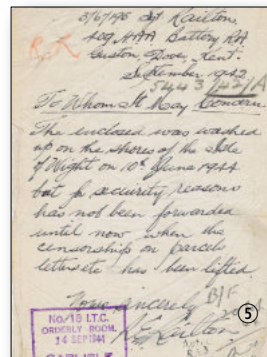
When Tradescant's collection became the property of Elias Ashmole in 1677, it was moved to the University of Oxford and a building especially built for it.

The building was opened for public in 1683 and was named the 'Ashmolean Museum'. This is often considered to be the first time that a 'museum', that is a collection, was open to public. It marks the moment when museum starts being an institution not just a collection.



Keep for displays. A request for suitable objects, archive material and photographs was made in the Regimental Old Comrades (OCA) Association Newsletter. Additional support was received from the city and military material from Tullie House Museum. The Office of Works provided display cases and funds were raised by the Regiment and OCA. A junior officer from the Depot staff acted as Curator. On Wednesday 7th December 1932, the Mayor of Carlisle, Mr. H. Atkinson, officially opened the Museum. In his remarks he reflected on both the Regiment and the Castle and their value to the heritage of the City and County.

In 1934 a Trust was created for the collections and a Museum Committee formed, comprising of the OC Regimental



In 1971, Colonel Ralph May was appointed the Curator and took on the creation of a new Museum re-located in Queen Mary's Tower, in the Inner Ward of the Castle. It was officially re-opened by Colonel Sir John Burgess OBE TD DL on 24th August 1973, largely due to the interest and support from Major-General Val Blomfield CB DSO Chairman of the Trustees and his successor Brigadier Charles Breese CBE (1971-1982). The Museum Trust became a Registered Charity and updated its Trust Deed and became Cumbria's Military Museum, its remit being to preserve and promote not only the history of The Border Regiment and its predecessors 1702-1959, but also from 1959 that of the new Regiment, plus other local Territorial, and Volunteer units. Its role within the Regiment was

greatly enhanced when the Depot, an officer from the home Battalion and one from the overseas Battalion serving at the Depot. By 1939, the Museum occupied rooms on both the first and second floors of the Keep. At the outbreak of the Second World War, the collections were put into storage at the Depot, though items continued to be donated to the Museum, including the famous Champagne Bottle with its message thrown overboard by officers of 6 Border en route to Normandy in June 1944.

AFTER the War a strong effort was made to obtain items from that recent conflict. The role of Curator was filled in 1947 by Lt-Col Mac "Pop" Smyth, who also became the Regimental Secretary. Between 1964 and 1970 the role was filled by Assistant Regimental Secretaries Major Tony Pakenham and Major Tommy Purdham MBE.

In October 1959 the Regimental Depot closed following the amalgamation of the Border Regiment with the King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) to form the King's Own Royal Border Regiment. The overall responsibility for the Castle passed from the War Office (Ministry of Defence from 1964) to the Ministry of Works with several buildings being retained for Military use. However, following two robberies in May and December 1970, the Museum in the Keep closed, and the collections were put into store.

greatly enhanced when the Regimental Headquarters moved to the Castle from Lancaster; one of its roles being the provision of administrative support for the Museum.

THE new Museum made an enormous contribution to the Castle as a tourist attraction. Ralph May ably supported by his wife Bridget, a team of NADFAS and other volunteers did a tremendous amount of work with the original collections. In 1992, he was succeeded by Stuart Eastwood. The Museum developed further and collecting continued in earnest to fill significant gaps in the collections, especially uniform, kit, and equipment of the ordinary soldier right up to the present day, making the collection one of the best of any infantry regimental museum. The Museum developed further and by 2005, the staff team of curator and two custodians had increased with the appointment of an assistant curator and part-time assistant.

By the mid-1990's the museum lacked space, and



## Captions

Cover. A picture inside the Museum in the 1950s, with two triangular Chinese war banners 1841-2.

Inset. The programme of the opening of the Museum. Five minutes for speeches!

1. and 2. The Museum in the 1950s.

3. Colonel 'Pop' Smyth with senior visitors.

4. and 5. The D-Day Champagne Bottle thrown overboard by 6Border on their way to Normandy and the letter from its finders on the Isle of Wight.

6. More famous than the champagne.

7. The creation of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment caused worries in Carlisle about the Museum's then home.

8. A caricature of Mac 'Pop' Smyth drawn in the First War. Smyth was our Curator in 1947.

9. The Castle Custodian 1890s, with cannon balls.

10. Postcards replace cannon balls in the 20C.

11. Irving Ferguson, Museum Assistant, 1980. Irving served in the 1st and 2nd Battalion.

12. The Duke of Gloucester, with Major Tony Farrant and Colonel Ralph May.

13. Ralph May worked with Nigel Holmes Radio Carlisle on a series on the history of the Border Regiment.



The Museum was created to oversee the heritage of The Border Regiment and its antecedents the 34th and the 55th Foot. With the creation of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment, this was extended to the new Regiment in the future, and its antecedents via The Border Regiment.

The Museum has also extended its coverage of all things military in Cumbria, including the Militia, the Yeomanry and Voluntary Units.

The most obvious sign of this is the 25pdr gun outside Alma Block, a memory of the 51st Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, which was the successor unit to the Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry.



the facilities, and environmental conditions prevented further development of the Museum. English Heritage (EH) and the Museum Trustees agreed that the Museum should move out of Queen Mary's Tower to one of the former military buildings in the Outer Ward. This would enable the Museum to have the space it required to provide better access to its collections and develop its services. Moreover, such a move would increase the tourist potential of the site.

ALMA Block was selected as the most suitable building after the relocation of the County Archives service. Staff and Trustees began the long and detailed process of putting the project together, including the raising of substantial funds, which involved a successful two-stage bid to the NW Region of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Despite external building work delays by English Heritage, museum staff, volunteers, and contractors, in a phenomenal effort from



April 2014, completed most of the internal work. The Museum opened in Alma Block on 14th October 2014.

THE Museum has now grown as a business, reflected in the work done by staff, trustees and volunteers to increase and develop the collections and its income. Currently, the Museum Staff team led by Jules Wooding, who took over from Stuart Eastwood as Museum Manager in 2020, Nick Hazelwood, Angela Irwin, and Matt Lund, together with the Trustees led by Andrew Dennis and with the support of volunteers are taking the Museum forward and building on the success and achievements of the last decade. The Museum owed a great deal to Assistant Curator Tony Goddard who sadly died in 2021.

Stuart Eastwood, former Curator,  
Cumbria's Museum of Military Life

Jules Wooding, Museum Manager and some of her colleagues look into the Museum's future.



WITH our forthcoming birthday, it has been good to reflect on our journey over the last 90 years. The pandemic was a good opportunity to take time to pause and reflect, to ensure we are heading in the right direction. But what of the future?

THE Museum has a good foundation put in place by previous curators, with a wonderful collection of objects, archives, and photographs. We are currently on the next stage of our journey to become more resilient, ensuring we have the skills to continue to look after the collections well into the future.

THE staff are dedicated to bringing the collections alive with a programme of engagement through temporary exhibitions, talks, workshops, and school sessions. To help us, we have been joined this year by Jessica Latham as Learning and Access Assistant, her role to focus on schools and families.

WE are passionate about sharing the stories of ordinary people doing extraordinary things' with visitors to the Museum, the local community, and the military family. As the Army's footprint in the local area reduces in size and the local infantry regiment becomes more specialist, it is important to keep that local connection.

WE want to be creative,  
innovative, financially

sustainable, and continue to develop the collections to make them more accessible.

AS a museum, it is our duty to preserve and conserve our military heritage, to remember the past and keep the stories alive through displays, exhibitions, events, and activities. To showcase the present and look forward to the future. We value your support to help us do this and look forward to the next 90 years.



I suspect that the museum will have to become more technology orientated with less footfall from visitors and more having to present the items in a virtual world. I think that we will have to photograph digitally all the exhibits and the stored items to be arranged as required in for example an arranged virtual tour of the Glider Borne aspects of our history e.g. Arnhem including the landscape & battle grounds. Computer guided tours will replace volunteer led tours. Younger people today are not keen on static displays and need to have activity to keep their interest. The education side will remain popular but will need more activity-based learning as a consequence.

THE Friends will remain in action with a different team on the committee. There will always be the need for additional funds to purchase the historical items as they appear on the market.

such as medals or repairs to existing items like pictures. We will by then have found the money tree as used by the chancellor so fund raising will be of course a lot easier – in my dreams!

FUND raising will become no more easier and membership will be as difficult to attract as it is now as the wars & peace actions recede further into the past becoming of less interest to the general population.

WE will continue with regular committee meetings either by zoom or equivalent or face to face and social functions to keep members interested.



I am expressing my views here, not those of the Carlisle Branch of the Regimental Association. What I would like to see on the 100th Anniversary of the Museum? So here goes!

DISCOUNT for Friends  
when buying second-hand  
books.

FREE coffee as a 'Life Member'.

A room with IT allowing access to the fully digitised archives. I would happily pay for the privilege of searching the archive.

BETTER use made of the upstairs rooms – whatever else I think, the ground floor is still the Border Regiment Museum.

MORE display space allocated to other Arms and Services from Cumbria – but not at the expense of the Border and King's Own Border displays. Perhaps the Museum could make some use of the cavernous wasted space within the Castle Keep!

If not, perhaps it should  
revert to being The Border  
Regiment Museum!

AND to be alive to see it!



BY 2032, I'd like to see the Museum in more networks of Museums and societies across the North West and around the World, wherever the Regiment and its antecedents served.

AT the same time the Museum must continue to be a centre of research excellence; a thriving hub supporting veterans; and a focal point for young people of all ages who want to serve their communities.

FOR the Friends, I'd like to see groups for those of us outside Cumbria. And an increase in membership to over 200, with members including anyone with an interest in the social and military history of Cumbria. Sorry Mike Rosling more work for you, but of course they would all pay their subs by direct debit!

AND on a lighter note I agree with David Allardice – free coffee, though I might not benefit from it very often, down here in Wiltshire!



### Places and colours

Green has several place name variants. Lincoln Green, is a colour beloved by myth and Hollywood. In the 21st Century it might have been © Robin Hood Inc.

Lincoln Green is neither dark nor light; a mid-Green with more yellow than blue.

Brunswick Green, a slightly dark middle green, was named after the German town, was registered as a colour in the UK in 1764.

Any other green geographic colours?

WITH formation of the Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment in 2006 the last visible uniform links with the 55th (Westmorland) Regiment disappeared, whilst their battle honours including the ‘Dragon’ superscribed ‘China’ were carried forward on the new regiment’s colours, the Dragon and China button worn by the regiment since 1881 and the Kendal green mess kit waist coat where discontinued.

and sharing a depot with the 34th they looked for some local connection and ‘tweaked’ their facing colour<sup>1</sup>. FOLLOWING the Childers and Caldwell army reforms and the merger of the 34th (Cumberland) Regiment and the 55th (Westmorland) Regiment in 1881 into the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the The Border Regiment, the uniforms and badges become standardised, the officers mess kit featured the scarlet

on the side cap read ‘Side Cap Border Regt Pattern, Kendal Green’. FOLLOWING the 1959 amalgamation with the Kings Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) to form the Kings Own Royal Border Regiment the mess kit jacket became the Lancastrian Brigade pattern, plain scarlet lapels and cuffs piped in white for officers and plain scarlet un-piped for Senior NCO’s, however the waist coat remained ‘Kendal Green’ for both and remained as such until 2006 and the creation of the Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment when the royal blue facings and waist coat where adopted.

**SHAKESPEARE**  
SO what was ‘Kendal Green’? Kendal was known from the middle ages and well in to Tudor times for the processing and production of woollen cloth, in particular a greyish green shade known as ‘Kendal Green’. In Shakespeare’s Henry IV, Sir John Falstaff claims that:

*"But, as the devil would have it, three misbegotten knaves in Kendal green came at my back and let drive at me; for it was so dark, Hal, that thou couldst not see thy hand."*

CERTAINLY a statute of Richard II of about 1380 refers to the cloth being sold to ‘poor and mean people’ so the cloth was known by name at least nearly 200 years before Shakespeare wrote his play, and was obviously a cheap hard wearing material well suited to the working man.

TOWN motto of ‘Pannus Mini Panis’ (Cloth is my Bread sometimes translated as Wool is my Bread) underlines the importance of the industry to the town in this period.

**WOAD AND ARCHERS**  
THE colour was achieved by mixing woad (blue) (shades of ancient Britons) and dyers broom (yellow), which produced a coarse

green cloth which was very similar in texture to Harris tweed, there are a number of urban myths attached to the history of the cloth as allegedly archers from Kendal and Westmorland wore the cloth at the Battle of Agincourt. The colour does not appear in any Scottish tartan, again allegedly because, at the battle of Flodden Field in 1513, there was a large contingent of Kendal and Westmorland archers who made a major contribution to the English victory, resulting in numerous losses to the Scottish aristocracy including two Abbots, two Bishops, twelve Earls and the King, James IV, whose body, when identified had amongst many wounds, two made by arrows.

**STILL IN STYLE**  
LOCALLY the firm of papermakers James Cropper Ltd who were established in 1845 are based on the same site where 500 years ago the cloth was processed, in 2018 they produced a line of paper



called ‘Kendal Green’.

THE pupils at the boys Grammar School (founded 1525) and the girls High School (founded 1888) both wore blazers in Kendal Green, and after being combined in 1979 to form Kirbie Kendal School they continued to wear this colour blazer, the town mayors’ attendants also wear a uniform in Kendal Green.

JUST a small footnote in history but one with a big regimental connection.

Mike Rosling



## The Grey of the 34th Foot

The editor investigates the 34th Foot’s original grey facings

THE first contemporary picture of the 34th Regiment of Foot dates from 1742. It shows a man in a red coat with yellow coat cuffs, lapels and coat lining.<sup>2</sup> It is the first image that we have of what almost 150 years later would become the 1st Battalion, The Border Regiment. It shows that the coats lining at the time was yellow, making the Regiment’s facings yellow.

YELLOW was to be so closely associated with the Regiment that today it forms part of the Museum’s corporate identity. But yellow has not always been the Regimental colour.

**THE GREY OF LORD LUCAS’S REGIMENT**  
JUST after Lord Lucas’s Regiment was established in August 1702, a notice appeared in the London Gazette offering an award for a drummer who had deserted

Hospital of Valencia have the Regiment having a darker grey facings. Is it possible that the hospital was recording weather-worn, dirty, uniforms? Even if this is the case the grey can not be confused with yellow.

THE 34th and other Regiments were disbanded after peace with France in 1713. But new threats led the Regiment to be revived in 1715, again under Thomas Chudleigh.

**PICK YOUR OWN**  
UNTIL the mid-18C Colonels were allowed to pick the colour of their regiments facings. For example on 15 November 1733 Colonel Kane 9th Foot was given leave to change his regiment’s facings from bright green to bright orange “to show his respect for the house of Orange.”

FROM 1723-1731 the 34th were in Gibraltar under siege or in the Caribbean, in both cases struggling to survive either against Spanish artillery or tropical disease. And from March 1731 to January 1732 the Regiment had no Colonel. Neither seem likely times, when the Regiment would have altered its uniforms.

**CHUDLEIGH OR CORNWALLIS FOR YELLOW?**  
THE Cavendish’s racing colours are yellow, which suggests 1738 and Lord Jame’s time as Colonel, however in Lord James’s time the Cavendish’s silks were not yellow, but blue. Chudleigh’s reforming of the Regiment in 1715 is one likely date, but so is 1732 when Cornwallis rebuilt the Regiment after time in the West Indies.

WILL we ever knew for certain? Unless a picture surfaces or some correspondence appears, it is possible that we may not.

Peter Green

WE have a sacred duty to remember those who died in-service of the current and former Regiments that bear our history, whether Regular, Territorial/Reserve Forces or Cadets that carry our badge and heritage.

## Page-turning ceremony

David Allardice describes the simple yet moving, ceremony that takes place each month at Carlisle Cathedral.

THE Regiment maintains three historical books that list the names of those who ‘fell’ serving The Border Regiment from 1914 to 1959 (Books 1 and 2), as well as The King’s Own Royal Border Regiment from 1959 to 2005 and The Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment from 2005 to now (Book 3).

BOOKS 1 and 2 list the ‘fallen’ in alphabetical order by Battalion (of The Border Regiment) from World War 1 and 2, whilst Book 3 is ordered by date of ‘passing’. The Books are housed in specially designed display cabinets within the Regimental Chapel in Carlisle Cathedral.



THE names are read by Members of the Carlisle Branch of the Regimental Association and the Ceremony usually takes place on the last Friday of every month at 11am. Visitors are most welcome to attend. In a simple yet dignified event, our Readers say, ‘Let us remember before God’ before reading out a page of names from each Book, and finish with, ‘May they rest in peace, Amen’.

David Allardice

### Caption

*1. A reenactor in the reversed facings of a drummer portraying a member of a British regiment with green facings, circa 1770. Perhaps a little too pale for Kendal Green?*

*2. Croppers of Kendal use Kendal Green in their corporate identity.*

*3. A print of Charles Stadden's water colour of an officer in Lord Lucas's Regiment of Foot, from the Museum's Collection.*

*4. The page turning ceremony, Carlisle Cathedral*

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> *The Northampton Mercury, 9 February 1756 gave the facing colours for all 10 new Regiments. Perry’s, ie the 57th and soon to be 55th are described as ‘dark green’. The ‘Book of Grenadiers’ in the Prince Consort’s Library, Aldershot, describes the 55th’s facings as “Dark green (very dark blue green)”.*

<sup>2</sup> *In ‘A representation of the Clothing of his Majesty’s Household and all the Forces upon the Establishments of Great Britain and Ireland 1742 engraved by John Pine by order of the Duke of Cumberland’.*



**Berets once made in Cumberland**

Kangol's Cleator hat factory was opened in 1938 by Jewish Polish World War One veteran Jacques Spreiregen to produce hats for workers, golfers and soldiers, including the airborne berets.

The name Kangol is alleged to have been created from 'K' knitting, 'ANG' from angora and 'OL' for wool.

Sadly the factory closed in 2009 and the Company now has American and European operations, but is no longer in Britain



## Blue Devils? Really?

An article by Jon Mills from the Military History Society's Special Number 'British Army Headdress 1939-1945', reproduced with kind permission of the author and editor.

IN December 1941, Major-General Frederick Browning, who was appointed in late October to command Britain's embryonic airborne forces, submitted a paper to C-in-C Home Forces on the dress and insignia he wished to adopt for the newly-formed 1st Airborne Division. Amongst other distinctions he proposed that "a dark red beret, with regimental badge, should be provided" as "the present Field Service Cap is unsuitable for the Airborne Division". Two months later the War Office's Director of Personal Services convened a meeting to discuss the General's proposals, which "had been travelling round various War Office Branches without much success", at which Brigadier George Hopkinson, who was to take over from Browning as the Divisional Commander, "said that the red beret, of which supplies had been produced, was what they wanted". Two days later it is recorded that

the Adjutant-General had seen the beret and recommended its introduction. On 20th February 1942 the Army Council decided that "troops of the Airborne Division are entitled to wear a dark red beret with the cap badge of the regiment to which individuals belong". Subsequent discussions revealed that "at the moment there is no 'regiment' or 'corps' of parachutists ... entitled to a special cap badge" and this subsequently led to the formation of the Parachute Regiment.

THE introduction of the Beret, Airborne Troops, was announced in late July 1942. ORs received a free issue whereas Officers were required to purchase the OR version or make their own private arrangements. The FS Caps were retained "for wear when the beret is not worn". A report on the 1st Airborne Division's operations in North Africa in 1943 described the beret as "excellent in every

respect" but as a consequence of the large number which were lost fresh stocks were procured and in August a local Middle East Order announced that supplies of the red beret were now available for issue. An Army Council Instruction of 1943 authorised Airborne Forces' Officers to wear the "Maroon beret" with Service Dress and Battle Dress and Other Ranks to wear the "Beret, Airborne Forces (Maroon)".

THE parachute battalions were nearly given a different distinctive headdress. In March 1941 Lieutenant Colonel John Rock, Head of Army Staff at the Central Landing Establishment, told the War Office he hoped to introduce "a plain blue forage cap for the parachute battalions" worn with a gold parachute badge made for blue patrol uniforms as its cap badge. Although not taken up, shortly before the Colonel died in an accident in October 1942, a new cap badge was announced for the Army Air Corps which at that time comprised only the 1st Glider Pilot Regiment. The distinctive Parachute Regiment cap badge was subsequently introduced in May 1943.

Jon Mills

IN 1914 The Gold Coast, now Ghana, was a British possession on the West African Coast. The territory maintained a very efficient infantry battalion 'TheGold Coast Regiment'.

along with French colonial troops, invaded and captured Togoland, now named Togo, an adjacent German colony.

THE Regiment was then involved in a much tougher

## A Border Lieutenant with the Gold Coast Regiment

Harry Fecitt, former 4KORBR, writes of an unusual secondment for a Border Lieutenant in 1914

ON 17 June 1914 a regular army officer of The Border Regiment was seconded for service with the Colonial Office and posted to The Gold Coast Regiment. Lieutenant John Lawrence Leslie-Smith arrived in theatre just as war broke out. In August 1914 the Gold Coast Regiment,

operation to subjugate German Cameroons. The German troops in the south of that colony fought well against the French and British invasion, until in February 1916 they finally withdrew across their southern border into Spanish Guinea, where they were interned. On 8th August 1915 during severe fighting in thick bush north of the Spanish Guinea border, the Gold Coast Regiment had taken 29 casualties, one of the wounded being Lieutenant Leslie-Smith.

JOHN recovered from his wound, was promoted to Captain, and then took part in the Gold Coast Regiment's campaign in German East Africa (now Tanzania). Here a determined German commander, Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck, constantly

foiled the efforts of the British and South African commanders who were trying to defeat him.

VON Lettow-Vorbeck and his army of African soldiers finally surrendered in 1918 two weeks after the Armistice was agreed in Europe.

IN German East Africa the Gold Coast Regiment quickly earned a reputation as first-class infantrymen. Troops from England and South Africa - and Sepoys from India - quickly succumbed to the tropical diseases and harsh climatic conditions prevalent in East Africa. At the end of the campaign the only British battalions remaining in the field were African infantry.

IN July 1917 the Gold Coast Regiment was involved in operations between Kilwa and Lindi on the southern coast of German East Africa. On 19 July the Regiment advanced towards a known enemy position as part of a column manoeuvre to seize water holes at Narungombe, and quickly became embroiled in fierce fighting in high grass. Other units in the column deployed on either side of the Gold Coast Regiment, as did two other columns in the vicinity, but when British shells caused a grass-fire on the left flank the South African and Indian troops there withdrew, leaving that flank open.

THE right flank units held their ground and a general advance was ordered, some of the Gold Coast Regiment charging into and seizing enemy trenches, but without support on the left flank the captured position could not be held.

DURING the night the German troops withdrew, having achieved their objective of making the British pay a heavy price for the seizure of the Narungombe water-holes.

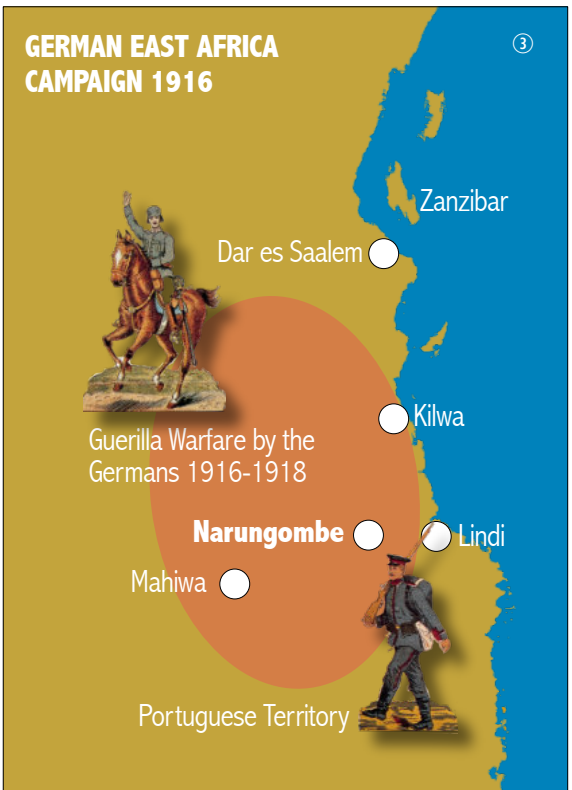
The Gold Coast Regiment had lost 20% of its effective strength – 37 men killed and 114 wounded. Amongst those severely wounded was Captain J.L. Leslie-Smith. his Military Cross citation read:

*"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led his company across the open under heavy hostile fire of every description to a point within 150 yards of the enemy trenches, where he established himself, thereby enabling troops to be deployed on his flanks and to carry the enemy trenches from that position. Although wounded he commanded his men throughout the day with the greatest gallantry and determination."*

JOHN Leslie-Smith displayed his usual resilience, recovering from his wounds and resuming his appointment with the Gold Coast Regiment. In May 1918 the Gold Coast regimental history mentions his excellent patrol work in Portuguese East Africa (now named Mozambique), where the Regiment was fighting. Finally, in July and August 1918 John and the Regiment sailed from Portuguese East Africa back home to West Africa. The Regiment had fought proficiently and hard losing 215 men killed, 725 wounded, 13 missing, 270 died of disease and 567 invalided out of theatre. The regimental strength had averaged 900 men and continuous drafts from the Gold Coast had maintained that strength.

AFTER the War John Leslie-Smith returned to regimental duties with the Border Regiment, relinquishing the temporary rank of major that he had been granted in 1918. The December 1926 Army List shows him as the senior Captain in the regiment.

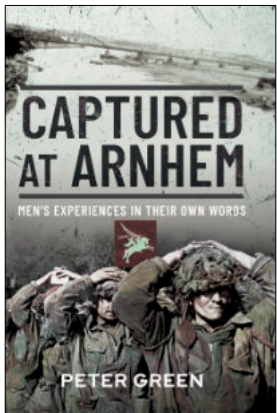
Harry Fecitt





# Book shelf

New books and ones that you may have missed. All can be ordered from 'Bookcases', Castle Street, Carlisle. This book is by the Editor!



**Captured at Arnhem: Men's experiences in their own words**  
**Peter Green**  
**Pen & Sword Military**  
**ISBN: 9781399088374**  
**£28.00**

THIS book grew out of the editor reviewing the Liberation Questionnaires that exist for men captured at Arnhem. These are the forms all returning POWs were meant to complete. Sadly only a third of all POWs ever completed them, for example Colonel Tommy Haddon did not.

NEVERTHELESS they provide information in men's own words about their treatment in captivity from 2,358 questionnaires including those of men from 1BORDER.

THE book gives an overview of men's experience of capture and has a list of working parties, their locations and the type of work done.

SIGNED book plate copies are available from the Books Cumbria web site or at Bookends, Castle Street, Carlisle.



# History's waiting room

Extracts from original copies of 'The Lion and the Dragon', in this case from 1993

## REGIMENTAL BAND

AFTER returning from the Gulf in March 1991, the regimental band resumed the busy life of music making.

THE month of May was highlighted by playing in front of HM the Queen on her visit to Carlisle.



THE musical highlight of 1992 was the making of the brand-new recording. Recorded at the Garrison Theatre in Colchester, the programme of music includes some terrific marches, among which are: Namur, Arnhem, Salamanca... The title of the recording is 'Battle Honours' and it's available on CD or cassette.

*['Battle Honours' is now as a digital download, as is 'Men at Arms' also by the Regiment's Band - Ed]*



## CHANGE OF CURATOR

AFTER almost 20 years at the helm Colonel Ralph May FMA retired as curator in August. He was responsible for the reestablishment of the museum in Queen Mary's Tower in 1973 supported by his Chairman, the late Brigadier Charles Breeze, and the other Regimental trustees.

# To the Editor

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

## THE FESTIVAL

I'D like to thank all those who came to our stall at Carlisle Castle on the 3rd--4th June ' for the military festival. Also like to thank Peter Green and Jules Wooding for their help and advice I'm sure we will come back again to another wonderful event at Carlisle Castle.

Stephen Glencross  
Animals in War

## MORE ON THE ARROYO DRUMS

THANK you again for your great support at the Military festival, I know that myself and the members of the regiment thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and we are all very grateful to Jules and the staff for looking after us so well.

I have really enjoyed my research into the baton and the drums and I will continue to progress it in future. I have as yet only found one of the drummers, but I am confident that I will find more. I will send you updates to my research as it progresses. I will also write an article for the magazine.

Keith Matthews  
21eme Grenadiers

## OUR FRIENDS AT OSWEGO

Hi Peter; you have added to my knowledge and helped me understand an important period of which we knew next to nothing. It was invigorating!

Paul Lear, Curator,  
Fort Ontario, New York State  
*[See also 'Remembering our Regiments in the USA' - Ed]*

# Still serving

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



## FAREWELL TO OUR COLONEL IN CHIEF

THE Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Frazer Lawrence OBE QCVS and a detachment of the Regiment attended Her Majesty's State Funeral.

THE marching detachment from the 1st Battalion was flown back from Cyprus, where the 1st Battalion are currently deployed.

## NEW QUEEN'S DIVISION

IN March 2022, the Army's Future Soldier programme announced the reorganisation of the Infantry from six admin Divisions to four. From 30 September the King's Division is no more.

IN its place is the new Queen's Division, made up of the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment, Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, Royal Fusiliers, Royal Anglian Regiment, Royal Mercian Regiment and also the Royal Gibraltar Regiment.

THE Duke of Lancaster's Regiment and the Princess of

Wales Royal Regiment will maintain close ties with their respective Ranger Battalions.

THE Divisional regiments will continue to co-operate and support each other as in the past, and will offer all Infantry roles within it, whilst providing clear career paths for it's members. The Yorkshire Regiment, with which we have been linked for some years, do not continue with us. They form part of the newly designated Union Division.

THE changes were, planned before September in answer to the Army's Future Soldier Programme which directed the reorganisation of the Infantry from six administrative Divisions to four.



## DEFENCE BUDGET

THE Defence Secretary, Ben Wallace, has announced that military spending will double from its current level to hit £100bn in 2030 as a result of the Government's commitment to increase the armed forces' budget to 3% of GDP.



## CADET TAMARA TELFORD

CUMBRIA Army Cadets are delighted to announce that Cadet Tamara Telford from Cleator Moor, Cumbria has been awarded the Order of Mercy Foundation Medal for Distinguished Service for Cadets in recognition of her outstanding contribution to her community.

# Museum, Friends and Supporters

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

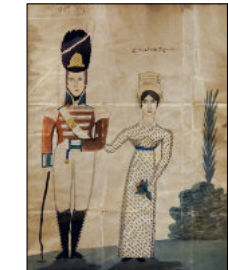


## 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

WE held a 90th Birthday celebration afternoon tea for veterans. The event was supported by local businesses. Thank you John Watt & Son at The Cafe on Bank St, Cranstons Carlisle, Claire's Bakery, Country Flavour, Morrisons and Tesco.

## CHAMPAGNE BUFFET STILL TO COME!

THE Friends have arranged a birthday party at the Museum on Friday 26 November. Tickets cost £25 from the Museum. There will be a glass of champagne on arrival provided by our patron Lady Ballyedmond. The evening will include a tour of the Museum; and music.



## SPONSOR AN OBJECT

HELP THE Museum continue to tell the story of 'ordinary people doing extraordinary things'. Although suggesting a £20 donation for each object, we do accept larger donations. As we head towards the festive season, you could sponsor an object as an unusual Christmas present!

CHECKOUT the website for all 90 objects. Perhaps you can find one that has a link that would suit that

special person?

THE list includes: the lovely painting of Private John Taylor, 55th Foot, and his wife, Elizabeth.



## REMEMBERING OUR REGIMENTS IN THE USA

THE Museum has contributed two wreaths to the 'Wreaths across America' event at Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York State. The Museum's wreaths honour the officers and men of the 34th and 55th Foot who served at Oswego in the 18C. The Regimental Association have indicated that they would like to contribute the wreaths in the future.



## EMBROIDERY AND MORE

ELAINE Morrow makes wonderful embroidered items with a military theme to help raise funds for military charities and the Association of her old unit, 7/10 Ulster Defence Regiment. The wash bag is £30. Elaine can be reached via the Editor <peter.castra@gmail.com>.



## 1BORDER TEE SHIRT

THE families of 20 Platoon, 'D' Company , 1Border, 1944 (*But mainly Les Ennis, in Miami - Ed*) have produced a tee shirt for the museum that lists all the airborne ops 1Border were involved in from 1943-45. £12 from the Museum Shop and online.

# Diary

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

## Tuesday 8 November, 1800

Tuesday Talks Series – ‘The Windermere Children: from Nazi Camps to the Lake District’, the Museum



## Until Sunday, 20 November 2022

‘Tactics and teamwork: football in the British Army’ a touring exhibition, with material from our Museum and the Lancashire Infantry Museum and the Fusilier Museum.

## Monday 21 November, 1230

Veterans Lunch Club, The



Museum

## Friday 26 November, 1800

Patron's party and fund raising evening at the museum – buffet representing periods in the Regiment's history. Tickets from the Museum 01228 532774.

## Friday 2 December, 1900

Museum Quiz Night, The Museum



## Monday 12 December, 1230

Veterans Lunch Club, The Museum

## Monday 16 January 2023, 1230

Veterans Lunch Club, the Museum

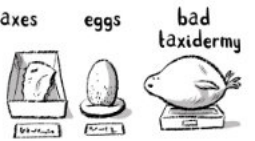
# And almost finally

A comment on Regimental life by Alex Paterson, former KORBR and now designer at the House of Commons.

## OUR MUSEUM

by Peter Green

Victorian museums were obsessed with oddities:



Our museum opened in 1932 with the prized drums the 34th captured from Napoleon's army.



These days we include not just objects but stories and ideas:

Like Catherine Exley who followed her husband's regiment all over Spain in the Peninsular War.



Or George Macdonald Fraser, author of Flashman, who fought as a soldier with the Border Regiment in Burma.



Today our museum continues to track the stories of the people who have worn our cap badges and the families who support them.



illustrated by Alex Paterson

# ENDEX

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

## ENDING WARS

*"We may want a war over. We may even declare it over ... But the enemy gets a vote."*

Former US Secretary of Defence, General James Mattis

## EVER UPWARDS

Whichever way you march, it is always uphill.

Murphy's Law

## SWEDISH ALLIES & 3RANGERS

Their scoff house was really good too – just the quality of food – their meatballs, potatoes and peppercorn sauce were amazing.

Captain Jake Dolan, 3RANGERS (formerly 2LANCS) on exercise with the Swedish Army

## HANCOCK'S REUNION

*"I'm having a little reunion with my old army pals. The Third East Cheam Light Horse. Three of the heaviest drinkers who ever set foot inside a pair of army boots."*

Tony Hancock

## PULL UP A SANDBAG

It was a balmy spring weekend and the RSM is out on the lake fishing with an old friend: a Chief Petty Officer in the Royal Navy. Suddenly both men suddenly felt the boat tip, and they were thrown into the lake. The CPO floundered his way back to the boat and pulled himself in. Then he fished the RSM out, using an oar.

CATCHING his breath, he puffed: "Please don't say a word about this to anyone. If the Navy found out I can't swim I'd be a laughing stock."

"DON'T worry," the RSM replied. "Your secret is safe. I'd hate to have my men find out I can't walk on water."

Ted Carter



## 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 precedence number, not by their Colonel. In 1782 the 34th 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'.



Border Regiment  
Envelope, 1944  
14th Army Cloth Badge,



worn by 2nd, 4th and 9th  
Border whilst serving in  
14th Army in Burma



Penrith Local Militia,  
shako plate  
1808-1815

## Lest we forget

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



### November 1917 and October 1918, France, RAMC and 2nd Bn Border Regiment

David Clulow, RAMC and R Clulow Border Regiment. Brothers, their graves are in St Oswald Churchyard, Burneside. *Photographs © Steve Wilkinson, formerly KORBR.*

### 24 October - 3 November 1918, Vittoria Vento, Italy, Border Regiment

The battle that broke the back of Austro-Hungarian resistance in Italy.

### 18 December 1778, Battle of Morne de la Vierge, St Lucia, Caribbean, 55th Foot

The victory, during the American War of Independence, led to the capture of St Lucia, in the Caribbean, from the French.

### January 1945, 1 Border Germany

The Battalion begins a posting at Hannoversch Münden in Lower Saxony, as part of British Forces Germany.



### January 1803, 34th Foot, India

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



### 27 January 1917, Sergeant Edward John Mott VC, Border Regiment, Le Transloy, France

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



that the left flank attack succeeded."

### 19 October 1943, Burma Rest in peace

Private Septimus Stanley Gardner, 2nd Battalion, The Border Regiment, son of Maud Annie Gardner, West Croydon. Ranchi War cemetery, 419 kilometres north-west of Calcutta.

## Information

### 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'

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