

The Lion & the Dragon

Celebrating the past whilst championing the future

Winter 2023

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



Last days at Aden 1967

ARAB nationalism had become a more potent political factor after Suez in 1956 and the revolution in Yemen in 1962. Yemeni influence resulted in the rising in the Radfan and, although contained by British troops and Federal forces in 1964, it fostered the rise of other groups.

FREEDOM FIGHTERS

FLOSY (Federation for the Liberation of South Yemen) received support from Aden and surrounding areas and NLF (The National Liberation Front) was supported by Egypt. Both of these organisations were united in opposition to the British but also fiercely opposed to each other in their wish to control South Arabia.

THE terrorist campaign began in December 1964; from 286 incidents in 1965, to 510 in 1966 it escalated to 2,900 in 1967. British troops were committed to keep order prior to the final withdrawal. Any success against the terrorists in

1965 was negated by the Government White Paper of 1966, which announced Britain's intention to give up Aden as a base by 1968. This encouraged the terrorists to escalate their campaign.

BAHRAIN

IN 1967 the King's Own Royal Border Regiment were based in Bahrain. On 10 March 'B' Coy, were transferred to Aden to serve under the command of 3rd battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment as a fourth rifle company. They operated in Sheik Uthman and Al Mansura; townships of modern rough concrete buildings ten miles north of Aden town. The Company was based at Radfan camp in tents.

IN May, 'A' Company replaced 'B' Coy. 2 Platoon was called in to assist in a follow-up operation after a nearby military piquet had been fired on. As their Bedford 3 tonner was passing an area known as 'grenade corner' in Sheik Uthman a

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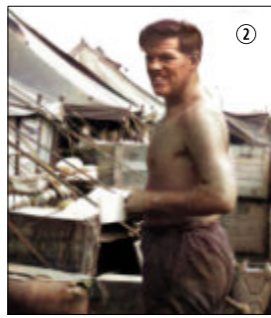
OUR lead story is one from just over 50 years ago: just yesterday for a Regiment that has a 300 year history. But it is a natural conclusion to that history.

THE 34th and 55th Foot spent much of the 18C and 19C stationed around the globe acting as colonial policemen.

ADEN in the 1960s was a colonial story; an end of Empire story. It had been a coaling station for the Royal Navy. By 1967 two factions were fighting each other and the British for independence. A peaceful transition to self-rule never had a chance.

THE role of the KORBR in the final days of Aden may come as a surprise to some. The Regiment were the last Army troops to leave Aden.

Peter Green



terrorist threw a Russian RG4 grenade into the back of the Bedford, which exploded on impact injuring six of the eleven soldiers in the back. Despite this the Platoon including some of its wounded members, chased after the terrorist, who escaped into the back streets of Sheikh Uthman. For his gallantry and leadership Staff Sergeant Atkinson received the Military Medal.

PARAS TAKE OVER

1ST battalion The Parachute Regiment took over from The Anglians as the resident Battalion at the end of May. KORBR continued to provide a Company to the Paras. On 1 June 'A' Company fired 1,945 rounds and were on the receiving end of 14 shooting incidents, two mortar rounds, two hand grenades and one Energa anti-tank grenade during the day. They killed two terrorists, wounded one and captured two others in the act of escaping and throwing their weapons over a wall. 6 June, the first day of the Six Day Arab-Israeli War was a day of shooting incidents; the Mortar Platoon killed at least three terrorists.

JUNE

THE increased terrorist activity caused the Paras to introduce a new tactical concept whereby Sheik Uthman companies operated from two fortified bases in the town. 'Fort Walsh' was a converted mission hospital. It provided a strike force, the manpower for four rooftop observation posts dominating the town and a patrol base. The other at Bayoomi College, protected and incorporated the vulnerable and frequently attacked 'Checkpoint Golf'.

ON 7 June 'C' Company took over serving under command of the Paras. The Company suffered its first casualty on 9 June. The worst time for terrorist activity seemed to be between 1800 and 2100 hours, which became rather inappropriately termed 'Happy Hour'.

NATIONAL GUARD MUTINIES

Early on 20 June firing was heard in Champion Lines, 300 yards south of Radfan Camp. Part of the Federal National Guard (FNG) had mutinied following a rumour that four of their leading officers had been arrested and dismissed. The mutineers broke into their armoury and taken rifles, Bren guns and ammunition.

One platoon was sent to one of the check-points to prevent any Federal troops coming from their barracks east of Sheik Uthman to join in. They turned back a Company of FNG, who were sure that their comrades were being attacked. Following a request from the South Arabian Government at around 1000 the Company, who were the Paras only available reserve, were ordered to secure the guard-room and main armoury in the Lines and protect the British officers attached to the FNG, who were besieged in the Camp.

THE orders were not to fire on the Arab troops unless absolutely necessary in case it caused major unrest. Supported by a troop of the Queen's Dragoon Guards in Saladin armoured cars, Major David Miller approached the Lines with a small group in a Saracen to make contact with the Senior British officer in the Camp.

HOWEVER, the situation worsened and the Company was ordered to move in. As soon the convoy of six Bedford 3

tonners left Radfan Camp the vehicles came under fire from the barracks and Private Ferguson, the machine-gunner in the leading 3 tonner, was hit and killed. Eight more were wounded in the vehicles, or as they tried to debus before the Company gained access to the Camp. Despite this the men stuck to their orders and did not open fire unless absolutely necessary.

THE guard-room and main entrance to the Camp was secured and then the armoury. Lance Corporal Vickers, an Royal Corps of Transport driver, and Private John Dickinson volunteered to drive and escort a badly wounded man back in an armoured 3 tonner. The Company had remained under fire during the operation in the Lines, but their deployment quickly restored order. The lives of several British officers seconded to the FNG were saved and the action prevented the mutiny spreading to other areas of Aden and the Federation.

'C' Company finally withdrew at 1530 hours. David Miller was awarded an Military Cross for the action. During this action fire from Champion Lines was also directed towards Radfan Camp and killed a local civilian, a British Official of the Public Works Department and killed 2nd Lieutenant Young 1st battalion The Lancashires as he directed perimeter defence in Radfan Camp. No fire was returned from Radfan Camp. A vehicle party of 60 Squadron RCT working on the nearby ranges at Khormaksar to the west of Radfan Camp suffered seven killed and five wounded.

ON 28 June soldiers from the Drums Platoon whilst working with 'D' Company the Paras, shot and apprehended an NLF terrorist, who had escaped from a house after killing two FLOSYS men. The workload was eased when the Lancashire Regiment took over responsibility for patrolling in Al Mansura July. Never the less on 15 July five members of 'C' Company were wounded in a grenade attack.

AUGUST

'B' Company came to Aden to replace 'C' company in August. On 9 August a patrol was lured by a suspect vehicle into the centre of Sheik Uthman. The vehicle was rapidly abandoned leaving the patrol in a narrow street exposed to cross-fire from six automatic weapons, two of which were fired from the truck. The truck was destroyed by 76mm shells fired from Saladin armoured cars by a half troop of the Queen's Own Hussars. Corporal Allan Brown was shot and killed during the engagement.

DURING the next 48 hours the Company was subjected to 80 separate attacks by anti-tank rockets, machine guns, rifles, grenades, mortars and mines. In September 'A' Company returned for its second tour. 'C' Company came back on 7 October and after a week on the defensive line moved to Steamer Point to provide an extra company for 42 Commando Royal Marines. Fortunately, the Company suffered no casualties whilst patrolling in an area known as 'The Crescent' in Tawahi.

THE NLF and FLOSYS were now fighting each other as well as the British. 'C' Company from their observation posts witnessed the fierce inter-factional fighting, as the NLF tried to eradicate their FLOSYS rivals.

NOVEMBER AND OUT

THE final British withdrawal took place in November. As other troops withdrew from the Colony, 'C' Company remained with 42 Commando to cover the withdrawal and the hand over to the South Arabian Army.

42 Commando handed over Tawahi and then moved to 'Pennine Chain' the defensive line protecting Khormaksar



airfield on 27 November, whilst 'C' Company protected Steamer point and the British Diplomatic Mission until the final handover. MEN of KORBR formed part of the tri-service guard for the departure of The British High Commissioner Sir Humphrey Trevelyan.

then transferred by landing craft to the LST Empire Guillemot for the voyage back to Bahrain.

SAD RECKONING

THE tour cost the Battalion 33 casualties: Private Ferguson and Corporal Brown killed; Private Bilewicz (killed in an accident whilst training in Muscat); and 30 wounded.

From the Archive of Cumbria's Museum of Military Life edited by Peter Green

Captions

Cover: A Wessex helicopter from HMS Albion prepares to lift stores from Steamer Point. During the withdrawal from Aden. ©Imperial War Museum

2. Sergeant Colin Atkinson 2nd Platoon, 'A' Company, who won the Military Medal in Sheikh Uthman. Photo ©Ed Boyle

The citation concluded:

"His example and selfless action on the afternoon of the 17th May 1967, was an inspiration to his platoon, which was made up mainly of young soldiers who had not seen action before, and was in accord with the highest tradition of the service."

3. Aden 1967. The coastal area between Aden Town and Sheikh Uthman, especially the ground west of the airfield often flooded.

4. C Coy 1KORBR in Aden. ©Corporal Mick Bonwick, RAPC.

Aden's past

Britain's involvement in Aden began in the the 1830s with the need for coaling stations around the Empire as steam replaced wind power for the Royal Navy.

Aden at the southern end of the Red Sea was on the last stage of the three part route to India from Britain: by sea to Alexandria, land to the Red Sea and then again by ship to Bombay.

The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 reinforced Aden's importance.

Aden had been part of the Ottoman Empire, but it had become increasingly lawless and independent. From its formal acquisition by Britain in 1839 Adens and its hinterland had caused problems for its garrison and administrators.

The small 75-square miles of Aden was surrounded by sultanates, sheikhdoms and emirates with whom the British concluded treaties. Eventually these areas formed the Federation of South Arabia in 1958.

By 1967 the mix of regional politics and tribal hatred had been further stoked by Arab nationalism, the Cold War and mistrust created by Britain's relationship with Israel, real and imagined.



Cumbria's Ubique 'Everywhere' Soldiers

Ted Carter's first part of a brief history of the Royal Engineers

ALTHOUGH to us readers, Cumbria is perhaps best known for it's Infantry Regiments, The 34th & 55th of Foot and then, later, The Border Regiment of both Airlanding & Chindit fame. It is right that we remember that the County supplied others to the Nation's army. Not only our Armour & Artillery forces, but also to the vital support arms.

CASTLE BUILDERS

HIGH on the list of such units, must feature the Royal Engineers. Indeed, the first record of engineers can be traced back, in an unbroken line to the time of the Norman invasion in 1066. Amongst those accompanying William the Conqueror was a famous engineer of the time. One Bishop Gundulph, whom many credit as the founding Father of the Corps. Bishop Gundulph and his followers were, in fact, responsible for many of the Castles and forts that were constructed across Britain, including the famous Tower of London. Indeed, military engineers were later to be involved in the commissioning and design of many of our iconic buildings such as the Albert Hall.

ARSENALS

IN 1414, the 'Board of Ordnance' gave the Engineers special responsibility for "Works and Arsenals". Around three hundred years later, on the 26th May 1716, an Officer's

Corps of Engineers was formed. At the time all engineers were commissioned. "Artificer Companies" however, remained part of the civilian establishment until 1772 when the first 'Soldier Artificer's Company' was formed in Gibraltar. The first permanent engineer 'other ranks' in the army. 1787 saw the 'Corps of Engineers' granted a "Royal" title, by royal warrant. Additionally, the same year saw six companies of the 'Royal Military Artificers with Officers' Became the Corps of Royal Engineers.

UBIQUE

FURTHER changes came about in the 19th Century, with Royal Military Artificers becoming Royal Sappers and Miners and in 1856 being absorbed into the Corps of Royal Engineers. A few years before that however, on the 10th July 1833 the Corps was given it's famous Motto, "UBIQUE" (Everywhere) by Royal Warrant from William IV. Which sums up this unique body of men for, as we'll see wherever there were soldiers, there will inevitably be Royal Engineers following their second Motto "QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT" (Where right and glory lead).

IN the next piece we'll look how the Royal Engineers were the foundation of many of today's military units.

Ted Carter

FORT Ticonderoga's has the 1758 casualty returns for the battle of Fort Carillon as Ticonderoga was then known. These include the 55th Foot. Whilst the names of the officers who died are recorded – Lieutenant Colonel John Donaldson, Major Thomas Proby, Captain Lieutenant James Murray and Lieutenant George Stuart the NCOs and Other Ranks are just given as totals; one sergeant and 35 Privates killed. 28 Sergeants and 116 Privates wounded.

suffering terribly during the 1758 Battle of Carillon."

HOWEVER those hasty graves were even being disturbed by the 1770s, and during the War of Independence American officers describe camping amidst the bones of Abercromby's men.

MATT continued, "I do know of at least one man of the 55th, a grenadier, who died by apparent suicide in February of 1763 while stationed here, but we don't know where he was buried."

Ticonderoga casualties

Dr Matthew Keagle, Curator of Fort Ticonderoga describes something of our shared heritage to the Editor.

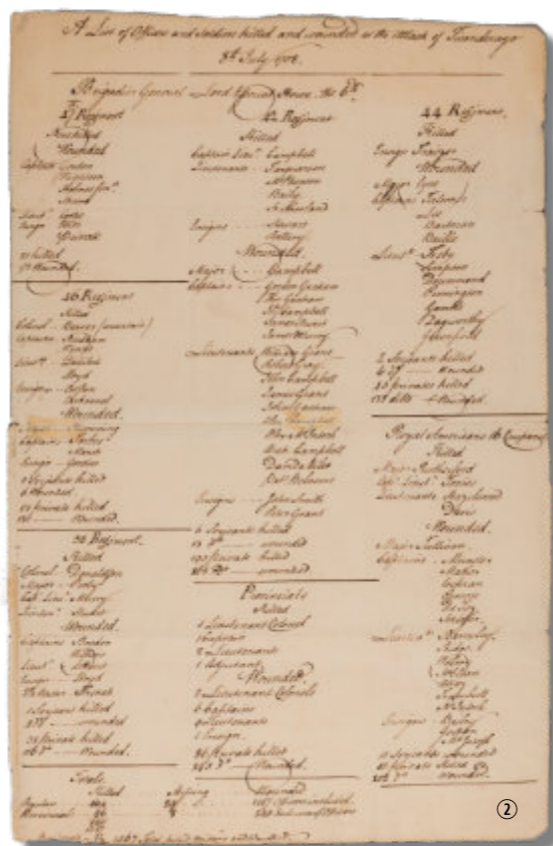
TICONDEROGA does not have a fort cemetery or at least not anything specifically identified as one. Matt Keagle explained, "There is an area where some graves have been found, but no gravestones predate the mid-19th century. Remains have been recovered from across our site, one of the reasons we treat all the nearly 2,000 acres we maintain as a effectively a large war grave."

"MEN of the 55th were buried on the battlefield near where they fell, the 55th

The last men of the 55th rotated out of this garrison in the fall of 1763".

34TH FOOT

DURING the American War of Independence the flank companies of the 34th, the grenadiers and the light companies took part in General Simon Fraser's successful assault on the fort in 1777. Matt again, "about 100 men from the 34th that were here again during the brief re-occupation of Ticonderoga for a couple weeks in late 1781."



Rifle Company's machine gun

David Allardice and John Conway review the Rifle Company's key support weapon.

.303IN

THE 'hook' to start off this article is the .303in cartridge. The British Infantry Rifle Section – a tight-knit group of some 8 to 10 men under the command of a corporal, was as its title suggests, made up of riflemen. That said, two of the men serviced the section MG that provided covering and killing fire from an automatic weapon – the so-called Gun Group.

FAMOUSLY, this was the popular Bren Gun – easy to operate, easy/light to carry and so accurate that the Authorities had to take steps to reduce the resultant waste of bullets caused by its tight beaten zone. The Bren was developed from the Czech 7.92mm ZB26 MG by Enfield and ZB in the mid-1930s.

THE new one was built in Enfield. So, we have Br(no)En(field), or Bren!

THE Bren was fed by a 30-round magazine, normally only loaded with 27/28 rounds to prevent jamming, fired effectively out to 600yards/550m, weighed 25lbs/11.3kgs when loaded and was gas operated.

LOADED magazines were carried by everyone in the

Section. It was one of the best light machine guns ever produced.

AFTER NOTE

WHEN the Army first moved away from the .303in round, the Bren was re-engineered to fire the 7.62x51mm NATO round and became known as the Light MG, or LMG (see picture 3).

7.62MM

ON moving to 7.62mm weapons, the Rifle Section was provided with a replacement for the LMG. It was an MG, based on a Belgian FN weapon which



became known as the General-Purpose MG (GPMG) – General Purpose because it could also be used in the 'Sustained Fire' (SF) role. In the Rifle Section, or light role (see picture), the GPMG was effective out to 800m. Like the Bren, it was gas operated but was belt-fed rather than magazine. It weighed about 24lbs which meant that it was often passed to the runt of the section to carry – usually me when I was a cadet at Sandhurst! It was, and still is, a very popular weapon.

SF ROLE

IN the SF role (see picture 3), it replaced the famous Vickers MG, sometimes called 'Whispering Death' when used at extreme ranges. The GPMG fired out to 1800m with tracer burn out at 1100m. We usually forgot that the ball and tracer rounds had different trajectories as the tracer round was lighter to start with and became unstable as the tracer burned away.

David Allardice & John Conway

AS well as the painting of a possible member of the 34th foot, described in our Spring edition, the Victoria and Albert Museum has a 19C miniature of an unknown 55th foot officer.



Remembering a loved one

Small image, for a greater love?

THE picture is 73 mm by 57 mm and it's painted on a piece of ivory. The V&A bought it in 1952. Because it was painted before 1947, it is not affected by the CITES (international trade in endangered animal laws). Ivory was often used for miniatures.

SADLY, the online image is in black and white, and it has not been possible to get access to the colour version. The image here has therefore been artificially coloured. It would have hung around the neck of a loved one – mother, wife, 'intended' or possibly sister.

CHARLES THOMAS FOX

THERE is little known about the artist Charles Thomas Fox who lived from 1794 to 1849. Indeed the V&A give his birth as 1749 which suggests that they have confused him with a politician Charles James Fox who was born in 1749.

CHARLES was born in Norwich. He was primarily a painter of miniatures but also drew plants and vegetables.

OUR Museum has several 'sweetheart' items: including the dragon brooch (Spring, 2022 magazine) and an airborne brooch from 1943 (Winter, 2021 edition).

The Editor

Captions

1. Men of the Soldier Artificer Company, 1786 from Campion's 'The History of the Corps of Royal Sappers and Miners'.
2. The British casualty return from the assault on Fort Ticonderoga in July 1758 Lieutenant Colonel Donaldson, the most senior officer killed in the assault on the Fort, had helped raise the Regiment at Stirling with Colonel Charles Perry.
3. Soldier carrying a 7.62mm LMG
4. The GPMG in the Rifle Section
5. The GPMG in the Sustained Fire role
6. An unknown officer of the 55th Foot National Art Library, the V&A.

Royal Engineers - Cumbria

The 1st Cumberland Engineer Volunteer Corps were raised at Cockermouth on 17 September 1861, but sadly they were disbanded in May 1864.

Today there is an active Royal Engineer Association based at the Workington Veteran's Club, 12 Christian Street, Workington, United Kingdom, CA14 4BP.

You can find them on Facebook

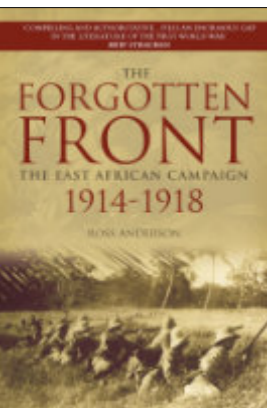


Book shelf

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

History's waiting room

Events from the recent and not so recent history of the Regiment recalled by David Allardice



The Forgotten Front
Ross Anderson
History Press
ISBN: 9780750958363
Paper back £17.75

If Harry Fecit's article in our Winter 2022 edition wetted your appetite, how about this account of four empires and their subject peoples engaged in a conflict that ranged from modern Kenya in the north to Mozambique in the south?

THE campaign combined heroic human endeavour and terrible suffering, set in some of the most difficult terrain in the world. The troops had to cope with extremes that ranged from arid deserts to tropical jungles and formidable mountains, and almost always on inadequate rations.

THE Forgotten Front is the first full-scale history of this neglected campaign.

ROSS Anderson details the fighting and the strategic and political background to the war and the differing viewpoints of the principal protagonists.

The Family

Messages to the editor and pictures relating to the Regimental Family that deserve wider circulation.

EXTRACTED FROM 'THE LION AND THE DRAGON' 1981

"[CARDWELL] is remembered for many reforms, which, against enormous opposition, he managed to bring about. Undoubtedly, his greatest achievement upon which the modern Army is built was to make one Army of the hitherto quite separate Regular, Militia and Volunteers. In this respect, he achieved what governments for two centuries had tried to do but failed.

REGIMENTS junior to the 25th (of Foot) were 'linked', and it was natural that the 34th Cumberland Regiment should be linked with the 55th Westmorland Regiment. The object of linking was that whilst one of the Regiments served abroad, the other, probably understrength, served at home and reinforced the overseas Regiment.

NO amalgamations are popular and this one was no exception. The 34th, serving in Dum Dum made no mention of it. The 55th, serving in Dover, made more of it.

'FROM FIFTY FIFTH TO THIRTY FOURTH, DUM DUM, CALCUTTA. SECOND BORDERERS HEARTY GREETINGS TO FIRST.'

THE 34th replied;: *"THANKS FOR KIND GREETINGS WHICH WE MOST HEARTILY RETURN."*

MEANWHILE, behind the scenes, heated discussions were taking place. Sound familiar? 1959? 2005/6?

THE WRONG MAL – A CORRECTION

MAL Neill got in touch over this reference in the Arroyo drums article in the last edition. "Mal Taylor who wore the uniform but at 6'2" tall, it was a tight fit" this was me Mal Neill not Mal Taylor."

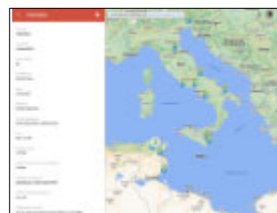
My apologies Mal. Happy to correct this here – Editor



THE BAND IN THE SAND 2

'HISTORY'S Waiting Room' in our Summer 2022 edition carried a piece about the Regimental Band and Operation Granby. Simon Wilkinson has since posted this picture of the Band on Facebook. Simon is third from the left middle row. Can you add other names?

Editor



BORDER GRAVES & MEMORIALS

STEPHANIE Hardie has been in touch to demonstrate her interactive map showing where all the WW2 Casualties from the Border Regiment are Buried or Commemorated.

STEPHANIE describes this as a work in progress You can access it at: <https://shorturl.at/fjrGZ> or from The Border Regiment Facebook Group.

Still serving

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



NEW CO FOR 1LANCS

THERE was a handover at Salamanca Barracks, Episkopi, Cyprus in August, when Lt Col Rob Carr welcomed the new Commanding Officer of 1LANCS, Lt Col Bob Carman. 1LANCS are currently the regional standby battalion and based in Cyprus. Earlier in the year they deployed to Sudan to assist the evacuation of British passport holders.



3RANGER

EACH of the new Ranger battalions has a regional responsibility. 3rd Battalion is tasked with Europe and has already been deployed to Albania, the Balkans, Georgia, Poland, Latvia and Lithuania. The battalion is based at Pirbright.



THE CADET FORCE

SOME of the Cumbria Cadets at their their annual summer camp at Otterburn.

Museum, Friends and Supporters

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



INTERIM CHAIR

Mike Milbourn, Deputy Chair, has temporarily taken up the reins of Chair of the Friends following the resignation of Nigel Lewis.

MUSEUM GRANT FUNDING BID

THE Museum has submitted a funding bid to the Arts Council to employ a project manager to oversee a major collections project, working with staff and volunteers and providing training and support.

THE Friends have contributed £5,000 towards the matching funds that the bid requires.

MEMBERSHIP FEES & STANDING ORDERS

A reminder from the Membership Secretary that Senior Members, who pay by standing order, need to adjust their standing order to £12 from £10 at their earliest convenience but most certainly before the next subscription payment falls due.

READERSHIP SURVEY

THANK you to everyone who completed our last readership survey. And thank you too for the positive comments.

A couple of replies suggested that we produce a larger magazine less often. Sadly the economics of print would mean that three

editions of 12 pages would cost us more than our 4 of 8 pages. The underlying issue is that our print run is small so there is little scope for economies. It would also mean a long gap between editions, with the problem of keeping the diary and news up to date. Forgetting money (*Oh dream on!*) I'd love six editions a year of 12 pages!

ONE respondent suggested that we should carry more articles from re-enactors. We already carry items and images from, re-enactors, and there is one in our next edition. However I am always happy to consider articles from all of our readers that add to our knowledge of the Regiment.

FOR example, I hope that we will publish some of Liam Crowley's research into 2BORDER on the North West Frontier in the 1920s and 30s. If anybody is researching the Regiment during WW1 or WW2 or later, please get in touch.



FOOD & HISTORY SICILY AND PUGLIA

JOHN Crouch cooked the food, whilst Stuart Eastwood talked about the Regiment's role in Operation Husky and Operation Slapstick in 1943 at a well-attended event organised by the Friends at the Museum on 23 September .



MARK HARDING AT LAND'S END

MARK Harding the Duke of Lancaster's veteran has completed his three months walk from John O'Groats in Scotland to Land's End.

MARK is the first disabled person to walk the entire length of the UK – a feat which he accomplished entirely unassisted. He has raised funds for 'Scotty's Little Soldiers' <https://shorturl.at/chESU> – the charity for bereaved military children of a parent serving in the British Armed Forces.



KORBR DWARVES

SUSAN Winship on the KORBR Facebook Group makes the dwarves to order. £10 each plus postage. A donation goes to the Museum.



RECYCLABLE POPPIES FROM CROPPERS

WORKING with the Royal British Legion (RBL) and design consultancy Matter, Croppers of Kendal have recreated the iconic poppy so as to be free from single-use plastic. The new poppy can be recycled in ordinary recycling collections.



1812 UNDERTURE

A wonderful piece of operatic nonsense from our Friends at Fort Ontario *aka* Oswego. The fort against the Royal Navy in an attempt to rerun the War of 1812. Sort of Bernstein meets D'Oyly Carte. You can hear and buy the music at <https://shorturl.at/cqMV4>

Diary

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

Tuesday, 14 November, 1730

'Hawthorn Crater', Fiona Graham and Paul Ottey, at the Museum. Tickets are £4 for members of the Friends and £5 for others.

Monday, 20 November, 1230

Veterans' Lunch, the Museum. Tickets £3 per person

Friday, 8th December, 1900

Quiz Night – General Knowledge not Military! £6.50 (includes food), teams of up to 4 people and prize for the winning team.



Monday, 11 December, 1230

Veterans Christmas Lunch, the Museum.

Tuesday, 9 January, 1730

'Cumbria's Contribution to the Medical Needs of the Great War', Richard Preston. Tickets are £4 for members of the Friends and £5 for others.

Tuesday, 13 February, 1730

'Custer at the Battle of the Little Big Horn – 25/26 June 1876', Tom McMullen, at the Museum. Tickets are £4 for members of the Friends and £5 for others.

Tuesday, 12 March, 1730

'The Expendables: The story of a specialised RAF unit in the Second World War and Beyond', Mac McNeill. Tickets are £4 for members of the Friends and £5 for others.

Tuesday, 9 April, 1730

'Your Country Needs You!': Propaganda and the British Army', Dr Brendan Maartens. Tickets are £4 for members of the Friends and £5 for others.

And almost finally

Memories of Regimental life by Alex Paterson, formerly KORBR and now designer at the House of Commons.

NAD e ALI Afghanistan with 2 LANCS

July 2013. 2LANCS were supporting an Afghan Army battalion to clear enemy from the Bouri Dashtle region of Nad e Ali.



KNITTED MEMORIAL

A Pillar Box in Syston, Leicestershire by the The Syston Knitting Banksy. Picture Syston Town News.

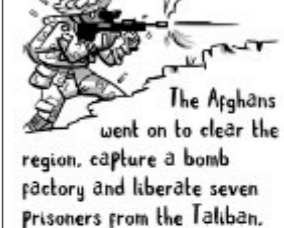
At the very start, the Afghans came under heavy fire. The advance stalled.



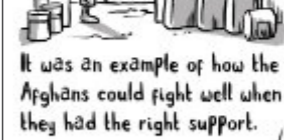
Immediately the Kingsmen burst forward to give assistance.



They bought down heavy fire on the Taliban and got the Afghan troops to continue the advance.



The Afghans went on to clear the region, capture a bomb factory and liberate seven prisoners from the Taliban.



It was an example of how the Afghans could fight well when they had the right support.



ENDEX

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



ITALIAN WAR MEMORIAL, RIVE LIGURE

A memorial to the dead of two World Wars. Including Austro-Hungarian POWs who died in captivity during WW1, near San Remo.



MISSING

"The North Carolina militia abandoned us. Many were missing, as it's always the case with militia after a battle; but they generally are to be found safe at their own firesides,"

SAUSAGE SLANG

Bags of mystery
Barkers
Snags
Snorkers
Slingers

Major General, Henry, Lee of the American Continental Militia, after the battle of Guildford Courthouse, 1781.

SAUSAGE SLANG

Bags of mystery
Barkers
Snags
Snorkers
Slingers

(Interestingly I could not find a French Army slang term for Sausisse or Boudin - Editor)

Our Heritage

Cumbria's military heritage includes the Militia, the Yeomanry, Territorials 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 1751 regiments became known by their 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.

THE King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) joined the Border Regiment to become the King's Own Royal Border Regiment in 1959.

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

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 regiments and their men

24 October - 3 November 1918, Vittoria Veneto, Italy, Border Regiment

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

November 1914, Ypres, France, Border Regiment

The first battle of Ypres came towards the end of attempts by both the Allies and the Germans to outflank each other.

10 November 1813, River Nivelle, France, 34th Foot



Wellington's army, which included the 2nd Battalion 34th Foot, having advanced into France defeated Soult in a series of battles on the Nivelle immediately south of Bayonne. General Service Medal with Nive and Orthes [Orthez] clasps.

Picture: Creative Commons, Auckland War Memorial Museum.



14 November 1918, Italy, Rest in Peace, Private Thomas Samford Lishman, 'A' Company, 2 Border 16331, Boscon British Cemetery, Italy

Son of William and Jane Lishman, of Spiggot House, Crook, Kendal.

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

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



21 December 1914 Private Abraham Acton VC, 2 Border & Private James Smith VC, 3 Border (attached 2 Border), Rouges-Bancs, France

"For conspicuous bravery on 21st of December at Rouges-Bancs.

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."

Information

Cumbria's Museum of Military Life

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Opening hours
1 April-30 September
Every day 10 am-6 pm
October
Every day 10 am-5 pm
1 November to 31 March
Saturday to Thursday
10 am-4 pm closed on
Fridays

Friends of Cumbria's Museum of Military Life

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Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

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3rd Battalion The Ranger Regiment Cloth Badge, the Battalion was 2nd Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment



Officers' breast plate
34th Foot



Standing orders
2nd Battalion The Border Regiment