

The Lion & the Dragon

Celebrating the past and championing the future

Spring 2024

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



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- 'Lest we forget'

SITREP

THE Regiment has a long history of involvement in Spain, North America and India. But until the Twentieth Century it had never served in Italy. The first half of the last Century changed that.

IN 1917 the 2nd Battalion served alongside French troops during a bad patch for Italy in its war with Austro-Hungary and Germany. The end of that War created the conditions for Mussolini and led to the subsequent visits by the Regiment: Sicily and Puglia in 1943 and Trieste in 1946.

IF anyone needed evidence that wars alone solve little, Italy's involvement in WW1 is proof. When politicians fail, the military are called upon to sort something out of the mess. That was Britain's role in Italy.

****STOP PRESS****

Our next edition out in May will be a 12 page Arnhem 80 special.

The Editor

The Italian Job 1917

THE 2nd Battalion of the Border Regiment arrived in Italy in late 1917 as part of an Anglo-French force to prevent Italy being knocked out of the First World War.

POLITICS

MOST countries fought in WW1 due to the domino effect of Austria declaring war on Serbia. Each of their allies taking sides, one by one. However, Italy joined the war in 1915 against Austria to gain territory, even though Italy had been a member of the Triple Alliance with Germany and Austro-Hungary. That Alliance was, amongst other things, aimed at isolating France.

THERE was a British internal political-military dispute at the heart of the Campaign. The new Prime Minister, Lloyd George, saw Italy as one of the alternatives to the Western Front, a way to defeat Germany and Austro-Hungary without a repeat of the casualties of the Somme. Like Churchill in 1943 and his Mediterranean 'soft under-belly' plan

FRANCE had played a leading role in Italian unification in the 1860s, when Austria was the enemy. France and Italy should therefore have been allies, but France clashed with Italy over colonial ambitions in North Africa, so despite Austria being an opponent of Italian unification, in 1882 Italy allied itself with their old enemy and formed the Triple Alliance.

ITALY was the youngest of the western powers. Regaining its historic birthright, in some cases its Roman birthright, led it to seek territory in the Alps and, northern and eastern Adriatic. For many Italians World War One was the chance to complete unification that had started in 1848. At the outbreak of war 1914 the Austrians offered Italy the Italian-speaking territory in the Alps around Trento and Bolzano, in the Tyrol, to remain neutral. In their turn, the French and British offered territory in the Alps; the land bordering the Adriatic, which had a large Italian-speaking

population; and a financial subsidy, if the Italians joined them.

HEROIC SPRING

IN Italy there was a groundswell of feeling that War was beneficial to society. Many thought that democracy led to political consensus and muddle. Better to commit to action. The spiritual leader of the war lobby was Gabriele d'Annunzio. He was based in Paris, where he had gone to avoid bankruptcy, from France he promised Italy a "heroic Spring" if it joined the War. One of his quotes was:

"We have no other value but that of our blood to be shed."

ALTHOUGH the Italian Prime Minister felt that Italy could gain more advantage by remaining neutral, the Allied offers proved too tempting and in 1915 Italy signed the secret Treaty of London, changed sides, and declared war on Austria. A year later Italy declared war on Germany.

JOINING the War would cost Italy an enormous loss of life and, when, after the War, the Allies reneged on parts of the Treaty of London, disillusionment with democracy became entrenched. This led to Mussolini and Fascism.

THE objectives of the Central Powers towards Italy were clear, they didn't want to fight Italy. The Western Powers saw Italy as another peripheral front, fronts which in time would include fighting in Palestine, Iraq, the Dardanelles and Salonica. Lloyd George believed that this indirect war would "knock out the props from under Germany." In fact "the props" Austro-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey, were being kept in the War by Germany.

STALEMATE

ITALY was ill prepared for war in 1915. The army had not performed well in Libya against Turkey in 1912. To make matters worse, apart from the north-east, their border with Austria ran along the Alps with the Austrians occupying the high ground. The Italians only had two brigades of mountain troops - 'Alpini'. The rest of the Army was made up of poorly trained infantry from the South, ill-suited to Alpine warfare.

EVEN so, until 1917 the Italians held their own against the Austrians. The Italians scored victories and made some small territorial gains at a very heavy cost in the north east across the Isonzo River. Eventually there were twelve battles of the Isonzo, but early ambitions of a swift push through Slovenia and on to Vienna were soon seen as fantasy. Fighting in the mountains, it was not just the altitude and climate that was against both sides. The Alpine rock splintered under shell fire producing deadly showers of natural shrapnel.



Isonzo at Caporetto. As well as troops, the Germans would supply poison gas. Amongst the German troops that took part in the offensive was Oberleutnant Erwin Rommel. The attack, although expected by the Italians, was dramatically successful. The front line was pushed back over 90 miles from just in Austrian territory to within 20 miles of Venice. To support the Italians the Allies sent six French and five



British divisions to Italy. 2BORDER were part of 7th Division.

ALLIED TROOPS TO ITALY

BRITAIN and France had agreed a contingency plan to support Italy earlier in the year. It was based on the presumption that the Anglo-French support would provide Italy with reserves and that Italy would stabilise any crisis before the Allied troops would be sent.

THE British troops that were sent were from XIV Corps on the Western Front: 7th Infantry Division, 23rd Infantry Division and 48th Infantry Division all from Picardy

2BORDER were part of 20th Brigade. With the Borders in the Brigade were 2nd Battalion Gordon Highlanders and the First Battalion The Devon Regiment. They had been stationed between St Omar and Ypres. On 19 November the battalion left for Italy on two trains. They reached Italy on the morning of the 22 November. The trains moved slowly across northern Italy, with frequent stops at stations. The Regimental history records that despite there being no hot water for tea, "the country wine was found to be more potent than the thin French beer." They arrived at their railhead at Mantua on 23 November.

ASIAGO FRONT

ITALY had stabilised the front line on the River Piave and along the Alps before the Anglo-French troops arrived. The Austrians and Germans were to some extent victims of their own success and had out-run their supplies.

7TH Division were posted to the mountains east of Lake Garda along the northern front. Here the fighting was to gain local advantages. A particular objective was the mountain 'Monte Grappa'. The Borders spent the time in the Alps patrolling and raiding. When not in the front line they built defence lines, in case of an enemy breakthrough.

PRIVATE TO COLONEL

IN May the Battalion's commander, Lieutenant-Colonel W Kerr, DSO, MC, from Crummedale, was killed by a stray shell. Kerr had joined the Regiment as a Private Soldier. By 1914 he was a Company Sergeant Major and three years later was commanding the battalion. Kerr was at Battalion headquarters when he was killed, four other officers and men were wounded. Kerr is buried at Bordighera English Cemetery, on the Mediterranean coast, east of Nice.

IN August 'B' Company and 'C' Company raided an Austrian position 'Stella Fort' west of Monte Grappa. The Regimental history described the operation as successful but that there were heavy losses due to mortar fire.

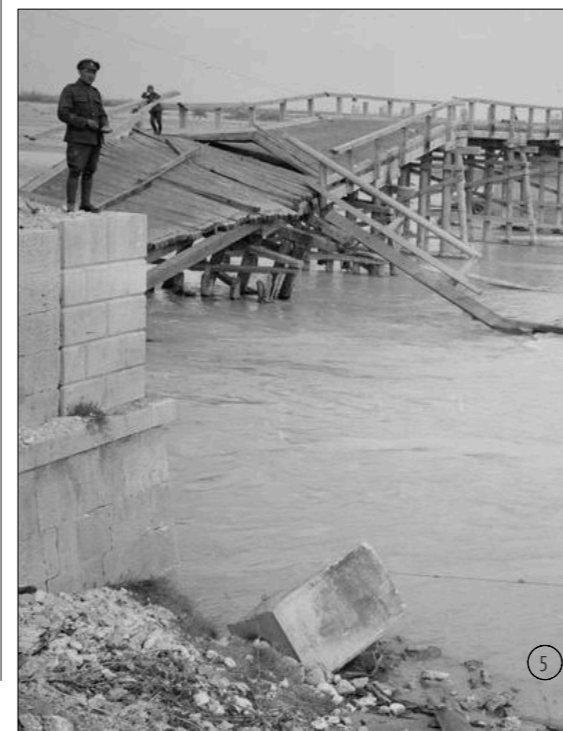
WHEN 'Kaiserschlacht' the German Spring 1918 offensive, swept all before them in France, there were rumours of a return to France, but as the Germans were held in Flanders, the need for reinforcements evaporated and The Borders stayed in Italy.



PIAVE FRONT

IN late October 1918 the battalion moved to Preganzol, just south of Treviso. They began to practise river crossings. 20th Brigade preparing to join an Italian attack across the rivers of the north east coastal plain. Their task was to cross the River Piave at the island of Papadopoli and advance to the River Livenza. Austrian morale was low and their troops were short of food. There were rumours that Vienna had asked for a cease fire. But they were still German troops fighting alongside them.

THE offensive began on 24 October, with 2BORDER as the Brigade reserve. The battalion crossed the Piave during the night of the 26/27 October. On the morning of the 27th they attacked the raised embankment that marked the eastern bank of the Piave. In places the opposition was slight in others it was hard going. During the afternoon 2BORDER



were ordered to relieve the Gordons and the Devons, whilst maintaining the attack. Without support the Borders not were not able to advance. The following day, now supported by artillery the advance continued. It soon became evident that the Austrians were collapsing. In the afternoon Austrian surrenders accelerated. 'A' Company captured a complete Austrian Company.

DESPITE this the battalion still met pockets of resistance. On the 28th two platoons who had advanced well in front of the battalion were surrounded at the River Monticana, close to Fontanelle and forced to surrender.

THE following day the battalion was tasked to cross the Monticana. Before the attack could start they received new orders that if severe casualties were anticipated the attack need not be undertaken. The attack was cancelled and the Brigade was replaced by Italian troops. 20th Brigade now prepared to fight their way across the River Tagliamento. Before the attack could go in news of the armistice arrived. The Austro-Hungarian Empire with a history of over a 1,000 would be dissolved, but the promises of territory for Italy were not fully met.

AFTERMATH

7TH Division's war in Italy was over. British troops remained to police the cease fire and eventually enforce the Treaty of Versailles that overruled most of the Allies cynical obligations to Italy under the Treaty of London.

THE Border Regiment would be in Italy next in 1943; in Sicily and Puglia fighting an Italian enemy largely created by France and Britain's failure to deliver on their treaty obligations to Italy, or perhaps better described as to deliver on its bribes.

IN 1946, the Regiment would return to Italy, at Trieste guarding the frontier with Communist Yugoslavia, another country, whose fate was largely dictated by 1918 and the Treaty of Versailles.

Captions

Cover picture: An unknown British unit arrives in Italy in 1917 © Imperial War Museum

Cover overlays from left to right: Mother Italy welcomes the return of the Tyrol and Trieste © USA Library of Congress

Gabriele d'Annunzio drops propaganda on Trieste

The warring powers woo Italy with promises of land - the caption translates as 'Useless offers'

1. The Kaiser visits the Italian Front 1917 © Imperial War Museum

2. A dug-out in the rocks, Asiago Front, Gloucestershire Regiment © Imperial War Museum

3. British Artillery battery position on the Asiago Front © Imperial War Museum

4. The Border Regiment in Italy 1917-1918

5. A destroyed bridge across the River Tagliamento 1918. © Imperial War Museum



LONG, long ago, August Bank Holiday, 1973 when secondhand Ford Escorts were still cool and I was young, I experienced my very first large scale battle re-enactment when Vikings attacked a Saxon coastal settlement at Trow Quarry, South Tyneside.

Living in History

John Sadler, a regular at the Museum's Festival, introduces us to his and Bev's world of historical interpretation.

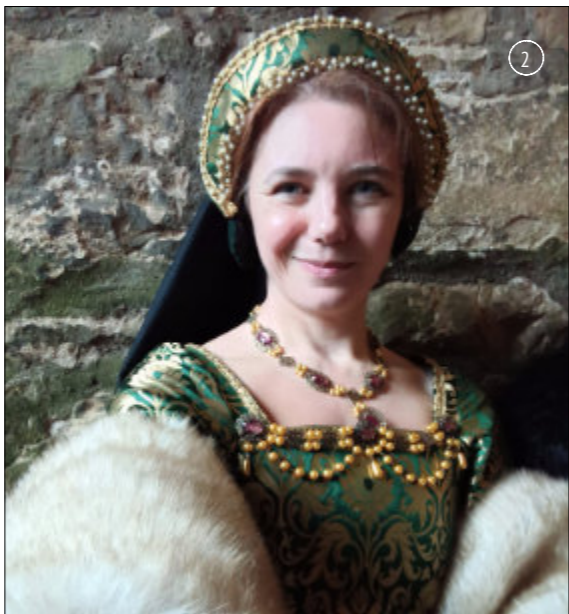
EVERYBODY wanted to be a Viking, local Angles came a very poor second. The village was mostly scaffolding, and the kit featured an awful lot of leather, Norsemen as Hells Angels and yes, there were horned helmets, one bloke had a WWII German Stahlhelm which had sprouted cow-horns. G8d knows what today's WOKE-Stasi would have made of that. I'm not sure what we made of it.

NONETHELESS, this

thread-counters who need to know your tunic is the correct historical length, we do strive for the highest level of achievable authenticity.

MANY PERIODS

BEING multi-period, if not multi-talented, I have an established character from every era and I'm obsessively word perfect on the facts of their lives – with the obvious caveat that we can only go as far as our knowledge and, the further back you go, the more scope and indeed requirement for

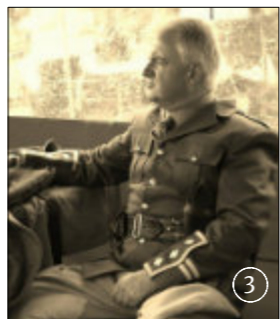


phase marked the beginning of a lifelong obsession and 50 years on I'm still at it, still swearing my best years are yet ahead of me. But we have moved on. Now, I do historical interpretation in the first person, sticking in character throughout and much as I despise the OCD

theatrical licence. And yes, that can go too far. But when I'm in my Viking persona as Olav Sigurdson King of Norway (reigned 1015 – 1030, I am always king not saint, Olav didn't know he would be canonised after his last, unfortunate battle. Nobody would have been more surprised, given his track record, than he!

KIT, KIT & KIT

NOW, when it comes to kit, we like kit, lots of it and we never rope off our handling collection – key word 'handling'. I'm a firm believer that being able to actually pick up, heft and try on the gear adds immensely to the visitor experience. When you put on a mail shirt, you get it. Yes, it's heavy and a pig-faced bascinet does seriously impede sound and vision. Would you really want to march for 20 miles on hot pave, in thick serge carrying all that weight, and don't forget those extra bandoliers?



THERE are numerous academics who sneer volubly at re-enactors who they disdain as an ill-informed proletariat, trespassing on their sacred turf. Partly this is snobbery, seasoned perhaps with a taint of jealousy but mainly a wilful ignorance that ignores the capacity of good interpretation to engage with an audience, many of whom would never go near a lecture hall. That is the real value of what we do, it is the very opposite of elitism, (though obviously I'm still the best).

John Sadler

ONE of the replies to last year's readership survey asked for an explanation of Infantry ranks.



Infantry Ranks

Colonel David Allardice offers this summary of ranks within Rifle Companies

BY the way the use of chevrons to indicate rank, in the British Army, began during the 19th Century.

PRIVATE (PTE)

The Kings of the Battlefield. Our most important asset! Known as Kingsmen (Kgn) in the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.

LANCE CORPORAL (LCPL)

Fire Team Commander. Commands 3 men. Wears one chevron.

CORPORAL (CPL)

Rifle Section Commander Commands 7 men. Wears 2 chevrons.

SERGEANT (SGT)

Rifle Platoon Sergeant Wears 3 chevrons.

COLOUR SERGEANT (CSGT)

Company Quartermaster Sergeant (CQMS) Rank is actually Staff Sergeant, but they are Colour Sergeants in the Infantry. Wears 3 chevrons and a crown above them.

WARRANT OFFICER 2 (WO2)

Company Sergeant Major (CSM) Wears a crown on his sleeve.

David Allardice



The Borders and the 'Red Shirts'

Liam Crowley is researching 2BORDER between the World Wars. This is his account of an action on the North West frontier in 1930. The Red Shirts were campaigning for independence. In 1947 they opposed partition.

IN 1930 three men from the 2nd Bn, The Border Regiment were killed in action at Bara, 5 June 1930, during operations against the Afridi's during the 'Red Shirt' Rebellion.

FRONTIER

DURING an operation on the Kanjuri Plain, the 2nd Bn, Border Regt who were part of a force known as the 'Nowshera Column 'A' were carrying out patrols in the area of the Peshawar-Bara

road. At 1125 hours on the 5 June 1930, the 2nd Bn Border Regt (minus one company) had been placed in reserve south of the village of Pushtakara along with the 31st Field Battery RA.

A report was sent forward informing the Borders that a force of some two hundred Afridi tribesmen were taking up position near the village of Spina Warai. A patrol from the Battalion supported by one Company and a section of Machine Guns,



was ordered to investigate.

AS the patrol moved forward, it came under heavy and accurate small arms fire, immediately pinning down the patrol, a heavy gun battle took place, with three soldiers of the 2nd Bn, Border Regt being killed in the engagement and another wounded. The guns of the 31st Field Battery were called into ACTION, firing eight rounds into the Afridi position at Spina Warai. The Border Regt Company and Machine Gun section returned heavy and accurate fire onto the Afridis so the patrol could withdraw.

THE Afridis, although successful in their ambush of the patrol, were dealt a heavy blow. Co-operation of Infantry, cavalry, artillery with aerial bombing by the RAF, checked the Afridis. Who lost some twenty-six killed and nineteen wounded. The following day the Afridis withdrew to the relative safety of their villages.

KILLED IN ACTION

THREE men were killed from the battalion. 3521840 Private Frank Burtenshaw, age 22.

3594728 Lance Corporal Percy Cadman, age 21.

3593876 Private James Potts, age 20.

SERGEANT Thomas Burke, 2Border was awarded the Military Medal for his actions during the engagement.

Liam Crowley



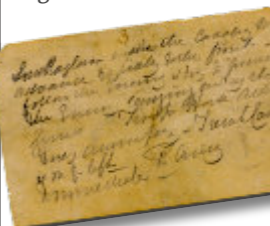
GENERAL Richard Airey, serving on Lord Raglan's staff during the Crimean War, wrote down the order from Lord Raglan to Lord Cardigan, that led directly to the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava.

Our Colonel & the Light Brigade

The Regiment's connection to the fateful charge



AIREY had led the 34th Foot whilst it was in Canada from February 1837 to 1841. He went to the Crimea initially to command a Brigade but was almost immediately transferred to the post of Quarter Master General on the Commander in Chief's staff. The National Army Museum have the original order.



'Lord Raglan wishes the cavalry to advance rapidly to the front, follow the enemy & try to prevent the enemy carrying away the guns. Troop Horse Artillery may accompany. French cavalry is on your left. Immediate. R. Airey!'

The Editor

Captions

1. John Sadler in full cavalry mode at Chillingham Castle

2. Bev Palin as Mary Queen of Scots at Craigmiller Castle

3. The general reflects

4. NCOs of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment reproduced with the kind permission of BBC Cumbria

5. Soldiers from the 2nd Bn Border Regiment rest during operations at Bara. Liam Crowley collection

6. Border Regiment Vickers Machine Gun Section in support along the Bara-Peshawar Road. Liam Crowley collection

7. Elements of the 15th/19th Hussars after the action at Bara, the Hussars gave support on the right flank to the advancing troops of the Border Regiment. Liam Crowley collection

8. 4.5-inch Howitzer Sub-Section with Ammunition Limbers of the 31st Field Battery Royal Artillery, pause on the Bara-Peshawar Road. Accurate fire from the Battery would help halt the advancing Afridis. Liam Crowley collection

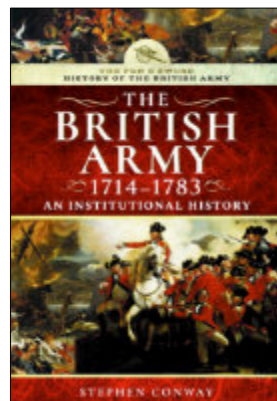
9. Louis Nolan, aide-de-camp to Airey. The artist is unknown. The original is in the Museum of the 15th/19th Hussars, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

10. General Richard Airey: a photograph taken by Roger Fenton and now in the Royal Collection

11. The fateful message, carried by Nolan to Cardigan.

Book shelf

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



British Army 1714-1783 An Institutional History
Stephen Conway
Pen & Sword
ISBN 9781526711403
£25.00

STEPHEN Conway considers the army's legal status, political control and administration, its system of recruitment, the relationships between officers and men, and the social and economic as well as constitutional interactions of the army with British and other societies.

THROUGHOUT the book a theme is order and control. He shows that the obedience of its common soldiers had to be negotiated by their officers who were very aware of their men's sense of their entitlements, and their view that military service as contractual.

BY uncovering the mental world of both officers and common soldiers, Stephen Conway offers a very different view of how the British army operated between the Hanoverian succession and the end of the War of American Independence.

History's waiting room

The Editor has given David Allardice some leave. In his place are two extracts from 'The Border Magazine' of 1949.

SOMALILAND LEAVE CAMP

TOWARDS the end of June, while the Battalion was still in British Somaliland, a leave camp was established at Upper Sheikh, about 40 miles south of Barbara. This was a very Pleasant place, about 6000 feet up and having a certain amount of grass and cultivation. The camp was a great success.

ABOUT 30 men from all companies went up for a week at a time and although they still lived in tents, they were waited on by Somali servants, who did all the chores and even brought round a cup of tea in the morning. A few games were played and pleasant walks were enjoyed. Military activity was nil. A certain amount of shooting was available, but this proved quite expensive for the men who, by mistake, shot a camel and a sheep.

TROOPING THE ARROYO REPLICAS

FOR the first time, for many years Arroyo Day was celebrated by the battalion in almost prewar fashion. Replicas of the French drums were trooped on a ceremonial parade in the morning, which was watched by a large percentage of the population of Mogadishu, only the boy drum major (Boy Lance Corporal Matthews) was dressed in French uniform as the rest of the uniforms were much too small for the present band boys.

The Family

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

MORE ON ADEN

"ANOTHER smashing edition. Aden article was great but no mention of 6Pl deployment from Bahrain to Makerious for several weeks guarding forward RAF radar base near the north Aden border in September. Position under constant attack. Pl was supported by Para Mortar Sect and under command of the Northumberland Fusiliers."

Col Simon Strickland OBE [Thank you. I'd like to have room for longer articles, just need a sponsor for the extra pages! - Ed]



BOER WAR

RICHARD Mosley posted this wonderful picture on The Border Regiment Facebook Group. It shows his great-grandfather's platoon, 1BORDER, in mufti, at Carlisle barracks around 1900.

REGIMENTAL COMPOSER OFFER

"I will provide 300 words [for The Lion & the Dragon] plus a picture. It would be good to be in touch with the current bandmaster.

A musical evening sounds great – there are musicians based in Carlisle who still play Felix's pieces, at the Carlisle Accordion club, I'm happy to put you in touch with them if you are interested."

Kim Tame, Author of 'The Bandmaster of Carlisle' [Felix Burns was Bandmaster 4BORDER circa 1914 - Ed]

Still serving

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



DEATH OF CHRIS OWEN

IT is with great sadness that the Trustees of The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment announce the death of our Regimental Secretary, Colonel (rtd) Chris Owen. He passed away in hospital on 28th December after being taken ill just before Christmas.



NEW COLONEL

BRIGADIER Rob Singleton has taken over from Brigadier Frazer Lawrence OBE as Colonel of the Regiment. Brigadier Singleton's first official duty as Colonel was a visit to the School of Infantry to meet some of our new Kingsmen and LANCS staff. Singleton joined the recruits on a 4km run.



CHRISTMAS CADETS

CADETS from the Castle Detachment helped the Cumberland County Council at the switch on of the 2023 Christmas lights in Carlisle.

Museum, Friends and Supporters

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



CONNECTIONS WITH THE ROYAL FAMILY

MUSEUM Director Jules Wooding writes, "As a Museum, we need to incorporate modern items into the collections to keep them up to date. Last year, we inherited a pair of boots worn by a soldier from ILANCS who took part in the Queen's funeral parade in 2022 and who said, "It was an honour to be selected to march in the funeral parade...."

THE boots tell a unique story of bullying and drilling that was undertaken by the Regiment who took part in the state funeral.

CORONATION

FAST forward eight months, and the coronation of King Charles III in May 2023. The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment again had a part to play. Soldiers from ILANCS and 4LANCS spent several weeks preparing for the royal occasion. Representatives from the Regiment included soldiers from C Company, 4LANCS based in Cumbria.

IT is important we collect these memories, and details along with the donated objects to give a fuller record of these events. The personal connection makes history come alive and helps to enhance the objects within the collections."

NEW SEASON

MIKE Milbourn writes, "On behalf of the Committee of the Friends, I would like to take this opportunity to hope that everyone had a merry Christmas and that you are having a happy New Year. I would also like to thank you for your continued support, which, in turn, helps the Museum greatly."

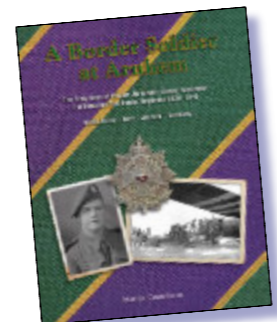
FRIENDS STANDING ORDER REMINDER

MIKE Rosling reminds, "Senior Members, who pay by standing order, to adjust their standing order to £12 from £10 as soon as possible."



KORBR BENCH

TED Carter, former KORBR, reports, "After a magnificent effort by members of the Regimental Association, whose donations made it possible, The King's Own Royal Border Regimental Bench, in the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire, has been cleaned and treated with preservative oil. This should ensure that the bench is protected from the elements for the next couple of years."



NEW BORDER BOOK

'A Border Soldier At Arnhem' by Martijn Cornelissen covers the war service of Sandy Masterton, 25th Anti-tank Platoon. The hardback book has 166 pages and costs £33 plus £5 postage in the UK. The Museum Shop has copies.



REGIMENTAL AIRFIELD TO BE QUARRIED

DOWN Ampney Airfield, one of the airfields that the Airlanding Brigade used in 1944, is to be quarried for sand and gravel. The site is in the Cotswold Water Park that straddles the borders of Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire, and consists of flooded quarry sites. Because it is close to RAF Fairford, the excavated site will be back-filled: the RAF are worried about bird strikes from waterbirds.



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 2023

THE Regimental Association provided two wreaths to remember the men of the 34th and 55th Foot who served at Fort Ontario, aka Oswego in the 18th Century.



REGIMENTAL FURNISHINGS

A wonderful Regimental cushion by Elaine Murrow. Elaine raises funds for military charities. Cushions are produced to your design and cost £75 plus £5 p&p covers anywhere in U.K. Elaine can be reached at ritasweeney57@msn.com.

Diary

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

Monday, 19 February, 1230 Veterans Lunch Club
The Museum. Light Lunch provided for a small cost. Pre-booking essential.

Tuesday, 13 February, 1730 Tuesday Talk
The Museum, 'Custer at the Battle of the Little Big Horn - 25/26 June 1876', Tom McMullen.

Tuesday, 12 March, 1730 Tuesday Talk
The Museum, 'The Expendables: The story of a specialised RAF unit in the Second World War and Beyond', Mac McNeill.

Monday, 18 March, 1230 Veterans Lunch
The Museum. Light Lunch provided for a small cost. Pre-booking essential.

Tuesday, 9 April, 1730 Tuesday Talk.
The Museum, 'Your Country Needs You!' Propaganda and the British Army', Dr Brendan Maartens.

15 April, 1230 Veterans Lunch
The Museum. Light Lunch provided for a small cost. Pre-booking essential.

10-12 May Fontenoy Weekend
Crown & Mitre, Carlisle, details from David Israel

Tuesday, 14 May, 1730 Tuesday Talk.
The Museum, Women at War: Changes in Women's Lives during the Great War, Judith Beastall

Monday, 20 May, 1230 Veterans Lunch
The Museum. Light Lunch provided for a small cost. Pre-booking essential.

Tuesday 11 June, 1730 Tuesday Talk
The Museum, Katyn 1940: The Story of a Massacre, Max Loth-Hill

And almost finally

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

GUARD DUTY

by Stephen Felton
I remember guard duty like it was yesterday.



Every guard box had rock hard sugar and coffee and soggy corn beef and tomato sandwiches.



If you pulled a 02.00 hrs stag you might go hide in the drying room for a kip.



But at 05.00 the lights would go on....



...and the floor bumper would start swinging.

And we would watch the prisoners get marched to their breakfast at a hundred miles an hour.



illustrated by Alex Paterson

ENDEX

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



RED TAB SATIRE?

IS this an intentional grouping of puppets? At the Lilliput Toy Museum, Brading, Isle of Wight.

ARROYO - BROKEN PAROLE

"Prince D'Armsberg, who was taken prisoner by General Hill, when he surprised the enemy at the Arroyo des Molinos (sic) on the 28th of October last, and who has been sometime on his parole at Bridgnorth, has been removed from thence for improper conduct on Saturday."

Hereford Journal
19 August 1812

COCKNEY RABBIT

RHYMING slang with a military connection from Puxley's 'Complete Cockney Rabbit':

Army & Navy - gravy
Army rocks - socks
Soldier ants - pants
Rifle range - change



MILITARY GUITAR

A guitarist performs a on the roof of Horseguards, during the Coronation celebrations 2023.

Our Heritage

Cumbria's military heritage includes the Militia, the Yeomanry, Territorials and specialist units.

THE regiment that became known as 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. In 1782 the 34th was given the regional title 'Cumberland'.

THE 55th Foot were raised in 1755 by Charles Perry. They were originally the 57th Foot, but when two lower numbered regiments were disbanded in 1756, they became the 55th Foot.

IN 1782, the 55th Foot were given the territorial title 'Westmorland Regiment'.

THE 34th were combined with the 55th in 1881 to form 'The Border Regiment'. At the same time the Cumberland and Westmorland Militia were re-organised as the Special Reserve and in 1908 the Rifle Volunteer battalions became the Territorial Force.

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

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

IN 2006 the King's Own Royal Border Regiment were merged with other regiments in the North West to create 'The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment'.

Lest we forget

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

12 February 1702, The 34th Foot, raised.

The Regiment was raised as Lord Lucas's Regiment in Norfolk and Essex.

27 February 1814, Battle of Orthez, France, 2/34th Foot

The penultimate battle of the Peninsular War, Wellington's army attacked the French army led by Marshal Nicolas Soult. After stiff fighting Soult was compelled to retreat.

March – July 1944, Imphal, India, Border Regiment

Japanese armies attempted to destroy the Allied forces at Imphal and invade India, but were driven back and from then on XIV Army advanced through Burma to Rangoon.



March 1915, Battle of Neuve Chapelle, France, Border Regiment

The British broke through German defences in a salient at the village Neuve-Chapelle, but the initial success could not be exploited.

The image is a painting in Maidstone Art Gallery.



14 April 1923, Mollie Ellis abducted at Kohat, North West Frontier

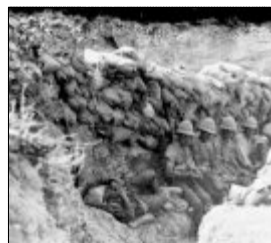
A gang broke into the bungalow of Major A J Ellis DSO, 1BORDER, whilst he was away, murdered Mrs Ellis, and kidnapped Mollie, their 17 year old daughter. She was

eventually rescued by Eileen Starr, a mission nurse, and Risalder Mohgal Baz Kahn, formerly of the Indian Army's Corps of Guides. In our picture Mollie visits her mother's grave in 1983. *The picture comes from 'Dawn' a Pakistan Magazine and we gratefully acknowledge their help in using it. There is more about Mollie in the 'Our Family' booklet, £2.50, from the Museum Shop.*



23 April 1917 Rest in Peace

Private Ernest Dawson, 7BORDER, Son of J and S Dawson, of 29, Morris Avenue, Manor Park, Essex. He is buried in the Arras Memorial Cemetery. *Photograph Imperial War Museum*



25 April 1915, Landing at Helles, Gallipoli, Border Regiment

1BORDER part of 29th Division landed at 'X' Beach, although the beach head was secured, fighting became heavier as the day progressed. The Regiment suffered heavy losses including their Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Hume. *Photograph CMOL*

27 April 1859, Private George Richardson VC, Kewan Trans-Gogra, Indian Mutiny, 34th Foot,

Richardson did, despite the fact that his arm was broken by a rifle bullet and leg slashed by a sabre, rush to the aid of his officer, who was attacked."



2/4 Battalion
The Border Regiment,
Rock-cut badge, Cherat,
Pakistan, WWI



11th Battalion 'Lonsdale'
The Border Regiment
Officer's cap badge
WWI



Eighth Army cloth badge
1 Battalion The Border
Regiment 1943

Information

Cumbria's Museum of Military Life

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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

c/o Alma Block
Carlisle Castle

Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

Fulwood Barracks
Watling Street Road
Preston
PR2 8AA

Cumbria Army Cadet Force

HQ
Carlisle Castle
Cumbria
CA3 8UR

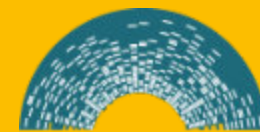
'The Lion & the Dragon'

Published by the Friends of
Cumbria's Military
Museum.

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CUMBRIA'S
MUSEUM OF
MILITARY LIFE



ACCREDITED
MUSEUM



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



Printed by
Stramongate Press
Kendal 01539 72044