The Lion & the Dragon

Celebrating the past and championing [illegible]ture

Spring 2025

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

CUMBRIA'S MUSEUM OF MILITARY LIFE

Ladbroke revisited

THE Lion & the Dragon is privileged to carry this article by American Airforce Historian, retired USAF Colonel, Mark Vlahos.

SINCE so much literature is already written on troop carrier, airborne, and glider operations in the European Theatre of Operations (ETO), I focus my area of study on WWII troop carrier and glider operations in the Mediterranean Theatre of Operations (MTO), including the secret war in the Balkans. United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) C-47s and CG-4A gliders were used extensively not only in the invasion of Sicily and Italy, and during the invasion of Greece, but also supported British SOE and American SOS operatives in former Yugoslavia.

ONE mission continues to stand out and intrigue me – the disastrous 1st Air Landing Brigade Ladbroke glider mission, which spear-headed Operation Husky – the invasion of Sicily. I know some readers are now thinking ... This "Yank" must be crazy, bringing such an emotionally charged subject to a British museum publication. It's understandable that many are of the opinion that it simply came down to the new, inexperienced American C-47 crews were afraid to fly into anti-aircraft fire and released the gliders to soon, so they landed in the water.

However, this article will provide a fresh look at critical factors, offer up some new information, while challenging some previous assumptions. We can never stop learning and that is why at this point in my life I work as a Historian, Author, and Speaker. Why is Ladbroke important? Because it was the first large-scale airborne mission attempted by the Allies in WWII.

DURING Operation Husky planning, General Eisenhower's staff apportioned the newly arrived USAAF 52nd Troop Carrier Wing (TCW) to the American sector with the task of dropping the American 82nd Airborne Division. [note: no glider tow mission was planned in the American sector.] The older and more experienced USAAF 51st TCW (comprised of the 60th, 62nd and 64th Troop Carrier Groups (TCGs) was apportioned to the British sector to support 1st Airborne Division missions.

THE chart overleaf summarises major combat missions flown by the 51st TCW during the North African Campaign. Which brings up key point #1 – The 51st TCW was not untested in battle prior to Operation Husky. All three groups in the 51st TCW activated a year before Pearl Harbour and were some of the oldest in the Army Air Corps. In fact,

Contents

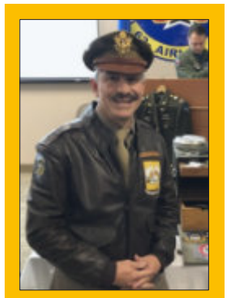
SITREP

I was brought up on some simple military facts: the radios didn't work at Arnhem and the Americans dropped the Regiment in the sea at Sicily because they were frightened by gunfire. A decision on the radio story is still out, but hopefully this edition will correct the gliders in the sea story.

AS a civvy I can see how a glider approach at night over water might go wrong. Night approaches to combat on land had always been a gamble, this one using new technology from the air, over water – so no landmarks, in strong winds, was never going to be easy.

MARK Vlahos' article resets the debate. The Yanks were not untrained; nor were they frightened by gunfire. It had all the ingredients for a screw-up waiting to happen.

Peter Green



Colonel Mark Vlahos

Colonel Mark "Plug" Vlahos retired from the United States Air Force in 2011. During his 29-year career, he served in a wide-range of operational flying and staff assignments including command of a C-130 squadron in combat and Vice Wing Commander of the 314th Airlift Wing at Little Rock Air Force Base. At the time, Little Rock Air Force Base was the largest C-130 wing in the world

His interests include U.S. Civil War history and World War II Army Air Force Troop Carrier and glider operations history.

What Mark enjoys the most about his work is meeting family members of World War II Veterans and digging through archives and old photos.

51st Troop Carrier Wing North African Campaign Missions

Date	Unit	Mission	Location
8-9 Nov 42	60th TCG	U.S. Paradrop	Tafaraoui
11 Nov 42	60th & 64th TCGs	US & British Paradrop	Maison Blanche
12 Nov 42	64th TCG	British Paradrop	Bone
15 Nov 42	60th TCG	U.S. Paradrop	Youks-les-Bains
16 Nov 42	64th TCG	British Paradrop	Souk el Arba
29 Nov 42	62nd & 64th TCGs	British Paradrop	Depienne
6 Dec 42	60th TCG	U.S. Paradrop	El Djem Bridge
22 Jan 43	64th TCG	Ration Drop to British Paras	Pichon

most of the thirty-nine C-47s that flew the Operation Torch mission were fired upon by anti-aircraft guns upon reaching Algeria; three of the C-47s, loaded with U.S. paratroopers were forced or shot down and shot up pretty good by French fighter aircraft as well. Casualties for the 60th TCG on the Torch Mission were 2 killed, 7 wounded, the paratroopers they carried suffered 5 killed, 20 wounded.

FOR D-day of Operation Husky, the 60th, 62nd TCGs and 38 Wing RAF were tasked to tow 144 gliders transporting the British 1st Airlanding Brigade. Of the 144 gliders, 136 were American Wacos and 8 were British Horsas. The 144 tug ships consisted of 109 C-47/C-53 from the 51st TCW and 28 Albemarle and 7 Halifax bombers from RAF 38 Wing. The mission was code-named Ladbroke; to secure the vital Ponte Grande Bridge on the main highway over a canal southwest of the city of Syracuse on Sicily. Another 250 American C-47s were committed to dropping the 82nd Airborne Division, with 63 more held in reserve. [note: Two follow on missions' code-named Glutton and Fustian were also planned for the British sector. Glutton was cancelled, but Fustian, a combination paratroop and glider tow mission flew on the night of July 13-14, 1943.

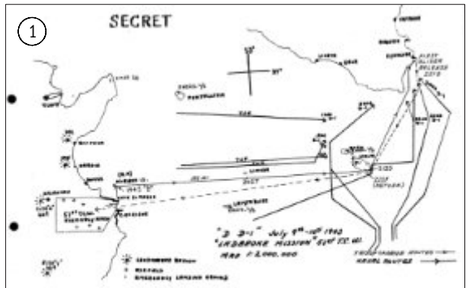
BRITISH CONCERNS

LIEUTENANT Colonel George Chatterton, Commander of British glider pilots was well aware of the risks involved with the Ladbroke Mission. It is well-known that Major General "Hoppy" Hopkinson, Commander, 1st Airborne Division threatened to relieve Chatterton of command when Chatterton voiced his concerns. [note: The author is totally impressed with the leadership displayed by George Chatterton both before and after the Ladbroke Mission.] Since not nearly enough British Horsa gliders could be ferried to North Africa, the duty of flying the majority of 1st Air Landing Brigade into combat fell upon the smaller American CG-4A Waco glider. A glider that British pilots had zero flying time on, and to make matters worse, General Montgomery directed a night time landing for the gliders, over some very unforgiving terrain.

NIGHT glider assaults were not part of British Airborne Doctrine; British glider pilots had no night flying experience. In contrast, to earn their wings, American glider pilots trained in both day and night operations and landings. With time running out, there was a lot of pressure to not only assemble enough Waco gliders, but also train the British glider pilots to fly them. When it was all said and done, each British glider pilot amassed about 4.5 hours of flying time, with 1.2 hours at night on Wacos.

NOW for key point #2 of this article. The British were not happy with the size and capability of the Wacos as a replacement for the Horsa. Prior to Operation Husky, British Royal Engineers added three more wooden seats to the Waco's, so a total of 16 troops could be carried. While not every glider carried 16 men, there are multiple load manifests that document gliders with 16 men. With combat gear, an additional 3 more men and the wood seats added about 800 more pounds to the payload. The Waco was designed to carry about 4,000 pounds. Since British glider load planning was based around the platoon, my assumption is that these three extra seats were added to create half a platoon load – for ease of load planning (basically cutting a Horsa platoon load in half).

HOWEVER, a lot more risk was built into the Ladbroke plan. British planners were concerned the American C-47s had no armour or self-sealing gasoline tanks. Since the C-47s were needed for follow-on paradrop missions, British Ladbroke planners directed to keep the C-47 tug and CG-4A glider combinations out of anti-aircraft range. This is why the planned release point (directed on British Field Order #15) was chosen to be 3,000 yards (= 1.7 miles) offshore, over water, at an altitude of 1400 feet at night. It is important to note that this drop location and altitude was based on calm winds. To make matters worse, the landing zones (LZs) were located on top of a 200-foot-high cliff with many rocks, stone walls, and ditches. One Waco LZ was an additional mile inland from the shoreline.



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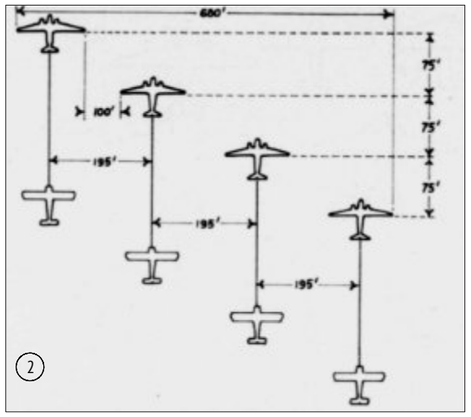
Ladbroke Mission Map
(Courtesy of Air Force Historical Research Agency)



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HIGH RISK MISSION

TO fully understand What happened that night, a closer look at the formation the USAAF C-47s flew must be made. Worried that Axis radar on Sicily would detect the C-47 formation, Ladbroke planners directed the entire 400-mile flight to glider release to be made at an altitude of 200 feet above the water. This was a very tight and aggressive formation to fly, especially at night, towing a glider, and flying only 200 feet above the water.

THE C-47 tug aircraft would then climb to an altitude of 1400-1800 feet to release the gliders in the release zone. Due to a shortage of navigators, only one navigator was assigned to each 4-ship element lead aircraft. The USAAF 4-ship single glider tow element had all aircraft in right-echelon and a little further back from the lead aircraft.

WITH less than 24 hours go before takeoff on the Ladbroke Mission, Lt. Col Chatterton approached Brigadier General Dunn, the 51st TCW Commander and stated they were short 26 glider pilots to fly the two-planned glider missions and asked the

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Americans for help. Each American Troop Carrier Squadron was asked to provide 5 glider pilots to support the effort. In each squadron, the first five volunteers were taken; the American glider pilots had no idea what they were volunteering for and did not know the next day they would be taking off as part of the British 1st Airborne Division to spearhead the invasion of Sicily.

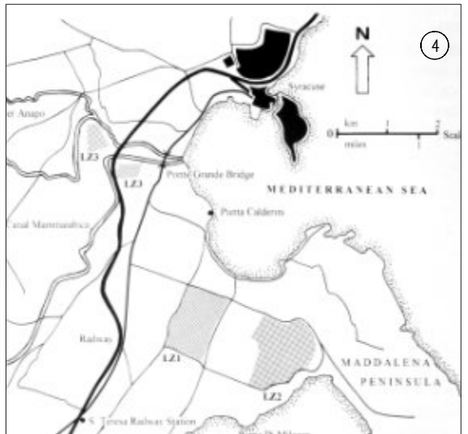
BRITISH ORDERS TO THE TUG PILOTS

THE British orders for the American tug crews in Ladbroke were explicit. Do not go over land, Do not get into flak (the concern of no self-sealing gas tanks), release glider 3,000 yards from shore and, the most radical order was if the Glider pilot did not release on their signal, the tugs were to release them. The unwritten guidance was "don't come home towing a glider." This was totally unheard of by American glider pilot flight training standards and the American glider pilots could not believe what they were being told. The Operations Order dictated release altitude for the Waco LZs was 1400 and 1800 feet in altitude, and 4,000 feet for the Horsas.

NO plan survives first contact with the enemy and at takeoff time the enemy was the weather. A gale force wind of 35 – 45 knots out of the west/northwest was blowing. More than one American C-47 crew member was concerned with the briefed low glider release altitudes. Second Lieutenant Paul Gale, a navigator stated: "The winds were gale force winds, up to forty-five knots. We had not been given any change of the release co-ordinates.

WHEN you went to the briefings they told you where you were going, what routes they expected you to fly and where they expected you to release these gliders: latitude, longitude and altitude. We received no information of a change of these co-ordinates which had to be changed because the co-ordinates that we had were all for five or ten knot winds or calm weather. Key point #3; At the briefings, the Americans suggested the release altitude be raised an additional 2,000 feet for the Wacos due to the wind, but the British declined to do this. In all fairness, there was no telephone connection between the six takeoff airfields and since radio silence was directed, there was no way to communicate a change in glider release altitude this late in the game. Sadly, if the Waco gliders were released 2,000 feet higher, many more would have reached shore.

WITH no instrumentation to assist and not trained to judge distance offshore at night – the Troop Carrier pilots did the best they could– but still, lead Navigator Richard H. Kraemer got the



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front part of the formation probably within a quarter-mile of the release point. Half (50%) of the Wacos in the first three, 4-ship elements made landfall. It is what happened after this, that things went bad.

FOUR ISSUES

A combination of four things caused the ensuing disaster: the high velocity of the wind, overweight gliders, the briefed release altitude (too low) and the actual 4-ship element flown by the Americans – it was not C-47 crews running from anti-aircraft fire as some sensationalise. Only nine British reports mentioned tugs taking evasive action and only a few tied this evasive action to anti-aircraft fire. Also, many tugs are documented as making a second and even a third run-in after missing the release point – this proves they were trying their best to execute the mission. The wind became almost a direct cross wind to the tugs from the direction of shore; and a direct head wind to the gliders once released. Accounts vary, on the wind speed, but probably averaged around 35 mph.

WHEN flying an echelon right formation, the only way to create safe space from other aircraft is to move right, further away from shore and the release point. Number 3 and 4 kept getting pushed right to maintain safe distance from 1 and 2. This caused many gliders to be released more than 3,000 yards offshore.

AS the lead elements slowed down and climbed to release altitude, the following elements in the formation began to stack up and the formation became compressed. As the formation became compressed, elements had to go further right (and further offshore) to keep from flying into those in front of them. To make matters worse; those aircraft that flew pass the release zone without releasing attempted to circle back and fly back into the incoming flow – this was the worst thing they could have done. This caused the evasive action, documented in many reports. The back half of the formation had many more re-attack attempts, this only messed up the formation more and the results proved it. It's a miracle that no mid-air collisions occurred. Many pilots reported that aircraft and gliders were all over the sky. Trying to release gliders in a 4-ship element just made things worse for the glider pilots.

THE lead 60th TCG in the front half of the formation was more accurate (25 gliders reached land/23 sea/3 returned) than the back half 62nd TCG (only 13 reached land/36 sea/2 returned). Sadly, the majority of The Border Regiment was in the back half of the formation. The tug pilots under orders to release gliders made things worse– sadly many were too far offshore (the results of the back half of the formation support this). Again, if the release altitude was raised another 2000 feet, another 20 – 25 gliders may have reached shore.

LESSON LEARNT

AFTER the disastrous results on the Ladbroke Mission, the British glider pilots refused to be towed by the American Troop Carriers. Ironically, many of the directives that handcuffed the American troop carrier pilots on Ladbroke, were removed in the field order for the follow-on Fustian Mission.

TUG aircraft flew directly over the landing zones, glider pilots-initiated release, and the landing zones were marked. Despite all that went wrong after Operation Husky – on both the American drop of the 82nd Airborne and the two British missions, Lieutenant Colonel Chatterton and Brigadier General Ray Dunn were determined to push lessons learned and convince General Eisenhower that glider operations could be successfully accomplished. The bottom line was the Force involved was barely trained for the mission tasking at hand and many lessons learned, sadly in blood were taken to task – which paid huge dividends just a year later in France, Holland and Germany.

Mark Vlahos

Captions

Cover picture: Men of 1BORDER by a Waco glider, with members of the American 60th Troop Carrier Group in North Africa. The Group flew the Regiment to Sicily in 1943 ©IWM

1. The flight plan for Operation Ladbroke

2. USAAF towing pattern

3. Men of 1 BORDER and a Waco in North Africa. ©IWM

4. The landing zones around Syracuse ©CMOML

Brigadier Rob Singleton

Brigadier Singleton was commissioned into the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment in 2000. He served in Northern Ireland and Iraq. He became Adjutant before moving to Germany and the 20th Armoured Brigade.

After promotion to Major in the Army Organisation Branch, he commanded a Company in the 3rd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment. He took part Op HERRICK 16 in Afghanistan. After a year as Second in Command of the 2nd Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, he commanded 2 LANCS from July 2016 to December 2018. This included deployment on Op SHADER in Iraq plus a series of exercises in Kenya. On promotion to Colonel he became Chief of Staff, Land Warfare Centre from August 2020 to December 2022.

He became Colonel of The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment in November 2023. *See page 6 for the latest news of his career.*

"I want us, the members of the Regimental family, to share a vision of the future and understand how each of us can contribute to achieving that vision. Doing so will benefit us as individuals, the Regiment, the Army, our Region and ultimately the nation," **Brigadier Singleton, Colonel, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment .**

We're Family

Regimental Colonel, Brigadier Singleton, shares his thoughts on the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment's future with 'The Lion & the Dragon'.

STRONG support then for the Family from the Regimental Strategy. Support demonstrated by Singleton's presence at the Arnhem Commemorations in Carlisle. The Strategy underlines the importance of the Regimental system as ensuring that the Duke of Lancaster's contributes effectively to the security of the Nation.

STRENGTH

COLONEL Singleton again:

"Infantry regiments evolve and adapt to meet the needs of the nation varying in size, role and locations. Over time, the Regimental system has established a feeling of service to, and connection with, the region from which it recruits. This in turn establishes comradeship and regimental ethos which are major factors enabling soldiers to prevail, sometimes against the most challenging odds, or in conditions of extreme hardship. In this way, Regiments lie at the heart of the British Army's fighting power."

HE emphasised to 'The Lion & the Dragon' his view on the vital role of family and heritage in making effective soldiers. In his view heritage underpins the moral component and ethos underpins cohesion, the will to stand and fight and the physical and moral courage required of soldiers to do the right thing on a difficult day on or off the battlefield.

HE went on:

"The Regimental System is hugely important. The moral component of Fighting Power is, for me, the most important component. So we must continue to protect and nurture it. That's why it features so prominently in our new Strategy and we will back this up with tangible actions in the coming months. I'd like to see us better connect the different parts of the Regiment so, for example, we must hold events that bring together our serving personnel with our heritage experts and our veterans."

FOR the Museum the key part of the strategy is covered by the section headlined "Network - our family".

THE FAMILY

"The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment is an extensive and inclusive family. In principle, it includes all those who are serving and have served (both the current Regiment and our antecedents) whether that be in the Regular Army, the Army Reserves and a wide range of related organisations including the cadets, those who manage and nourish our heritage and their families. This includes RHQ, all our serving personnel and veterans, the Battalions, our Associations, our chapels and museums...."

SINGLETON commented on the Museum in Carlisle:

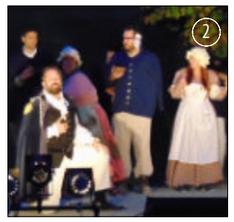
"The Museum is genuinely fantastic. I've visited it twice in my first year as Colonel of the Regiment and have thoroughly enjoyed the exhibits and working with our excellent staff. It is so much more than a Museum; alongside 4 LANCS, it is a focal point for our Regiment in Carlisle, and it connects us to the society we serve. I'm very grateful to all those who support the Museum so well and I look forward to helping over my tenure as Colonel." Brigadier Singleton.

The Editor with the generous assistance of Regimental Headquarters


1

The '1812 Underture' at Fort Ontario

Some wonderful nonsense at Fort Ontario. Gilbert and Sullivan at Alma Block soon?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IN the Autumn of last year, 'The Hysterical Society,' a group of dedicated and talented local actors, writers, and musicians performed an original comic operetta[1], 'The 1812 Underture,' at Fort Ontario State Historic Site in Oswego, New York.

'THE 1812 Underture,' is a musical comedy loosely based on Fort Ontario's history during the War of 1812. The setting is early May 1814, when Oswego was about to be attacked by an overwhelming British amphibious force. The premise of 'The 1812 Underture,' is that the fort's garrison became so absorbed in producing an operetta, that they failed to strengthen its defences, contributing to its capture and destruction.

COMIC

THE operetta was written and produced by Nick Gentile, Sarah Galvin, and KT Donovan, of Oswego. It was skilfully and professionally performed on the fort's parade ground where legends and lesser-known figures of British-American military history served and fought. Connections with the past were heightened as flocks of ducks and geese flew over into magnificent Lake Ontario sunsets, and screams of osprey mingled with notes of the orchestra, actor's lines, laughter, and applause. 'The 1812 Underture,' was performed in cooperation with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, which administers Fort Ontario State Historic Site.

TRADITION

LIVE theatre at Fort Ontario began with its British garrisons during the Seven Years War, when officers and men staged productions of classic and contemporary works to relieve the tedium of life on the frontier. It continued through the 19th and 20th centuries and in 2014 as part of War of 1812 bicentennial commemorative activities. Historic Site Manager Paul Lear approved 'The 1812 Underture,'

"BECAUSE it continues the history of live theatre at the old army post, and because of the solid reputations of those responsible for its writing, production, and promotion."

Paul A. Lear
Former Site Manager
Fort Ontario Historic Site


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New regiment happier name

A surprise from old newspapers

THE original name for the combined 34th and 55th Foot in 1881 was not 'The Border Regiment'. The War Office originally suggested a less inspiring name.

ON March 12 1881 'Sheldrake's Aldershot and Sandhurst Military Gazette' recorded

"The following are the titles which have been fixed upon for the newly constituted regiments of the line: 34th and 55th 'The Cumberland and Westmoreland Regiment'

BUT it was not to be 'Cumberland and Westmoreland' *(sic)*, nor as the Morning Post recorded would it be 'The Cumberland Regiment' :

A list has been issued from the War Office, showing the final alterations in the nomenclature of the newly constituted territorial regiments which was to take affect from Friday. They are but few in number.

The 34th and 55th regiment, which would have been called "The Cumberland" have received a happier designation of 'The Border Regiment".

THE Friday 1 July 1881 the London Gazette had announced:

34th Regiment - '1st Battalion The Border Regiment' and 55th Foot - '2nd Battalion The Border Regiment'.

AND on 16 July 1881 the Carlisle Express and Examiner was referring to the Westmorland Militia as "the 4th Battalion The Border Regiment."

The Editor


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9mm Infantry Weapons

David Allardice with John Conway (late SASC) handle some of the lighter infantry weapons

SMG L2A3

MADE by Sterling in Fazakerley, this weapon replaced the Sten Gun entering service in 1953. It was a very reliable and successful sub machine gun which operated from an open bolt using the direct "blow-back' method and with a selective fire capability.


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THE magazine held up to 34rounds of 9x19mm Parabellum[2] ammunition. 19in long folded, 27in extended, weighing 8lbs with a cyclic rate of 550 rounds per minute. It remained as standard issue until 1994 when it was replaced by the L85A1 rifle (SA80).

NEGLIGENCE

JOHN and I were responsible for reviewing all Military Negligent Discharges (ND) across Northern Ireland (NI) in the mid-1980s, including with Personal Protection Weapons.


6

THE 9mm Browning featured often in this Monthly Report. The usual reason for the ND was 'error in drill' whilst conducting the unload. The problem with the pistol was that of letting the working parts close to complete the unload. Whilst the drill was to put the magazine back into the weapon to release the hammer, sometimes the magazine was applied before the working parts had been released thus possibly feeding a round into the breech.

MISTAKE

SOME used to thrust a long index finger into the magazine housing in order to release the spring. An acquaintance of ours had an ND inside HQ 39 Infantry Brigade.

HE was fined a month's pay. Subsequently, he was asked to demonstrate where he went wrong.

SHORTLY afterwards, a second 9mm round was discharged in the Ops Complex of the HQ! Expensive mistake.

THE Browning was made by FN in Belgium and based on a design by American firearms inventor John Browning. This recoil operated weapon was in continuous service somewhere around the world for over 82 years before FN stopped its production. It weighs 2lbs 7oz, and is 7.5in long.

I was issued a pistol as Battalion Operations Officer in Berlin – could never get away from it! And rough, tough Infanteers do not carry pistols on operations, unless it was Northern Ireland. But that is another story. Ahem!

David Allardice
with John Conway


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Captions

Inset box: Brigadier Singleton took over from Brigadier Frazer Lawrence OBE as Colonel of the Regiment in November 2023.

1. & 2. Scenes from the '1813 Underture'

3. The outdoor setting at Fort Ontario

4. The Times of India – Wednesday 20 July 1881 – announces that the 34th and 55th Foot will become The Border Regiment.

5. Sterling LA3

6. 9mm Browning pistol

7. 9mm parabellum cartridges

8. A soldier from the Queen's Dragoon Guards fires their L2A3 Sterling while taking part in weapons training at Abu Hydra Range during Operation Desert Storm.

Notes

[1] 'The 1812 Underture' has wonderful music written for the event which can be downloaded from https://shorturl.at/acghi

[2] 'Parabellum' is a rimless, tapered firearms cartridge. Designed by Austrian firearm designer Georg Luger in 1901. Luger was Austrian and also the designer of the Luger pistol.

Still serving

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

NEW POST FOR OUR COLONEL

COLONEL of the Regiment, Rob Singleton, took up a new post as head of the Combat Manoeuvre Centre, Warminster, in December. The Combat Manoeuvre Centre integrates training in combined arms manoeuvre lessons, doctrine and emerging capabilities.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE

CAPTAIN Shane Wilson was presented with the Meritorious Service Medal at The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

GOLD IN BRUNEI

CONGRATULATIONS to the 1LANCS team who have achieved Gold at the Brunei Jungle Warfare Skills Meet.

CUMBRIA CADETS

EXERCISE Cadet STEM Challenge 2024, an event that brings science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) to life through Army challenges.

Museum, Friends and Supporters

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

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUBSCRIPTION?

THERE are still members of the Friends who have not updated their Standing Order subscriptions and others who have plain just not paid. Rates are – senior £12 and Ordinary Member £20. All the rates are on the Museum web site.

REGRETFULLY if you haven't paid we will stop sending you this Magazine.

VACANCY

MIKE Rosling, who has done a fantastic job of keeping on top of our membership records, will retire from the job later this year. Could you fill his shoes? If so please contact the Museum. You don't have to live in Cumbria to do this job.

LEARNING FROM OUR PAST

DURING the Autumn Term, the Museum's Learning Team have been busy delivering workshops in the Museum and at schools across Cumbria. There has been lots of lovely feedback about our workshops:

"Seeing the artefacts (gas masks, ration books) was a good test of knowledge we have learned in class."

"Well paced. Good balance of listening, watching and looking/touching."

"Great hands-on sessions with superb organisation and delivery. Museum was well laid out with interesting exhibitions."

KIDS TAKEOVER

IN November the Museum welcomed three Year 11 students from a local secondary school for a work experience placement. And a Key Stage 2 class (Years 3-6) from a nearby primary school participated in a learning experience on Takeover Day itself.

FELIX BURNS

CUMBRIAN archives have been in touch to say they have a copy of Felix Burns' Will and Probate (*The Lion & the Dragon, Autumn 2024*). We hope to have more about this in a future edition.

SPANISH EMBASSY AND ARROYO

THE Spanish Embassy, in Mayfair, London will host a reception in November 2025 to celebrate the joint Anglo-Spanish heritage of the Arroyo Drums and the publication of the drums monograph 'Singular Honour'. This will be an early evening event at the Embassy.

WE hope that colleagues from the Regiment, historians, military museums, cultural and military attachés and our friends from Arroyomolinos will join us.

XMAS DINNER

THANK you to everyone who joined us for our last Veterans' Lunch of 2024: a delicious two-course Christmas lunch cooked by chef Dan. This year, we were joined by staff and students from Carlisle College, MP Julie Minns and 'C' Coy 4LANCS, amongst others.

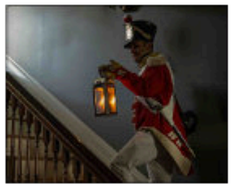
AND not forgetting our incredible regular volunteers Nova, David and Dianne, who dedicate their time and energy to the lunches throughout the year.

TEE SHIRTS BACK IN STOCK

THE Museum shop have restocked with Market Garden tee shirts. Prices for all sizes all sizes (S-2XL) at the shop are £16.50 and online £18.50 inc postage .

NORTH AMERICAN NEWS

IN the USA, a young reenactor from "Captain John Adolphus Harris' Company, 34th Foot", New York State, reminds us of the Gaelic roots of Halloween, with a turnip lantern.



FORT Malden, Ontario, ended its 2024 visitor season with candlelight tours. This is how Lieutenant Robertson *(The Lion & the Dragon, Winter 2024)* would have seen the fort, in the late 1830s.

AS in previous years the Regimental Association provided two wreaths to December's 'Wreaths Across America' event at Fort Ontario, in memory of the men of the 34th and 55th Foot who served at Oswego, New York State, during the 18th Century.

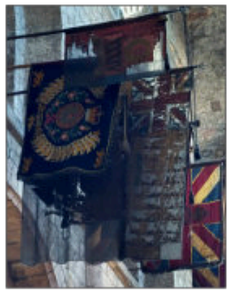
From the Collection

Museum Manager, Jules Wooding selects an item from the Collection with a special interest.

REGIMENTAL CHAPEL 1949

AMONGST our recent acquisitions is an original Order of Service for the dedication of the Border Regiment Memorial Chapel in Carlisle Cathedral.

THE beautifully ornate programme, edged with the words of Regimental battles, contains the readings and hymns from the ceremony held on the 4th November 1949.



THE chapel, located in an area to the west end of the Cathedral, houses war memorials and personal military memorials dating back to the 1850s plus the memorial books from which names of the fallen are read out monthly.

THE colourful programme marks the formal dedication of the military chapel highlighting the local connection between the Regimental Depot at the Castle and the neighbouring Cathedral, showing the impact the Border Regiment had on the city of Carlisle.

The Family

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

THE FAMILIES OF 20 PLATOON

FIVE families of former members of 20 Platoon, 'D' Company 1BORDER, during Market Garden, have come together as the 'Families of 20 Platoon'. They are spread out from Australia, the UK and Miami. Members are the sons and grandsons of Privates Harold Ennis, Ronald Stripp, Colin Fowler, Frederick Hodges and Lieutenant Alan Green. Les Ennis, Scott Stripp and Peter Green attended the Arnhem 80 commemorations in Carlisle.

OUR picture is of Private Colin 'Danny' Fowler supplied by his son in Australia. The Group would love to have more members.

'JOCK' MCKINLAY

THANK you Jeff McKinlay for letting us see this painting of his father James (Jock) McKinlay, by Erny V Wijk.

JOCK was badly injured at Oosterbeek. He died from his wounds in 1954 one-year after his son, Jeff, was born.

Diary

Events at the Museum and elsewhere.

Tuesday Talk, 11 March, 1730
'Women on the Home Front' – The Work of the WVS during the Second World War
Becks Skinner

Monday, 17 March, 1230
Veterans Lunch
The Museum. Light Lunch provided for a small charge. Pre-booking essential.

Thursday 3 April, 1930
Felix Burns music night
With the Carlisle Accordion Club at St Margaret Mary Parish Centre, Scalegate Road, Upperby, Carlisle.

Tuesday Talk, 8 April, 1730
'A Short History of the Kings African Rifles'
Colonel David Bates, ARRC

Monday, 14 April, 1230
Veterans Lunch
The Museum. Light Lunch provided for a small charge. Pre-booking essential.

Tuesday Talk, 13 May, 1730
'Born to Fight: how fate, history and ancestry gave no alternatives'
Mac McNeill

Monday, 19 May, 1230
Veterans Lunch
The Museum. Light Lunch provided for a small charge. Pre-booking essential.

Saturday 31 May & Sunday 1 June Military Festival
The Museum

Tuesday Talk, 10 June, 1730
'The East Africa Campaign 1914 – 1918, an overview'
Dr Anne Samson

Monday, 16 June, 1230
Veterans Lunch
The Museum. Light Lunch provided for a small charge. Pre-booking essential.

Book shelf

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

The Paymaster Wars
Paul Anwyll
Lulu
ISBN: 9781445260280
Paperback
£20.00

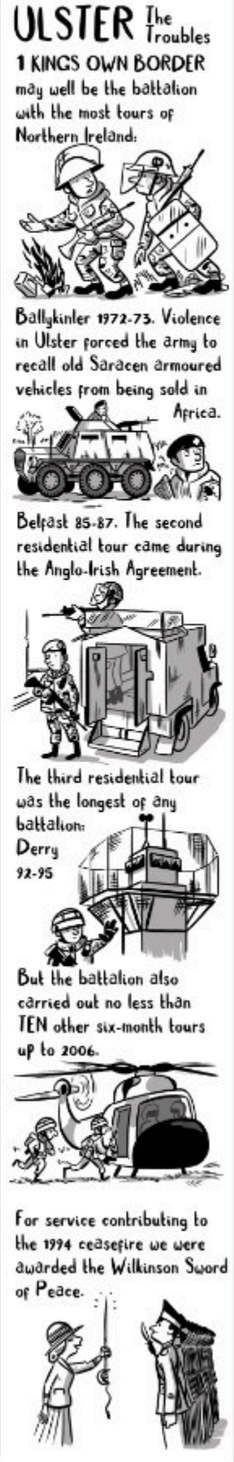
THE Royal Army Pay Corps is one of the few British Units which has been present in nearly every war or conflict fought by the United Kingdom since 1668.

THERE'S an old adage, often attributed to Napoleon that *"an army marches on its stomach"* meaning that a force can only go so far as its logistics allow. If you don't keep your force fed and supplied, they are unable to proceed further.

TODAY, we call this concept Operational Reach, however as well as feeding your army you need to finance it, this book covers the office of Treasurer at War to the Royal Army Pay Corps from 1668 -1992 and as a regimental history it's an interesting and different read to the norm, covering the evolution of the of the pay services from the reign of Charles II to the establishment of the Adjutant General's Corps in 1992, beside the history there are interesting snippets of what H G Wells called 'Victoria's Little Wars' well illustrated with photo's of the many medals awarded to members of the corps.

And almost finally

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



ENDEX

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

BRICK PARADE

BARRY Holliman – former KORBR – converted these little men. Anyone recognise themselves?

HOPE FOR GLORY

"Hope encourages men to endure and attempt everything; in depriving them of it, or in making it too distant, you deprive them of their very soul."
Maurice de Saxe

LEADERSHIP

"A leader is like a shepherd. He stays behind the flock, letting the most nimble go out ahead, whereupon the others follow, not realising that all along they are being directed from behind."
Nelson Mandela

SITUATION WANTED

"A European Woman of an undeniable Character, wishes to engage to wait on a Lady or Family proceeding to Europe the first opportunity."
A letter addressed to M. Johnston, the Store Serjeant 34th Regiment, Poonamallee, 17th November 1818 – from the Government Gazette India

ROYAL QUOTE

"Pray who is this Hogarth?"
"A painter my liege."
"I hate painting, and poetry too! Neither the one nor the other ever did any good."
King George II, on being shown the 'March of the Guards to Finchley' by William Hogarth.

Our Heritage

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

Berlin Infantry Brigade KORBR 1981-83

55th Foot, Light Infantry Company, 19C

Westmorland Rifle Volunteers, 1860

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' 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'.

FROM 1946 the Regiment's magazine was 'The Border Magazine' . In 1959 it was replaced by The 'Lion and the Dragon', note no ampersand in the original. Copies of both occasionally appear on second hand book web sites.

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' Regiment in Norfolk and Essex.

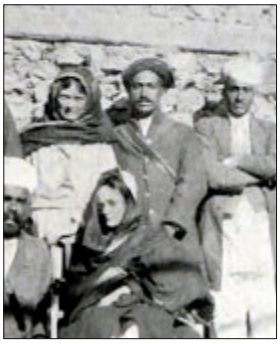
27 February 1814, Battle of Orthez, France, 2/34th Foot
The penultimate battle of the Peninsular War, Wellington army attacked the French led by Marshal Nicolas Soult.

March 1917 Western Front
Private W Beamont, now a prisoner in Germany and Sergeant Frith awarded the Military Medal.
From the 'The Mid Cumberland and North Westmorland Herald' 3 March 1917

10 – 13 March 1915, Battle of Neuve Chapelle, Border Regiment,France
The British broke through German defences in a salient at the village Neuve-Chapelle but the initial success could not be exploited. Unexpected delays and communications failures prevented the momentum being maintained. The Germans had time to send in reinforcements and create a new defensive line.

March 1727, Siege of Gibraltar, Haye's Regiment of Foot
After an arduous sea journey to Gibraltar, the Regiment formed part of the garrison during the war against Spain of 1727-29.

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.



14 April 1923, Mollie Ellis abducted at Kohat, North West Frontier
A gang broke into the bungalow of Major A J Ellis DSO 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 the picture Mollie is seated in front of Eileen Starr. There is more about Mollie in the 'Our Family' booklet, £2.50, from the Museum Shop.
Picture CMOML

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.
Image of Colonel Hume, from the IWM.

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."

Information

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01228 532774
enquiries@cmoml.org
web site: https://t.ly/Blcbo
For opening hours see web site

Friends of Cumbria's Museum of Military Life
c/o Alma Block
Carlisle Castle

Duke of Lancaster's Regiment
Fulwood Barracks
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CUMBRIA'S MUSEUM OF MILITARY LIFE

ACCREDITED MUSEUM

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