The Lion & the Dragon

Celebrating the past and championing the future

Summer 2025

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

CUMBRIA'S MUSEUM OF MILITARY LIFE

Law & disaster

BEFORE organised police forces, magistrates faced with civil disorder, had to resort to the Army. And disorder was not unusual. In 1821 the House of Commons in response to a debate about the military being called out during a Carlisle election, heard that:

"Party spirit always ran high at Carlisle, and many proceedings had resulted from anxiety to goad the people to desperate conduct."
The British Neptune', 18 March 1821

SIR Philip Musgrave an MP for Carlisle spoke in the House of Commons on the intervention of a military force during the Carlisle election, in which he asserted "much rioting" and intimidation of voters had taken place. Depending on the Army required the Army be on hand and led to the creation of barracks rather than billeting men amongst the civil population or as in Carlisle in a rather decrepit medieval castle.

"During a late inquiry in the House of Commons, Mr. Grey exclaimed, "What! Carlisle without a Police" I also understand that Mr. Wynn, in the committee, said the inefficient state of the Police at Carlisle, was a disgrace to the city."
Carlisle Patriot – Saturday 4 January 1823

SIR Philip Musgrave wrote to the ordnance office for details of planned provision for barracks at Carlisle. The 1826 riot in Carlisle could be said to contribute to the creation of what would become the Depot of The Border Regiment in the 1880s.

'CHARMING BUSTLE'

CARLISLE returned two Members of Parliament. There were three candidates Sir James Graham and Sir Philip Musgrave, both supported by the Lowthers and other established families in the area, and William James, a wealthy radical, who owned land near the Town.

Contents

SITREP

THE Lion & the Dragon strives to "Celebrate the past and champion the future", but there are times when we need to remind ourselves that the past has dark passages, that we should remember.

ONE is a local tragedy. Three civilians were killed, including a teenage girl, when new recruits from the 55th Foot shot wildly down a street off Shaddongate, during an election riot in 1826.

THE past is certainly a different country but Lieutenant Gardener and his men deserved the highest censure for their behaviour. The only good thing to come out of the dismal affair was it increased the pressure for proper Police Forces.

THE Lion & the Dragon is grateful for a comment from the current Mayor of Carlisle on the incident.

Peter Green

THE 1826 General Election took place against the national pressure for electoral reform and efforts to repeal the The Corn Laws, which supported farmers, but made food expensive. And in Carlisle, in particular, the very depressed state of the Cotton Industry.

"The distress which is so severely felt throughout the Cotton district is largely participated in this neighbourhood [Carlisle]. Hitherto we have been pretty quiet, but the continuance of tranquillity is very doubtful.... We have very few military here; the castle, a very indifferent fortification, containing a large, number of arms and ammunition, is defended by about a dozen artillery man, and 60 raw recruits of the 55th foot".
Morning Chronicle 5 May 1826

DESPITE the history of violence, the "Carlisle Patriot" began its coverage of the election with the comment that on the Monday, *"Carlisle is again involved in all the charming bustle of an election!"*

RIOT

THE same edition carried a description of the riot on the next day. On Tuesday 9 June 1826, Sir Philip Musgrave aged 26, decided to canvas the support of a Freeman, Mr Matthews at his weaving shop in Milbourne's Buildings on Shaddongate. At the time in Carlisle the only voters were the Freeman of the City, of which there were 695.

SHADDONGATE according to 'The Carlisle Patriot' newspaper was:

"one of the suburbs of the city almost wholly occupied by gingham weavers."

WEAVERS whose businesses were struggling and who were also directly affected by the high cost of food.

TRAPPED

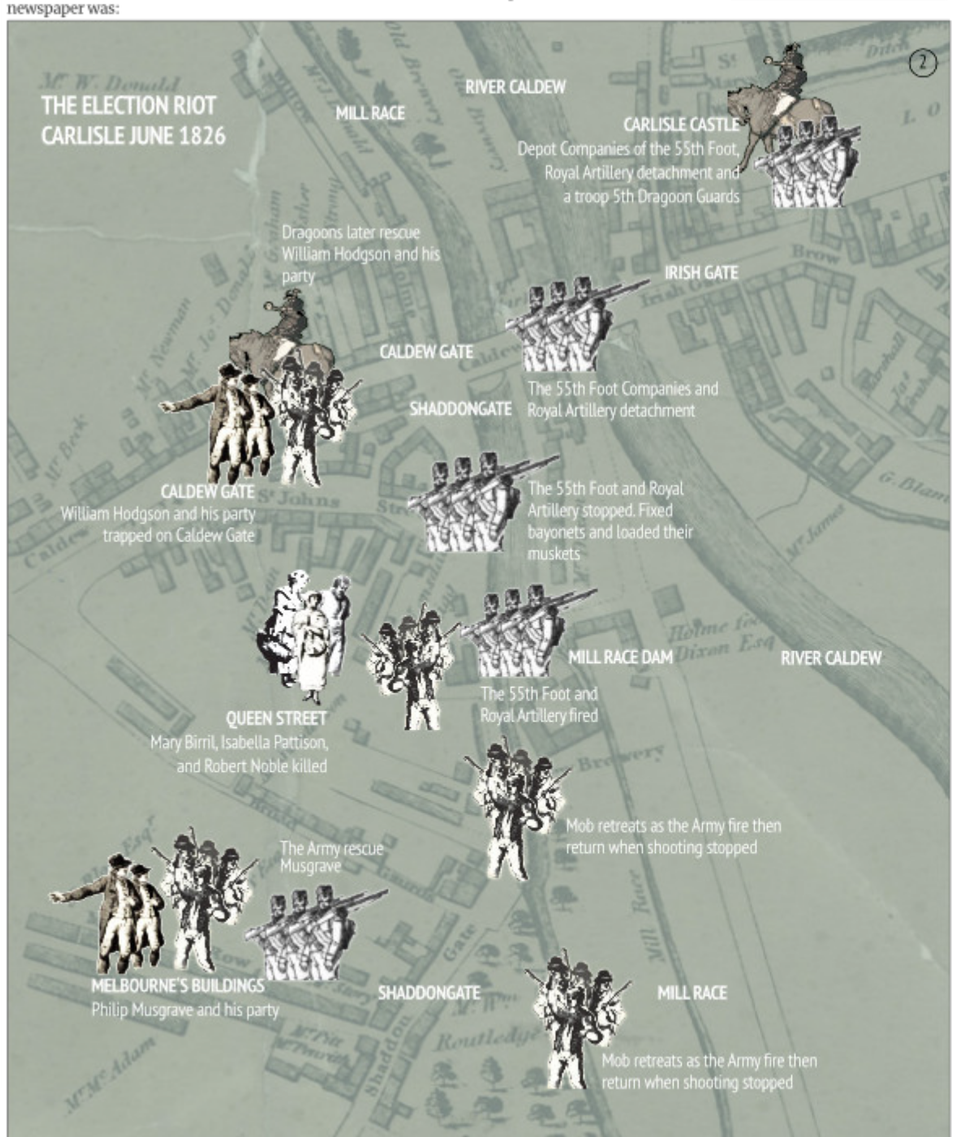
MUSGRAVE and his small party found that Matthews was not alone, other weavers had joined the meeting. Musgrave was questioned on his views on the Corn Laws – Musgrave had voted against repealing them – as well as electoral reform and the national debt.

ALL seemed reasonably amicable, but, when the MP tried to leave, he found a crowd had gathered outside angry about his voting to keep the Corn Laws . As he and his friends passed through the crowd, stones were thrown. The MP and his party retreated to a nearby house. The crowd became an angry mob; and the house was besieged.


1

SOME of the party escaped and raised the alarm.

CARLISLE'S Mayor, William Hodgson, and a magistrate with some special constables set out to rescue Musgrave. They were met with stones. The Riot Act was read and the mob ordered to disperse. It did not.



2


3


4

A further attempt to reach Musgrave failed and soon the rescue party, including the Mayor, also had to take shelter in a house in Caldewgate. Some of the party escaped and raised the alarm. In the absence of a police force the army was now called from the Castle.

RAW RECRUITS

THE Depot Companies of the 55th Foot were billeted in the Castle. Depot Companies trained new recruits before they joined the rest of the Regiment. In 1826 the rest of the 55th Foot were in Cape Colony, now South Africa. At this date regiments and their Depot companies in Britain moved round the country. It was a coincidence that fifty years later Carlisle Castle would be the permanent depot of the Regiment by then the 2nd Battalion of The Border Regiment.

ACCORDING to the Carlisle Patriot of 10 June 1826 the detachment of the 55th that went to Sir Philip Musgrave's help was 120 strong. The establishment of the two companies would have indeed been 120, but exactly 120 seems a little too neat. The 55th had arrived in Carlisle in June 1825 .

THE Carlisle Patriot newspaper noted that a large number of them were recruits:

"...Some of them very young..."

THE officer who would lead the men out to Shaddongate and who was presumably the senior officer in the Regiment at Carlisle was Captain Alexander Gardner *(Gardiner in the Carlisle Patriot and Gardner in the Army Lists)*. He had only achieved the rank of Captain in the previous year. He had joined the 55th in 1809 and was 26 years old.

ALONG with the 55th there was also a troop of the 5th Dragoon Guards and a small number of artillery men. The artillery detachment was commanded by Captain Thomas Louard. Louard was 30 years old.

THE usual response to riots was to call out the Yeomanry but the urgency of the situation and the nearness of the Castle, led to the men at the Castle being called for. Ironically the trapped candidate, Sir Philip Musgrave, commanded a troop of the Westmorland Yeomanry. The Dragoons for some unknown reason stayed at the Castle, for now. The 55th Foot arrived along Irish Gate and were met with stones. A member of the mob was reported by the "Carlisle Patriot" as saying:

"Oh the soldiers are only raw recruits and will soon beat them back."

THE Globe, a London newspaper, also had a low opinion of the men of the 55th.

"Unfortunately for humanity, the soldiers engaged in this unhappy business are young in arms, and exhibited little of the coolness which is generally displayed by veterans."

AFTER a short period of uncertainty the soldiers were ordered to fix bayonets; prime their muskets and load ball. They then charged the mob. A witness described how the mob dispersed each time the men charged and when the soldiers stopped, gathered again and threw stones. Eventually Gardiner gave the order to fire down Shaddongate. Captain Louard, explained later that he had ordered his men to "aim high and do no harm." It is not recorded if Gardiner did the same.

WITNESSES described the army shooting as they charged the rioters. Around 30 shots were fired which suggests that this was directed and not volley fire. Witnesses also described men shooting down Queen Street, where the witnesses also said no stones had been thrown.

TRAGEDY

IT soon became clear that shots had caused harm in Queen Street. Two people, Isabella Pattison and Mary Birril, were killed immediately and Robert Noble who died two weeks later from his wounds. Isabella Pattison was 13 years old and had taken refuge in a house that served as a school. Mary Birril was shot in the street. Robert Noble was watching events from a the window of his house. Some witnesses at the inquests into those killed, described one soldier standing on the dam, and aiming at houses in Queen Street. Musgrave was rescued.

THE mob dispersed: the army returned to the Castle. Amidst the excitement the Mayor had been forgotten. Finally the 5th Dragoon Guards appeared on the scene and rescued William Hodgson and his party from Caldewgate without apparently any drama.

INQUEST

THE inquest into the deaths of Isabella Pattison and Mary Birril found that their deaths

"...Were occasioned by balls discharged from muskets by some soldier or soldiers belonging to the 55th Regiment of Foot. That in consequence of the Riot Act having been read, and the mob not dispersing, the soldiers were, in the first instance justified in firing their muskets; but the Jurors cannot refrain from expressing their opinion that they continued to fire in a very indiscreet and inconsiderate manner, and particularly at private houses, when the necessity for so doing seems to them to have ceased. That their deaths were in other respects accidental."

AFTERWARDS

THE 55th left Carlisle in July.

"The depot of the 55th Foot has been removed from Carlisle Castle, to Scotland ; the troops marched northward, in two divisions, on and Wednesday last; and on the latter day were succeeded by four companies of the 90th Foot, from Burnley. On "Tuesday evening, soon after dusk, one of them accompanied the Quarter-master Sergeant of the 90th into Annetwell street, to procure some vegetables when they were instantly assailed with a shower of stones, by a mob of fellows, and compelled to take refuge in a house in Finkle street. Both were considerably injured; especially the Quarter-master Sergeant of the 90th, who received a severe contusion over one of his eyes. This is of course an old grudge."
Carlisle Patriot – Saturday 29 July 1826

IN 1827 Alexander Gardiner exchanged with an officer on half pay, but in the 1828 Army list Gardiner is a Lieutenant again. By 1830 he has transferred from the 55th to the 32nd Foot. Gardiner died serving as a Captain with the 32nd during the Second Sikh War in 1849.

THE Home Secretary, Robert Peel, used the sad event as further evidence that the country needed an organised police force. Mayor Hodgson had pointed out that Carlisle with a population of between 15,000 and 20,000 had two Constables.

The Editor

Chris Southward, Mayor of Carlisle comments

"So, 1828 was a contentious time in local politics. One could wish that, when we see election turnouts of the order of 30%, there was a little more of this.

Obviously, one wouldn't advocate riot but when the public feel that they do not have a sufficient voice, it's still a natural outcome. Poll Tax riots, the miners' strike, the recent riots encouraged by the abuse of social media are all examples.

The remedy cannot be armed response, the inexperienced armed men were poorly instructed.

Hopefully nowadays all arguments could be aired in a more informed debate, not by facebook."


Councillor Chris Southwood
Mayor of Carlisle

Captions

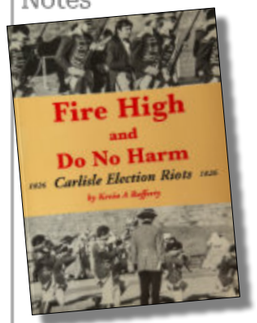
1. Mayor William Hodgson

2. Caldewgate-Shaddongate area in the 1820s and the riot. Map provided by Mark Costello.

3. Carlisle Castle in the 1830s, an engraving drawn by William Westall and hand coloured at the time.

4. Shaddongate circa 1900, from Cumbria Archives Centre.

Notes



There is a comprehensive account of the riots by Kevin Rafferty – Rafferty, Kevin 'Fire High and Do No Harm', Thurnams, Carlisle, 2000. This is still available second hand.

And for more on Shaddongate, visit 'The Gate' a web site devoted to the people and the area of Shaddongate https://shaddongate.weebly.com

Old soldier: new recruits

Richard Wilson's diary is surprisingly tolerant of his comrades, many of whom had no military experience. But like Thomas Sloan 9BORDER he found the first meals not to his liking

When Thomas Sloan sat down for breakfast on the first breakfast at Carlisle, he found that one bowl was provided for 12 men to drink from.

"There was an old tramp at our table who got it first. We simply could not drink after him, but I must say it wasn't long before we made sure that tramp was last."

Richard Wilson was able to get a job in the stores quite quickly, no doubt his previous service paying dividends and by the time the battalion leaves England he was Acting Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant

One of Kitchener's volunteers

Last year Kay Wilson from Hertfordshire contacted the Border Regiment Facebook Group with news of her Great Grandfather's WWI diary. She has kindly agreed to let 'The Lion & the Dragon' reprint sections

RICHARD Wilson enlisted at Kendal in August 1914. at the time he was working as a carter at a gunpowder factory in Kendall. He had served in the Coldstream Guard and had planned to rejoin his old regiment, but as an experienced soldier the recruiting staff thought he'd be more useful in one of Kitchener's new battalions.

OVERCROWDED

HE was sent to the Border Regiment at Carlisle. The Depot was overcrowded.

"When I arrived at Carlisle, I found the castle fearfully overcrowded.

I was given one fearful filthy and verminous blanket and slept on the floor and this was the only accommodation during the time I remained there.

The dining arrangements are horrible. We feed in relays, about six men using the same plate; the latter end getting the other men's leavings with a drop of soup added. As there are not sufficient knives and forks, we have to use our fingers.

We bathe mostly every morning in the River Eden and thus get clear of some of the vermin.

As there was not sufficient room in the castle, several hundreds of us had to sleep in the Drill Hall. We were locked in at 6.00 pm and remained there until 6.00 am. It was awful. I was almost suffocated. It reminded me forcibly of the Black Hole of Calcutta. We asked Lieut Diggle to let us out. He said he'd be damned if he did."

IN early September Richard and others left Carlisle by train for Grantham. They were form The 6th (Service) Battalion of The Border Regiment. On the way he had a problem at Darlington.

"Our train stopped for a few minutes at Darlington. I dodged into the Refreshment Room for a glass of beer. A corporal chased me and, in my haste, I broke the glass and spilled the beer. It cost me fivepence and, to make the catastrophe worse, I had only a tanner."

TENTS IN THE PARK

THE Battalion were camped on Earl Brownlow's Belton Estate. In September 1914, bell tents had been erected in the Park, but by April 1915 this had become a small town for around 20,000 men of Kitchener's Army; a military base hospital, churches, YMCA huts, a cinema and its own railway line. Richard had to cope with tents.

"We live in tents and learn Squad Drill etc and I am appointed Lance Cpl. Attend a NCOs class under S M Lockyer, who taught us sectional attack, outpost duties and many other things that never came in useful.."

PROMOTION.

"I am promoted Corporal and do a little job for the Store Master, which gives satisfaction and he takes me permanently on his staff and I live in the Stores and have a splendid time. I am chiefly engaged in drawing stores from Ordnance and marking clothing and equipment. I don't attend any parades and I am well paid for my work."

NOW the huts arrive.

SURREY

THEY were on the way to Frensham Common near Farnham, in Surrey.

"Here we live in tents. It's a vile place; the earth being composed of sand and a kind of black dust, though some of the surrounding country is lovely.

I am chiefly engaged in drawing stores from Aldershot, where I go about three times a week. I am promoted Lance Sergt. I apply for and obtain a week end leave...

We go to Alton two pouring wet days and are drenched to the skin. At night we sleep in a field. I am under a wagon. Some horses belonging to [illegible] the MOUNTED MILITARY POLICE break loose and gallop over the sleeping men, several of whom are seriously injured.

We stay in the village the following night, the troops being billeted in sheds. They are thoroughly drenched and exhausted."

TROUBLE

TRAINING was coming to an end and the Battalion would soon be leaving for active service in Gallipoli. But first there was trouble at home.

"At this time there is a lot of unrest in our Battalion. Everything points to an early move and yet the men have not had their promised four days leave. Things get rather serious one night and there is a demonstration.

The South Staffs standing by shouting, give the Borders their passes. The men are pacified and leave is promised, but I am of the opinion they wouldn't have got it had they remained quiet."

LEAVE passes are issued and Richard has Whitsun in Kendal.

"I am one of the first to go on leave. Get a free railway ticket this time. I have Whit Sunday at home."

6BORDER left Liverpool on 1 July 1915. They were on the way to Gallipoli. The Lion & the Dragon will publish more of Richard Wilson's remarkable diary.

The Editor

A soldier in the Family

William Bundred from the Cumbria Family History Society, gives a few pointers on how to research a military ancestor

THE first thing to do is to gather what evidence you have for the ancestor that you wish to research. This will determine the area in which to concentrate your research.

IT is also very important at the start is to contact your relatives who may have information on the ancestor you are researching.

INFORMATION can be in more than one form, medals, letters, military paperwork, photographs, pictures, other people's memories of the ancestor including family stories. It is always important to check the information if you can from another original source, more than one if you can.

RECORD KEEPING

KEEP a record of where you obtained the information, this is extremely important. Scan or photograph documents, medals, artefacts, so you have a copy and stored in a safe place, in case the original is lost.

IF you know where the person you are researching came from records from that area will be useful, newspapers, parish magazines, histories written about the area. There have been some very useful transcriptions made of military people in the newspapers of Cumbria. These are nearly always indexed which is very helpful. You should when using a transcript always, check the original source.

MUCH nowadays can be achieved by researching on the Internet, but not everything is available there. Do check the source of your information, if someone has made an error and their information has been copied the error is perpetuated.

THE National Archives, Military or Regimental Museums, County Archives, Local History Section of Libraries are very good sources for information, but always check for transcript and indexes to them which can save time.

IF your ancestor died or was killed in the twentieth century the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records may help. The London Gazette is another source that could help especially if your ancestor won gallantry awards or promotion as an officer.

YOU can also use the normal family history research sources such as parish registers, census returns, birth marriage and death records, including those for British citizens abroad. Militia lists may be of help as they show which men served, although not all lists survive for Cumbria, but Cumberland and Eskdale wards survive, some have been transcribed and indexed.

SERVICE records are very useful if you can obtain them, depending on the period the information differs, but you can nearly always find some information from them if a record survives. Facts you may find are when and where they served, their description, character, conduct, awards, other family members.

NETWORK

OTHER areas of help are to collaborate and communicate with others doing research in the same areas as you. For example, someone researching their ancestor in the same regiment and time as your ancestor. If you are very lucky their ancestor may have served with yours and they my have group photos and stories in which your ancestor features.

BUT do credit others if you use their research and as stated before check their sources. Many people are helpful and may share ideas on approaching a problem from a different angle. Join a family history society in the area your ancestor lived, join a local U3A history group.

William Bundred

FAMILY HISTORY DAY AT THE MUSEUM

THERE will be a family history day at the Museum on Saturday 14 June 2025. Experts will be on hand to provide practical advice for anyone starting out or already researching a military ancestor.

TICKETS £22 (£20 concessions) are available from the Museum or online from the Museum web site.

Unreal regiments

BBC comedy history

THE Goon Shows dominated British humour in the 1950s. An audience that had served in WW2 or had tasted the delights of National Service, or even, like the Editor, were just school children, wallowed in the crazy voices and strange names.

THE Show's writers had military backgrounds. Most of the scripts were written by former Signaller, Gunner and briefly Lance-Bombardier, Spike Milligan.

OTHERS involved were Captain Larry Stephens, Royal Marine Commandos, Leading Aircraftsman Eric Sykes, Michael Bentine, RAF and MI9 and Lance Bombardier Harry Secombe.

CORPORAL Peter Sellers, RAF, played the disgraceful Major Denis Bloodnok, who served in some strangely named Corps. Do you remember them?

1st Heavy Things

1st Knitted Cummerbunds
"They served at Balaclava", Bloodnok

3rd Armoured Thunderboxes

3rd Bombay Irish

3rd Collapsing Fusiliers

3rd Disgusting Fusiliers

3rd Filthmuck Fusiliers

3rd Heavy Nudists
"Oh, what a cap badge they had!" Bloodnok

3rd Long Things

3rd Mounted Cash Registers
Cash register sound, "Oh, that tune, how it haunts me; it's my regimental march," Bloodnok

3rd Mounted NAAFI

3rd Regular Army Deserters
(What was it with 3rd? Editor)

4th Dynasties

4th Mudguards

14th Cavalry Followers

56th Heavy Underwater Artillery

Elephant Equipment Unit, Poona

Roper's Light Horse
(Surprisingly this one isn't genuine – Editor)

Zsa Zsa Gabor's 3rd *(Again? Editor)* **Regular Husbands**

Captions

1. Recruits to 6th Battalion Border Regiment, Belton Park, Lincolnshire 1914. From Kay Wilson's collection.

2. At Grantham under canvas.

3. One of the huts at Belton Park, Grantham, with snow on the ground

4. Lance Corporal Reuben Hetherington, Border Regiment and his parents. Sadly Reuben was killed in July 1916. Reuben came from Clifton near Penrith.

5 & 6. RSM Lightning and his Family in India between the Wars.

Notes

The Autumn 2022 edition of the Lion & the Dragon led with an article about the creation of 9BORDER. Backnumbers are available from the Museum shop for a small donation.

Still serving

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

NEW REGIMENTAL SECRETARY

LIEUTENANT Colonel John Harker MBE *(left)* has taken over from interim Secretary, Colonel Andrew Dennis *(right)*, as our new Regimental Secretary.

JOHN joined the Army as a Junior Leader in 1980 and became Regimental Sergeant Major in the Queen's Lancashire Regiment in 1998, before being commissioned as an officer in 2001 aged 36.

HE was awarded the Joint Force Commanders Commendation in Bosnia 1996. In 2001 he received the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service for his operational contributions in Northern Ireland and was awarded the MBE in 2012.

AFTER 33 years service John left the Army to be the CEO of Wigan Youth Zone . Latterly, he has been the general manager of Veterans into Logistics, a charity that supports veterans into employment.

SPACE – MOD UPDATE

UK Space Command is the defence lead for space operations, space workforce, and space capability. It's based at RAF High Wycombe, and staffed by personnel from the Royal Navy, British Army, and Royal Air Force, alongside civil servants and contractors.

Museum, Friends and Supporters

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

FAREWELL RACHEL

RACHEL Brodie, the Museum's Learning and Events Assistant is leaving at the end of her contract.

"RACHEL has been, tremendous," said Museum Manager Jules Wooding, "Our links with schools and youth organisations have grown way beyond our expectations. Well done and good luck in the next stage of your career."

NEW TRUSTEES

THE Museum has two new trustees Major Chris Braithwaite retired *(left)* formerly Duke of Lancaster's Regiment and Simon Sole *(right)*, a film maker, whose father commanded 2BORDER in Burma in 1944–45.

LADBROKE FAMILY

ROSS Singleton from Manchester, was interviewed by Border TV at the Museum, on new research into why the Regiment was dropped into the sea at the start of Operation Ladbroke in 1943.

PRIVATE Alexander McNeil, Ross's relative, died during the Operation and is remembered on the Monte Casino Memorial. The research by retired USAF Colonel Mark Vlahos, who took part in the interviews from Texas, via Zoom, was the lead item in our Spring edition.

FRIENDS' MUSIC NIGHT

ON 3 April the Friends of the Museum and the Carlisle Accordion Club held an evening of music by Felix Burns, who was bandmaster of 4BORDER from before and during WW1. Kim Tame, Burns' biographer, provided background on Felix and his life. Kim's book is available from Bookcase, Castle Street.

FRIENDS SUPPORT FOR COLLECTIONS PROJECT

THE Museum is currently planning a major review of the collections and its documentation, to better understand the collections. In preparation, the Friends have provided £3k for a Collections specialist to work with the staff team to develop a detailed documentation work plan. This will provide a structure to apply for further funding in the future.

'SINGULAR HONOUR' AVAILABLE £7.50

THE Monograph on the Arroyo Drums, a set of essays by Stuart Eastwood, Keith Matthews, Sara Fragoso and the Editor, on the drums, how they were captured, their original owners, their Regimental heritage and the story behind the Regiment's unique battle honour, is available by post £10 or £7.50 at the shop.

ARROYO RECEPTION 21 MAY THE MUSEUM

THERE will be an opportunity to buy copies of 'Singular Honour' and have them signed by the authors at a Friends' reception with wine at the 1800 at the museum on 21 May.

SARA Fragoso from 'La Sorpresa', the Arroyomolinos Festival Committee will explain how the battle and the Regiment are still celebrated in Spain.

WEST CUMBRIA DONATION

WE were delighted to host the West Cumberland Branch for their annual cheque presentations to charities, which included a donation of £600 to the museum. The support for our work to preserve the history of the Regiment is very much appreciated.

ST. ALBAN'S GARRISON CHURCH

THE Regimental Church in Fulwood Barracks, is threatened with demolition. MoD plan to sell the barracks' site in 2030. The Church was completed in 1848, and is the second oldest Garrison Church in use in the United Kingdom. There is an online petition to save the church at https://t.ly/QpELo

BURMA LECTURE DAY 4 OCTOBER 2025

PLANNING for the Museum's Autumn Lecture Day has started. The theme will be Burma 1945. The Regiment had three battalions – 2nd, 4th and 9th – fighting in Burma until VJ Day on 15 August 1945.

THE Burma Day follows the sell-out Arnhem event last year that included speakers from the Staffordshire Regiment and King's Own Scottish Borderers Regiment museums. More in our next edition.

From the Collection

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

THE QUINTINSHILL RIFLE

THE remnants of a Lee Enfield .303 rifle are linked to the major train accident which took place on 22nd May 1915. The Quintinshill rail disaster involved five trains, the resulting fire burnt for over 24 hours. Once extinguished, 246 people were injured and 230 people had been killed. 82 of the bodies were unrecognisable and 50 people were never traced at all. This was the biggest loss of life in a rail accident in British history.

THE 7th Battalion, The Royal Scots were heading to Liverpool for Gallipoli. The impact of the crash reduced the length of their wooden train from 197 metres to 61 metres, trapping many soldiers. Less than a minute later a second express train from Carlisle ploughed into the wreckage. The escaping gas from the troop train's lighting system started a fire that spread quickly, killing many who had not died in the crash itself.

THE crash was heard as far as nearby Gretna. Local people immediately rushed to the site to help the injured and dying. Medical assistance was sent from Carlisle and Glasgow, and Border Regiment soldiers from Carlisle Castle were drafted in to help. Of the 485 soldiers involved in the crash, 212 died and many were injured. The 58 soldiers who attended roll call were sent to Carlisle.

AS part of the 110th anniversary, we will be hosting The Royal Scots Museum's Quintinshill touring display in Alma Block from early June until mid-July.

The Family

Messages to the editor and pictures relating to the Regimental Family that deserve wider circulation. Please let the editor know if you are able to help answer any appeals or can add to a story here.

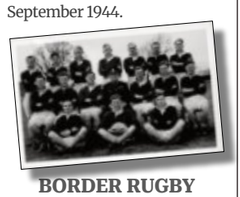
EGYPT VISIT REQUEST

"MY grandfather is buried in Moascar cemetery in Egypt and it's always been a dream of my mothers to visit his grave as she was only 4 when he died. Does anybody have any experience of visiting this cemetery and if so, what is the best way to do it?"

Dawn Hocking

FAMILY PICTURE

PRIVATE Bernard 'Barney' Baron (HQ Coy, 1BORDER) painted by his son Cliff Baron. 'Barney' was a battalion boxer and middle distance runner. He swam across the Rhine on the 25th September 1944.



BORDER RUGBY

"I am looking for information on when the Border regiment had a rugby union team, especially information on when they won the Cumbrian shield in 1959. Also any photos on their team with or without the Cumbria shield trophy would be great thank you."

Scott Wilson

[Our archive picture shows the Regiment's 1st XV in April 1951 at Barnard's Castle–Ed]

Diary

Events at the Museum and elsewhere.

Wednesday 21 May, 1800
Arroyo and its heritage
Sara Fragoso, from Spain, will talk about the Arroyomolinos Festival - 'The Surprise'. Plus book signings by the authors of the Singular Honour. The Museum.

Saturday 31 May & Sunday 1 June Military Festival
Demonstrations. The Museum

Early –June till mid–July
Quintinshill touring display
The Royal Scots Touring exhibit, the Museum

Saturday 14 June, 1000 till 1600 Family History Day
At the Museum. Tickets from the Museum or online.

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.

Tuesday Talk, 8 July, 1730
The Return of the Soldier: Demobilised Soldiers in Britain after WW1
Professor Jessica Meyer

Monday, 21 July, 1230
Veterans Lunch
The Museum. Light Lunch provided for a small charge. Pre-booking essential.

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

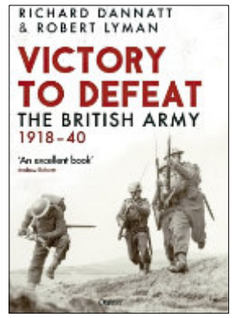
Tuesday Talk , 9 September, 1730
Vietnam 1970 – 72: A Brit on the Sidelines
Tom McMullen

Monday 15 September, 1230
Veterans Lunch
The Museum. Light Lunch provided for a small charge. Pre-booking essential.

Saturday 4 October 1730, Burma Lecture Day
A day of talks about the Burma campaign in WW2, at the Museum.

Book shelf

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



Victory to Defeat
The British Army 1918–40
Richard Dannatt &
Robert Lyman
Osprey
ISBN 9781472860811
Hardback £17.50

A compelling history of the decline of an army from the triumph of victory in 1918 to defeat in 1940 and why this happened. A salutary warning for modern Britain.

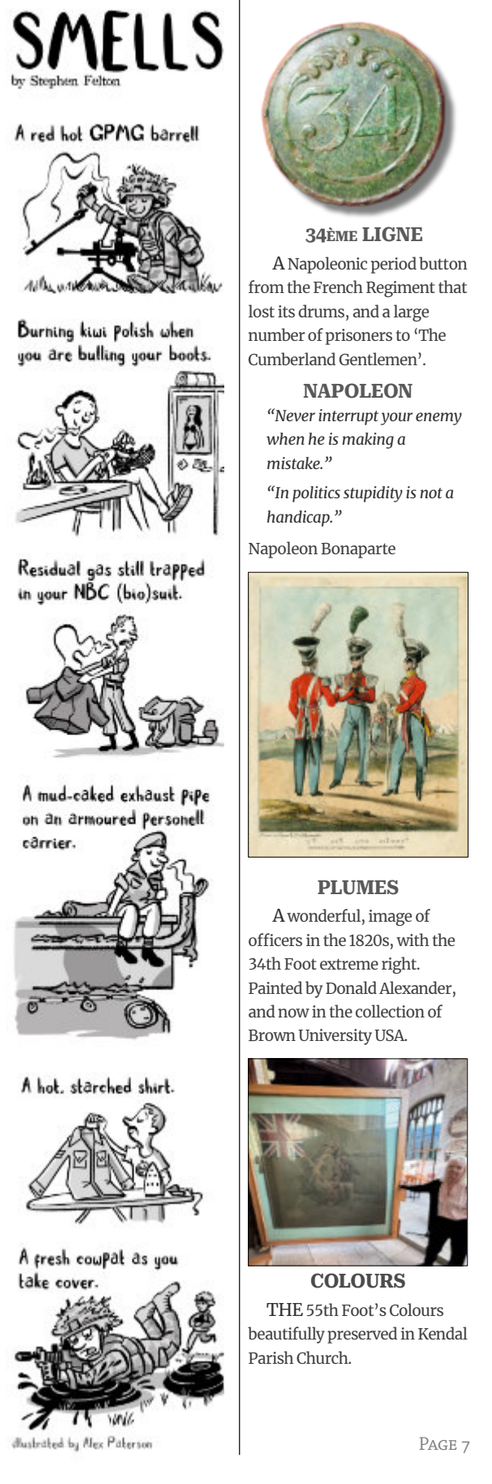
THE British Army won a convincing series of victories between 1916 and 1918. But by 1939 the British Army was an entirely different animal. The hard-won knowledge, experience and strategic vision that delivered victory after victory in the closing stages of the First World War had been lost.

IN the inter-war years there was plenty of talking, but very little focus on who Britain might have to fight, and how. 'Victory to Defeat' clearly illustrates how the British Army wasn't prepared to fight a first-class European Army in 1939 for the simple reason that as a country Britain hadn't prepared itself to do so.

THE failure of the army's leadership led directly to its abysmal performance in Norway and France in 1940.

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.

34ème LIGNE

A Napoleonic period button from the French Regiment that lost its drums, and a large number of prisoners to 'The Cumberland Gentlemen'.

NAPOLEON

"Never interrupt your enemy when he is making a mistake."

"In politics stupidity is not a handicap."

Napoleon Bonaparte

PLUMES

A wonderful, image of officers in the 1820s, with the 34th Foot extreme right. Painted by Donald Alexander, and now in the collection of Brown University USA.

COLOURS

THE 55th Foot's Colours beautifully preserved in Kendal Parish Church.

55th Foot button, 19th Century

1st Cumberland Volunteers shako plate, late 19C

Border Regiment wooden shield 1980s

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' Regiment.

FROM the mid-18th Century regiments became known by their precedence number not their Colonel. 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.

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 appear on second hand book web sites.

Lest we forget

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

8 May 1915, Frezenberg, France, 2nd Battalion Border Regiment
A German counter attack during the 2nd Battle of Ypres.

22–26 May 1940, the River Escaut, Belgium, 1st Battalion Border Regiment
The battalion along with the rest of 4th Infantry Brigade fought a four-day rearguard action during the British Army's retreat from Belgium towards Dunkirk.

25 May 1912 Rest in Peace Lance Corporal Jack Horlick Border Regiment, Burma
The Battalion was in Burma from 1905–1915
Picture CMOML

June 1918, Piave, Italy, Border Regiment
The Piave River was the last major offensive by the Austrians. Defeat led to the collapse of morale in the Austrian army. The Border Regiment was part an Anglo-French contribution to the Italian Army.
Photograph IWM

June 18 1855. Private John Joseph Sims VC, 34th Foot, Sevastopol, Crimea
The citation: "For having, after the regiment had retired from the trenches from the assault on Redan, gone out over the open ground under a heavy fire in broad daylight and brought in wounded soldiers outside the trenches."

21 June 1813, Vittoria, Spain, 2nd Battalion 34th Foot
The decisive battle of the Peninsular War that saw the end of the French in Spain.
George Cruickshank in the Bodleian Collection Oxford

1 July 1941 Rest in Peace Private John Woof 4th Battalion Border Regiment, Krakow Rakowiki Cemetery, Poland
Son of James William and Gertrude Mary Woof, of Milnthorpe, Westmorland. Died in POW camp. He was 21.
Picture Creative Commons

July 1–13 1916, Albert, France, Border Regiment
The battle, 'Albert', was the northern opening action of the battle of the Somme. Unlike the Anglo-French attacks further south, few gains were made. British casualties included 10,000 men killed.

9 July 1943, Operation Ladbroke, Sicily, 1st Battalion Border Regiment
The Border Regiment with the South Staffordshire Regiment, attempted to seize the Ponte Grande Bridge at Syracuse at night, as part of the invasion of Sicily. Most gliders were released too early and landed in the sea. The bridge was taken and held for long enough for it to be eventually retaken easily by sea-borne troops.

Information

Cumbria's Museum of Military Life
Alma Block
Carlisle Castle
Carlisle
Cumbria
CA3 8UR
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
Watling Street
Preston
PR2 8AA

Cumbria Army Cadet Force
Head Quarters
Carlisle Castle
Cumbria
CA3 8UR

'The Lion & the Dragon'
Produced by Peter Green Military History for the Friends of Cumbria's Military Museum.

Editor: Peter Green
peter.castra@gmail.com
Writing team: David Allardice, Ted Carter, Alex Paterson, Mike Rosling, Stuart Eastwood, Keith Matthews, Clive Elderton, Harry Fecitt, Liam Crowley and Toby Brayley.

CUMBRIA'S MUSEUM OF MILITARY LIFE

ACCREDITED MUSEUM

LOTTERY FUNDED
Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Printed by
Stramongate Press
Kendal 01539 72044