



THE LION AND THE DRAGON  
**NEWSLETTER**

The Newsletter of the Friends of Cumbria's Military Museum  
 The Border Regiment, King's Own Royal Border Regiment & Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

2011  
**The 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
 of the Battle of Arroyo-  
 dos-Molinos 1811**

"Arroyo-dos-Molinos" is the unique Battle Honour awarded for an action in the Peninsula War to the 34<sup>th</sup> (Cumberland) Regiment of Foot, later to become the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Border Regiment in 1881 and The King's Own Royal Border Regiment in 1959. On 28<sup>th</sup> October 1811, the 34<sup>th</sup> (Cumberland) Regiment as part of General Hill's forces attacked the French forces of General Girard at the village of Arroyo-dos-Molinos in Spain. As British forces drove them from the village the 28<sup>th</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> Foot had been sent to cut off their retreat by the main road. During the pursuit the 34<sup>th</sup> fought their French opposite number the 34<sup>ème</sup> Régiment d'Infanterie, took many of them prisoner together with their Colonel, Prince D'Aremberg, and General De Brun and captured their property including six side-drums and the Drum-Major's Staff. The latter was personally wrested from the Drum-Major by Sergeant Moses Simpson of the 34<sup>th</sup>'s Grenadier Company. The Regiment was afterwards allowed to commemorate this brilliant exploit by wearing in their shakos a red and white tuft or plume, which matched one worn by one of the French 34<sup>th</sup>'s companies. In 1845 Her Majesty Queen Victoria at the request of the Duke of Wellington granted the 34<sup>th</sup> the unique Battle Honour Arroyo dos Molinos.

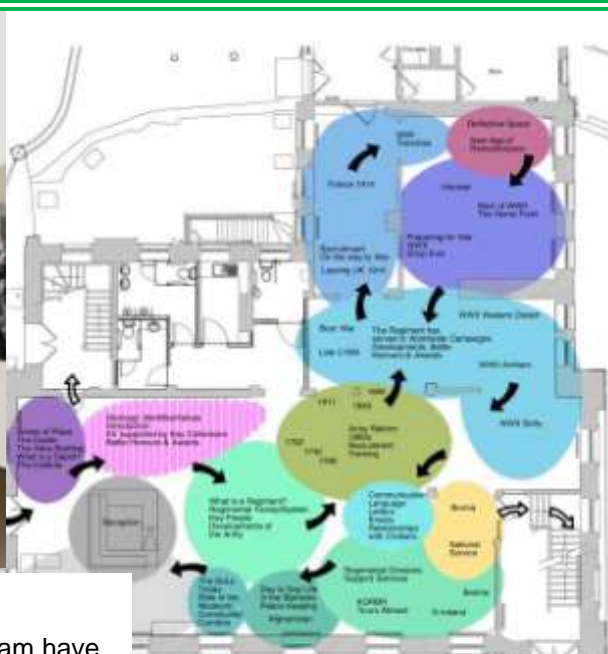


The French Drums and Drum-Major's staff became prized possessions of the Regiment and the anniversary of the Battle commemorated as a special Regimental Day ever since. From the 1920's it became the custom for the French Drums to be paraded on Arroyo Day carried by six Drummers wearing replica drummers uniforms of the British 34<sup>th</sup> and a seventh dressed as the 34<sup>th</sup>'s Drum Major carrying the French Drum-Major's staff. The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1911 was celebrated by the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Border Regiment in Rangoon, Burma the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion in Bordon and by the permanent staff and soldiers of the Regimental Depot at Carlisle Castle. The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was celebrated by the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in Barnard Castle and the Depot in Carlisle.

In 2006 when the King's Own Royal Border Regiment became part of The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, Arroyo Day became one of the Regimental days, and the tradition of parading the French Drums continued in both Battalions, but using replica drums. The original French Drums & Staff were presented to the Regimental Museum in Carlisle Castle, where they can be seen with the medals of Sgt. Moses Simpson.

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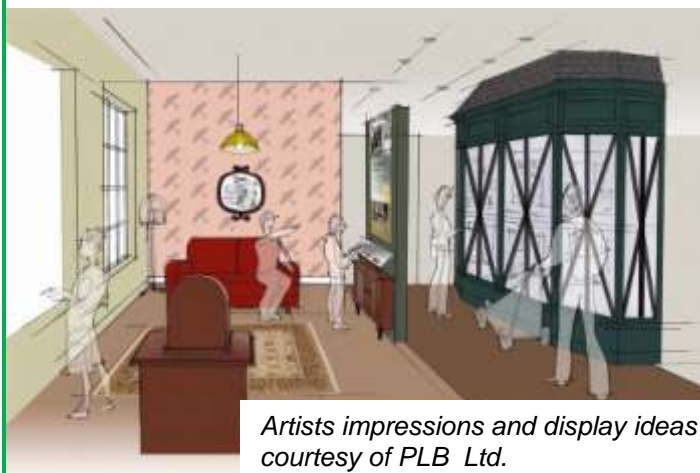
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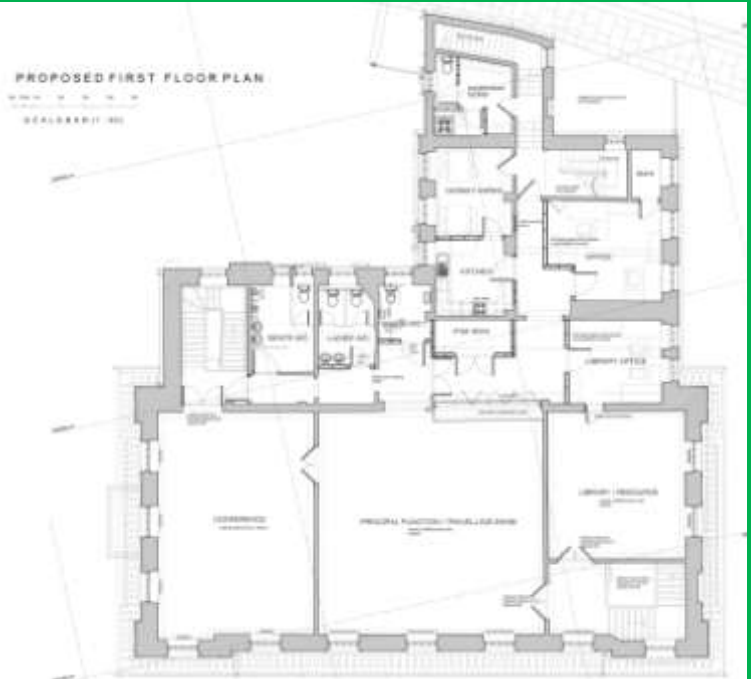
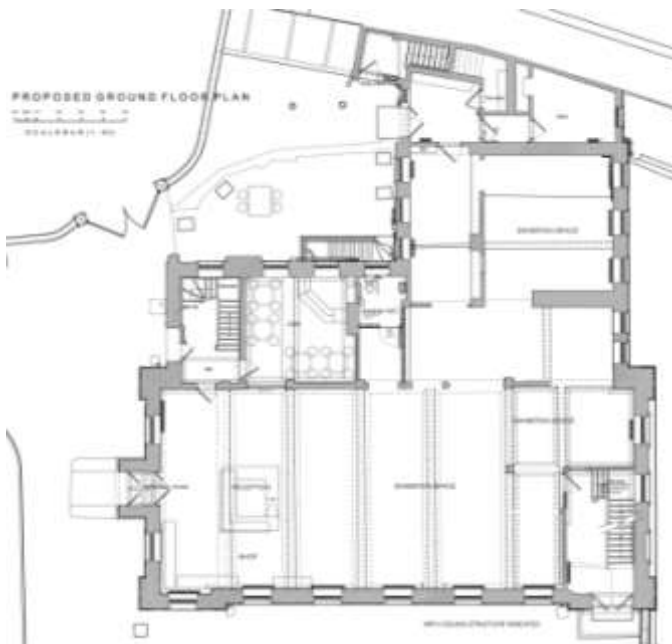
At the beginning of September the Museum Project Development team have just completed all the work associated with the Stage 1 Development phase of the Alma Project – this work includes detailed Architectural Drawings and Plans, the Design and Exhibition Plan, Activity Plan, Conservation Management Statement (on both the building and the Museum collections), a Maintenance and Management Plan, Marketing Plan and Business Plan all of which are required by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). All of these major documents will be submitted with other material as part of the Stage 2 Application to the HLF either in December or early 2012.

In addition to the specialist consultants mentioned in our Spring Newsletter, the Trust appointed Burofour as the Project Management consultants. Eleanor Binns from B4's Manchester office has been our Project Manager, drawing together all the various strands of work from the various consultants and putting together the reports, timetable, cost plans etc. together as part of the Stage 2 HLF bid. Burofour helped us with the appointment of other specialists, Leisure Consulting Ltd. to do the Marketing and Business Plans and Purcell Miller Tritton who have produced the Conservation Management Statement and the Maintenance & Management Plan. Everyone has worked extremely hard over the last six months to complete the work, especially the Museum Staff Team, who in addition to the heavy demands of the project have still had the "day job" to do.

The Stage 2 HLF Application requires only a small amount of work to complete, **but will not be offered for submission at the next HLF Committee Meeting in December.** This is simply due to the large gap that still exists in our match funding to meet the total estimated project costs of £1.68 million; the plan is now to submit the application for consideration at the March or June 2012 meeting.



*Artists impressions and display ideas for the new museum in Alma block  
courtesy of PLB Ltd.*



Technical drawings from David Swarbrick showing the facilities that the new museum will have to offer including a café, conference room and toilets.



Now and then the upstairs Bar in Alma block.

## Last of The Giant Meccano Sets

Feeling more like Burma in the monsoon season with high humidity and lots of rain the final sections of dexion racking and shelving and steel grid flooring were *finally* taken out of Alma from a first floor window...using nothing less than a Manitou style handler and bucket!!! Richard Sutcliffe, Braid Aitken, Chester Forster, James Cronin and Nick Hazlewood all volunteered to help as Tony Goddard sighed a loud sigh of relief as the masses of metal work were finally removed from the building.

Over 12 Tonnes have been removed, mostly only scrap value, but has raised over £2000 for the museum. Rumour has it that Tony and Chester are still finding 12mm nuts and washers in their laundry and shoes even now!



## Museum Notes

Over two-thirds of the year has gone by and the Museum remains as busy as ever. Visitor numbers have been slightly up on the same period as last year and are very good given the current economic situation. The genealogical and other enquiries and education and outreach work remain at a high level. To the end of September the Museum has provided 54 presentations/lectures to 68 School and Educational groups, local societies and organisations.

**Volunteers** – the Museum has been expanding its pool of volunteers and is extremely grateful to all those who have helped this year, doing everything from archive work, cataloguing, research and helping in Alma Block – Chester & Janice Forster, James Cronin, Pam Cronin, Jonathan Robinson, Sarah McAleavy, Julia Lund, and Rebecca Martin. If any of our readers would like to volunteer or who know anyone who would be interested, please get in touch.

**Collections** – up to the end of August, we have recorded fifty entries in our entry register ranging from a single item to whole groups of material – campaign medals from both World Wars; a superb silver salver presented to Lt. Dyson on his marriage in 1910 by fellow officers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion given by his grandson Mr Alex Grenfell; paperwork and photographs relating to RSM later Captain Cowie of the Lonsdale Battalion given by his daughter; local Home Front material; the old Border Regiment Association standard of the Carlisle Branch; the first standard presented c. 1925 to the Carlisle Branch of the Royal British Legion; and via Northumbria Constabulary a German MP40 (Schmeisser) sub machine gun (deactivated).



*Silver salver with the signatures of fellow 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion officers presented by them to Lt. W. L. Dyson. The names include George Hyde Harrison who would become a Brigadier and later Colonel of the Border Regiment and James Forbes Robertson who would win the VC, DSO & Bar and MC during WW1.*

One of the most exciting acquisitions is a headstone for an unknown Border Regiment Soldier of the Great War, which has been given by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Tony Goddard approached the Commission some time ago about acquiring a used/damaged stone for the "Remembrance Section" of the new Museum. This section will appear after the WW1 Section and will look at the broader picture of "Remembrance of Wars" up to the First World War and since. The Commission were very interested in our idea and extremely supportive. Moreover, as a damaged or replaced headstone was unavailable, CWGC arranged to have a new stone produced and it was delivered to the Museum from their workshops in France. Without doubt it is one of the most thought provoking items that the Museum has ever acquired. These headstones are familiar to many of us located all over the UK and in the many CWGC Cemeteries around the world. We are extremely grateful to Peter Francis and Staff of the Commission for their help and with whom we have a long established working relationship. Well done Tony! The stone is currently on display in our WW1 trench (see photograph above).



**Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone  
"A Soldier of The Great War Border Regiment"**

We are also grateful to the Commission for providing material relating to their horticultural work, which will be the subject of a lecture by the Curator to Thursby Village gardening Club on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October.

## **THE BATTLE OF RAMADI, MESOPOTAMIA, 27-29 SEPTEMBER 1917 And the award of a Distinguished Service Order to a Border Regiment Officer by Harry Fecitt**

### **Introduction**

The campaign in Mesopotamia, now known as Iraq, lasted from 1914 to 1918. The enemy was the Turkish army which was strongly supported by irregular Arab troops. Most of the British troops were sent from the Indian Army. The composition of British infantry brigades tended to be one battalion from the British Army with two or three battalions from the Indian Army. The initial reason for British involvement in Mesopotamia was to secure oil supplies from neighbouring Persia, as the Royal Navy needed those supplies to fuel the fleet.

However the British forces allowed themselves to be drawn further and further forward into Mesopotamia because of the initial victories that they won. This was a mistake as the logistic system supporting the British forces was totally insufficient and relied upon vessels steaming up and down the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. There were not enough vessels for the task. In particular casualty evacuation and medical facilities were disgracefully inadequate, despite heroic efforts by some medical staff. The climate was difficult to endure as the summer sun was fiercely hot, and the rainy seasons brought cold temperatures, especially at night, and turned the ground into thick mud. Fever caused by insect bites was prevalent and sickness rates were high.

The British seized Basra and after an initial reverse secured the oilfield at Ahwaz in Persia and the pipeline that ran down to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company refinery on Abadan Island near the Persian Gulf coast. Another British force moved west up the Euphrates to seize Nasiriyah, and the largest force, tempted by the thought of capturing Baghdad, pushed up the Tigris River. However at the Battle of Ctesiphon on 22 November 1915 the British Army under General C.V.F. Townsend could not defeat the Turkish Army led by its Commandant Yusef Nur-Ud-Din. Although Baghdad was now only 25 miles to the north Townsend did not have the strength to fight his way forward as he had lost 4,500 men killed or wounded, and so he withdrew down-river to Kut. The Turks, who enjoyed the support of German advisors and aviators, besieged Kut and beat back all attempts by British forces to lift the siege of the town. On 29 April 1916 Townsend humiliatingly surrendered Kut and his 2,869 British and 7,192 Indian troops, plus 3,248 Indian non-combatants, to the enemy.

Kut was the largest reverse experienced yet by the British Army, and it shocked the British public and military establishment, especially as the British force at Gallipoli had been withdrawn in failure four months earlier. The British and Indian prisoners of war were brutally marched hundreds of miles to camps in Turkish Anatolia, many of them dying on the roads or in the camps. Meanwhile the War Office in London had taken over responsibility for the campaign from the Indian government, and new brooms began to sweep clean. More efficient generals and administrators were posted to Mesopotamia and they were given better resources to work with. Basra was developed as a port, more river steamers and aircraft arrived, roads and lengths of railway tracks were laid, Stokes trench mortars, motor vehicles and armoured cars appeared and the British and Indian soldiers began to receive adequate supplies of rations, clothing and equipment.

### **The first British attack on Ramadi**

In mid-1917 the experienced and competent Lieutenant General Sir Frederick Stanley Maude was the British commander in the theatre. His troops captured Baghdad on 11 March 1917 and Maude then methodically and soundly pushed the Turks up the Tigris towards Mosul and up the Euphrates towards Aleppo. He also sent a force up the Diyala River that successfully liaised with allied Russian Cossack cavalry advancing from Persia, but the Russian strength was crumbling away because of the effects of the recent Russian revolution. One of Maude's concerns was that despite him having sufficient cavalry to outflank and block the enemy's retreat, the Turks nearly always managed to successfully withdraw from British offensive operations.

British and Turkish movements in Mesopotamia had traditionally followed the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. The rivers were used by both sides as waterways for military supply vessels and gunships, but more vitally as sources of drinking water for both men and mounts. In July 1917 General Maude decided to break from tradition and to move his men by motor transport through the desert away from the Euphrates in an attempt to encircle the Turks defending Ramadi, and thus destroy their force. This was the first serious attempt to use motorised infantry in the theatre. Previous attempts to encircle enemy posts using armoured cars alone had not been successful, and it was realised that lorry-borne infantry was needed to deliver the troops to suitable attack start lines that were well away from river banks. Then surprise could hopefully be achieved.

On 8<sup>th</sup> July the British moved against Ramadi, using 127 Ford vans to ferry infantry forward. The presumption of senior British officers was that the Turkish garrison would withdraw from the town rather than fight. But this was not the case. The British cavalry got to the west of Ramadi but the infantry, now on foot, were held up by a canal and enemy artillery fire. A dust storm blew in interfering with British communications and artillery observation. Casualties mounted and heat exhaustion added to the evacuations needed, the temperature taken that day in Baghdad being 160 degrees in the sun. Having lost 566 men, 321 of them to heat exhaustion, the British withdrew that night under cover of darkness to the river bank, totally incapable of further efforts. Some men had died of thirst or heat-stroke,

and others went mad. The next day the British withdrew down the river, being harried by Arab horsemen who sniped and killed stragglers. A big lesson had been learned about taking offensive action during the summer months.

### **The second British attack on Ramadi**

During the Great War two battalions of the Border Regiment, the 1/4<sup>th</sup> and 2/4<sup>th</sup> Battalions, were stationed in India and Burma. As the war progressed drafts of reinforcements from these two Border units were sent to serve with other Regiments in Mesopotamia. One draft was sent to the 1/4<sup>th</sup> Dorsetshire Regiment and one of the men drafted was an officer from 1/4<sup>th</sup> Border Regiment named Lawrence Lamonby. By September 1917 Lawrence had been promoted to major and he was the Commanding Officer of the 1/4<sup>th</sup> Dorsets.

Two months later when the heat had lessened General Maude ordered another attack on Ramadi. The Turks expected an attack to come up the river bank and they had sited their defences accordingly. As a deception plan the British constructed a pontoon bridge across the Euphrates below Ramadi, and this led the enemy to believe that the next British advance would be along the north bank of the river. As yet the Turks had not appreciated how useful the British Ford vans could be, and it was the use of these vans to supply water to troops away from the river bank that gave the British a decided advantage.

The Turks in Ramadi had 3,500 infantrymen, 500 cavalrymen and 500 artillerymen with 10 guns. The British attacked with Major General Sir H.T. Brooking's 15<sup>th</sup> Division. The divisional strength was over 15,000 men and for the attack the 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade and the 12<sup>th</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigades were used. Over 40 guns and howitzers were available. Support was provided by 'B' Flight 30<sup>th</sup> Squadron Royal Flying Corps, four armoured cars of the 13<sup>th</sup> Light Armoured Motor Battery, engineers, pioneers, three portable wireless stations and the Ford light vans. Lawrence Lamonby's 1/4<sup>th</sup> Dorsets were in 42<sup>nd</sup> Brigade alongside the 1/5<sup>th</sup>, 2/5<sup>th</sup> and 2/6<sup>th</sup> Gurkhas, the 130<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Company and the 448<sup>th</sup> Field Company Royal Engineers.

On the night of 27<sup>th</sup> September 12<sup>th</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> Brigades moved forward from their assembly areas. The cavalry and armoured cars, using a dam that crossed the Euphrates Valley Canal, moved through the desert to cut the road to Aleppo west of Ramadi, digging in there to resist an enemy withdrawal. The infantry battalions also used the dam and seized unoccupied features as they advanced, coming under Turkish artillery fire once they had been observed. As soon as the British field batteries had also crossed the dam they came into action with artillery support. The howitzers fired from the area of First Knoll east of the canal. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Brigade reached a start line south of its objective Ramadi Ridge whilst the 12<sup>th</sup> Brigade advanced further west to a start line south of Azizya Ridge which it had been ordered to capture.

At 1300 hours the 1/5<sup>th</sup> and 2/5<sup>th</sup> Gurkhas were ordered to advance together on Ramadi Ridge with the 1/4<sup>th</sup> Dorsets in support. 2/6<sup>th</sup> Gurkhas remained behind as the Brigade reserve. 1/5<sup>th</sup> Gurkhas moved off at 1310 hours but 2/5<sup>th</sup> Gurkhas was heavily involved in fighting off hostile Arab irregular troops and did not move until 1400 hours. 1/4<sup>th</sup> Dorsets sent two companies to assist 2/5<sup>th</sup> Gurkhas and then advanced behind 1/5<sup>th</sup> Gurkhas.

The taking of Ramadi Ridge was described by an observer: *"This low, pebbly rise is perfectly smooth, a long and gentle gradient, a bare seventeen feet above plain level. It offered no cover of any kind, and our infantry became visible to the Turks a full two hundred yards before they reached the top of the rise. As soon as they came into view the enemy opened a concentrated rifle and machine gun fire on our front and from our right flank, while their guns, which were perfectly registered, opened intense enfilade fire from the batteries on our left. The Gurkhas and Dorsets hung on to the position."*

1/5<sup>th</sup> Gurkhas were on top of the ridge by 1335 hours but quickly took over 100 casualties. By 1415 hours Lawrence Lamonby had led two of his companies forward to fill in gaps on the ridge and the unit war diary states that this is when the heaviest casualties were taken. Shortly afterwards 2/5<sup>th</sup> Gurkhas arrived and extended the British line, followed by a third Dorset company. At 1600 hours the 2/6<sup>th</sup> Gurkhas came up and extended the line to the right from the ridge to the canal.

The seizing and holding of Ramadi Ridge by 42<sup>nd</sup> Brigade pinned the Turkish troops in place and led to the recall of 1,000 enemy soldiers from the Aziziya Bridge area, where they were concentrating before attacking the cavalry brigade. Also 12<sup>th</sup> Brigade's attack on the southern part of Aziziya Ridge at 1445 hours succeeded with little interference from the Turks, who were bringing all their firepower down onto Ramadi Ridge. After last light the weary 42<sup>nd</sup> Brigade was withdrawn southwards to Middle Hill where it spent a quiet night. The Dorsets had lost two officers and 19 men killed in action and ten officers and 145 men wounded. The low ratio of killed to wounded was attributed to the high bursting of many of the Turkish shrapnel shells. The 1/5<sup>th</sup> Gurkhas had taken 189 casualties.

### **The capture of the Turkish garrison at Ramadi**

The British cavalry commander, General Holland-Pryor, believed that the Turks would have to withdraw from Ramadi along the river-bank road to ensure water supplies. He concentrated his defence across and around that road and also covered the western approach to the town in case enemy reinforcements were sent from Hit, the next enemy town upriver. At 0300 hours next morning, 29 September, the Turks made a strong attempt to break through the

cavalry positions under cover of gunfire support from vessels on the river. The cavalry used twelve Vickers and 48 Hotchkiss guns, plus all available rifles, to successfully beat back enemy attacks that lasted until first light. Meanwhile the cavalry brigade's field battery engaged and neutralised the enemy gun boats.

The Turks now had only one escape route and that was across the Aziziya Bridge and get into the hills to the west. At 0635 hours the 2/39<sup>th</sup> Garhwalis and the 90<sup>th</sup> Punjabis from 12<sup>th</sup> Brigade advanced from Aziziya Ridge to take the bridge. They met resistance and 1/5<sup>th</sup> Queens came up to join them. This was the Garhwalis first action in Mesopotamia and they made a magnificent charge, joined by a few Punjabis and Queens, to take Aziziya Bridge in the face of three enemy guns firing shrapnel directly at them. The charge succeeded, the bridge and three guns were captured, and white flags of surrender soon appeared from the remaining Turkish defensive positions in and around Ramadi. The Garhwalis had taken 166 casualties but the battle was now decisively won.

Some Turkish cavalry escaped by swimming across the Euphrates, and a few infantrymen infiltrated through the British cavalry positions only to be captured by cavalry and armoured car patrols later. But 3,456 enemy prisoners, 13 guns, 12 machine guns, 2 armoured launches, 2 barges and large quantities of arms, ammunition and stores were captured.

### **Distinguished Service Order**

For his gallant leadership during the battle for Ramadi, Major Lawrence Lamonby, 1/4<sup>th</sup> Border Regiment attached to the 1/4<sup>th</sup> Dorsetshire Regiment, was awarded a Distinguished Service Order. His citation in the London Gazette dated 11 January 1919 read:

*For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He commanded his battalion with great coolness and ability under heavy fire. His initiative and dash enabled the attack to be carried through to a successful conclusion.*

### **Mentioned in Despatches**

The following four officers from the 4th Border Regiment who were attached to 1/4th Dorsetshire Regiment in Mesopotamia received Mentions in Despatches:

Major L. Lamonby DSO (London Gazette supplement dated 5 June 1919)

Captain A.F.W. Dixon

Lieutenant S. Alexander

Lieutenant G.H. Heelis

SOURCES:

- Official History. The Campaign in Mesopotamia. Volume IV.* Compiled by Brigadier F.J. Moberley CB, CSI, DSO, psc.
- War Diary of 1/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Dorsetshire Regiment February 1916 – February 1919.* ( Public Records Office reference: WO 95/5196).
- The Neglected War: Mesopotamia 1914-1918* by A.J. Barker (Faber & Faber 1967).
- The Long Road to Baghdad Volume II* by Edmund Candler (Cassell & Co Ltd 1919).
- British Campaigns in the Nearer East Volume II* by Edmund Dane (Hodder & Stoughton 1919).
- The London Gazette.*
- Medal Index Cards.*

## **Catching Culture and Inspiring Imaginations**



The museum took part in another very successful Catching Culture day for teachers in training as part of the CONNECT learning network. The day was held in conjunction with The University of Cumbria and numerous institutions from throughout Cumbria including Tullie House, North Pennine Heritage Trust, Cumbria Records Office and Keswick Pencil Museum as well as ourselves. The visit consisted of five groups of students each with a minimum of 10 trainee teachers who had a flying introduction to the museums education services in 40 minutes. They had an introduction about the museum, who we are, what we can do for visiting schools and outreach provision. They then had the chance to get hands on with the education and handling collection which seems to have been the most popular part of their time with the museum on that day. There was certainly no hesitation from the students to try on various items of uniform or investigate genuine World War 2 artefacts as the photographs show! A chance to explore the museum galleries followed the object handling session before it was time for a new group of students arrived for us to start all over again. Although the number of students and the short time slots make the day a challenge for all involved it seemed to be extremely well received by all who attended our section of the day and has hopefully inspired some future teachers to see the museum as the flexible multi-talented resource for learning that it is. The feedback provided by the students was extremely positive in its praise for the work of the museum.



### ***“From Cumbria to Kabul – Cumbria’s soldiers in Afghanistan and the NW Frontier of India from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century to the present day”***

Almost a hundred gathered to hear this fascinating presentation held in the main auditorium at Rheged, near Penrith on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July. Following an introduction by the Museum Chairman Colonel Mike Diss TD OBE, the first presentation was by Stuart Eastwood. Using many images from the Museum’s archives, he gave an historical summary of the service of The Border Regiment, on India’s NW Frontier (now Pakistan) and in Afghanistan during the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Afghan Wars 1878-80 & 1919 and the more recent service of TA soldiers from the King’s Own Royal Border Regiment in Afghanistan in 2002. Major Kevin Smith and Major Paul Tingey from the Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment then gave the soldier’s view from the ground of more recent military operations in Afghanistan and the extremely tough tours in Helmand Province carried out by the Regiment’s 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions supported by TA soldiers from the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion in 2009-2010. Their superb presentations included a wide range of images and graphic film footage of the Regiment’s soldiers in action. The final part of the evening was provided by Rory Stewart OBE MP for Penrith and the Border. He gave a modern and extremely entertaining overview of the country based on the walk he did across Afghanistan, the people he met and the places visited. The presentations touched on so many aspects which make up the complex history of this part of the world now and far into the past. The soldiers serving there now face many operational problems, many of which their predecessors would have recognized and sympathized with.

The audience thoroughly enjoyed the evening and were able before and after the presentations to meet the speakers and view examples of old items of uniform and equipment used by the Regiment’s soldiers in the 1920’s and the contrasting kit worn and used by members of the Regiment today. The Museum is grateful to all those who helped to organise and who supported the event, in particular the speakers and members of the Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment, Nick Hazlewood and Shani Macqueen from the Museum and the staff of the Rheged Discovery Centre. The evening raised a magnificent £1270 for the Museum Appeal.

### ***Behind the scenes view:***

The staff at Rheged impressed me on this occasion with their professionalism in coping with the arrival of museum staff wondering even where the best place to park the car was. After an initial period of trying to work out where who was and then being introduced to the people who were going to look after us for the rest of the evening we were provided with tables and a good position to set up display boards and appropriate kit.

There was however something running through my mind while all this was going on...A lack of an Audio visual technician type person. Previous experiences with good old powerpoint presentations as many of you will have witnessed at Food and Culture evenings meant I really wanted to check that Stuart’s presentation ran through smoothly on Rheged’s system. Major Kevin Smith and Major Paul Tingey from the Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment turned up and still no sign of anyone really wanting to introduce me to something that could be used for displaying stuff with. Eventually, maybe because the two majors had also brought their own guns we got to the main imax cinema theatre. The delay was being caused by an absence of the correct Laptop at Rheged, luckily I had my tiny notebook computer with me so the whole evening’s presentation was going to be ran off that! Oh and the Duke of Lancaster’s guys had a video sequence in their presentation too. So why everyone else was busy doing proper work and circulating I ended up as usual arranging power point presentations, helping untangle extension leads and running out of time. Oh yeah and Rory Stewart MP hadn’t turned up yet? After a bit of copy and pasting (its impressive hearing all the Windows alerts in cinema sound surround), I ran through the presentations remotely and got the video sequence working well at least once, so that the audience would be unaware of the transition from power point to

video. Radio mikes were set up with the usual feedback problems and back mikes were parked on my desk...First thing first learn to use the mute settings to avoid any George Bush or Gordon Brown moments! This was all getting very Pink Floyd!

Sat at the front in the dark with Alma building picture up the clock was ticking still no sign of Rory Stewart oh and he wanted to run the show off his laptop. That would mean having to disconnect the sound and visual and no guarantee that the technology would settle down quickly. Sat stage left I had a great view of the audience and although there was only nearly a hundred in the theatre it seemed pretty full.

Rory finally turned up luckily it was easier to transfer his presentation to my notebook (I was amazed it was still running). I should have been able to switch the display off and sort out the computer side but Stuart's presentation was quiet big so I didn't want to close it then wait for it to re-load inducing an awkward silence and not helping a museum curators already stretched nerves...So the audience were given a quick lesson in how to transfer a file from memory stick to notebook computer in er well I max size! Luckily there was no embarrassing screen-savers or desktop photo's switched on! Oh yeah and also there was the problem of making sure Rory's presentation move through the slides with the Rheged remote system!

Stuart's presentation went through well and I wondered what the soldiers who had taken images dating back to 1875 would have made of there even snapshots in some cases being shown like this! My heart was still in my mouth though as we moved through Major Kevin Smith and Major Paul Tingey's presentation. Would that video run itself or would there be more I max demonstrations in operating Windows XP? All went well for once, first time for everything I suppose then with a bit of jumbling, switching power point to presentation done by a speaker mode, although Mr Stewart was rather eager to start his presentation before it was actually running, the final presentation was running and at least I could actually watch that one!

Next time we'll bring the laser light show....

## WACO Hadrian CG-4 Glider at Carlisle Castle.



The Museum's plan to move to the Alma Building brought about the opportunity to start re-constructing part of an example of an American WACO CG-4 Hadrian glider. Appropriate when you consider how close the museum is to Hadrian's Wall. The steel tubular framework of the cockpit and part of the fuselage of a WACO were found on a farm at High Casterton, near Kirkby Lonsdale in May 1993 through a local contact John Hamlett. Through the kindness of the farmer Mr Alec Gott, the remains were recovered and donated to the Museum.



The 1st Battalion Border Regiment as part of the 1<sup>st</sup> British Airborne Division took part in Operation HUSKY the allied invasion of Sicily in July 1943. Only a few Horsa Gliders, flown from England for the Operation were available, so the WACO CG-4 Hadrian were the primary gliders available for the operation. 500 WACO's were shipped from the USA each glider being in 5 crates and assembled in North Africa. The 1<sup>st</sup> Air-landing Brigade (1<sup>st</sup> Border 2<sup>nd</sup> South Staffs, 9<sup>th</sup> Field Squadron RE and 181 Field Ambulance RAMC) were assigned the task of capturing the Ponte Grande Bridge carrying the main road from the beach-head to Syracuse and parts of Syracuse itself. Montgomery felt that it was more suited to glider landing than trying to land paratroopers accurately at night.

Time was the problem and within three two months men who had only 8 hours training on Horsa gliders had to re-train for WACO gliders. Hadrian gliders for instance had no brakes and were stopped by digging the skids at the front into the ground and the operation that was going to take place at night. On the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup> July 1943, 136 WACO gliders took off from airfields in Tunisia on the 400 mile zigzag route to Sicily. Increasing wind, tug-pilot inexperience and other factors led to gliders being cast off too soon and of the 136 gliders that took off, 75 landed in the sea and over 300 officers and men from the Air Landing Brigade and Glider Pilot Regiment drowned. However, a small party of the South Staffs captured the bridge and reinforced by Border Regiment soldiers, Engineers and Glider Pilots defended it against overwhelming odds. The survivors were eventually forced to surrender, but captivity was brief as Montgomery's troops reached the bridge.

The WW2 section of the new Museum in Alma will include the reconstructed section of the WACO cockpit and part of the fuselage with the Museum's Willys Jeep emerging from the cargo compartment. Restoration and reconstruction work has begun and if anyone anywhere has any welding or engineering skills they can lend a hand with please get in touch with Tony Goddard at the museum 01228 532774

## Hadrian's Wall Walk May 2011

In May the Curator and five friends from his village, Thursby headed off to walk Hadrian's wall from Wallsend to Bowness-on-Solway. The walk had been planned some 10 months earlier, but a colleague suggested turning it into a fund raiser for the Alma Project. ***Thank you to all those who sponsored including my fellow walkers, which including gift aid raised a massive £2000 for the Alma Project. Thank you also to Uponor, the firm Keith Mason works for their sponsorship in providing the walking shirts.*** Despite walking into a head-wind for most of the journey, we enjoyed good weather and fantastic views especially on the high central section of the wall.



Thanks to Robin Swindells for the photographs

1. The team at Thursby before setting off for Wallsend – left to right Robin Swindells, John Henderson, Keith Mason, Geoff Sonley, Chris Castell & the Curator.

2. Day four - the group at the trig point on Whinshield Craggs the highest point (345m/1120feet) on the wall west of Housteads Fort.

3. Photo stop at Carlisle Castle on the morning of the last day.

4. Journey's end at Bowness-on-Solway.



## Thursby Coffee Morning 6<sup>th</sup> August

While Nick was making up his hours at the weekend Stuart, Peg, Nala and children Amethyst, Sapphire & Flint, Paul Chandler & family were busy raising £291 for the museum appeal fund at a coffee and bring and buy morning at Thursby Parish Hall. Even Shani speeded her extremely freshly baked cakes down from Langholm for the event. Something you can maybe help with if you want to get rid of any CDs, DVDs, or that book you now have three copies of on vintage tractors then get in touch and we will convert them into new museum funds!

## Just Arrived...



The Collins VC Shield was presented by his family to be competed for annually by local sports clubs of Carlisle. Its whereabouts were unknown for many years. It was recently discovered after a campaign in the local press and is now on display in the museum.

## Joseph Edward Gillett Hodgson 1921-2011



*Left Joe Hodgson receiving his Duke of Lancaster's Medal May 2009 Right Standards paraded at his Funeral September 2011*

Joe Hodgson was born at Preston in August 1921. His father came from Walton-le-dale and mother from Hawkshead and Joe had strong connections with both. Educated at Moor Park Methodist Church and Preston Grammar School, Joe was also a Sea cadet and a Scout, being made a King's Scout in 1937. A gift of a Boer War medal from his father began a life-long hobby of collecting and researching Medals

Having tried to enlist into the Navy, Joe volunteered again in 1940 and joined the 6<sup>th</sup> Home Defence Battalion East Lancashire Regiment as a "Young Soldier". In September 1940 he transferred to the 70<sup>th</sup> Young Soldiers Battalion of the Border Regiment and then volunteered for the Royal Armoured Corps to see some action and was posted in 1942 to Skipton and the 110<sup>th</sup> Regiment RAC (formerly 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Border Regiment), thus beginning an association with the Regiment that would last the rest of his life. He served as a wireless operator latterly in C Squadron the Churchill Tank "Cockermouth"; all the tanks being named after locations in Cumberland. After the units disbandment in late 1943 he was posted as a driver to RAC OCTU at Sandhurst and finally in 1945 to the Petroleum Warfare Research Station at Horsham.

After the War he went home to Preston where he trained and qualified as a teacher, teaching at Ashton Methodist School 1949-54 and then began a 30 year career with Leyland Motors until retiring. He married his beloved wife Elsie in 1944 and they had two daughters Gillian and Jennifer. He had a lifelong involvement with the Methodist Church, the Scout movement and numerous other causes. He and Elsie spent a large amount of leisure time in Cumbria with the children and in later years, especially to visit his sister Betty in Hawkshead and latterly in Ambleside.

In 1950 he joined the Preston Branch of the Border Regimental Association and in 1953 became its Secretary, a post which he held until the Branch folded a few years ago. He regularly attended the annual regimental weekend in Carlisle in May and became a founder Trustee of the Border Regiment and King's Own Royal Border Regiment Museum at Carlisle Castle, and was instrumental in assisting Colonel Ralph May in the re-establishment of the Museum in its present building. He remained a Trustee for over 20 years until resigning due to Elsie's poor health and cared for her until her death in 1999. He returned to his many hobbies and remained very active in the Regimental Association, going on battlefield tours and as a volunteer researcher at the Queen's Lancashire Regiment's Museum at Fulwood Barracks in Preston. He continued to visit the Museum in Carlisle regularly until late 2010 and was always a welcome face. His lasting contribution to the Museum was his encyclopaedic knowledge of regimental history and in particular of medals to the Regiment. The award of the Duke of Lancaster's Regimental Medal to him in 2009 could not have been made to a more worthy recipient. Following a stroke earlier this year, he passed away peacefully in August.

His legacy to the Museum will live on with the archive of documents & research given to us in his lifetime and by the family recently and in a number of medals formerly in his collection. In further recognition of his work for and support of the Regimental Museum, the research and information centre in the new Museum will be named after him - "Cheerio Joe".



## Museum Ale

Two new beers have been produced exclusively for the museum by the Geltsdale Brewery of Crawhill near Brampton.

The Border Regiment Ale is a smooth and satisfying Northern Bitter refreshingly bittered with Challenger and Cascade hops where as the Arroyo Ale is a lighter golden beer with a citrus aroma and long lasting bitterness using Challenger and Goldings hops.

Both are available by collection only from the museum shop at Carlisle castle. Costing **£2.95** for a 500ml bottle.



## Events

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December** Regimental Carol Service Carlisle Cathedral 19:30

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December** Army Cadet Force Christmas Concert Carlisle Cathedral 19:30  
by invitation only please contact 01228 516222 for further details.

## Membership Notes

**Contact details** - Remember, if you change your address, telephone or email, please inform our secretary, Maj. Nigel Lewis at [nigel.d.lewis@btinternet.com](mailto:nigel.d.lewis@btinternet.com)

**Subscriptions** - Have you paid your subscription for this year yet? For those not paying by banker's order a reminder is enclosed.

**Items for the Newsletter** - If you have any articles, notes etc. that you would like to include comments to make or letters you would like to be considered for publication, you may contact the Editor at [jammm@uwclub.net](mailto:jammm@uwclub.net)

**Photographs & illustrations** - if you send photos, please send straight to the Museum marked, Friends' Newsletter, or if digital images on a CD, or if by email in a jpeg format and marked Friends Newsletter to [korbmmuseum@aol.com](mailto:korbmmuseum@aol.com) or [borrerregiment@aol.com](mailto:borrerregiment@aol.com)

The membership rates remain unchanged:

Friend (single)	£15 (annual)
Life (minimum donation)	£100
Family	£25 (annual)
Corporate (minimum donation)	£100
Senior	£5 (annual)
Institutional (annual)	£25
Youth	£5 (annual)

## We **ARE** Open!!!

Anyone visiting Carlisle Castle at the moment will notice that the English Heritage operation on site is now closed Monday to Friday well, carry on walking up the drive way and follow the signs because the Museum is **OPEN!!!** Please spread the word!

Open Monday – Friday

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Outer ward – Inner ward – Museum and Battlements Walkway

Admission: Adults £2.50

Children £1.50 - Concessions £2.00

Open for Educational Visits, Outreach & Family History Enquiries

Telephone ☎ 01228 532774

E-mail: [borrerregiment@aol.com](mailto:borrerregiment@aol.com) or [korbmmuseum@aol.com](mailto:korbmmuseum@aol.com)