



# Redcoats Review

## Celebrating the 135th Anniversary of the Battle of Tofrek

### Chairman's Notes

What strange times we are experiencing. The Wardrobe is currently closed due to the Covid-19 crisis sweeping the world and there is no sign at the moment of when it will be re-opening. There is a Facebook site for Friends to join (The Rifles Berkshire and Wiltshire Museum) and the museum staff are posting interesting articles and news items regularly. I encourage you all to join and see what is going on.

The Society has recently paid for the newly installed interactive screen and computerised kiosk, which was a significant outlay. This display has however been a great success and those visitors who recently came to the Wardrobe (before we closed) found the facility a very enjoyable one. The information displayed on the system is easy to see and significantly enhances the understanding of Dunkirk 1940, which as most of you know is the 2020 special exhibition theme. We have received a letter of thanks from the Trustees, which is good to know that our efforts are appreciated. Each year in the future the special exhibition will use the interactive kiosk as its focal point.

In the Newsletter you will see what the Museum staff had planned for a very busy and exciting year ahead. It is of course a great shame that most if not all of these plans will not bear fruit. Some may be possible to postpone for a later date, but a number will be lost altogether. Most sad. The newly opened Rifleman's Table restaurant and café had started well until the current situation forced it to close down, but hopefully it can resume operation soon and I encourage all of you to come and give it a try.

Although I have stepped down as Chairman for the Society, it seemed appropriate to have a short introduction to this issue, especially as no one else offered to write anything. The authors and editorial team have again done another very good job and we thank them for their efforts. Enjoy reading this and thank you for supporting the museum.



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### FUTURE EVENTS

To be announced later

## UNIQUE CHANCE FOR AN UNUSUAL ARTEFACT TO BE ADDED TO AND THE ASSOCIATED HISTORY

Museum Object Number SBYRW: 5493 is described as 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, Wiltshire Regiment - Mug with label 'Shake' (nickname of Sergeant M. A. W. Rogers VC) on handle used by him on the beach at Anzio. It is 5 inches high. The artefact looks like this:



We cannot be sure when or where it was made but we were aware that there was a similar one in Anzio because the one we hold was donated to the museum by the then Captain Arthur Cainey. Major Arthur Cainey sadly passed away in his 105th year and has asked his executor to donate the twin of the Rogers mug to the Museum as well as the myriad of his photographs covering his army career.

To recap on Sgt Rogers career, he joined the Army as a young drummer in the early 1930's. In the Inter War years he was a regular member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion's Cross Country, Athletics and Boxing teams. He landed in France with battalion in 1939, taking part in the Phoney War and was one of the 250 Wiltshire Regiment soldiers who managed to extract via Dunkirk. Later taking part in the Sicily campaign and winning his MM, the Advance into Italy, then Anzio and the breakout from Anzio to advance towards Rome where his taking out of three German machine gun nest wins him his VC.



Photographs Left to Right: Boy Drummer Rogers with his Drum: Sergeant Maurice Albert Wyndham Rogers VC MM: Oil Painting commissioned by the WO's & Sgt's Mess of 1 DERR depicting Sgt Rogers taking out the third German machine gun nest, having single handedly taken out two others

So let us now concentrate on Arthur Cainey and try to understand the friendship that developed between these two first class soldiers.

Arthur Cainey was born on 14 November 1915, his father Corporal George Cainey, who was originally in the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry but had been transferred into the Wiltshires as a battle casualty replacement, was killed in action on 25 May 1918. Arthur, the younger of two brothers never saw his father; he, his elder brother Ernest and widowed mother lived in Whitley, near Atworth, Melksham, Wiltshire. School for the Cainey boys was two and a half miles from home. They would walk to school, run home for lunch, run back for the afternoon school and then walk home.

Aged 13 Arthur left school and gained employment as a clerk in an agricultural engineering firm, two years later he left and joined a local foundry working in a similar post but this time costing the piece work undertaken by the firm, this at the age of 15-16. At the same time as working in the foundry Arthur had joined the Territorial Army, and chose the Wiltshire Regiment as his elder brother was already serving with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion and he had an uncle who had won the MM during World War 1 serving with The Wiltshires.

In 1934 Arthur joined the Regular Army by going to the Wiltshire Training Depot at Le Marchant Barracks Devizes, of course having been in the TA for the previous two years stood him in good stead. On completing his training Arthur joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, stationed in Aldershot, and within weeks he was a permanent member of the Battalion Running team, basically the Cross Country team. Other team members included his elder brother, Drummer Maurice Rogers and Lieutenant George Woolnough.



The team photograph is of the 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment Athletics team as winners of the Divisional Athletics Championship in 1935, less than a year after Arthur had joined the battalion. The enlargement shows from left to right, Arthur Cainey, Maurice Rogers and Ernest Cainey. 2Lt George Woolnough is sat immediately behind the trophy.

In 1936 the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion were deployed to Palestine where he initially was in a Rifle Platoon and due to his high level of fitness was the lead scout of the platoon. Whilst in Palestine Arthur underwent a Junior Commander's training course with 12 other young soldiers. On completion of that course he was promoted to Lance Corporal and transferred into the Mortar Platoon, commanded by Lieutenant George Woolnough. Arthur remembers navigating by the stars and that overall that Arabs were kinder to the British soldiers than their Jewish counterparts.



Two images of Arthur Cainey taken whilst serving in Palestine. The one of the left showing him with an Arab mounted probably on a mule. The one on the right shows him in smart mufti.



1938 saw the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion return to UK, briefly to Aldershot and then to their new station of Catterick. Whilst in Catterick Arthur was promoted to Corporal and he did not recall much talk of war during 1938. Training consisted primarily of marching and shooting, long route marches followed by range work. Whilst at Catterick Arthur was sent on a Range Finder course and on completion was promoted to Sergeant. Catterick also gave Arthur a chance to formalise his education as he attended evening classes run the Battalion Education Officer, which culminated in Arthur passing his Army Class 1 exams, needed for promotion to Warrant Rank.

In 1939 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion deployed with the remainder of the British Expeditionary Force into France as part of 5th Division (later in 1944 known as D Day Dodgers), Arthur being a Sergeant in the Mortar Platoon, though by this time Captain George Woolnough was Adjutant. During all the turmoil of Dunkirk a battalion that had deployed to France with 1,000 Officers and men, only 250 managed to make it back to Dover. Sgt Arthur Cainey was largely responsible for the successful evacuation of the mortar platoon intact. The story is told of the Wiltshire element, by this time virtually out on their feet from fatigue, after arriving at Dover were placed straight onto a train, where, to a man, they promptly fell asleep. Arthur recalls waking up very and hearing strange voices and is convinced it is German troops only to discover the train is in a siding in deepest Wales, the railway staff naturally speaking in their native tongue.



Photographs from the German Army showing the wooden planks overlaid on top of military vehicles deliberately driven into the sea to create the foundations for a make shift pier. The arrows have been put in later by Arthur Cainey to show the route he used to extract the mortar platoon from the beach.

After reorganisation and retraining was completed in Scotland and Northern Ireland the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion the Wiltshire Regiment sailed from UK via the Cape of Good Hope and en route to Persia taking part in the operation to capture Madagascar from the Vichy French. Once in Persia they moved across Syria, Palestine and into Egypt to train for the Sicily Landings.

Once through the Sicily campaign, where Arthur's great friend, Sgt Rogers had won, his MM they moved across to begin the Italian campaign. Slowed down by the Gustav Line and urged on by Churchill to bypass that defensive line the allies undertook the Anzio Landings, starting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January and lasting until June 1944. With this landing the allies created a bridgehead approximately 15 kilometres wide and 7 kilometres deep which was completely dominated by the German held high ground of Castel Gandolfo. The German nonstop artillery bombardments and aerial attacks made life intolerable in the small allied enclave.

Also in Anzio at the same time as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion the Wiltshire, were the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion the Royal Berkshires and a few years ago under Simon Cook's organisation a small group of Friends undertook a battlefield tour of Anzio with the former conservative politician and ex CO of 1 Worcestershire and Sherwood Forester, Patrick Mercer.



Photographs from the Anzio Battlefield Tour in 2014. Left Simon Cook and Chris Bacon examining spent munition in a mortar base plate position where 10th Battalion the Royal Berkshire Regiment were located. The right hand picture is taken from the position of the third machine gun nest that Sgt Rogers attacked. The little knoll in the middle distance is where the second machine gun nest would have been and which he had destroyed along with the first one single handedly.

It was whilst out of the front line and taking shelter from the German incessant bombardments that CSM Arthur Cainey (CSM of Support Company, commanded by Major George Woolnough) and Sgt Maurice Rogers might have made their pair of drinking mugs.

After the war Arthur Cainey went on to becoming the Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion the Wiltshire Regiment (post war reorganisation reducing County Line Regiments to one battalion). On completing his tour as RQMS Arthur was granted a commission and was posted to the Depot in Devizes.



1st Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment being visited by Brigadier Coad whilst stationed in Hong Kong in 1951. Leading the party is RSM Bull. RQMS Arthur Cainey can be seen wearing the beret at the rear.

In 1962 he was then posted overseas to serve with the Kings African Rifles in Kenya and then Uganda. During the posting to the later country one of those under his command was one Sgt and then Captain Idi Amin.



Major Arthur Cainey, Quartermaster of 4 Kings Africa Rifles (Uganda) with students from the Administration Course No 1. in 1964

In 1968 Arthur's service to the Crown ended, having completed 43 years' service and having attained the rank of Major.

He and his wife, Joan, settled in Marbella in Spain, where he met the former Commanding Officer of the Kenya Regiment of the KAR, Lieutenant Colonel Lieutenant Colonel Guy Campbell, later becoming the god father to the Campbell's two sons Lachlan and Rory.

On the death of his wife Joan, Arthur returned to England and settled in Cheltenham, where he was loyally supported by his godsons. He passed away peacefully on 14 January 2020 in his 105<sup>th</sup> year.

Throughout his life after the death of Sgt Maurice Rogers VC MM, Arthur Cainey had by his bedside his copy of the twin drinking mug and a photograph of Sgt Rogers, his old running mate from the Battalion Cross Country team.

Sir Lachlan Campbell has said that it was Arthur's wish that his mug should be reunited with Sgt Roger's drinking vessel and although Sir Lachlan has been left Arthur's medals in the will he will believes the rightful resting place for them is the Regimental Museum.

What can be a better tribute to two outstanding soldiers who both joined their regiment as young soldiers and in their own way reached the highest point of their chosen profession. Maurice winning the VC and Arthur, the young child losing his father in the Great War and never knowing him rising to the rank of Major. And now their drinking vessels, with which they no doubt toasted each other in war time, will shortly be sitting side by side.



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## ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF LONG LASTING FRIENDSHIP SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGI-

Very recently we have lost two keen supporters of the Regimental Museum, whose lives, like those of the preceding article, followed extraordinary similar paths.

Lionel Colin Tremellen, son of Brigadier L Tremellen, was born on 7 December 1931 and aged 13 went to Haileybury School in Hertfordshire in the autumn of 1945. In 1948 he became a member of the School's shooting VIII and a year later (his final year at school) he was appointed Captain of the Shooting team.

John Desmond Redding, son of Colonel J E Redding, was born on 17 February 1932 and he aged 14 entered Haileybury School. Before leaving Haileybury he became a Prefect, was a member of the Hockey XI and attained the rank of CSM in the Cadet Force, leaving in 1950.

Desmond Redding (as he has always been known in the Regiment), was the first of these close friends to join the Army and it is rumoured that he influenced Colin Tremellen (he too preferred to be known by his second Christian name) to join the family regiment.

Having completed their respective Young Officer training course they joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment, who were stationed in Goslar, within 12 months of each other. The role of the battalion at that time was as lorried infantry.



Left image shows Lieutenant Desmond Redding with the Regimental Colour encased, probably returning the Colour to the Officers mess after a ceremonial parade. The right image shows a young 2nd Lieutenant Colin Tremellen on joining the 1st battalion in Goslar. Both images are from the 1953–56 Tour in the Lorried Infantry role.

Being a similar age their careers progressed in parallel, both attended Staff College and they both went on to command Territorial Battalions. Colin commanded 1 Wessex in 1974-75 and Desmond went on to command 2 Wessex.



Lt Col Desmond Redding  
CO 2 Wessex with his Of-  
ficers during an annual  
camp in the period 1974-76

Lt Col Colin Tremellen CO 1  
Wessex cycling during a  
range day with the battalion  
Training major, Major Clyde  
Aylin.



On completing their regular Army careers their paths did diverge. Colin became a Consultant, restorer of chinaware a Church warden and a very keen environmentalist. Desmond on the other hand became a member of the Army Vetting Service Unit whose role was to interview all those in the Army who would be employed in role which gave them access to some fairly delicate subject matter.

Colin, living on the outskirts of Frome, was within striking distance of the Museum and was a very supportive member of the Association, at one time having been one of the early Chairman of the Society. Colin went of the memorable trip organised by Colonel Mike Vernon-Powell to the Brandywine battlefield in 2014.

In the same year a service for a multi faith County Service of Remembrance and reflection to mark the 100th Anniversary of the start of the Great War, Sunday, 6th July, 2014 was held in Reading Minster. The Colours the 2nd Battalion Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment were carried by Colonels Redding and Tremellen.

The Redding's moved from York, where they had been living whilst Colonel Desmond had been working for the AVSU, and settled in Heytesbury thus the three families of Tremellen, Redding and Vernon-Powell keeping in ever closer contact.

Sadly on 16 December 2019 Colonel Desmond passed away and was very shortly joined by Colin Tremellen who died on 3 January 2020 thus bringing to a close a friendship that had been in existence for at least 72 years and probably longer as they were both sons of officer serving in The Royal Berkshire Regiment.

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## DUNKIRK EXHIBITION

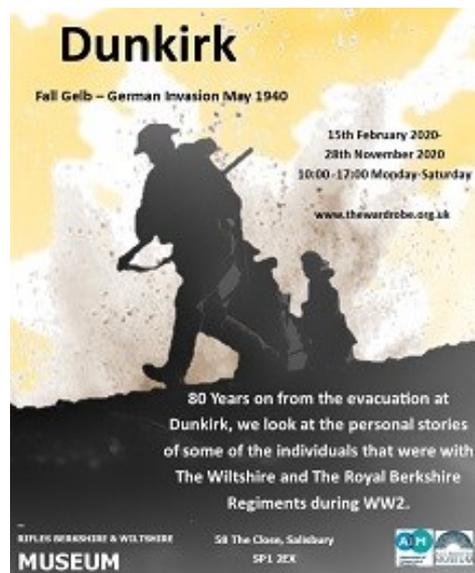
This year's exhibition at the museum concentrates on and commemorates the Dunkirk evacuation in 1940, as far as it relates to our former regiments. Our battalions committed were the: -

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess of Charlotte of Wales's)

4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess of Charlotte of Wales's)

2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's)

All three battalions had similar experiences during the "Phoney War" plus the Retreat to and Evacuation from the beaches.. The 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Berkshire regiment came off the beaches some 40 strong.



The Exhibition created by Bethany Joyce, our Assistant Curator, uses the inter active projection system purchased by the friends, which together with some excellent display boards tells the stories from the experiences of some of those that survived.

Our Regiments gained the following battle honours during this period: - ‘

**‘The Dyle’ : ‘Defence of Arras’: ‘St Omer- La Bassee’: ‘Ypres-Comines Canal’: ‘Dunkirk 1940’: ‘North West Europe 1940-42’**

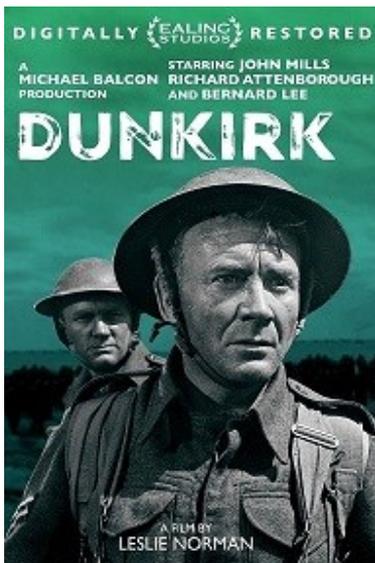
The battle honour ‘Dunkirk’ awarded to the Royal Berkshire Regiment sometimes causes confusion as it is generally the case that honours are not awarded for defeat. This Battle Honour was awarded to those troops who had defended the bridgehead rather than those that passed through it.

The exhibition is well worth a visit if you are in the area, once movement restriction are lifted.



Projection media, kindly donated by the Society of friends, being immediately put to good use, enhancing the Display panels and providing the visitor the opportunity to select what they view.

## FOLLOWING ON FROM THE DUNKIRK SCENARIO



**'Did you know'**..... That the 1958 film 'Dunkirk' that featured John Mills was centred around a Rifle section making their way across country, trying to avoid German patrols. The rifle section in question in the film was a Wiltshire Regiment unit. If you view the film, the Regimental cap badges are clearly visible at the start. Later in the film, John Mills, who played the section commander is challenged by a dispatch rider as to what unit they belonged to. Mills replied, 'Wiltshire Regiment, 13th Brigade'. [The 2nd Wiltshire's were in the 13th Brigade, 5th Division]

An extract from the film, where the Wiltshire Regiments badge is shown and on an a full scale image is clearly evident.





A scene from the film, shortly after being challenged by the Dispatch rider

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## NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM

Tony Field the Curator, and Bethany the assistant curator have been very proactive in trying to raise the profile of the museum and to increase the numbers of visitors. We list below a number of the events and initiatives that they are working on at the moment or in the pipe line.

### 1. Exhibitions and Events in the Museum:

- Temporary Exhibition (Feb – Dec 20). The temporary exhibition for 2020 (“Reflections On Dunkirk”) has been well received so far. The slant is on the causes of the need for the evacuation (rather than the evacuation itself) and stories from Berkshire and Wiltshire men. It is supported by interactive audio-visual equipment kindly provided by The Friends.
- Family events. A series of Family Days were held in 2019 and it is proposed to repeat these in the coming summer. The children’s Treasure Trails have been renewed and were found to be very popular during February Half Term week.
- A schools’ educational visit programme has been established, following National Curriculum themes and was tested by a school over two days in December. Having gone well, it is hoped to repeat and expand this in 2020 but the challenge is getting interest and commitment from schools.
- Renewal of Contemporary RIFLES Exhibitions: With assistance of HQ RIFLES and 5 RIFLES, the museum has been issued with a set of contemporary operational uniform, protective and load carrying equipment (VIRTUS) which has allowed us to update our display accordingly. A complete set of No1 Dress Uniform for a RIFLES Warrant Officer has also been incorporated.
- All medal display cases now have the names of the medals displayed, next to each medal, so that visitors can more readily identify them.

## 2. AMOT [Ogilby trust] WWI Digitisation Project Update.

- After a significant period of necessary preparation, the archive from WW1 (papers and bound volumes) was collected for digitisation on 28 Feb.
- The next phase will be to prepare and send our photographs and maps from the WW1 period. Target date for this is 31 Mar; it must be noted that the digitisation phase of the project is due to complete by 30 April. [This is a major exercise supported by volunteers/ Friends]

## 3. Volunteer Manning.

- Front Desk. On resuming museum opening after the winter break, two volunteers have discontinued their service with us, which means we have some slots to fill. The Assistant Curator's target remains, to add a third person to the museum roster; their primary role being to talk to visitors and enhance their understanding and enjoyment of the museum.
- Research/Archive. All posts are filled. We have one new volunteer who, after waiting until after the AMOT Digitisation Project surge is over, is now being trained. The AMOT Digitisation project is almost certainly the start of a significant change to the way we manage our archive and research activities.
- Interns at The Wardrobe. So far in 2020 we have been able to take advantage of two interns working with us for 1 or 2 days each week. One (from Wiltshire College) has been specifically working on our audio-visual display for Dunkirk exhibition. The other (French) has been translating some of our visitor guides as well as producing a question-and- answer sheet for a visit that has been booked by a French school in April.
- In addition, we have the Coldstream Guards 1814 re-enactment guys down on the 30+31st May for an event called 'Step into the past with us. It's a Saturday and Sunday and they will be camped out in the wardrobe garden. We will be pleased to see as many 'friends' as possible.



The re-enactors at work

If you live locally in Salisbury or nearby and fancy volunteering, just get in touch with Beth.

## AN EX POLICEMAN'S LOT IS NOT AN "APPY ONE"

With apologies to Gilbert and Sullivan for abusing their song title. Martin McIntyre as a wily section commander and resourceful Police Inspector is always on the look out for new ways of gathering digital information on our Regimental family and the next two articles are evidence of the lengths he will go to.

### Newspaper archives.

The National newspaper archives was originally located at Colindale in London. Unless you were able to get there, and then navigate the system on arrival the chances of locating what you were looking for in relation to the Regiment's history was very limited. A number of years ago the location was closed down and the plan was for the collection to be digitised. This process has been in being for a number of years and quite easy to gain access to thousands of newspapers using the search facility [at a small cost]. As a result previously unknown events can be uncovered. [Some we would rather not know about !!] One such discovery is shown below in relation to an officer of the 62nd [Wiltshire] Regiment, Captain Arthur Edward Harrington Raikes.

### **The Battle of Takka-Ungu - Zanzibar**

#### Defence of the main guard by Captain Raikes

The large town of Takka-Ungu, garrisoned by 150 men, mostly Zanzibar Regulars, under Captain [Local rank Brigadier General] Raikes, 62nd (Wiltshire) Regiment, was surreptitiously entered during the night of the 7th - 8th July, 1895 by some 500 of Mbaraka's Arab slave raiding followers, who stalling in from the country in twos and threes, with arms carefully concealed, contrived to escape observation, and to hide in the houses of the many disaffected inhabitants. At 4a.m. they suddenly rose upon the garrison, whom they took completely by surprise. Rallied by the two gallant Englishmen, however the Zanzibaris made a far better stand than could be been anticipated against such greatly preponderating forces, already in full possession of three-fourths of the town. After three anxious hours of hard fighting, in which on less than 20,000 rounds of ammunition were expended on our side, by 7 a.m. the enemy were routed and pursued for five miles into the surrounding bush.

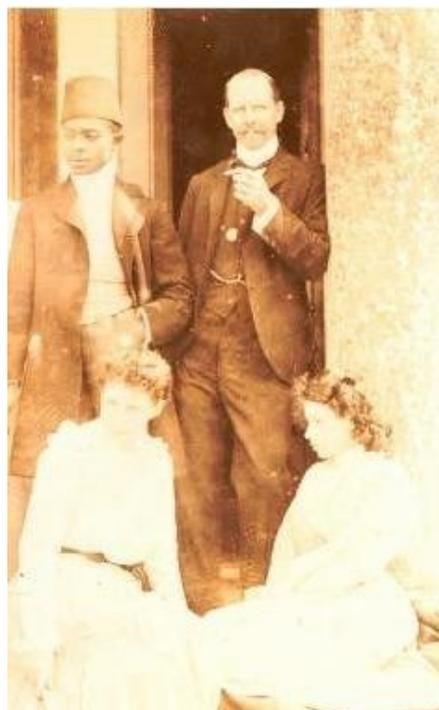


Lt Raikes in command at the action

### Biographical details for Captain Raikes.

He was born on 5 February 1867 to Reverend Charles Hall Raikes and Charlotte d'Ende Arbuthnot. Raikes was an officer in the Wiltshire Regiment, being commissioned a second lieutenant on 10 November 1888 and a lieutenant on 24 November 1890. Raikes moved to Zanzibar to take up an appointment as Brigadier-General in the Sultan's army. In 1896 he was involved in the Anglo-Zanzibar War, caused by the succession of a sultan unfavourable to the British, and led 900 pro-British during the bombardment of the Sultan's palace. In return for his service he was appointed a First Class (Second Grade) member of the Order of the Brilliant Star of Zanzibar on 24 September 1896, a First Class member of the Zanzibari Order of Hamondieh on 25 August 1897 and later promoted to Commander of the Zanzibar armies.

Raikes was acting prime minister of Zanzibar by 1898 when he was involved in a diplomatic incident with France. The Zanzibar police had caught a slave trader in the act of exporting slaves from Pemba and he had been arrested. However, despite claims he was a native of Pemba he claimed French nationality as a native of the Comoros islands and flew a French flag from his dhow. Raikes returned the flag to M. Laronce the French consul and, in court with the Arab, pronounced a sentence of one years imprisonment on the slaver. In 1899 Raikes, on behalf of the Zanzibari sultan, accepted the line of demarcation proposed by Hardinge between British and Zanzibari possessions on the African mainland, this crossing the line of the Uganda Railway. By 1902 Raikes had been promoted to Captain of the Wiltshire Regiment. He accompanied Sultan Ali bin Hamud of Zanzibar on his visit to Britain for the coronation of King Edward VII. On 6 November 1903 Raikes was granted approval to accept and wear the Cross of a Commander of the Order of Franz Joseph awarded to him by Francis Joseph I of Austria when he visited Zanzibar on board SMS Zenta. On 26 1905 he was given approval to accept and wear the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Order of Christ, awarded to him by the Carlos I of Portugal in return for valuable services. He left the Regiment in 1904. On 12 July 1906 Raikes was appointed a First Class Member of the Order of El Aliyeh for services rendered to the Sultan of Zanzibar. Raikes served as Vizier to Zanzibar from 1906 until 1908 and was, at one stage, first minister to the country. He married Geraldine Arbuthnot on 16 December 1899 with whom he would have one son. Raikes died on 3 March 1915 at number 28 Kensington Court Gardens, London.



Raikes & Family members in Zan-

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**EXTRACT, FROM A POLICE PUBLICATION OF AN EVENT THAT WOULD NOT NORMALLY BE MENTIONED IN THE REGIMENTAL HISTORY.**

Police illustrated News

18th November 1882



### A Murderous Soldier

Considerable excitement was occasioned in the neighbourhood of the Cambridge Barracks, at Woolwich by a report that a corporal in the 1st Battalion of the Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire) Regiment, late 62nd of Foot, had murdered two men, belonging to the same corps. Upon enquiry the report was found to be partially true. One of the front barrack rooms, just facing the principle entrance in Francis Street, was occupied by Sergeant Henry McCully of the same regiment, and two corporals, named John Edgar and Alfred Harris, besides some other men. One of the corporals now lies dead, having been stabbed by the other. Edgar the victim, was a man of about 41 years of age, and had 22 years service in the regiment. He was generally employed as the brigade orderly and was a quiet and well-behaved man. Harris, a prisoner on the charge of murder, is 25 years of age, and has less than 6 years service, and joined the regiment in India by transfer from the 99th Regiment, three years ago. It appears that Harris had been drinking deeply at various public houses, and on his way home purchased a sword stick. When in the barracks he became so violent that the sergeant ordered Corporal Edgar to take him to the guard room. Upon his attempting to do so, Harris drew his sword from the stick and stabbed him in the chest. Edgar died almost immediately, and Harris after a violent struggle, was arrested. He is charged with wounding Private Light who had tried to intervene. Harris then tried to make good his escape and in doing so attacked and wounded a sentry who challenged him. A hunt together with the local Police was not successful, but at 9.30 p.m. Harris walked unconcernedly into the barracks as if nothing had happened. After being secured and taken to the guardroom, the prisoner became exceedingly violent, and broke two pairs of handcuffs, and on being strapped down, broke away twice, threatening to murder the guard. He was eventually transported to Woolwich Police Station, under an escort of 40 rank and file of the regiment who were required to keep off the large crowds which congregated.

Harris was charged with murder and convicted the following year. He was sentenced to death, which was commuted to life imprisonment.

## EDITOR'S NOTES

You will probably have realised that all the articles here were written before the Prime Minister announcement made on the evening of 23 March 2020. Rather than alter the context of the articles may I simply point out that any event or function that has been advertised as taking place in the future has been put on indefinite hold.

As a Society I think we should be grateful to Tony Field and Bethany Joyce for their very proactive and protective measures that they took prior to the P.M.'s announcement.

The SoF are grateful, as always, to the RWMT for access and use of the archive material used to put this Newsletter together.

On a personal note my grateful thanks to Nigel Walker and Martin McIntyre for proof reading the drafts and finding my numerous "slidex errors" usually caused by thick fingers syndrome or fingers moving faster than the brain, which is nor difficult for a heavy infantryman whose regiment has converted to 160 paces to the minute.

Please stay safe and look after each other and I hope and trust that I with Mac's great help we will be able to bring you the next publication due out in July without too many complications.

Note: "Slidex" was form of message encryption used by the Army during the Cold War.

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## BATTLEFIELD TOUR NORMANDY SEPTEMBER 2020

Reluctantly the Chairman and Andy Steele have made the decision to cancel the 2020 Battlefield tour. An email to those who were participating has gone out asking for preferred dates from a choice of 4 alternatives in 2021.



### CAN YOU RECRUIT ANOTHER MEMBER?

We are always looking to recruit new members, and on average we get 3/4 new members per year. This of course is offset by members who unfortunately died during the year. As with all good Regiments the best recruiting Sergeants are those who are already serving. With that in mind we are appealing to Redcoat members to consider signing up a friend or acquaintance who may have an interest in our Regiments past, and the future of the Regimental museum. The future brings with it a number of challenges that need a fully manned and vibrant Society of Friends to support the Museum. In particular we need to sign up former members of the Regiment.

### APPEAL FOR ITEMS FOR THE REDCOATS REVIEW

Most of the articles that have appeared over the past few editions are on subject matter that the editorial team have either chosen or worked on during their course of volunteering within the museum. It may well be that readers have an area that we have not covered and you would like to see covered in which case we would love to hear your ideas.

Your web page on the Museum web site is:

<http://www.thewardrobe.org.uk/museum/contact-us/support-us/friends-events-and-publications>