



Redcoats Review

Celebrating the 176th Anniversary of the Battle of Ferozeshah

NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM

(compiled by Tony & Beth)

The museum will close on 4 Dec until 19 Feb. During close-down all exhibition cases will be opened for cleaning and some displays will be updated.

Next year's exhibition will be dedicated to "Prince Philip – Colonel In Chief" which is being prepared - we have managed to get permission from the Palace to borrow a uniform. We have had to purchase a new display case for it. We are also going to have the Vernon Bell here next year.

Two display cases within the museum have now been funded by the Patrons.

The volunteer archive team [Chris, Sian, Simon and Will] have relocated to the new archive room and are very happy with their new space where they can spread themselves about, and deal face to face with some customers if required.

This has resulted in the old archive room being reused as the Volunteer breakout room with views over the garden, for working or relaxing.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

News from the Museum.....	1
The Man who Could not Have Shot General Brock.....	2-10
Grenadier Coy of 49th— Detroit.....	10-11
The Dead Drummer of the 49th	12-14
A Tribute by a Redcoats Mem- ber to his ancestor.....	15-16
Museum Volunteers Up- date.....	16-17
News From the Museum contin- ued	18-19

FUTURE EVENTS

To be announced later

ROBERT WALCOT: THE MAN WHO COULD NOT POSSIBLY
HAVE SHOT GENERAL BROCK

GUY ST-DENIS

The article, edited in the interest of keeping the Newsletter size to fit the website, has been reproduced by the kind permission Guy St Denis, who wrote the article that appeared in the Journal Number 83 of the Society of Army Historical Research in 2005.



Major General Sir Isaac Brock KB
Commander in Chief and Administrator Upper Canada 1811-1812

In 1880, an old man living in Philadelphia launched a lawsuit against a New York city bank. Robert Walcot was determined to recover a deposit he had lodged with the Irving National Bank in 1854.¹ But the weight of 99 years had confined Walcot to his bed, and so it was impossible for him to travel any great distance. The marine Court of New York, however, obligingly sent a representative to take down his deposition, which was done in the presence of both Walcot's and the National Bank's lawyers. During the course of these preliminary proceedings, the bank's lawyer – who was determined to test the plaintiff's memory- asked Walcot to expand upon a passing remark he made in reference to his military service during the War of 1812. Walcot complied with a narrative of events leading up to, and including the Battle of Queenston Heights. These reminiscences were interesting enough in their own way, but there was nothing particularly noteworthy about Walcot' experience ... until he bluntly confessed; 'I shot and killed General Brock.'²

This General Brock was none other than Major General Sir Isaac Brock, who in 1812 was both military commander and civil administrator of Upper Canada – a territory better known today as southern Ontario. In late June of that eventful year news of the American declaration of war against Great Britain reached Brock's headquarters at York, now Toronto, where the British general was in charge of a force that was less than adequate for the defence of the province. With only a small army of regulars at his disposal, Brock was hopelessly outnumbered by an enemy whose regiments were even massing at various points along the border of a vast frontier. To make matters worse, Upper Canada was thinly populated by a mix of people whose attitude to the war ranged from defeatist to disaffected. This sad state of affairs quickly became manifest through high absentee rates among the militia, a lack of commitment from former native allies, and the openly inimical activities of emboldened rebels. To say Brock's prospects for a successful defence of Upper Canada were bleak would be an understatement. Despite the odds, however, he led an expedition to Detroit and compelled the surrender of a large American force. The effect was electric, and inspired the populace of Upper Canada with the general's conviction that their colony could be defended. As confident as he was, Brock was not invincible. the following October, while gallantly leading a charge to retake a captured redan battery at Queenston Heights, near Niagara Falls, the 'Hero of Upper Canada' was killed by a shot to the chest.

In death Brock became a heroic figure of legendary status whose name commanded just as much respect in the United States as it did in Canada and

¹An unsuccessful search for the records of this case suggests that Walcot did not proceed with his lawsuit against the National Bank.

²*Times* (Philadelphia PA), 22 Nov. 1880, 1, c. 1.

Great Britain. Not surprisingly, when Walcot confessed to having shot General Brock, he caused a sensation – the first among his audience, and then on the front page of the Philadelphia *Times*. One of the men who heard Walcot’s claim must have also been responsible for passing it along to the newspaper. In any event, other papers picked up on the story, and before long Walcot’s revelation was making the editorial rounds north of the Canadian border.³ In the Niagara region of Ontario, however, the news was greeted with a fair degree of scepticism. After all Walcot was just the latest of several claimants for the same dubious distinction.



Robert Walcot who claimed to have shot Major General Sir Isaac Brock KB in the Battle of Queenston heights October 1812

.....
³ For example, the *Globe* of Toronto, today’s *Globe and Mail*, reprinted a condensed version of the article a short time later. See: *Globe* (Toronto), 29 Nov. 1880, 5, c. 3

Still, his telling of Brock's death was the most engaging, and in time it might have been accepted as the only correct version – had it not been for Miss Janet Carnochan. This respected local historian from what is now Niagara-on-the-Lake had her doubts, which she freely expressed whenever it appeared that too much faith was being placed in Walcot's claim. On one such occasion, in 1913, Miss Carnochan was quoted as saying, 'I have seen this account before, [and] I have said that I thought it impossible to know who killed Sir Isaac Brock. No doubt others fired.'⁴ Miss Carnochan was decidedly of the opinion that the shot could have been fired by anyone of the Americans defending the redan battery overlooking Queenston, even though it was widely accepted that Brock had been singled out for death by one of the enemy soldiers.⁵ Regardless, Miss Carnochan had a valid point, and she used it on more than one occasion to suppress Walcot's claim. Still, she was never able to completely dispel the notion that Robert Walcot might have been the man who shot General Brock, and it never occurred to her that it might be possible to investigate.

When the National Bank lawyer asked Walcot to elaborate on his military service during the War of 1812, it was meant as a test of the old man's memory.

According to Walcot, he was a 31 year old blacksmith at Newtown Roads, Massachusetts when the United States declared war against Great Britain in June of 1812. He also admitted that he was not keen to fight, and that he only did so under 'the pressure of the draft.' It was sometime later after the capitulation of Detroit, which occurred in mid-August, that Walcot was pressured into joining Lieutenant Colonel John Chrystie's Thirteenth Regiment of the regular army. Walcot remembered setting out from the Niagara frontier in September, embarking from Charlestown Neck – the peninsular on the north shore of the Charles River opposite Boston. On 11 October, his regiment made camp at Four Mile Creek on Lake Ontario, just east of the American Fort Nagara. There Walcot was promptly assigned to the Concord Artillery of the Thirteenth Regiment, under the command of Captain Nathan Leonard. Before Walcot had a chance to adjust to his new surroundings, he and his regiment were on the march again, and this time through a severe rainstorm. Their destination was Lewiston on the Niagara River, but their objective was Upper Canada.

Upon his arrival at Lewiston, which is nearly opposite to Queenston on the Canadian side of the river, Walcot was one of forty artillerists who would

⁴ *Sarnia Daily Observer* (Sarnia ON), 1 Dec. 1913, 6, c. 5 Brock was knighted for his capture of Detroit.

⁵ Robert Malcomson, *A Very Brilliant Affair* (Toronto, 2003) page 153. Malcomson quotes George Jarvis, a gentleman volunteer of the 49th Regiment who was near Brock when he was killed, and remembers seeing one of the American defenders of the redan battery come forward and take deliberate aim at the British general.

accompany Lieutenant Colonel Solomon Van Rensselaer's pre-dawn invasion of the British territory. Early in the morning of 13 October, the landing was accomplished and the British defending the base of the heights at the south end of Queenston were routed. During this action, Van Rensselaer was severely wounded, and succeeded in his command by Captain John E Wool. Although Wool himself was wounded, as evidenced by blood that trickled out of his shoes, he stayed the course by leading an attack on the heights. Many of the artillerymen who followed him had been injured during the initial assault, including Walcot who suffered a gunshot wound to his right leg. Yet, Wool and his men managed to dislodge the British defenders, and in the process Brock was 'hurried from the little battery.' The General mustered his troops in Queenston and ordered them to retake the battery. When the British ranks broke in the midst of a sharp fight and fled down the heights, Brock rushed forward to rally his men.

It was at this point in the narrative that Walcot revealed his part in the British general's death. As the old man recalled:

I could see General Brock as he approached, leading the charge, and by his side rode another general officer. Brock was a fine-looking man and, I understood very well liked. Up to this time I had not fired a shot at the enemy, although I was considered an excellent marksman. When the English began their ascent I left my post and went to an infantryman and asked him to lend me his gun. He did so. I asked him: 'How many balls are there in the?' He said there was one. I asked him for another and rammed it in the gun. I went to the edge of the line and, taking aim, fired at Brock. His face was partly turned to the troops as I fired. He fell almost instantly, and I hurried back to my post. ⁶

Before Walcot could get back in line, his captain ordered him to be placed under arrest for insubordination. 'I attempted to inform what I had done,' Walcot insisted, 'but he would not listen.' ⁷

Walcot concluded his account by describing how, later in the day, the battle began to go badly for the Americans. As British reinforcements made their way to Queenston for a counter-attack, the American militia refused to cross the river to assist their countrymen.

.....
⁶ *Times*, 22 Nov. 1880, 1, c. 1.
⁷ *Ibid*

The British, infuriated by the death of their general, proceeded to rout the Americans in every direction and showed their enemy no mercy. From out of the midst of this blood-bath, Walcot and several others ran to the river and began to swim across it. Three or four soldiers were shot dead in the attempt, and Walcot himself was hit by a musket ball in the back of his neck. Being robust and athletic, however, he managed to make it through the river's dangerous currents and back to the New York Shore.

On the surface, Walcot's story offers a compelling first-hand account of the Battle of Queenston Heights. After all, one would expect as much if Walcot was in fact at the Battle of Queenston Heights. However, Walcot's story also contains statements which are clearly at variance with the historical record, and which tend to negate the likelihood that he spoke from experience.

The first of these statements has to do with Walcot's service in Lieutenant Colonel John Chrystie's Thirteenth Regiment of Infantry. Walcot recalled joining the American army 'under the pressure of a draft,' although the government of the United States did not enact conscription during the War of 1812.⁸ It is difficult to conceive, therefore, how he could have felt the pressure of a non-existent draft, especially in Massachusetts, one of the New England states so opposed to the war. Equally implausible is Walcot's departure from Massachusetts with the Thirteenth Regiment, which was raised in New York State.⁹ Given these contradictions, it seems as though Walcot did not possess a thorough knowledge of his own recruitment during the War of 1812.

The second offending statement involves the manner of Brock's death. According to Walcot, he 'could see General Brock as he approached, leading the charge, and to his side rode another general officer.'¹⁰ The suggestion here is that Brock met his end whilst on horseback, which certainly was not the case. The General was on foot when he received the fatal shot, a fact Walcot should have distinctly remembered had he in fact been the soldier who pulled the trigger. Instead, it appears that the old man unwittingly perpetuated a long standing mistake.

.....

⁸ Regarding the question of conscription, see Lawrence Delbert Cress, *Citizens in Arms*(Chapel Hill NC, 1982), p. 173.

⁹U. G. McAlexander, *History of the Thirteenth Regiment United States Infantry* (1905), p. 198. The Thirteenth Regiment set out for the Niagara frontier from Greenbush, New York in mid September of 1812. See *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser* (Albany NY, 29 Sep 1812, 3, c. 1. See also Malcomson, *A Very Brilliant Affair*, pp. 119, 128.

¹⁰ *Times*, 22 Nov, 1880, 1, c. 1.

Although Walcot's story gives the impression that Brock was shot while leading the charge on horseback, suggesting that his flawed information was derived from Lossing's *Pictorial Field-Book of the War of 1812*, the description of the incident as it was printed in the *Philadelphia Times* is sufficiently vague to allow Walcot some benefit of the doubt.

The man who shot General Brock apparently led an impressive life indeed, and one which lacks any record of his various achievements.

Having provided his version of the events at Queenston Heights, Walcot went on to disclose his other lifetime achievements. First, his promotion to a captaincy came after his recuperation, and for no seemingly better reason than his having survived the battle. But if Walcot actually held a captain's commission in the American army, then Francis B Heitman surely would have uncovered some proof of it. Heitman was the man responsible for producing the *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army*, published in 1903. There is one notable exception, Robert Walcot's entry is conspicuously absent.¹¹

None of the remarks Walcot made about his life following the Battle of Queenston Heights can be substantiated, although relevant records still exist by and large. This disappointing result, when added to his suspected plagiarism of Lossing's account of the Battle of Queenston Heights, as well as the discrepancies involving his military service during the War of 1812 and the manner of Brock's death, only serves to place Walcot in a very bad light. Of course, these findings are all circumstantial and do not actually disprove Walcot's claim to have shot General Brock. There is, however, a source of information that proves fairly conclusive evidence by which to judge Walcot's claim. Unfortunately for Walcot, this information does nothing to strengthen his case. In fact, it has quite the opposite effect.

At the end of December in 1884, four years Walcot recounted his thrilling adventures at the Battle of Queenston Heights, his attorney submitted an application on his behalf for an army pension.¹²

Unlike some pension files, Walcot's folder contains a good deal of information – including a reference to the wound he received in the back of the neck. The most glaring inconsistency regards Walcot's age, which he listed in late 1884 as being eighty-nine years.¹³

¹¹ Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army* (Washington DC, 1903). All variations of Walcot's name including Walcott and Wolcott, were searched.

¹² National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Federal Pension Application/War of 1812, Robert Wolcott, no. SO-34887, claim 30 Dec 1884.

¹³ NARA. Federal Pension Applications/War of 1812, Robert Wolcott, no. SO-34887, claim, 30 Dec 1884.

Four years earlier, when he first confessed his role in Brock's death, he led his guests to believe that he was one year shy of being a centenarian.¹⁴ There is another inconsistency, and one that cannot be glossed over. It pertains to Walcot's statement of service, which is markedly different from the one he gave in 1880. At that time, the old man was heard to say he had served in the Thirteenth Regiment under Lieutenant Colonel John Chrystie.¹⁵ Yet in providing an account of himself at the end of December 1884, Walcot insisted that it was the Twenty-seventh Regiment of the regular army under Captain Sanderson.¹⁶ An added complication is the non-existent draft. Initially, Walcot suggested that he had been drafted in September of 1812, but in his pension application he revised the date to 12 November 1812 – almost a full month after the Battle of Queenston Heights.¹⁷

Unaware of the conflicting nature of Walcot's war record the staff of the United States Pension Office began a search for evidence of his military service in Captain George Sanderson's Company of the Twenty-Seventh Regiment. When Walcot's name could not be located in the registers of the regular army, the search was expanded by consulting the lists of the Massachusetts militia. Again, there was no trace of Walcot.¹⁸ With this negative result, a letter was sent to Walcot's attorney asking for additional information. That was at the end of March 1886.

When there was no reply by mid-September, the Pension Office began to fear the worst. A follow up letter was mailed out, and this time Walcot's attorney answered with a confirmation that his client was in fact dead.¹⁹ Robert Walcot's death had taken place on 9 April 1885, not even four months after he filled out an application for a pension.²⁰ Unable to pursue the matter further, the Pension Office had no choice but to close Walcot's file

.....
¹⁴ *Times*, 22 Nov, 1880, c. 1.

¹⁵ *Times*, 22 Nov, 1880, 1, g. 1.

¹⁶ NARA, Federal Pension Applications/War of 1812, Robert Wolcott, no. SO-034887, claim. Heitman lists the captain's name as Saunderson, which appears to be a mistake. See: Heitman, *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army*, i. p. 861.

¹⁷ NARA, Federal Pension Applications/War of 1812, Robert Wolcott, no. SO-34887, claim 30 Dec 1884; *Times*, 22 Nov 1880, 1, c. 1.

¹⁸ NARA, Federal Pension Applications/War of 1812, Robert Wolcott, no. SO-34887, survivor's brief, 20 Oct 1886.

¹⁹ *Ibid*, survivor's brief, 6 Jan. 1885-20 Oct 1886; *ibid.*, letter Black to Binney, 17 Sep. 1886; *ibid.*, Binney to {Black}, 21 Sep. 1886

²⁰ Somerville, Massachusetts, City Clerk's Office, Records of Death, Robert Walcot, 9 Apr. 1885, no. 171. The cause of death is listed as Bright's Disease.

Just as the United States Pension Office could find no record of Walcot's service during the War of 1812, the Canadian historian, Robert Malcomson was unable to find evidence that he was at the Battle of Queenston Heights.²¹ In his book, *A Very Brilliant Affair*, Malcomson provides a detailed examination of the battle in which Brock was killed. Included are appendices containing the names of all the American and British Soldiers who were known to have seen action that memorable day. On the American side, Lieutenant Colonel John Chrystie is listed at the head of the Thirteenth Regiment.²² But Walcot's name is not enrolled under Christie's command. As for Captain George Sanderson's company of the Twenty-Seventh Regiment, it is nowhere to be found, and for good reason. There was no such regiment, at least not at the time in question. The battle of Queenston Heights was fought in October 1812, but the Twenty-Seventh regiment was not officially organised until the end of January 1813.³⁵

Walcot's attempt to defraud the American government, besides casting considerable doubt on his reputation, completely undermines his claim to have been the man who shot General Brock. As Walcot's rejected pension application reveals, he could not possibly have taken aim at Brock for the simple fact that he was not at the Battle of Queenston Heights.

.....
²¹ Malcomson, *A Very Brilliant, Affair*, p. 294

²² *Ibid.*, pp. 239-40.

²³ Heitman, *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army*, I, p. 126

Grenadier Company of His Majesty's 49th Regiment of Foot 1775-1777

Back in February 2021 we received an forwarded email that had originated in America and come to us via the Rifles offices in York and Taunton. The enquirer was Xavier Allen, a member of a group of military re-enactors. Xavier's enquiry was rightly forwarded to the Museum because the small but dedicated group are specifically re-enacting the Grenadier Company of the 49th Regiment of Foot.

At the time of his initial email the group, who are established in Detroit, were trying to establish the details of who served in the 49th Regiment of Foot during the time span 1775 to 1777.



From left to right: Corporal Dalton Lee, Battalion Coy; Brevet Corporal Xavier Allen, Battalion Coy; Private Michael O'Hara, Grenadier Coy; Sergeant Douglas Lee, Grenadier Coy; Soldant Daniel Ervin, Army of German States; Recruit Ashton Doctor; Recruit Cody Campbell; Recruit Luke Zuker. This image was taken by Private O'Hara of the 49th Grenadier Coy at the one of the Battlefield shows they attend

Whilst we have not been able to provide the Muster Rolls of 1775-1777 as yet, we have provided images of the uniform of the 49th Regiment of Foot and archival details of that period. Having said that it is often our experience that there are better archival records of what happened on both sides of the American War of Independence on their side of the pond.

One area we were able to assist on was to establish the Regimental march of the 49th Regiment of Foot. By liaising with the UK re-enactors, "His Majesty's 1st Foot Guard 1815 " it was firmly establish that Regiments of Foot did not officially have regimental marches, however we were able to send them the musical scores of Fife music likely to be played in that era.

Photo taken of three of the 49th Grenadier re-enactors during their time at the com-



It seems as if fate has played its part in the linking between the 49th Grenadier re-enactors and ourselves not only because we are the museum dedicated to that Regiment's history, but additionally before the Battle of Queenston Height in October 1812, Major General Sir Isaac Brock, in August 1812 had captured Detroit and the surrounding area of state of Michigan.

The Dead Drummer of the 49th
[From an early twentieth century edition of the Ingoldsby legends]



Way over Salisbury Plain, at the very far corner of the parish of Market Lavington there stands The Drummer Boy Post. This is just a sign post at a place where three tracks meet. What are tracks now were once the main roads and the Drummer Boy Post stands where the main road from Devizes via Redhorn Hill met the similar road via Lavington Hill to combine and go past The Bustard Inn on the way to Salisbury. It is hard, now, to imagine major roads over this desolate and oft times deserted section of the artillery training ranges. The post is all that remains of what was always an isolated route. However, it had become derelict by the mid 1950's with just one arm remaining.

The story of a murder in Huntingdonshire and its supernatural aftermath in Wiltshire.

It was the summer of 1780, and a young Gervase Matcham enlisted in the 49th Regiment of Foot. He received the distinctive scarlet uniform by Quartermaster Sergeant Jones whose son Benjamin was also serving as the Drummer Boy.

The Quartermaster decided that both his son Benjamin and Matcham go to Diddington Hall, Cambridgeshire, where he was to collect money for supplies. Private Matcham acting as his escort, it was the 18th August, 1780 when the two set off by foot. After they had received the 7 pounds in gold coins, they started back for Huntingdon. It was whilst they were walking that Matcham had started to think about the enormous sum of money that Benjamin was carrying in his pocket, he considered the fact that he would not need to work again for quite a while. Work had never come easily to him, he had been at sea with the Navy, but ran away as it didn't suit him, working for the Army was also not working out that well. So it was not surprising that with Benjamin concentrating on the valuable package he was carrying and Matcham considering the same package that the two became lost. They slept the night at Alconbury, Matcham's dreams that night were consumed by the financial freedom that the drummer boy was carrying. After a restless night, they made ready for the rest of their journey. Benjamin had now noticed a change in Matcham and became suspicious. Matcham then attacked and cut the throat of the young drummer boy. He then took the 7 pounds from the now lifeless body and fled, he set off for York buying discreet clothes so he could lose the scarlet uniform of the 49th Regiment. It was not long before the gold ran out and Matcham had to make another decision, which led him to join up with the Navy. In June 1786 Matcham and a fellow sailor John Sheppard had been paid off and left their ship at Plymouth and were walking over Salisbury Plain when a violent thunderstorm occurred.



Matcham became distraught and saw ghosts of his past all around him. He confessed the story of the murder to Sheppard and the next day told the same story to the mayor of Salisbury. The mayor was sceptical at first but after investigation the story proved to be correct, with evidence coming from the Huntingdon coroner. Matcham, was convicted and sentenced to death by gibbet, he was forced to wear the scarlet uniform he had discarded all those years ago as he had deserted the Army.

Witnesses said that the gibbet was a very unusual one. A large beam of wood that was wedged between two elm trees, a swivel located in the middle of the beam allowed the man shaped metal cage to turn eerily in the breeze. A local said.....

"It often used to frighten me as a lad and I have seen horses frightened with it. The coach and carriage people were always on the look out for it, but it was never to my taste. Oh yes! I can mind it rotting away, bit by bit, and the red rags flapping from it. After a while they took it down and very pleased I were to see the last of it."

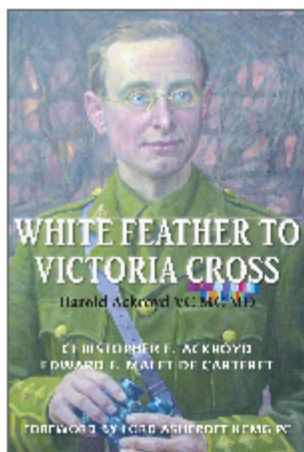
It is said that if you walk down the road between Alconbury and Alonbury Weston at sunset you can still hear the footsteps of the drummer boy walking behind you, and if you listen carefully you can even hear the tapping of his drum...



The Road Signs at the scene of where Matcham was hung. The one on the left is from a time before 1958 and the one on the right is the renovated sign post 1958

REDCOATS SOCIETY MEMBER'S MISSION TO PAY TRIBUTE TO ANCESTOR

New title information from Reville Press



WHITE FEATHER TO VICTORIA CROSS

The Story of Harold Ackroyd VC., MC., MD.,
and his Family

Christopher E. Ackroyd
Edward F. Malet de Carteret

With a foreword by Lord Ashcroft KCMG PC

The Book

This is the story of Harold Ackroyd, a regimental medical officer attached to the Royal Berkshire Regiment who was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1917 for his actions during the Battle of Passchendaele, Ypres in Belgium. The story begins by following the Ackroyd family from the 1770's when they were working in the wool trade as tailors and drapers to Harold's birth in 1877.

Harold went on to become a medical practitioner and eventually became a research scientist and academic at Cambridge University. In August 1914 with the outbreak of war many answered the call to arms. In February 1915 Harold decided to volunteer and was sent to France as the Medical Officer to the 6th battalion of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, seeing action at the Somme in 1916 and at Ypres in 1917.

He was sadly shot in the head by a sniper and killed while attending a wounded soldier on 11th August in Jargon Trench just west of Glencorse Wood. His legacy lives on through the sale of his medals, in creating a medical scholarship at Gonville and Caius College Cambridge. The medals now form part of the Ashcroft Collection, on display at the Imperial War Museum in London.

KEY INFORMATION

Pub date: 13 September 2021

ISBN: 978-1-9998900-9-4

Format: 156x234mm

Binding: Hardback

Extent: 150pp

Price: £18.99

Publisher: Tommies Guides

Imprint: Reville Press

BIC Classifications:

First World War (HBWN)

British & Irish history (HBJD1)

First World War, 1914-1918 (3JFF)

PRESS/PR

pr@tommiesguides.co.uk

TRADE ORDERS

Reville Press

books@revillepress.com

UK Distribution - Gardners Books

Tel: 01323 521 777

custcare@gardners.com

www.gardners.com

- Review copies upon request
- Author available for talks/signings
- Available from all good bookshops and online, or direct from www.revillepress.com

Reville Press, an imprint of Tommies Guides Military Booksellers
& Publishers

PO BOX 3229

Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 9RZ

Email: books@revillepress.com

Web: www.revillepress.com



Edward F. Malet de Carteret [Ned] is a long standing Redcoats member. He has been studying the life and times of his grandfather Captain Harold Ackroyd VC, MC, MD. The book is the story of Harold Ackroyd, a regimental medical officer attached to the 6th (Service) Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment who was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1917 for his actions during the Battle of Passchendaele, Ypres in Belgium. Captain Ackroyd only ever served in this Berkshire Battalion in which he saved many lives. The attached leaflet gives further details of this very readable book with a forward by Lord Ashcroft KCMG, PC, who now owns the Victoria Cross which is on display in the National Army Museum.



Ned and his family at the grave of
Captain Harold Ackroyd VC MM MD

VOLUNTEER NEW UPDATE

The museum is pleased to welcome into the Volunteer network, Simon and Coleen Dyer. Simon served for a number of years in the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment throughout the world. Now retired he and his wife Coleen offered up their services to assist in the Wardrobe garden.

They were initially thrown in at the deep end to assist in clearing up the mess after the storm damaged the well loved tree in the Wardrobe garden. The first image shows Simon believed on exercise in France, whilst serving in 1 DERR, the second demonstrating his new found skills with the new state of the art lawn mower [He looks extremely pleased!!].



Sadly in the past few months we have lost three sterling volunteers who passed away. We were privileged to have all three of them and they will be sorely missed. Simon Thornton, had been a stalwart of the Front of House Team for in excess 20 years and up until the pandemic would do the whole of Monday and the morning of Wednesday.

Peter Shorten, took a tongue in the cheek pride in being the son of a Gloucestershire regiment Band Sergeant Major, volunteering in a Museum dedicated to the infantry regiments of Berkshire and Wiltshire. He also waggishly took pleasure in being a former RAF Aircrew Sergeant who was our small arms weapons expert. From a young age, as a school army cadet he had always been a keen small bore shot. He then progressed to older weapons, black powder and ball. The museum's records on our small arms and their upkeep would not have reached its high standard if it wasn't for Peter's dedication.

John Simmons, a former Drum Corporal from the Wiltshire Regiment and then DERR, in tandem with Julia provide the Front of House every Friday. John loved regaling visitors with tales of his time in the regiment.

NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM

Continued from Page 1

The museum will have a new young person joining the team from January, for 6 months, on the Govt-funded “Kickstart” programme. Their job will be to pull together a stronger on-line presence specifically through the use of Social media.

Beth has been very active carrying out ‘Outreach’ commitments all of which highlight and advertise the museum. An example is :-

‘100 years of uniform’’: the changes in military life reflected in the clothes they wore. An illustrated talk by Bethany Joyce, Curator at the Rifles Museum in Salisbury. Kindly Sponsored by Salisbury Military History Society.’

The museum via Beth has also taken part in two local events

The Window Wonderland 2021 is a local project for the whole community, started in Bristol in 2015 and now participated throughout the country. This was the first year Salisbury took part, and the Wardrobe displayed their own presentation by Beth called ‘The lion, the Witch and the WARDROBE’ [A window display]. The other event is the Christmas trail around Salisbury aimed improving the business vista and to provide a bit of fun around the streets of the city. Images of Beth’s handiwork are below:



The museum is continuing to keep in contact with serving soldiers with conducted tours by volunteers being carried out in the museum.

Watch this space for all the fun outreach projects we will be doing next year in 2022!



A volunteer has again on behalf of the museum decorated a Christmas tree with a Regimental theme in St Thomas's Church. Our thanks to Sue Johnson ,

And lastly when you next visit the Wardrobe be prepare for a slight change in the outlook of the distinguished Copper beech, it has had a face change due to winds and some rotten boughs.



Editor: Michael Cornwell
Researcher3@thewardrobe.org.uk
Mobile: 07388224129

Your web page on the Museum web site is:
<http://www.thewardrobe.org.uk/museum/contact-us/support-us/friends-events-and-publications>