



Redcoats Review

Celebrating the 137th Anniversary of the Battle of Tofrek

Dear Friends and Patrons

As we find the Covid restrictions being lifted, life at the Wardrobe is slowly returning to some form of normality. However, believe it or not, there have been some benefits to the lockdown. Amongst our impressive band of volunteers, we have Robert McKellar, a now retired IT guru. Robert used to live in Harnham but for family reasons opted to move to Cheltenham, via Malvern. During lockdown, certain volunteers were allowed remote access to our data programme called Modes. Unless you are familiar with the programme, you would be hard pressed to understand what Robert has achieved for this museum. I can best sum it up by simply stating we have, in Robert, an asset that even the programmers of Modes feel envious of. Now the Covid restrictions have been lifted, Robert travels from Cheltenham once a week to do his stint on Wednesday and also continues to work remotely from home. As a result, our Modes records are in the same vein as the Coldstream Guards motto "Secundus Nullis".

Add to that the two interns, who volunteered at the museum to gain experience and enhanced their CV's, have both been successful in gaining full-time employment (one at the RLC museum, the other at the Royal Hampshire Regimental Museum). So all credit to them, but also to Bethany Joyce, our Curator, for overseeing their Internship. We have a new internee, Dan, who is proving to be as good a prospect, so we hope he is able to be as successful as his predecessors.

On the Chairmanship of the Society of Friends, we may be able to shortly announce that someone has stepped up to the plate.

Best wishes from the Editorial Team.



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FUTURE EVENTS

To be announced later

THE FIRST BATTALION THE WILTSHIRE REGIMENT FOOTBALL TEAM— PETER BAISH

Peter Baish approached the Museum some two to three years ago seeking information on his ancestors who served in the Wiltshire Regiment. His enquiry and the resulting information resulted in Peter writing a book for his family, which I am glad to say is now part of the Museum's Archive records. With his Interest aroused Peter continued with his research which has resulted in this short piece on the Regimental Football team of the Wiltshire Regiment.

This brief article tells the tale of the 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment Football team, who achieved the highest accolade twice in the Army FA Challenge cup. *"The Army FA Challenge Cup is one of the oldest standing cup competitions in the world. It was established in 1888. The final is played annually at the Aldershot Military Stadium as part of the Festival of Football, which also combines the final of the Minor Units Cup Final."* (www.armyfa.com)

With the outbreak of war, by 13th August 1914, the Battalion was transported by train to Southampton en-route to join the BEF in France. In the War Diary of the 1st Battalion, on the excellent Regimental Museum website, (www.thewardrobe.org.uk) we can read the day by day entries for the activities the battalion was doing.

27 January 1916

France Outtersteene

*Weather fine. Physical exercise; the NCOs paraded under the Regimental Sergeant Major for further instruction and the Subaltern officers had bayonet practice. **Football in the afternoon.***

No doubt there were many occasions when football, and also other sports were played within the ranks of the Battalion. When the end of the First World War came, the 1st Battalion, much depleted due to some of the Battalion being sent to Russia, was sent to Ireland. Here, they probably had to regroup as a team, but the team (seen below, on the next page) played in the Irish Army Football Cup of 1919 - 1920 and won it !!



After returning from Ireland in 1922, the Battalion was based at Tidworth for the next three years. It was during this time that the Battalion football team had their next success. This was the winning of the Army FA Challenge Cup in 1921-1922. With this sporting success goes a newspaper report.....

(Transcript of newspaper report from www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk.)

WESTERN GAZETTE

21 APRIL 1922

ARMY CUP

WON BY THE WILTSHIRE REGIMENT

The First Wiltshire Regiment beat the Second Royal Welch Fusiliers in the final round of the Army Football Association Cup Competition, at Aldershot, Easter Monday, by three goals to one. There were about 15,000 spectators. The game opened strongly in favour of the Royal Welch Fusiliers and a goal was scored by Private Voas, the Welch inside right, in the first five minutes. Although they were playing against a strong wind, the Wiltshires scored an equalising goal before the change of ends. This goal was shot by Company Sergeant Major Wilkins.

In the second half the Wiltshires entirely controlled the play, and won comfortably with a couple of goals to spare. At the conclusion of the match the Queen presented the challenge cup to the winning team and medals to the members of both teams.



Private P. Topp—Goalkeeper

Company Sergeant Major H. Baish and Sergeant C. Giles—Backs

Lance Corporal A. E. Ballinger, Company Quartermaster Sergeant J. Fortune and Lance Corporal E. Veck—Half Backs

Company Sergeant Major A. J. Wilkins, Private C. Thomas, Sergeant E. J. Poolman, Captain J. P. Oliphant and Corporal R. Mock—Forwards



The Wiltshire Regiment being presented to HM King George V



Queen Mary presenting the Trophy and Players medal to the winning Wiltshire Regiment Team

The team also won the Army Cup again in 1923-24, beating the Royal Artillery (Shoeburyness) 1-0.



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1st BATTALION THE WILTSHIRE REGIMENT
WINNERS OF THE ARMY CUP 1923-1924

- | | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| L./Cpt. H. R. Budd | Cpl. A. E. Ballinger | L./Sgt. W. Findlay | Sgt. E. H. Poolman, M.M. | L./Cpt. J. H. Dexter |
| C.Q.M.S. J. Fortune | Sgt. C. Giles | | C.S.M. H. J. Balsh | Cpl. E. Veck, M.M. |
| | Pte. J. C. Pinker | | Bdmm. A. Barker | |

THE INSPIRATION TO BEGIN A PROJECT ON A BOOK—IAN SMITH

Many years ago whilst serving in the Royal Navy I approached the then Museum curator David Chilton and briefed him that I was embarking on a project to produce a book about the 2nd Battalion (Duke of Edinburgh') Wiltshire Regiment in the Boer War 1899 - 1902. The reason being that I had a relation who served and fought in the battalion. His father had also served with the 62nd Regiment of Foot. David immediately gave me as much assistance as he could, but my work got in the way and over the years that followed I collated as much information as I could.



Second Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment on the march in South Africa during the Boer War

I left the Navy in 2012 and worked in Naval Intelligence on an 18 months contract before taking a job with Fareham Borough Council in Hampshire as a Fraud Investigator, this being the best fit after spending the last six years of service in the Royal Navy Police.

It was in 2004 that I met Major Kenneth Molyneux-Carter of the Lancashire Fusiliers [RRF]. I was enjoying some time ashore in-between sea drafts and found myself employed in the offices of the Combined Cadet Force in Portsmouth Naval Base. One day I happened to lend a hand sending documents out to a mailing list and spotted Ken's name (He worked with the ACF and was based in Camberley.

I thought that surely there must be a connection, so I wrote to him and was surprised, but delighted to hear that Ken was the Great Grandson of Harry Molyneux Carter, who had commanded the 2nd Wiltshire Regiment in South Africa. We met up as soon as possible and exchanged information and have been firm friends ever since, Ken being a great support and is as enthusiastic about this project as I am.

Along the way I have exhausted every possible source of information, and been in contact with nearly seventy descendants of men who fought with the regiment in South Africa and obtained many first hand accounts.

As a result I, together with Major Carter arranged to come to the museum in Salisbury to discuss the future with the Museum Manager Tony Field (Present was Mac who had been linked in). A very positive meeting took place and it was agreed that I would receive as much assistance as possible by the museum. It was agreed that Mac would see what images would be available and a further meeting was arranged with SOF member and volunteer Will Bennet who apart from being an expert on the Wiltshire Regiment was also an ex journalist and published author who agreed to assist as much as he could to advise Ian on the way forward.



Lieutenant Colonel H. M. C. Carter , Co 2 Wilts

As a fallout of this project it turned out that Colonel Carter's family grave plot is in a discontinued cemetery in Newbury. (Colonel Carter at one point lived outside the cemetery). The cemetery was visited by Mac, who in turn put Major Carter in touch with the Cemetery Friends who are researching the various grave plots. Major Carter was also in possession of Colonel Carter's photograph album for 1861 - 1877 when the then 62nd (Wiltshire) Regiment was in India. The album contained many portrait images of regimental officers from that period which hitherto were not known to the museum. The album remains in private hands but all the relevant images have been reproduced to the high level of resolution and are now in the Regimental photographic archive.

A further development came to the fore when I discovered another Wiltshire Regiment photo album covering the Boer War period in an American collection (Images taken we believe by a Lieutenant King). Steps are being taken to get copies of these images into the Regimental collection. Interestingly some of the images in this album relate to an Englishman serving with the Australian forces, Lieutenant Harry Harbord Morant 'The Breaker' who was court martial for shooting Boer prisoners and who was subsequently sentenced to death. He was later executed by firing squad. The Regimental connection with this event was that a number of officers from the 2nd Battalion sat on the court martial [To this day this event was a controversial situation].

Editor's Footnote: By coincidence in the week of 7—11 March 2022. I took a telephone call from a family (mother and son) related to Lieutenant Colonel W. S. Brown, who was KIA during 1916 Commanding 2 Wiltshire. They will be coming to visit the museum to see what archive material we had on their ancestor and in passing the mention that as a young officer with 2 Wiltshire in South Africa as Captain W. S Brown he had been a member of the Court Martial that tried Lieutenant Harry Morant.

OPENING OF THE 2022 EXHIBITION TO HRH THE PRINCE PHILIP DUKE OF EDINBURGH

The passing of His Royal Highness Prince Philip in 2021 saw the curtain draw on his personal close connection with the Museum, which he opened in 1980. Since 1956 he has been Colonel in Chief of The Wiltshire regiment, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire), The Royal Gloucestershire Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment and The Rifles. The Museum Trustees and the Museum Curator felt was right and proper to honour his long service as our Colonel in Chief. A team was assembled under the stewardship of a former museum curator, Major (Retd) Simon Cook, and he with his team of volunteers assembled artefacts and archives to celebrate the life and times of the Duke of Edinburgh on his many regular visits to the battalions around the world during his tenure as their Colonel in Chief.

Visitors to the museum will see that we have managed to secure, from 1 Rifles, The Vernon Bell. From the Officers Mess at St James's Palace we have loaned the original Duke of Edinburgh's Competition Trophy. And from HM The Queen, we have been fortunate enough to be granted permission to have on loan HRH The Prince Philip's uniform as Colonel in Chief of the RGBW.



HRH The Prince Philip officially opening the Wardrobe as the regimental Headquarters of the Regiment on



Nigel Walker , Chairman to the Trustees, providing the assembled group an update and future plans for the Rifles Wardrobe and Museum Trust

Simon Cook providing the explanation of the 2022 Exhibition commemorating the service of HRH The prince Philip as Colonel-in-Chief



Sarah Rose Troughton DStJ, Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, officially cutting the ribbon to open the Exhibition on HRH The Prince Philip



The Duke of Edinburgh's Competition Trophy, on loan from the Royal Collection. It is normally housed in the Officers mess at St James Palace.

The Competition ran during the 1960's and was competed for by all military units for whom HRH was their Colonel in Chief, Honorary Captain General or Air Commodore.



The Lord Lieutenant was accompanied by two of her Lord Lieutenant Cadets., here we see Major Tom Brown OC B Coy, 5 RIFLES who has just presented Rifles Coins to Staff Cadet Serjeant Major Fay Giles (ACF) and Cadet Corporal Max Glibbery (ACF) . The presenting of Rifles Coins is a great way of the Regiment recognizing members of the 'Rifles family'.

POST PANDEMIC CHANGES TO THE MUSEUM AND GARDEN

Whilst the Covid Pandemic restrictions may have been lifted, for the time being there is one measure that the visitors will see, and that is the screen to protect the Front of House Volunteers., modelled here by Roger.



Meanwhile out is the garden nature and Alistair have been carrying out some modifications. The area immediately in front of the Regimental Memorial Garden has been de-turfed, mulched and planted with Heuchera Bri-zoides hybrids. Purple leafed plants to you and I.



In the last news sheet we informed readers of the damaged the beautiful copper beech tree had suffered with the loss of a substantial bough. When you next visit the garden the challenge will be to see if you can accurately record the total number of wood sculptures Alistair has created from the dismembered bough. The image below is just an example of his artistic work.



The Trustees, mindful of the expensive electric ride-on mower they procured so that Alistair could keep the expansive lawn looking it best, felt that it was also worthwhile ensuring the beastie had its own safe garaging. So next time you are down by the bottom of the garden see if you can spot its outline behind the floral arbour.



TRIBUTE TO JOHN SIMONS

John Simons, a regular Front of House volunteer who came in every Friday and with Julie would do the whole day, sadly passed away in September 2021. John had specifically requested no-one attend his cremation.

John started his military service as a Drummer in the Wiltshire Regiment and rose to be a Corporal in the Corps of Drums in the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment. He left the Army and joined the Wiltshire Fire Brigade rising to become a Divisional Fire Officer. On his retirement he was persuaded to become a volunteer and soon proved to be a very dab hand at welcoming visitors to the museum. Later this year John's Family, his Fire Brigade associates and fellow Museum volunteers will assemble to pay their respect at the scattering of his ashes in the Wiltshire regiment Quadrant of the Memorial garden.

A more permanent and lasting memorial to John has been added to the garden in the form of two silver ash trees that have been planted to flank the more mature Silver Ash in the garden.



EXCITING UPDATE—TRUSTEES NEW PROJECT

During the lockdown our energetic Trust Secretary, Tony Field, had heard about the Army Flying Museum, based at Middle Wallop, running a series of on line presentations throughout lockdown, thereby generating a “not to be sneezed at” revenue stream.

Thinking outside the box, our Chairman and his fellow Trustees together with Tony Field began consulting with the Army Flying Museum. The upshot of these discussions has led to an agreement whereby the Army Flying Museum will, for a charge, provide the equipment and expertise to guide our Museum through three on line presentations and as each one progresses we will begin to assume a greater responsibility for the production of future presentations.

A team led, by our Chairman of Trustees, Nigel Walker, and comprising of Tony Field, Bethany Joyce (our Museum Curator), Martin McIntyre, David Chilton as the military researchers and Jon Wort as the front man and presenter.

Jon is the ideal man to host the presentations: not only is he well versed in matters military history (he runs his own battlefield tours) but he has an enthusiastic manner which will grab the listener attention and hold it.

The proven format is along the following lines. A presentation is filmed at the museum, using artefacts and displays from our collection, in advance so that any editing can be done before the presentation goes out over the ether. On the evening of the presentation there will be a very short live introduction from Middle Wallop, followed by 30 to 45 mins of the filmed presentation. Once the presentation has finished the event immediately goes live for questions, which have been posted on line during the presentation can be answered by Jon and the Researchers from the museum. The questions will be posed by the Army Flying Museum compères as they have the technical skills and know how to keep the show rolling.

So you may be wondering where is the revenue stream. As the meercat says “Simples”, one donates to purchase a ticket to be able to join the on line presentation. For the three presentations the income will be shared between the two museums.

Once the ticket office goes live on both the Wardrobe Museum and the Army Flying Museum websites one will be able to purchase your tickets. So keep looking on www.thewardrobe.org.uk for notification the the ticket office has gone live

TRUSTEES NEW PROJECT CONTINUED

The first two presentations have been planned and are being finalised for filming to be done on Sunday 10 April. The first presentation due to be live on 17 May 2022 is "Maiwand",

The second, entitled "Dad's War" will involve Chris Tarrant recounting the story of his father, Basil Tarrant, exploits in the Second World War with 5th Battalion Royal Berkshires and his subsequent exploits with the Wiltshire Regiment including his winning of the MC, will be live on 14 June 2022.

The third presentation, which is embryonic format at present, we hope to centre on the Battle of the Island in Holland during the attempts to relieve the Airborne in Arnhem October 1944 and the subsequent identification and reinterment of those unknown lost soldiers of 4th and 5th Wiltshires through the work by the Royal Netherland Army Recovery & Identification unit, led by Captain Geert Junkers assisted by David Chilton.

So please keep your eyes and ears open for follow up information as to dates and timings.

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.

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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>