



# Redcoats Review

## Celebrating the 142<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Maiwand

Dear Readers,

Firstly I apologise for the delay in publishing this edition of the Newsletter. We would normally have this element of the Newsletter reserved for the Chairman of the friends to update the Society. Whilst we have a new Chairman of the Society, Jeremy Tozer, he is presently wrapped up with ensuring the governance of the Society is up to speed, so it was felt prudent to let him concentrate on that aspect. We also have to consider who the intended audience of the Newsletter should be for, as recently the trustees have created an additional level of support, the Patrons and at the same time under the dynamic Bethany we are gaining more volunteers and as curator, she is being able to provide them with more challenging tasks and at the same time improve and enhance our processes. An example of this is the increasingly good name the museum is gaining from training interns. Three young men have passed through our portals and have gone on to secure employment either with other military museums, our neighbours, the Army Museum Ogilby Trust, or in the field of archival research.

Another reason for the delay, apart from the editor's preoccupation with willow striking red leather, is the new venture the Trustee and the Museum have undertaken, that of Online presentations in conjunction with the Army Flying Museum. Jon Wort has been brilliant in fronting and presenting the pre-recorded presentations and been on hand for the live question and answer session. We have completed two of the three that we contracted to do with the Army Flying Museum and are working on the our third one. So please put the date of 20 October in your diary. Further details of that event will appear on the back page.

Life in the Close appears to be retuning to some sense of pre Covid normality. Tourists within the city seem to be growing in numbers. One of the success has been the small theatre productions held in the garden, certainly 'Toad of Toad Hall' brought in many young families. So 'Poop, Poop' lets hope the recovery continues.



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### FUTURE EVENTS

Talk and Light Supper—20 Oct  
22 (See Stop Press back Page)

## THE MUSEUM'S FIRST TENTATIVE STEPS INTO LIVE STREAMING PRESENTATIONS

It seems very appropriate that we are reporting on the latest venture by the Trustees to widen our audience and supporters base through the use of on line presentations, in the Newsletter celebrating the 142nd Anniversary of the Battle of Maiwand, as that was the very topic chosen for the first webcast. But lets step back a moment and for those not aware of what I am getting excited about here is a short article about the aims objective and the processes of our dipping of our toes into the world of online presentations.

### ON LINE WEBCASTS

It was decided a while ago to branch out into online webcasts. The aim being to highlight the Regimental museum in this digital era. Jon Wort an officer of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment and a battlefield guide and military history expert (He would say enthusiast) was volunteered to take part !!.



Filming of the first webcast telling the audience about Maiwand. Jon Wort in full flow whilst the camera is rolling. In the foreground you can see a white pith helmet which we believe belonged to the batman of Major Ready.

Contact was made with the Army Flying Museum who are the leaders in this field, with both expertise and the relevant equipment. After a number of meetings it was decided to try and produce three webcasts, the first being on the subject of The Battle of Maiwand. This was duly researched and Jon carried out the pre live presentation section at the Wardrobe (In effect a form of lecture).

On Tuesday 17th May at 7 pm this was broadcast from the Army Flying Museum, but this time followed by a live question and answer session hosted by Paul Beaver with Jon Wort and Martin McIntyre providing the answers.

The second presentation was called DAD'S WAR WITH CHRIS TARRANT and broadcast on Wednesday 15th June at 7 pm. Chris Tarrant the well known television presenter who was very proud of his fathers war service with the 5th Royal Berkshire Regiment at Normandy, and later with the Wiltshires when he was awarded the Military Cross and wounded. In the pre live broadcast session Chris came to the Wardrobe and was interviewed by Jon. This was later followed up at the Army Flying museum at Middle Wallop with a live question and answer session.



The filming for the on line presentation at the Wardrobe with Chris Tarrant talking of his father, Major Basil Tarrant MC, and his exploits with 5th Battalion the Royal Berkshires and subsequently with the 4th Wiltshire Regiment. The subsequent Q & A session, which was live on the night of the presentation was done at the Army Flying Museum at Middle Wallop

The results of this enterprise have yet to be determined. On each of the two presentations so far, there have been approximately 300 visitors deemed to have viewed the lecture.

On the night, 100 people registered to view live, with the remainder looking later. The presentations can be viewed from the Wardrobe Website for those who have yet to see them.



Chris Tarrant with Jon Wort and chairman of the Trustees Major Nigel Walker in the Regimental garden of remembrance at the Wardrobe.

For the third lecture, we have yet to decide on both the subject and the presenter but this will be established shortly, once the planning team have been able to identify the best direction in which to proceed. There is no doubt that this is an essential way of staying in the public limelight and visitors around the world will be able to register through the medium of social media.

Watch our for further updates on the scheduling of the webcast by following the Museum's new page on its own website or following its Facebook page, which you can find at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/718687579487437>

## NEWS FROM THE WARDROBE

*What happens, happening and will happen at the Wardrobe.*

- The Wardrobe is pretty much back to normal this year with museum visitors, events in the garden, etc. We list below some events that have taken place and are planned for the future.
- Visitors to the museum are ticking along nicely, back to 2019 levels. The museum recently hosted about a 150 members of staff from the Home Office in a 3 hour slot, with trips round the museum hosted by Tony, Beth and Alistair.
- The Ghost hunts are continuing, being overseen by Alistair. We seem to be averaging about 1 a month throughout the year and already have bookings for 2023.
- The Regimental Room and Library have been used by the MOD and other users for various training days as well as luncheons, Christening buffets and the like. Other big news is that we have applied for, and been granted, permission to host weddings and Civil Partnerships. The licence allows for them to be conducted in the Regimental Room, the Library or the garden. Hopefully this will bring us more garden bookings as couple will have the option to wed and hold their reception without relocating from a church or Registry Office. Hopefully this will bring in increased bookings and hence revenue.
- A number of graduates with an interest in future careers in the museum world have been coached by Beth, with them bringing technical skills into the museum. One of them, Ross, has since moved on and is now an assistant curator at the Royal Hampshire Museum in Winchester. One of them Dan is still with us, carrying out first class work in producing presentation boards within the museum.
- Bethany is continuing to seek and recruit new volunteers but is in need of volunteers to man the desk as front of House
- Becky our 6-month kickstart employee, is continuing to work for us and place's interesting posts on the Museum Facebook page, as well as posts on all other Social media. Pleasingly we are getting visitors to the museum who have first seen us on Social media, so something is working

- The Wiltshire Army Cadets as part of their annual camp activities visited the museum for guided tours, over a period of two days. They were on arrival briefed by Tony, and then guided in groups around the museum by David Chilton, Michael Cornwell and Mac. This proved to be a challenge as the optimum number of a group due to the shape of the building is normally about eight, with the Cadet groups numbering about twenty it was a test !!, but we overcame. The Cadets then used the garden for their lunch.



- On your next visit to the wardrobe you will see in the garden some stone plinths removed from an old Drill hall in Wilton Road, which has been demolished. They were the main signs indicating the unit's designation, Included was a Wiltshire Regiment badge and a Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry badge. The two badges are now displayed either side of the steps leading to the garden of remembrance. (The Wilts Yeomanry is relevant as during the First World War after the 6th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment took heavy casualties, they were brought up to strength by the de-horsed Wiltshire Yeomanry, and the battalion was from that point known as the 6th (Wiltshire Yeomanry) Battalion Wiltshire Regiment.



- Beth has been assisting with a Memory group as an outreach project within the Cathedral Close in Salisbury.
- Visitor to the Museum. Former Private 23804168 Elwyn Walford who served in 1 DERR in the early 1960s visited with family members. Elwyn who is wheelchair bound was keen to see if the museum had any references to Exercise Pond Jump to Canada that the battalion carried out in 1961. Fortunately the photographic archive contains a good number of images which were shown to Elwyn by Tony on the overhead which brought back many memories. He was able to recognise a Corporal Snook, and the information has been added to the archive.



# WILTSHIRE HOME GUARD RE-ENACTMENT GROUP

We have developed contact with the Wiltshire Home Guard re- enactors. They set up camp at the front of the museum on the last Saturday of every month. This has been good to draw visitors into the museum, with lots of positive feedback.





On the 20th/21st August there is a living history event taking place at the wardrobe, with the Coldstream Guards re-enactors joining the Wiltshire Home Guard re-enactors and together they will be showing history through the ages. So if you are in the Salisbury area why not pop and see them.



## WARDROBE 40TH ANNIVERSARY

On Friday 29 July, The Trustees organised a brilliant luncheon party to thank the Staff, Volunteers, members of the Society of Friends and the Patrons for their support over the past 40 years in which the Regimental Museum has been operating out of the Wardrobe building . We were royally entertained by a swing band and with sustenance being provided by the Rifleman's Table. We were in the midst of that heatwave and the shade provided by the copper breech tree and the two large gazebo was very welcomed.

Nigel Walker, as the Chairman of the Trustees provided us with an update of how we have arrived at our present status, where we intend going and then thanked the various elements present for their support. In particular he thanked Tony Field for all of his efforts over the past three years and informed those not already in the know that Tony will be leaving in September but his successor has already been headhunted, it being Chris Gale, the present curator of the Rifles Museum. The other two singled out for specific praise were Bethany our curator and the ever present Alistair Riggs.

Thanks to Chris Bacon for the photographs of the day which are on the next page.



DGC patiently listening



Alistair keeping us all on our toes



'Stylish Carole'



The group 'Higher Octave'



The Salisbury Branch of the Friends



Under the shade of the Mulberry

## EXAMPLES OF NEW ACCESSIONS THAT COME INTO THE MUSEUM

Despite the passage of time artefacts that relate to our regiments sometimes going back many years are donated by members of the public and family members with a wish that the items in question are kept by the regiment. Here we show two examples. First a sword and scabbard belonging to a Royal Berkshire Officer with a clear wish it was never to be sold. How do we know this, he had it inscribed on the blade.



Original owner's name inscribed on the sword



Campaigns and Battle Honours of the Regiment inscribed on the blade



Disposal instruction inscribed on the blade



Brigadier James Travers Leslie MC MID the owner

### ITEM 60343

2nd Bn, Royal Berkshire Regiment - A hat worn in Burma 1946-1947 by Lieutenant A. Cuthbertson. It is well worn and includes the Royal Berkshire title badge on the left (Red on black backing) and a Brandywine on the right.



This hat although not in the best of condition is a good example of what steps were taken to have a visual represent of the regiment's past. This item came with other items of uniforms, photos and documents. All these items when researched assist in building not only a picture of the soldier, but also the regiment.

This year the temporary exhibition focuses on the connection between HRH, Prince Phillip the late Colonel in Chief. As a consequence his uniform has been loaned to the museum by Buckingham Palace and is now on show. In addition several items used by Prince Phillip during his time as Colonel have been donated to the Regimental Museum.



#### ITEM 60372

Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment - A red belt sash used and worn by H.R.H. The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh when he was the Colonel in Chief of the regiment 1959-1994. He would have worn the same item later when Colonel in Chief of the RGBW.



#### ITEM 60374

Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment - A stable belt as used and worn by H.R.H. The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh when he was the Colonel in Chief of the regiment 1959-1994.



Cap Badge and collar dogs worn by HRH The Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh during his time as Colonel of The Regiment . We know from the Buckingham Palace archives that these artefacts were worn between the years of 1968 to 1994.

## CONSERVATION OF THE FIRST STAND OF COLOURS OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S ROYAL REGIMENT

Just before the Covid 19 pandemic struck it has been noted that the Regimental Colour of the First Stand of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire) has signs of mould appearing on the gold braid tassels at the point it would have hung from its pike. In June 2021, whilst attending a meeting with the Dean and Chapter office and the SO2 Ceremony and Plans MoD discussing the eventual disposal of the 'Disintegrated Colours' of the 62nd (Wiltshire) Regiment of Foot, if we could offer some advice on the state of the Colours hanging in St Michael's Chapel in the South Precinct.

The sight which met us was quite disturbing and showed that the mould had spread so that the central part of the Regimental Colour as well as the whole length of the Tassels were impregnated with mould and the Queens Colour now bore initial signs of similar damage.

It was very fortuitous that the SO2 Ceremony and Parades was present as he was able to recommend a conservator who was working on the Standards and Colours

Hanging in Westminster Abbey. In short contact was made with Zenzie Tinker Conservation, who operate out of Brighton. In essence the cause of the damage was the change in temperature range during the course of a 24 hour period and there being no ventilation gap between the frames holding the Colours and the wall. The next images give you an idea of the damage caused.



Top Left is the upper corner of the regimental Colour, Top Right is the lower position of the Queen's Colour's tassels. Bottom Left is the full impact of the damage to the regimental Colour and Bottom Right is showing the interior of the rear of one of the frames that was against the Cathedral walls







## ARCHIVES HAS MOVED

Friends who are aware of the internal layout of The Wardrobe will be aware that for many years the Archives function has operated from the smallest room in the building. Through the years the collection had gradually increased and now extends to some 250 boxes which were stored on racks which extended from floor to ceiling. The overflow had to be kept in Attic 1. The lack of working space in the room had become a problem. There was sufficient space for one person but when two persons were in the room in order to move around both had to pull their stomach in!

Just prior to Lockdown 1 I jocularly observed to Tony Field that we needed a room with elastic sides.

During the pandemic a room on the south side of the building became available to which Archives have decanted. The physical ‘humping and dumping’ was undertaken by Alistair Riggs and Tony Field but the working arrangements are the responsibility of Sian Bacon, Simon Cook and myself.

The workspace is the largest such room in the building. The racks and storage capacity still extend from floor to ceiling but the extra capacity has made it possible to draw in the Archives from Attic 1 so for the first time the Archives are in one location.



During the past few months Sian, Simon and I together with Ian Perry have been undertaking a Stock Check. The work has produced records which had last been seen more than a decade ago, and some records which were uncatalogued. One such gem is a photograph album of a Great War Prisoner of War Amateur Dramatic Society (ADS) in the POW Camp at Scheidnitz. The album, formerly the property of Lieut. Oliver Harry Ducksbury 4<sup>th</sup> Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, contains 24 professionally taken stills of several of the productions of the ADS and would be of great interest for research on POW Camp entertainment. The identity of officers but not always the regiment is stated under each image. So far we have identified one Wiltshire Regiment officer, Lieut. Harald Gustav Dehn (1896-1957) 2<sup>nd</sup> Wilts who though first reported Killed in Action had been captured at Trones Wood in July 1916. Through the records of the International Commission of the Red Cross we have now been able to trace his movements as a POW.



Picture from the Great War Prisoner of War Amateur Dramatic Society (ADS) Album showing on the right of the picture Harald Gustav Dehn beginning to bow

## IN DEPTH PAPER ON THE 99TH REGIMENT OF FOOT

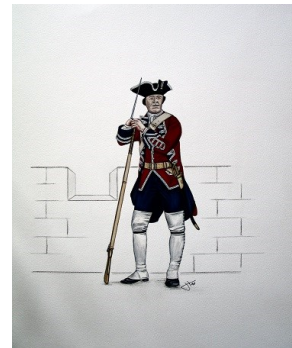
Recently an essay appeared in the the Military History journal 'Soldiers of the Queen' entitled "The Forgotten Lowlanders—the 99th Regiment of Foot. It was written by Brigadier (Retired) Jim Tanner OBE who served with 1 DERR as OC 'D' Company during the Aldergrove 2 year tour. Brigadier Jim was initially cap badged Staffordshire Regiment and therefore had a full understanding of the importance of Ferozeshah as the other English regiment present at the battle were the 80th of Foot, who went on to become part of the Staffordshire Regiment.

Jim has always been keen on military history and the Wardrobe is particularly indebted to him for his water colour artwork in depicting Regiments of Foot on service in the American colonies. The essay, is too large for us to include within this Newsletter, but rather than publish it in dribs and drabs we will be posting it on the same page that the electronic version of the Newsletter goes out on the museum's website. For those of you who receive hard copies via Norman Minty we will have to come up with another solution.

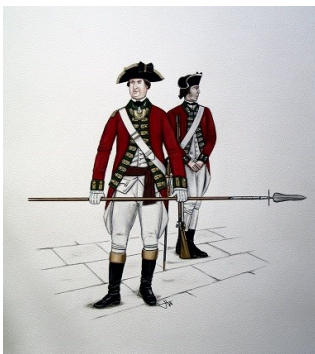
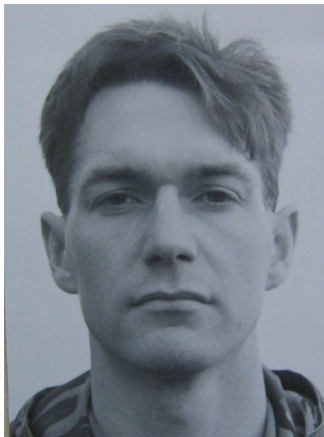
So our thanks to Brigadier Jim Tanner for producing such an excellent essay and to Martin McIntyre who completed some of the Research for Brigadier Jim, from our Museum's resources. So those of you who do not know Jim Tanner we have managed to find a photograph of him within the Photo Archives and a sample of his watercolours appear below.



49th



62nd



66th



99th

## EDITOR'S NOTES

This newsletter has been produced under the auspices of being the Newsletter of the Society of Friends of the Museum. However in the past twelve months or so another string of support has been created, that of Patrons. At the same time the team of volunteers recruited by Bethany, our energetic Curator, is expanding and the Museum is also gaining an excellent reputation in training interns who are seeking a career in our field of Military History and or the Museum world. So the Newsletter is now really aimed at every facet of support, be you a member of the Friends, the Patrons or a Volunteer or indeed all three.

So with a wider audience there will invariably be a wish for wider content material in future newsletters so please feel free to make suggestions as to what you would like to see included in terms of articles, stories, news etc, and if you feel like putting pen to paper (or fingers to the keyboard) Mac, Chris and I would be delighted to receive your thoughts and or efforts.

Finally we are saying farewell to Tony Field who is retiring in September. He and Barbara wish to see more of the world. We thank him for his leadership, sense of humour and wish him and Barbara every joy and best wishes for the future.

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## TALK AND LIGHT SUPPER 20 OCTOBER 2022

The third of our On-line Presentation will take place on 20 October 2022 with the renowned military Historian Dr Robert Lyman giving a talk, likely to be on the Burma War so that he can concentrate on the R Berks and Wilts regiments campaigns. The Talk will be preceded by a light fork supper then the talk. The seating for the talk and the supper is likely to be restricted to 30 people, that is due to the size of the room and then need for the filming for the live online talk. Details will be published very shortly but this is to give Friends an early indication of the event and to get you to make a note in your diaries so you can either attend in person or watch from the comfort of your home with a glass of Chablis, or Saint Emilio if you prefer the red wine.

## NEWS FROM THE 49TH OF FOOT—USA



The Kings Colour and Regimental Colour of the His Majesty's 49th Regiment of Foot owned by the re-enactors of 49th Foot. These Colours will be on parade on the 245th anniversary of the Battle of Brandywine during the period 22–25 September 2022.

Our thanks to Xavier Allen for keeping us abreast of the 49th of Foot's activities

Your web page on the Museum web site is:

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