



Redcoats Review

Marking the 144th Anniversary of the Battle of Maiwand

Dear Readers

Your editorial team have put together another newsletter relying largely on what we feel you may wish to read or hear about. We have tried to make the newsletter all encompassing for the Patrons, Friends, Volunteers, and staff but it largely falls the same three people to produce the articles. So how is this for a contentious viewpoint:

From time to time we receive compliments on the content of the Newsletter accompanied by the observation that the content tends to be heavy with 'dead history'. A wall can only be built with the materials that are to hand, so it is with the Newsletter and but fortunately there are rich seams to be mined from the Museum's archives, but these are inevitably 'dead history'.

The Editorial team appeal to anybody within the wider readership to contribute to the content of future Newsletter. Such contributions need not be long, a matter of 100 words or so, and can be published anonymously with names or exact situations disguised or omitted, if desired.

So please do get scribbling or scouring any family *memoires* that you may have written. In anticipation, Thank You!

From the patrons we hear that a number of them have attended the various Living History events over the past year and there are plans to hold a volunteer and patrons event in September. The income from the patrons' account has been really useful to assist with the running costs of developing the UPDATE 25 project, which has enabled the team to continue its research.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Editorial.....	1
American Visitors.....	2-8
Behind The Scenes Visit.....	9-13
Regimental Golf.....	13-17
Project 25 Update.....	18-19
Sporting Consolation.....	20-23
Minutes of Friends AGM .	22-26
30th Bn R Berks.....	27-32
New Acquisitions.....	32-33

FUTURE EVENTS

To be announced later

BY MARTIN MCINTYRE

Several years ago the museum had contact with Mr Eric Schnitzer at the Saratoga Battlefield Park in the United States. Eric is a member of a local re-enactors group which historically recreates the 62nd (later the Wiltshire) Regiment during the 1777 campaign. At the time we, (at the museum), were astounded at the remarkable quantity of information that the group had gleaned from the captured 62nd Regiment records, held in various US repositories. These records had been taken at Saratoga. The Revolutionaries' booty included the Regiment's Colours.

Eric gladly allowed the museum to share the group's information. Notwithstanding its surrender at Saratoga somehow the King's Colour was removed from the Revolutionaries' possession and smuggled to England. A number of years later it was returned to the Regiment and is now in the held by the museum.

This year Eric and his wife, Jenna were taking their first UK holiday and expressed a wish to visit the museum on their last day in the UK.. At the museum they were met by Nigel Walker and Michael Cornwell. The visitors were given a guided tour around the museum, shown documentation of interest and most importantly the King's Colour.



Jenna and Eric Schnitzer being welcomed to the Museum by the Chairman of the Trust, Nigel Walker

To say that Eric was excited by seeing this item would be an understatement. In addition his wife Jenna was also over the moon due to her interest in the way the colour was made. She was also somewhat of an expert of the role of women in the campaign and was an expert on the America War of Revolution and many of the personalities who fought in that war.

Eric then presented Major Walker with a copy of a book that he co-authored with Don Troani tiled 'Campaign to Saratoga- - 1777'.

The book (our copy of which is signed by both authors), bears the sub-title' *The turning point of the Revolutionary War in Paintings, Artefacts, and Historical narrative.*



Eric with the remnant of the King's Colour. (Incidentally, he was searched before leaving the museum)

The book (our copy of which is signed by both authors), bears the sub-title' *The turning point of the Revolutionary War in Paintings, Artefacts, and Historical narrative*. The 62nd feature a lot in the publication with the paintings of our soldiers in that war being reproduced to a very high level of accuracy. The book a first class addition to our Regimental Library The book will now have pride of place in the museum library, and will certainly be of use for the museum archivists when responding to enquiries.



Eric discussing with Nigel Walker and Michael Cornwell one of the detailed images in Campaign to Saratoga—1777. Michael is appreciative that they are looking at a coloured picture rather than a wordy passage, he probably feels more at home with the comic like structure of that page.

About the Authors

Eric Schnitzer has been Is an interpreter and historian at the Saratoga National Historical Park USA for more than twenty years. He is recognised for his writing and research on the Northern Campaign of 1777, having published many articles, lectured, and provided historical editing for many publications on the subject. He graduated with a degree in history of fine art from SUNY Albany and is the founder and commander of the 62nd Regiment re-enactors group.

Don Troiani is a traditional academic realist painter well known for his extremely accurate historical and military paintings mostly of the Civil War and American Revolution. He was born in New York City in 1949 and studied at the Pennsylvania Academy Of Fine Arts and New York City's Art Student's League between 1967 and 1971. Don Troiani's lifelong focus on America's military heritage enabled him to present that subject with extremely high fidelity. He has one of the largest private artefact study collections of the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War, and World War II uniforms, equipage, insignia and weapons which he calls on to add the unique dimension of realism he is well known for. He is also an expert researcher with a huge personal military library of over 3,000 volumes. The garb and gear of each figure are painstakingly researched. Appropriate backgrounds are found and studied, sometimes sending the artist hundreds of miles from home to examine battlefields and structures firsthand. Because of the great amount of research that goes into one of his works, it is often years between a painting's conception and the actual moment the brush is put to canvas.

Here is an example of the work produced by Don Troiani in the book. The caption reads.....

'Private. Battalion Company 62nd Regiment of Foot.

Crown Warrant called for coroswith buff Colours facings to wear buff colours pouch and waist belts in line of white ones. A regulation consistently flouted by this regiment. As with other British Regiments in Canada, their worn woollen breeches were replaced by linen ones cut from 'Old Tents' made by the regiments woman followers in spring 1777. Originally left to garrison Mount Independence in July, the 62nd Regiments soldiers had ample time there to kill timber rattlesnakes (Crotalus Horridus) and cover their bayonet scabbards with the skins.'

Source: Quoted from Green to Bainton January 26 1781'



At the conclusion of the visit Nigel Walker expressed great pleasure at meeting Jenna and Eric and presented a Wiltshire Regiment wall plaque as a memento.



Eric was presented with a Wiltshire Regiment Wall plaque by Nigel Walker.

{Editor's comment: there is one name missing throughout all of this account, Whether it is because of his natural coyness of being recognised or because he organised the lunch in The Rifleman's Table but ducked out of sharing the tab, I am not sure. But without Martin McIntyre's diligent and persistent research for any material (artefacts of archives), concerning the antecedent regiments we would firstly never have made contact with Eric Schnitzer and the Saratoga National Park. By maintaining that contact and supervising this visit Martin not has enhanced the relationship between the two bodies but has laid the foundation for further exchanges of historical information. Long may he continue to dip his fingers into the Ruperts' tea biscuits.

A post visit letter received from Eric and Jenna is reproduced here.

'Dear Mac,

Please forgive my delayed response - I've been sick for the better part of a week. I'm on the mend now, though

I still cannot get over seeing the King's colour in person! I am eternally grateful to you for arranging to allow me to see it in such a personal way. I've shown a number of my coworkers the photos I took, and I still cannot wait to show others. What a truly magnificent artifact!

Haha, yes, I was nearly in need of the para medics! Although brief, this was one of the most special moments of my life. I truly mean it.

Attached, please find a couple photos I wanted to send to you, Michael, and Nigel, showcasing some of the over 60 brand new interpretive wayside exhibits at Saratoga Battlefield. These (and others) are on Freeman's Farm. Although new, the birds had already hit them (I cleaned off the muck after taking the photos). There are a few others which showcase people from our beloved regiment as well, such as poor Lt. Stephen Harvey.

Thank you for sending me the copied manuscripts as well (attached). I recognize some of the source material, such as Major-General John Money's narrative of the 62nd Regiment in the Battle of Freeman's Farm (published in 1799). Coincidentally, I quoted from this very narrative when writing text for one of the exhibits, which I attached.

You, Michael, and Nigel are all very kind - I'm so very glad that you like the book, and I'm honoured that it will take pride of place in the museum library. If I may, I was so overwhelmed with fantastic conversation and a certain colour during our visit, that I forgot to inscribe the book, which was my intention. Perhaps I may be allowed, on a subsequent visit?

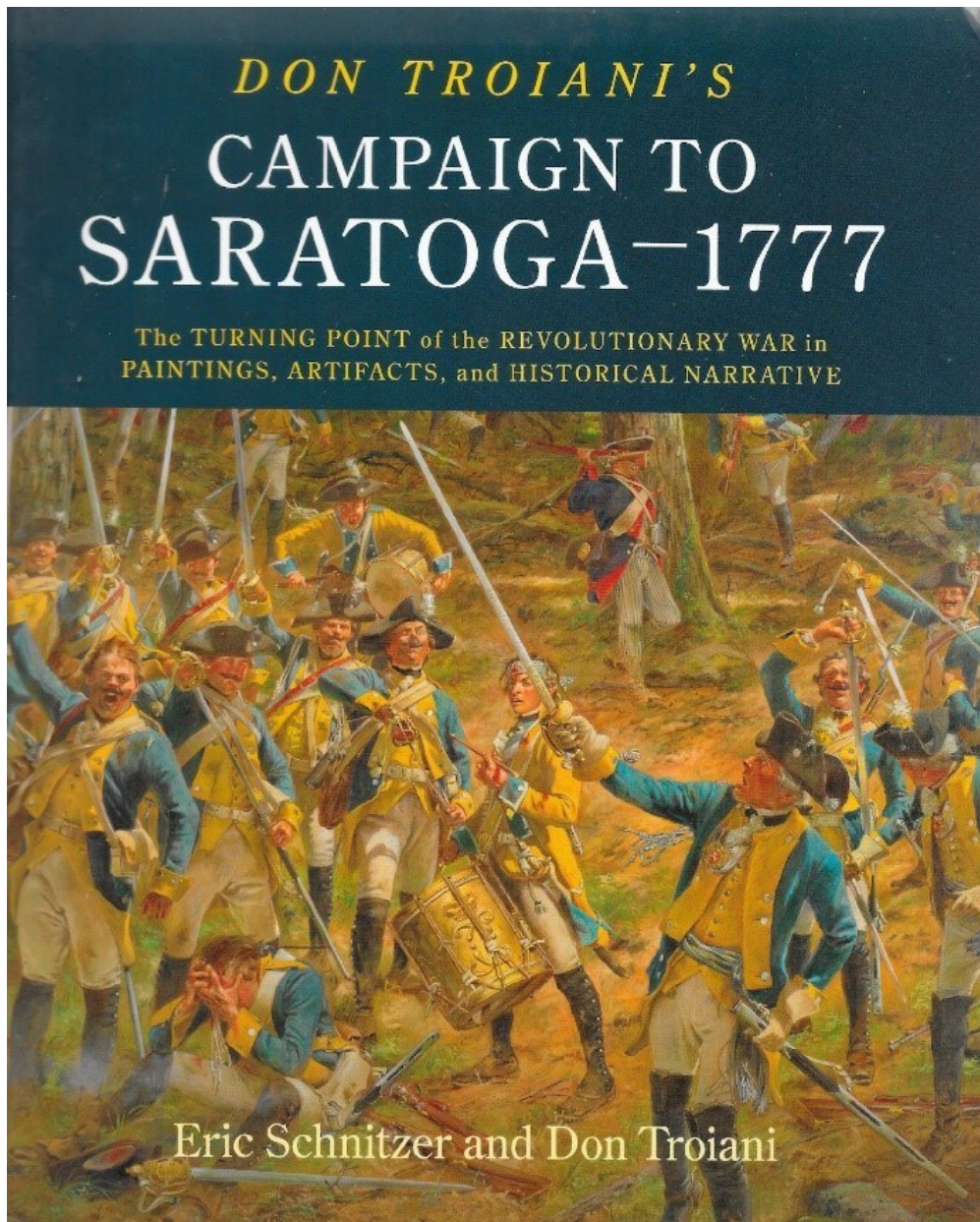
The 62nd was not beaten indeed! I have hung the wonderful Wiltshire Regiment plaque on my office wall, right behind me. I'm so very grateful for so kind a gift. And I couldn't agree more about the weather. It's terrible here this week, approaching 40° C at times.

Jenna and I cannot stop thinking about our recent trip. We're planning to go again in the future, and while we want to see other areas of the country, we also want to replicate much of our recent trip, including another visit to Salisbury.

Funny enough, an antique dealer recently reached out to me to show that she's selling a very interesting ring, associated with the 62nd Regiment's Deputy Chaplain in the 1770's. It's a little too rich for me!

{Editor's thoughts: anyone with some deep pockets could always think about acquiring said ring for Project 25. The following link relates to the sale of the ring).

[Georgian mourning ring, inscribed 1826 | Karen Deakin Antiques](#)



The excellent book written by Eric Schnitzer and illustrated by Don Troiani, which will become a valued addition to the Museum's library

BEHIND THE SCENES VISIT TO THE WARDROBE - 24 JUNE 2024

BY DAVID CHILTON

Monday 24th June 2024 saw a first for the museum, namely a behind the scenes group visit hosted by all of the collection volunteers.

Bob Hambling, Chris Bacon and David Chilton are all members of Wiltshire Family History Society. Another Salisbury based member is Clare Vincentini. Clare is an Associate member of AGRA (the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives), who wanted to host a Salisbury-based AGRA South-central and South-west regional event. Clare and David agreed a format for the visit and it was booked in with Chris Gale.

On the day the group first visited St Thomas's Church and then had lunch at the Rifleman's Table. Their visit to the museum started with a welcome and introduction by David. Then they were split into four groups to circulate around the five 'stands':

Archives – Chris Bacon

Medals – Michael Cornwell and Anita Taylor

Photographs – Bob Hambling

Maps – Sandra Daniel, assisted by George Rickman

Weapons – Ian Perry

As the groups completed their circuits they gathered back in the Regimental Room for tea, cake and biscuits, necessary for rebuilding their energy levels for the final element of their visit, a briefing by Robert McKellar and Martin McIntyre.

With the backdrop of the Tofrek painting, and the help of a laptop, projector and screen Robert explained the development of the collection database to its present state, highlighting the availability of information to the public through the website. Martin had set out some objects and, as he displayed and talked about them, Robert linked them to Modes. The aim was to explain how the work generated by the volunteers who they had met earlier was brought together into Modes, and each year the collection data on the website was updated, to the benefit of the general public.

Martin showed several examples where photographs, that looked perfectly ordinary, upon research turned out to be of great importance. Of the

BEHIND THE SCENES VIST TO THE WARDROBE - 24 JUNE 2024



Monday 24th June 2024 saw a first for the museum, namely a behind the scenes group visit hosted by all of the collection volunteers.

Bob Hambling, Chris Bacon and David Chilton are all members of Wiltshire Family History Society. Another Salisbury based member is Clare Vincentini. Clare is an Associate member of AGRA (the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives), who wanted to host a Salisbury-based AGRA South-central and South-west regional event. Clare and David agreed a format for the visit and it was booked in with Chris Gale.

On the day the group first visited St Thomas's Church and then had lunch at the Rifleman's Table. Their visit to the museum started with a welcome and introduction by David. Then they were split into four groups to circulate around the five 'stands':

Archives – Chris Bacon

Medals – Michael Cornwell and Anita Taylor

Photographs – Bob Hambling

Maps – Sandra Daniel, assisted by George Rickman

Weapons – Ian Perry

As the groups completed their circuits they gathered back in the Regimental Room for tea, cake and biscuits, necessary for rebuilding their energy levels for the final element of their visit, a briefing by Robert McKellar and Martin McIntyre.

With the backdrop of the Tofrek painting, and the help of a laptop, projector and screen Robert explained the development of the collection database to its present state, highlighting the availability of information to the public through the website. Martin had set out some objects and, as he displayed and talked about them, Robert linked them to Modes. The aim was to explain how the work generated by the volunteers who they had met earlier was brought together into Modes, and each year the collection data on the website was updated, to the benefit of the general public.

Martin showed several examples where photographs, that looked perfectly ordinary, upon research turned out to be of great importance. Of the examples, one was of a garden party in the 1930's, taken by a Wiltshire Regiment soldier earning extra cash as a waiter. In this photo was the famous aviator Amy Johnson, who later disappeared without trace.

That session concluded a very busy visit, full of questions and welcomed answers. All of the volunteers appreciated the genuine interest in their activities, as evidenced by the questions that were posed. It was also a great opportunity for the volunteers to socialise with each other in a very relaxed environment.

Below are comments received from over 50% of the visitors, and they deserve to be read for the valuable feedback they provide:

"The museum was a definite highlight, not least because of the passion and dedication of the volunteers. No question went unanswered and they obviously enjoyed talking about and sharing both their discoveries_and their love of the work they were undertaking. It was most interesting to hold some of the weapons, particularly the grenade!"

"My feedback for the museum guides is that all were excellent, really knew their stuff and explained things really well. Also, very willing and able to answer questions. Really impressed!
And loved being able to handle the artifacts at the museum."

"It was great to be guided by such knowledgeable experts, for both St Thomas Church and the museum. The museum tour I believe was so detailed that they under-priced themselves, I would have paid £10."

"The museum visit was brilliant. It was great to see 'behind the scenes' and what the general public wouldn't see on a normal visit. They could definitely charge more for their research service. And I think it would be great marketing for them to offer the tour we had to the general public even if only a couple of times a year ... either as an extra cost to normal visit or as an open day once a year and then offer the tour to History groups on certain days at a fee. Definitely worth more than £5! They were all very knowledgeable, friendly and welcoming."

"I really enjoyed the day. The military museum was also really worthwhile visiting. The volunteers are so friendly and knowledgeable and they have a collection to be proud of. I'll be using my ticket there again too but will also give them an additional, well-deserved donation."

"I've always wanted to visit The Wardrobe, ever since I discovered that some basic records of my Great Grandfather were held there in the 1980's - he was in the Berkshire Regiment in the late 19th century. Such an interesting place that absolutely came alive with the enthusiasm of the expert volunteers giving us an introduction to their areas of speciality. I wish I'd brought along info about my ancestor as I think I could have asked some relevant questions for my research. However, I'll definitely be returning! As others have said, I definitely think the charge should be higher."

"I have visited the Wardrobe before when I was studying for my IHGS certificate. Chris, the archivist was very helpful then and is clearly very knowledgeable and passionate about his job. The museum should make more of the archive services and put their prices up. All the other volunteers were friendly, welcoming and very knowledgeable about their specialism. It was a great day - thank you for organising it Clare and please pass on my thanks to everyone involved in the tour."

"The enthusiasm and depth of knowledge of the volunteers at the museum was wonderful - so much better to talk to individuals - splitting us up worked well as I think it led to more questions being asked. Just a thought, if they wanted to invite other groups for a shorter version they could do a three-way rotation - the medals; the archive or armoury and uniforms, and maps and photographs (the last two could be done in the main room to reduce distance travelled and log jams) - there are lots of groups that would enjoy the talks. Sometimes it is better to do less (not for us, because we are information sponges) and, maybe, offer a second talk which covers all of the other bits."

The comments above should provide, and perhaps prompt, the museum staff and trustees to consider and take action with respect to:

- a. The current level of charging for archive enquiries.
- b. The opportunity to promote and provide behind the scenes visits. Perhaps of interest, Salisbury Museum charges £17 per head for such a visit.

REGIMENTAL GOLF

One of our Redcoat members, John Marsh, has submitted this item about the present activity of the DERR Golf Society. This illustrious group includes a number of Redcoat members and has done so in the past. This has prompted us to search the Regimental records of the past to see how things have changed over the years. Many of the trophies played for are named after prominent soldiers of our regiments from the past and who made major contributions to the Regiment at War, and on the Golf course. Those that compete at various times have served in the Regiment and the link with the trophies is another example of the continuation of the 'Golden Thread'

John Marsh, before he took up golf, now a Patron, a committee member of the Society of Friends and Chairman of the DERR Golf Society (The Farmers Boys)



REPORT

After an 11 year absence the DERR Golf Society (The Farmers Boys) returned to Erlestoke Golf Club (just outside Westbury) on 30 and 31 May for their summer meeting. Many thanks to Farren Drury for liaising with the club and negotiating a very competitive rate and to Andy Fontana for organising the prizes. The format is an informal warm-up on the afternoon of day 1 followed by the competitions for the Regimental Trophies the next day. Please get in touch via the Association or the Society of Friends if you would like more information or would like to play in any of our future meetings. Noting that the “can only win 1 major trophy” rule applies, prizes were won as follows:

Medal Nett:

- o 1st - The Gillson Bowl – John Marsh
- o 2nd - The Gamble Cup – Andy Taylor
- o 3rd – Paul McLeod

Medal Gross:

- o 1st - The Gilson Trophy – Kev Flay
- o 2nd - The Bone Beaker – Dave O’Hara
- o 3rd – John Ledgister

Stableford Singles:

- o 1st (19 handicap and below) – The James Cup – Ron Cooke
- o 2nd (19 handicap and below) – The Shorncliffe Cup – Steve McIntyre.
- o 3rd (19 handicap and below) – Farren Drury

- o 1st (20 handicap and above) – The Education Cup – Paul McLeod
- o 2nd (20 handicap and above) – Norman Minty
- o 3rd (20 handicap and above) – Tony Flay
 - Nearest the Pin in 2 (13th) – Kev Flay
 - Nearest the Pin (7th) – Arthur Christian
 - Nearest the Pin (15th) – Andy Taylor who was also the sole 2 spot winner

REGIMENTAL GOLF NOW AND THEN



One of the 'WAGS' when interviewed stated "It's not what you think, each member of this society has to complete the 'Combat Fitness' test before being allowed into the team" - honest !!!!

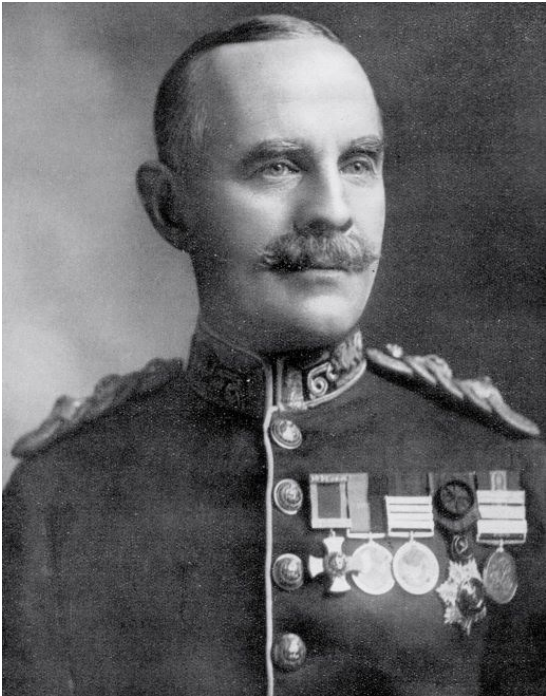


A group of serving and retired officers who took part in the Wiltshire Regiment golf meeting, 1938. (*In two years those serving were involved in the retreat to Dunkirk*). All regimentally dressed in 'Plus Fours !!'



1st Bn, Wiltshire Regiment - A colour sketch entitled 'The O.C. 'F' Company on the Jhansi Golf Course, 13.9.09'. This is Captain Mordaunt Cyril Richards by Captain P.S. Rowan in India just before going to South Africa.

2nd Bn, Royal Berkshire Regiment - Lieutenant Colonel R.N. Gamble, D.S.O. Who commanded the battalion 1907 - 1911 and later donated a trophy. (Awarded the DSO in South Africa during the Boer War).





1st Bn, Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment - Battalion Golf Meeting in July 1985. Alan Hobbs making a presentation to Paddy Kendricks. Location not known.



Another unusual image, this time a female relation of Lieutenant Robert Moore Thacker Gillson of the Wiltshire Regiment playing golf on The Links at Winchester, possibly during the 1st World War. Gillson a regular regimental golfer and cricketer presented several trophies to be played for which are used to this day.

MUSEUM UPDATE 25

For years the museum has presented objects that belonged to the people that fought in our regiments. We now have this exciting opportunity to transform the museum and let the soldiers tell their own story. Through their eyes we will lead you through past decades and conflicts, exploring not only the battles but their families and the conditions they had to endure. With hands on learning for our younger explorer and extra details for the visitor who wants to dive deeper into their fascinating lives, the galleries aim put you right back in the action. From hearing sounds from a bygone era to unique film footage, you might also get to smell what it was like too!



An artist's impression of a proposed display in the Updated Museum

UPDATE 25

The Museum

For over forty years, The Wardrobe in Salisbury Cathedral Close has proudly housed the military heritage of Berkshire and Wiltshire's historic infantry regiments. Originally opened by HRH Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, during an official ceremony in 1982, the museum has welcomed thousands of visitors over the years, educating the public on local military history. In 2023 alone, we welcomed over 6,000 visitors to The Wardrobe, with people coming to the museum from across the country and all over the world .

'Update 25'

However, as audiences adapt, so must our museum. Beginning in November 2024, The Rifles Berkshire & Wiltshire Museum is due to undergo a transformational, once-in-a-generation redevelopment project. Entitled 'Update 25', this project will see the museum begin afresh, by rejuvenating its galleries in a manner that will preserve our heritage for many years to come.

We now have this exciting opportunity to transform the museum and let the soldiers tell their own story. Through their eyes we will lead you through past decades and conflicts, exploring not only the battles but their families and the conditions they had to endure. With hands on learning for our younger explorer and extra details for the visitor who wants to dive deeper into their fascinating lives, the galleries aim put you right back in the action. From hearing sounds from a bygone era to unique film footage, you might also get to smell what it was like too!

The new galleries will engage visitors on a new and modern level. By utilising the latest touchscreen technologies, we will be able to display more of our collection and engage with visitors on a sensory level, with film footage, archival materials and music. These changes will also acknowledge our responsibilities towards accessibility within our museum. These new galleries will take the public through the '*Golden Thread*' of our history, guiding people through the '*Golden Thread*' of our history. This will stretch from the formation of the Regiments of Foot (49th, 62nd, 66th, and 99th) through the 'Age of Empires' and the establishment of the Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's) and the Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's). Our displays will also pay homage to the immense sacrifice of the Wiltshire and Royal Berkshire Regiments during the First and Second World Wars, before delving into the Cold War and post- Cold War eras with the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire) and the Royal Gloucestershire Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment respectively. We will also delve into the modern military, with the formation of the modern Rifles Regiment.

The museum is working with a design company, *Scribble & Nonsense*, from Cornwall who are well versed in revamping museums. Owing to her experience in other museums, Beth the Curator is being deployed full time to concentrate on Update 25 project full time.

SPORTING CONSOLATION

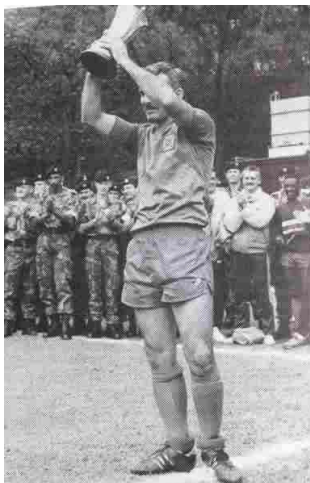
Recent sporting events in the Caribbean, USA and West Germany have not exactly been trophy laden for we, the spectators, so to raise the spirits and hope that the Olympics in France bring better success, here is a trawl through our Photographic Archives to show regimental successes.

Football

1922 Winners of the Army Football Cup competition, with the winning captain being presented with the trophy by Her Majesty Queen Mary



4th Bn Royal Berkshire Regiment winners of the TA Infantry cup in 1966. They also beat the Regular Army Football team in the same year



1st DERR Football team winners of the Hong Kong Army Competition in 1989, Ian Tait the Captain holding the trophy aloft on the left and the 1st and 2nd XI's on the right



TUG OF WAR



1st Bn Royal Berkshire Regiment Army 120 Stone Tug of War Champions 1903,
1904 & 1905



2nd Bn The Wiltshire Regiment Catchweight Tug Of War team of 1935
winners of the Army Catchweight title

Hockey

1st DERR Infantry Hockey Champions 1982



1st RGBW Infantry Hockey Champions 2004

Tennis



1st DERR Northern Ireland
Tennis Champions 1973 7

Rugby



1st RGBW Army Rugby Champions 2005

MINUTES OF THE AGM OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF THE RIFLES BERKSHIRE AND WILTSHIRE MUSEUM HELD AT 3 PM

The following attended the AGM: Peter Richens, Bill & Jill Sherman, Norman Minty, Chris Bacon, John Marsh, Jackie Griffen, Martin McIntyre, Catherine Wilson, Sheila Wilson, Ron Cooke, Bethany Joyce (Curator)

Apologies were received from the following: John & Rita Venus, Ian Knight, Derek South, Jerry Tozer, Nigel Walker, Simon Dyer, Mike Cornwell, Will Bennett

Opening Statement

1. John Marsh opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present and noting that he was acting as the chairman in the absence of Jerry Tozer who was unable to be there because of work commitments. He mentioned that the meeting was being recorded and that for the sake of clarity of the recording only one person should speak at a time.

Matters Arising and Approval of the 2023 AGM Minutes

2. The chairman informed the meeting that the amending/updating of the Societies Constitution, agreed at the 2023 AGM, had been completed. However, it has not yet been possible to amend the online version held on the Charity Commission website. The Chairman also explained that events may have overtaken this action, the reason for which will come to light under item 7 of the agenda.

3. The minutes of the 2023 AGM were proposed as accepted by Chris Bacon seconded by Ron Cooke. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Formal approval of the Executive Committee members

4. The Chairman informed those present that John Venus after 27 years of service and Jerry Tozer whose work commitments have increased substantially, have indicated their intention to stand down from the committee. Both have agreed they will see out their commitment to ensure a smooth hand over to their successors. The Chairman asked if there was anybody who would like to put their names forward to take up a position on the committee. There were none. It was proposed that the remainder of the current Executive Committee be asked to continue in role. This was proposed by Bill Sherman and seconded by Jill Sherman and unanimously approved at a vote.

Membership Update

5. Norman Minty informed the meeting that there had been 3 new members who have joined since the last AGM. They are Guy Davis & Mr & Mrs Leslie & Bryony Wastie. Currently the membership stands at 221. Split as follows; 49 Individual Members & 24 Joint Members who all pay an annual subscription. There are 62 Individual Life Members, 58 Joint Life Members, 3 Honorary Members, 13 Ladies of the Regiment of which 17 continue to pay an annual subscription. There are 12 uncategorised Members who are not paying a subscription.

Financial statement

6. As at 17th of June 2024 the Redcoats Society of Friends account stands at £12,890.88, noting that £10,000 is earmarked as the Society of Friends contribution towards Update 25.

Museum Plans and News – Update 25

7. Bethany Joyce, the museum curator, gave the meeting an update on the staffing at the museum, the activities completed and planned for the remainder of 2024 and a comprehensive look forward into what the Update 25 will bring to the museum. Bethany and the Chairman, during a question and answer session, clarified what the £10k earmarked from the Society of Friends monies will be used for. It will be an identifiable mini project within Update 25. It is most likely that it will be for one of the interactive display elements of the project.

8. The Chairman thanked Bethany for an excellent update.

Future Activities and Future Publications

9. The Chairman spoke about the Society of Friends and the other support elements of the Rifles Wardrobe Museum Trust (RWMT). The support elements are primarily the Redcoats Society of Friends, the volunteers, the staff and the Patrons. The RWMT is responsible for the whole entity of the Wardrobe that includes not only the museum but also the building in which the museum is located, the garden and everything that goes with it. He explained that having had discussions with several people from the different elements who support the RWMT there is a feeling that currently support activities lack coherence and coordination. The thoughts are that support would be improved if all the elements became a combined group with the aim of supporting the RWMT.

10. The proposal is that a joint Working Group be formed, comprising of representatives of all the elements who support the RWMT. Noting that formal Terms of Reference are yet to be established and agreed, the remit of the Working Group will be to define a sustainable future plan for the management of all the elements that support the RWMT and that is fit for purpose for the next 50 years. This might include a single support group. The Chairman assured the AGM that whatever future structure and operating model is agreed the huge support that the Redcoats Society of Friends have provided to the museum over the last 40 years will be appropriately recognised and acknowledged. The Chairman reminded the meeting that the Society of Friends has raised well over £50,000 pounds for various displays, improvements and purchases for the museum.

11. The Chairman informed the AGM that both John Venus and Jerry Tozer have said that, if a joint Working Group to identify the best way forward is established, they would be happy to continue in position whilst that process went on. The Chairman then stated that he was going to ask for a vote of thanks for the 27 years that John has worked on the Executive Committee of the Redcoats Society of Friends, and we will still give a vote of thanks for that, but he hasn't quite yet disappeared and really John's support has been much longer as he joined the Regiment in 1962 in Malta, so 62 years.

Any Other Business

12. Norman Minty informed the AGM that during the meeting he had received a short message from Rita Venus to say that John is well following today's hospital treatment. Norman went on to inform the meeting that from his last communication with the Redcoats Members, he had received a donation of £980 from Mr D Isby who lives in America, for the Update 25 project.

13. Martin McIntyre informed the meeting that the Redcoats Review, which he and Mike Cornwell produce three times per year, is still being produced. He made a plea for all the interested parties, trustees, volunteers, staff, patrons and members to submit information and stories to help make it a method of communication for everyone involved in supporting the RWMT and to be of interest to as wide a Regimental base as possible.

Closing Remarks

14. On closing the AGM, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, continued support and the very helpful input they have provided during the AGM. He closed the meeting by concluding that "*these are exciting times as we plan to move forward for the next 50 years*".

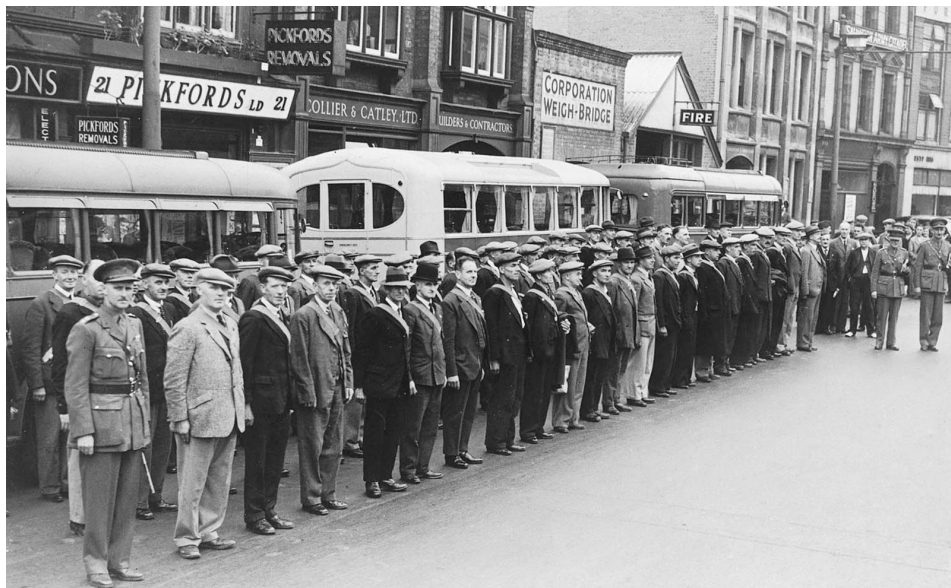
PP. S J Venus
Lt Col
Secretary

30TH BATTALION ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT (PRINCESS CHARLOTTE OF WALES'S) 1939-45

'T' FORCE'

During the 2nd World War the Regiment fielded five front line battalions who fought in France, Germany, Sicily, Italy and Burma. There was another battalion that was raised for home defence and who later took part in a little known deployment called 'T' Force'. That battalion was the 30th. This is their story.....

The 30th Battalion in 1942 came from a re-designation of the 8th (Home Service) Battalion. Initially acting as a mobile reserve in The Oxfordshire Area it also provided drafts for other units. In November it moved to Cosham in Wiltshire where it guarded the Box tunnel and provided duty men for the Southern Command Headquarters at Wilton. In January 1943 it provided two platoons referred to as 'Goldfinch Detachment', commanded by Captain G.A. Mant, as a personal guard for HM Queen Mary, who was then living at Badminton. When the battalion transferred at HM's request the royal guard was not changed, but remained at this duty with reduced numbers throughout the war.



The formation of the 8th (Home Defence) Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment in St Mary's Butts, Reading.



30th Bn, Royal Berkshire Regiment - The Goldfinch Detachment at Badminton [No 1 Independent Company] which formed the Guard for HM Queen Mary in 1944- This photo is signed by her by HM Queen Mary.

In June 1944 the battalion was made responsible for the care of survivors from Channel losses, plus the burial of prisoners of war. Over a thousand men, including soldiers from wrecked transports, British and American sailors, German prisoners, and Russian refugees, passed through their hands. One company was detached to Southampton docks to assist in loading supplies for the Normandy landings. On the 27th August they moved to Devon and were ordered to mobilise in five days. They had been earmarked to form part of Force 135 and the reoccupation of Guernsey in the Channel Islands. They practised hard but the operation was cancelled. Their time in training was not wasted as they were assigned for service with the 21st Army Group, fighting in France.

In mid January 1945 the battalion, training in South Brent, near Plymouth were ordered to transform themselves from a garrison battalion into a field force unit. Brought up to strength both in men and weaponry on 13th February they landed at Ostend and joined the 21st Army Group. On the 19th February they took up a position at Lottum and were in contact with the enemy for the first time. They later moved to an area near Loo Plage where they came under command of the 1st Czech Armoured Brigade. In April they moved to Boulogne and later ended up in Holland where they became the 'T' Force Battalion of Western Holland under Canadian command. Their duty in this role was to guard and protect installations, factories and stores of scientific inter-



30th Bn, Royal Berkshire Regiment - The Battalion at the liberation of Rotterdam, Holland on the 8th May 1945; it was taken by the battalion interpreter W. Hoek. The dispatch rider (Donor) is Private Jackson.

est. On the 8th May 1945 they were the first unit into Rotterdam; this was unopposed as the Germans had capitulated the day before. After VE day they went to Germany where they were scattered over a wide area. On the 15th November 1945 the battalion was disbanded.



A carrier of the Battalion festooned with local children at Utrecht on route to Rotterdam, Holland on 8 May 1945. The photographer is believed to be by the battalion interpreter W. Hoek.

Background to 'T' Force

T-Force was established in connection with the Operation Overlord Allied invasion of Europe. During the planning for the invasion SHAEF set up the T (Target) Sub-Division to plan for intelligence exploitation of scientific and industrial targets. It was at first composed of five US and three British officers and thirteen enlisted men and women. T-Forces were ordered to "identify, secure, guard and exploit valuable and special information, including documents, equipment and persons of value to the Allied armies". T-Force units were attached scientists. Their role was to secure and exploit targets that could provide valuable scientific and military intelligence. This expanded to targets of economic intelligence value. Initially the 30th battalions area of responsibility was 8 Corps District and responsible for the future Schleswig Holstein and the Jutland peninsular of Denmark, Headquarters Stahl (north west of Kiel). Most of their activity took place in Holland. These actions were in some way the early signs of the 'Cold War' because the Allies were very keen to stop the Russians getting any German material that would be of use to them.



Three officers, one (RAF) and the Commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel C. Ward (Centre) at a destroyed factory at either Waalwijk, or Eckenforde, Holland, May, 1945. [The battalion's role as part of 'T' Force was to investigate these sites after the German Army left]



30th Bn, Royal Berkshire Regiment - Headquarters Company at the Hermann Goering barracks, Haus Oderfelderstrasse, Hamburg, Germany, 28th October, 1945.

The bearer of this document is responsible for the safeguarding of a "T" Force target.

He is hereby empowered to deny entry into, or use of, the buildings for which he is responsible, to anyone, irrespective of rank, who cannot show the requisite authority to enter a "T" Force target.

He is further responsible that no material or equipment is removed from the premises by any unauthorised persons.

Only the brigade or higher commander, or his equivalent, who is directly responsible for the area concerned may overrule this authority.

Anyone interfering with these premises against the orders of the bearer of this authority is liable to strict disciplinary action.



Main HQ 21 Army Group
March 1945

Maj.-Gen.
Chief of Staff

An authorisation card issued to all members of the battalion with instructions to produce it to anyone of any rank who interfered with the task.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

"The Wardrobe has recently acquired three new weapons, to form part of the new display in 2025.

At the very start of July, Trust Manager Chris Gale, by chance, found the catalogue for a two-day online auction of arms and armour starting the following day. A rapid study of the lots identified three firearms - two muskets and a rifle - of "intense interest" to the museum, plus a fourth as a reserve in case one of the first three proved unwinnable. Following discussions with Ned Cowell, an established expert in arms, medals and other militaria, Chris confirmed a budget for each item and Ned agreed to bid on our behalf for the items.

The end result, much to our delight, was successful purchase of:



East India Company flintlock musket (often referred to as the Brown Bess), dated 1810 - typical of weapons carried by our Regiments from the 1720's into the early 1840's.

1842 Pattern percussion musket, dated 1846, bearing a 49th [Hertfordshire] Regiment butt-stamp.

1853 Pattern Enfield percussion rifle, dated 1857 - typical of weapons carried by our Regiments into the second half of the 19th Century.

(Ned did not bid for the fourth Lot, as it was a reserve in case the 1853 Pattern rifle proved unwinnable)

These three came in well below the budget agreed for them, and will be strong additions to the collection. All three - particularly the 1842 Pattern musket with its direct association with the 49th Regiment - will become part of the new display and will help tell the story of our ancestor Regiments. They also give us a continuous sequence from the early flintlock muskets to modern automatic, magazine-fed rifles."

Ian Perry.

Editorial Team:

Michael Cornwell : Researcher3@thewardrobe.org.uk: (M) 07388224129

Martin McIntyre : Researcher2@thewardrobe.org.uk

Chris Bacon: Archivist@thewardrobe.org.uk



Your web page on the Museum web site is:

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