



Redcoats Review

171st Anniversary of the Battle of Ferozeshah

Editorial

Dear Friends,

At the last Committee Meetings it was proposed that an editorial team would undertake three publications of the Newsletter a year. The aim being to publish at a point closest to the three major battles that our founding regiments fought in with such distinction, those being, Tofrek (March), Maiwand (July) and Ferozeshah (December). The rationale was to keep the resulting size of the Newsletter to one that could be easily placed on the Friends pages of the Museum's website at no cost to either the Friends or the Museum.

This therefore is the first shot at this format, following on from the one published in June of this year. The purpose of each article will be to keep the readers up to speed with what is happening in the Museum and to pass on through small articles points of interest that originate in our present and former regiments history.

We hope that you will enjoy the more frequent publications of the Newsletter and would encourage you to persuade friends or relatives to read it as well in the hope that it would plant a seed of their becoming a member of the Friends themselves.

Please, if you have any anecdote or story that you would wish to include in future issues pass the on to any of the editorial staff, whose contact details will be found on the last page.

Thank you for your time and enjoy this as you sip a seasonal mulled wine or a fine malt.

Yours Aye

Michael Cornwell Martin McIntyre Richard Joyner



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FUTURE EVENTS

- 23 March E Tofrek Edition
- 17 May 2017 Redcoats AGM.
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Please make a note in your diary

17th May 2017 at 1430 at The
Wardrobe.

RICHARD LONG-FOX

Many readers may be unaware that one of the stalwarts of the volunteers and a fellow member of the Friends has very reluctantly had call "Time" on a long and outstanding service to the Museum. Richard Long-Fox was himself a former officer in the Royal Artillery and at the time computers were being thought of possibly useful tools he had a career change and for the remainder of his working life was a high ranking member of IBM. Retirement saw him seeking further challenges and fortunately for the Museum he agreed to provide us with the benefit his computer skills and his sharp intellect. We use a programme called MODES, designed by a Museum user group. What many of you may not realise, Richard's expertise in programming often saw him provide a service to the User group itself as he often provided solutions to glitches that the programme had developed. Richard has left a desk which will be very difficult to fill and there are several volunteers working MODES who miss the joyful leg pulls as we were put back on the straight and narrow. On behalf of all the Friends and especially the volunteers best wish to you Richard and Thank you.



THE WARDROBE ASSISTS—THE BAISH FAMILY DISCOVER PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN FACTS

While researching his family history Mr Peter Baish has uncovered a number of 'Baish's' that served in The Wiltshire Regiment. After a number of contacts by phone and e-Mail he arranged a visit to The Wardrobe as the Museum holds many items relating to the services of Roland John and Harold Jocelyn Baish.

A total of seven family members descended on the Museum on Saturday 23 April and were hosted by Richard Joyner and 'Mac'. The family were able to view the medals of Roland, photographs of Harold, original documents relating to both men and sporting trophies from Harold's time on the Wiltshire Regiment's football team.

Roland John Baish (1881 – 1944) has proved an interesting and perplexing subject for Peter to research. He served with The Wiltshire Regiment during the Boer War as John Baish but while in the Army Reserve fraudulently enlisted into the Royal Artillery as 'Harry Morgan' in 1908. Successfully 'claiming the benefit of a King's Pardon' in 1910 for false enlistment he was allowed his former service but appears to have continued serving under his alias. During the Great War he transferred to The Royal Engineers and served in Mesopotamia. During the visit the family were able to see documents from Roland's service as 'Harry Morgan' held in the Archives but unknown to the family. These helped to add more depth, and many more questions, to his story.

Peter, who has been busy continuing his research, has since been on a follow-up visit to discuss his findings and was able to identify Harold in more photographs which were un-named.



(Left-to-right) Pete Baish, Mac, Richard Joyner, Bob Baish, Carol Knight, Trevor Baish and Derek Baish. Also present were Becky Barker and her father Alan Wells. During the visit Peter kindly donated a copy of his book comprising his research on 'Military Baishes' to the Museum Collec-

THE MUSEUM'S NEW ASSISTANT CURATOR

In September, after a gap of some four months, the Board of Management held interviews for the post of Assistant Curator. There had been a good response in terms of the number of applicants with the final interview being between six good candidates. The successful was Carina Taylor who started working for us on 13 September. If you should be visiting the Museum before the Friends AGM. We felt you may like to know a little of Carina's background, so in her own words here is how she introduced herself to the Museum's team of volunteers.



My background is mainly in the Museum and Heritage sector. I have an MA in Museums Studies with a specialism in the History of Textiles and Dress. I am also a qualified Primary Teacher.

My interest and expertise is mainly in Collection Care and education. I started 11 years ago as a Film Archive Assistant at the Wessex Film and Sound Archive in Winchester. Since then I've been the Education Officer at Southampton Museums Service, worked on two projects at the Museum of London: the first was to decant, repack and reinstated the whole Costume Store of 25,000 objects into new storage facilities and the second was part of the project team to rebuild and reinstall the permanent exhibition wing of Later London history. I have also worked for the National Trust at Mottisfont with the House and Collections team and led a project to inventory mark (label to conservation standards) the whole collection. My last role was at Wiltshire Museum Archive and Library service where I led on the decant, audit and reinstallation of the whole Archive collection as part of their new storage project.

I work Monday - Fridays 8.30am - 1.30pm. I'm based in the Museum Office next to Simon's.

FAREWELL TO BARBARA AND TED



Our Front of House team have lost two stalwarts this year, they being the wife and husband team of Barbara and Ted. The previous Director of AMOT had once said "we were lucky to have such a smart Regimental representative on duty". Ted was in fact a retired Bank Manager. Needless to say Ted cut a very fine figure and after many years on the front desk could spin a regimental yarn as well as Mac McIntyre. Not to be outdone by her husband Barbara always added decorum and style to the Front of House. They have been fully supportive of the Museum and the Friends. We will miss their smiling faces and cheerful personalities. Barbara and Ted—Thank you.



RIDGEWAY MILITARY AND AVIATION RESEARCH GROUP

Tucked away in the quiet countryside of Berkshire, north of Hungerford is a base bearing the name of RAF Welford which is actually the home of a USAAF unit. The Base Commander has granted the RMAARG permission to house their collection of mainly air related artefacts in an old hangar. Many of the artefacts have been rebuilt or reconstructed by these enthusiasts and includes the genuine half of a WW2 glider, 'working army radios' of that period as well as parachute paraphernalia and a myriad of different uniforms. In November Mac and I went to give a talk on the events of WW1 and the Battalions of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, using the names of those who are remembered on the Hungerford War memorial. Apart from the intriguing security arrangements of getting into and out of the base, we were given a good reception from the 30+ assembled to listen to the talk and they gave a generous donation to the Museum.

REINTERMENT OF LCP NOBLE AND PTE LEWIS 4TH BN WILTSHIRE REGIMENT

In February 2013 a Dutch Civilian Unexploded Ordnance Contractor was brought in to clear an area of possible WW2 explosives. In doing so he uncovered the remains of two soldiers. Both had been killed during the battle as the 43rd Wessex Division battled to get to the surrounded paratroopers in Arnhem. The shallow grave contained some personal artefacts which include a Wiltshire Regiment cap badge and some Warwickshire regiment buttons.

The Royal Netherlands Army Recovery & Identification Unit, led by Captain Geert Jonker, has the unenviable task of trying to identify the remains of all those bodies recovered, regardless of nationality. There were 7 possible candidates, 5 of whom were ruled out by their age, height or dental records.

One of those who plays an integral part in trying to trace possible UK living relatives for Captain Jonker to obtain DNA to clinch the identity of the remains, is David Chilton, former Curator and a stalwart member of the Friends.

Once the identification of the remains had been positively confirmed as being those of Lance Corporal Donald Stabler Noble and Private Harold James Lewis of 4th Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment, MOD UK with its Royal Netherlands counterpart started the process for the remains to be reinterred with Full Military Honours.

Thanks to the work of the Rifles County Officer (Lt Col Tim Lerwill OBE and Sue Nelmes) and the interminable David Chilton, a minibus of Friends and Regimental members set off for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) cemetery at Oosterbeek he represents the Wiltshire Regiment. The ceremony 5th October was led by Father Philip Smith, Chaplain to 5 Rifles, who themselves provide the Bearer Party and Bugler.





Wreaths and floral tributes laid in front of the two headstones placed ceremonially to one side of the actual graves.

Members of the 'Redcoats' the Society of Friends, and Regimental Museum volunteers attended. The Redcoats President Brigadier Patrick Davidson-Houston CBE represented the Regiment. Redcoat Members Ex Lieutenant Colonel David Chilton and Colonel Michael Cornwell OBE acted as the standard bearers. Redcoat members and volunteers who also attended were Nigel Walker [Chairman] John Peters, Chris Bacon, Richard Joyner, Bob Hambling, and 'Mac' McIntyre. Also part of the group was Jeff Mathews, Ex Wiltshire Regiment who has attended all the events leading to the recovery of Wiltshire Soldiers in that area and is directly responsible for the erection of the 4th and 5th Battalions memorial at De Larr Farm which lists all those from both battalions who fell in this area. These are still a number of soldiers from these battalions who are still missing.



From left to right: Bob Hambling (Volunteer); Major John Peters MBE, Richard Joyner (Volunteer)

FRIEND AND FORMER CURATOR AND HON- OURED

We have mentioned the work done by The Royal Netherlands Army Recovery & Identification Unit . What may not be so well known is the part played by one member of the friends. Having narrowed the field to likely individuals Gert Jonker invariably turns to a home based genealogist to eliminate false leads and to assist them in identifying the right name for the body . In the UK Geert's first port of call is David Chilton.

Such is David's dedication and exemplary work in this particular field that last year on the pretext of asking him to speak at a Seminar on his work, he was asked to be suitably boot ed and spur ed. I think for once David might have been lost for words when he was asked to come forward and receive the Royal Netherlands Medal of merit (Silver Clasp), which equates to our Order of Merit



David Chilton receiving the Royal Netherlands Medal of Merit (Silver Clasp) from Lt Gen Mart de Kruif, the Dutch Army Commander

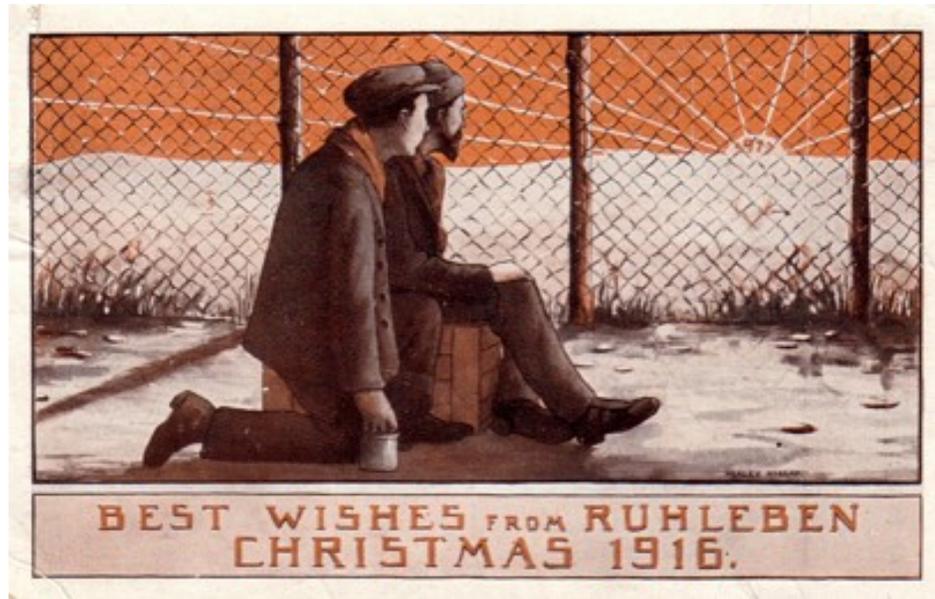
WARDROBE AND MORE MODERN COMMUNICATIONS

With Carina, our new Assistant Curator and Richard Joynor our permanent intern, the Museum has updated its Facebook page and are thinking of opening a Twitter page. Whilst those of us more used to using the pen and paper to communicate we need to attract the younger generation to our marvelous museum. So thank you to Carina and Richard for taking those steps to help on that path. Mac, by the way, Twitter is not you and I gassing over a cup of tea.

Where Mac, and indeed Bob Hambling, John Peters, Anita Taylor and John Mellins deserve praise is for their unceasing work in adding artefacts, images and descriptions and even amendments to the collection for the annual Web site update. In November we forwarded some 2,800 additions/amendments with 4,113 associated images. These should all be available on the web site in the New Year so please spread the word.

A large percentage of the new additions are images from the myriad of photo albums held by the Museum and the great beauty is people are named in the albums so we can publish previously unknown named images for families doing family history research.

Another Christmas 'behind the wire'



A postcard sent from Ruhleben Camp, Part of the Museum Collection

This card was sent to 'Miss Taylor' of Eastbourne House, Devizes by a Frederick George Ellen in December 1916. Ellen is believed to have been a Merchant Navy seaman who was imprisoned in Ruhleben during the war. He was interned when his vessel, the SS *Castro*, was captured in the Kiel Canal in August 1914. Ruhleben was used as a Civilian Internment Camp. It appears he was held at the camp for most of the war until being released on 7 January 1918. Frederick George Ellen (whose home address is given as 21 The Market Place, Devizes) was a relative of Frank Taylor of Devizes who served with 2/4th Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment during The Great War.

The postcard was printed by the Ruhleben Camp Press and designed by Andrew Healey Hislop, an artist who while on a painting tour in August 1914 was interned and spent the war in captivity at Ruhleben. As a Civilian Internment Camp, Ruhleben contained a number of talented men whose work can be seen in the Camp Magazines available online.

The vessel on which Ellen had been a crew member, the *Castro*, continued to have a place in history after its capture. Re-named the SMS *Libau* it remained inactive until April 1916 when the ship was used in an attempt to deliver arms to support Roger Casement in preparation for the Easter Rising. Masquerading as a Norwegian vessel, the SS *Aud*, the crew failed to make the delivery and were trapped by a British blockade. The crew were interned and the *Libau* was scuttled in Cork Harbour.

BUDDING SUBSCRIBERS?

Anyone who has a particular topic that they would like to have included or a story that they wish to recount please get in touch with either Mac or myself.

Mac's email address is

Researcher2@the
wardrobe.org.uk

My email address is

Researcher3@the war-
robe.org.uk

Museum's Facebook :

The Society of Friends of
The Rifles, Berkshire &
Wiltshire Museum,

The Wardrobe

58 The Close

Salisbury

SP1 2EX



FORTHCOMING TALKS

On 21 March 2017 Ray Kane, a former officer in DERR will give a fascinating insight into the role he and others played in the Coup Etat in Oman on 23 July 1970 Ray at the time was Red Company Commander Dessert Regiment Talk .

The Guest speaker for the Society of Friends AGM, will Andrew Lloyd MBE, the Director of the Army Museum Ogilvy Trust. We can think of no-one else better qualified to brief us all into the Future of Military museums and how they can link into the overarching museum fraternity.

So please spread the word and encourage fellow Friends and acquaintances who might become "Friends" to attend these two highly recommended talks.

CAN YOU RECRUIT ANOTHER MEMBER?

We are always looking to recruit new members, and a good method of advertising is by each of us spreading the good word ourselves . So please think about passing this Newsletter one to friends relations etc. Application forms to become members can be found on :

www.thewardrobe.org.uk

VOLUNTEERS

Were you aware that our Chairman has stepped forward and joined the Museum Volunteers by becoming a member of the Front of House team. If you live within commuting distance of Salisbury, have a skill or interest in militaria or archive or conservation try contacting Carina Taylor our Assistant Curator on 01722 419419.

If you feel you can recruit one or more new members it can be processed quite simply by accessing the Museum Website at www.thewardrobe.org.uk and there under MUSEUM/MUSEUM FRIENDS you will find an application form. If not Computer friendly, then a phone call to the Wardrobe for the attention of John Venus will illicit the necessary paperwork.

Your web page on the Museum web site is:

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

If you want to join us on Facebook the link is:

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Rifles-Berkshire-and-Wiltshire-Museum-500832510060892/>

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