



*f*riends
of the
Herefordshire Light
Infantry Museum



Newsletter

Number 4: February 2010

Welcome: Your committee welcomes you to this the fourth Friends' newsletter - we hope you find it of interest.

2009 has been a momentous year for the Museum! The first issue has been the decision of the Trustees to 'digitise' the museum collection and archive and to create a virtual museum. This will require significant funds to support it and a major fundraising campaign will be launched in 2010 - your Friends' Committee has committed itself to lead on this and more details later in this newsletter; but suffice to say over the next 2 or 3 years this project will need upwards of £50,000. Secondly the Museum was granted full accreditation status in December 2009; many thanks must go to Andy Taylor for his persistence in following through this. These 2 issues are linked as Accreditation is the key that opens the door for many routes for grant assistance including the Lottery Enterprise Fund.

The Museum has been opened on several occasions during the year and took part again in The Heritage Open Day scheme, where 'heritage' sites throughout the country, including many normally closed to the public are opened. The Museum has been well supported by group and individual visitors through the year.

Herefordshire's soldiers continue to serve on operations in demanding circumstances, and are creating the County's future history; we wish them all a safe return. It is poignant to note that 2 casualties in Afghanistan: Serjeant Paul McAleese and Rifleman William Aldridge both wore the Light Infantry capbadge as Army Cadets in Hereford and Bromyard respectively.

Museum Acquisitions: Accessions to the Museum continue at a steady trickle; we remain keen to acquire a Territorial Efficiency Medal named to The Herefordshire Light Infantry.

Key amongst the acquisitions have been:

- A splendid WW2 Group including a Territorial Efficiency Medal to Sergeant Payne.
- A WW1 medal to Pte Coley - retrieved from a skip and donated to The Museum!
- A pair of tankards presented to Lt Col GS Williams 3rd (City) Battalion Home Guard on stand down Dec 1944. These tankards were purchased in a market in Rhodesia on the mid 1960s. Does anyone know anything of Lt Col Williams?

Your Committee: The Countess of Darnley (Her Majesty's Lieutenant) has most graciously accepted the invitation of your committee to be our Patron; we offer her a most hearty welcome. Due to the advancing years Tom Hill has stood down as Chairman, and is replaced by Martin Jolly who served with The Herefordshire Light Infantry; Terry Marsh has also stood down and we thank Tom and Terry for all their support over the past years; your committee is shown below:

<i>Patron</i>	The Countess of Darnley
<i>President:</i>	Gen Sir Peter de la Billiere
<i>Vice-President</i>	Mr Bill Jackson
<i>Chairman:</i>	Mr Martin Jolly
<i>Vice-Chairman:</i>	Maj Dave Seoney
<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	Maj James Hereford
<i>Members:</i>	Maj Bob Hayden
	Maj Nigel Jones
	Lt Col John Marsham
	Maj Tony McVeigh
	Capt Hugh Patterson
	Sqn Ldr John Scott
	Lt Col Andy Taylor

It is with regret that we learn of the passing of Arthur Muffett, at 102 reputed to have been Herefordshire's oldest resident. Whilst not a Friend of the Museum he attended several presentations and had a great interest in The Gallipoli campaign and The Herefords' part in it. His interest in the campaign had been born when as a young lad he had accompanied his mother to visit wounded Australian soldiers, recovering in hospital in England after their evacuation from Gallipoli.

In September 2009, the Harold Street Drill Hall was renamed Suvla Barracks, after the Battle Honour won by The Herefordshire Regiment at Gallipoli in 1915.

11 Nov 2009: 2009 saw the passing of the last First War Veterans with the death of Henry Allingham and Harry Patch; the theme of the Armistice Day service at Westminster Abbey was 'The Passing Of a Generation'. Andy and Penny Taylor attended the service and laid a poppy cross in the Herefordshire Light Infantry Garden of Remembrance.

On a broader note, I wonder who the last survivor of the Herefordshire Regiment from the First World War was? There were certainly veterans alive in the early 1990s.

Digitisation: A rather intimidating heading, but one for which any apprehension can easily be removed! In simple terms what we aim to do is photograph (digitally) and record fully all of the Museum archive and accessions. At the same time a Museum website will be created and then the photographs and documents can be loaded to the website, thus enabling world wide and unfettered access to the Museum collection. This project will overcome the challenge of limited access to the Museum. The challenge to this is the cost, but as we now have Accreditation, it is planned to start a major fund raising drive and also to apply for grant aid to undertake the project.

Fundraising: The Friends are leading on fundraising to enable digitisation and it is planned to hold a major fundraising effort over 12 - 18 months to raise £50,000. The campaign will start with a County wide World Cup 2010 draw, with the draw to be made at a Cocktail Party to be held in The Town Hall on Saturday 19th June. Full details to follow but please ink the date in your diary now!

2010 has been chosen as the year to launch the fundraising campaign as this is the 150th anniversary of the formation of The Herefordshire Rifle Volunteers, and also the 65th anniversary of the capture of Grand Admiral Doenitz by the Herefordshire Regiment; it is planned to have the Doenitz Pennants and the Doenitz Grand Admiral Baton (held by The KSLI) on display at the cocktail party. This will be the first time for many years that these two most significant items will be on display together.

Dates For The Diary:

- 13 Mar - Herefordshire LI (Rifles) Officers' Dinner (Hereford)
- 1 May - Homecoming March 3 RIFLES 1400Hrs (Hereford)
- 11/13 Jun - LI Weekend (Shrewsbury)
- 19 Jun - Cocktail Party (Hereford)
- 27 Jun - Cadet 150 Service (Hereford Cathedral)
- 17 Jul - Re-Dedication of the War Memorial - (Hereford)
Sounding of Retreat (Castle Green)
- 11 Sep - Heritage Open Day (HOD Museum Open Day)
- Oct tbc - AGM & Lunch

One of the pair of tankards presented to
Lt Col GS Williams



The Herefordshire plot at The Westminster Abbey Garden of Remembrance.



The Herefordshire Army Cadet League (HACL) will assist the Friends fund raising ventures by assisting in the sale of draw tickets and organisation on the night of the 19th Jun. The HACL is a registered charity formed in Herefordshire in 1960, its aims are to foster an environment to enable the Army Cadet Force to thrive in Herefordshire and to offer support to the cadet force; chief amongst this support is financial assistance.

The Cadet Force is funded by the MOD, but as is always the case the money does not go far enough or it cannot be spent on certain activities. League funds support amongst other things Cadet sporting and adventurous training activities.

Given the squeeze on Government funding (just remember the debacle over TA training pay!) then it is expected that funding for Cadet activities will reduce and there will be an increasing reliance on support provided from the Cadet League. The Friends have according agreed that in exchange for their support some of the funds raised by the draw will go to the Cadet League.