



Friends
of the
Herefordshire Light
Infantry Museum



Newsletter

Number 7 February 2013

Welcome: Your committee welcomes you to this the seventh Friends' newsletter - we hope you enjoy it.

2012 has again been a year of steady progress and consolidation, not least with the long awaited launch of the Museum's website.

The Museum remains aware of potential changes to the Territorial Army which may affect Suvla Barracks and therefore the Museum; there are currently no firm plans that we are aware of, but the Trustees continue to keep their contingency plans current. A reorganisation to the local organisation of the Museums, Libraries and Archives (MLA) Department has meant that Kate Andrews, for many years an active supporter of the Museum is no longer employed, and although her 'official' link to the Museum has gone she will continue to advise and support it. The loss of her post has fractured a link to the local 'museums' fraternity and the Museum Trustees are now working hard to forge new links.

The Museum has been opened on several occasions during the year and took part again in The Heritage Open Day (HOD) 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.

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

Key amongst the acquisitions is are three original photograph albums covering mainly the Regiment's time in the Middle East in 1916/7 – some of these photographs are reproduced below.

Capt Wallis and his pet monkey!



Your Committee: Your committee is:

<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 Seeney
<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	Maj James Hereford
<i>Members:</i>	Maj Lisa Glover
	Maj Bob Hayden
	Maj Nigel Jones
	Lt Col John Marsham
	Capt Hugh Patterson
	Sqn Ldr John Scott
	Col Andy Taylor

Tony McVeigh has resigned and we thank him for all his excellent support; he is replaced by Maj Lisa Glover, the 'Landlord' of Suvla Barracks in her position as Cadet Executive Officer of the Hereford & Worcester Army Cadet Force.

A group of Officers



C Coy Foot Inspection



World War One Outbreak - Centenary Commemorations: Whilst national and local plans are forming, the Museum is keen to take a full part in local activities and to ensure the actions of the Herefordshire Regiment and its members are suitably acknowledged. The Museum and Friends' Committees are fully involved and would be pleased to hear from any members who have any details/accounts/photographs of those times and individuals of August 1914 – especially photographs of mobilisation and 'volunteers'.



Members of the Herefordshire Regiment, on Mobilisation 5 August 1914 at Knighton Station.

There will be many centenary commemorations during the period 2014 – 2018 and one which is being considered is a 'Herefordshire Regiment' Battlefield Tour to Gallipoli to mark the 100th anniversary of the Regiment's landing at Suvla Bay. Whilst the actual landing was on 8 August 1915 it is likely that a visit would take place in September 2015 – planning is at a very early stage but if anyone is interested please register your interest at ast684@btinternet.com.

The Website: At long last the website has been established! It can be found at:

www.herefordshirelightinfantrymuseum.com

At this stage the structure of the website has been created and a 'holding' front page published and over the coming months more information will be published – watch this space! Our thanks go to John Scott and Bill Jackson for their commitment and determination to see this project to fruition.



HEADQUARTER COMPANY, 1st BN. HEREFORDSHIRE REGIMENT, 1944

2012 AGM: This took place in Suvla Barracks on 27th October, over 35 people attended and were treated to a fascinating talk by Brigadier James Cowan who headed up the military effort in support of the London Olympics. He gave us an insight to the politics, command and organisational challenges, the vast size of the venture and its spirit and success.

Help Wanted: One of our members (Danny Rees) has recently acquired a World War 2 era Willis jeep and wants to restore it to its original condition and mark it with the livery of the Herefordshire Regiment. Whilst the Museum has some photographs of the Regiment's jeeps in 1944/5, if any member has any knowledge or photographs Danny would be pleased to hear from them at reesmilitary@yahoo.com.

Last Survivor of Gallipoli: *Reproduced from the Daily Telegraph: New Home Wanted For Tortoise Rescued From Battlefield.* A tortoise smuggled into Britain from Gallipoli by a soldier during World War One is in need of a new home.

Blake was plucked from the Turkish beaches in 1915, by a soldier remembered only as Mr Marris from Norfolk.

Blake outlived his 'rescuer' by some 30 years and is now cared for by a Tortoise breeder who is seeking a new home for him.

Dates For The Diary:

- 16 Mar - Herefordshire LI (Rifles) Officers' Dinner
- 23 Mar - Military Vehicle Trust and Museum Open Day – Suvla Barracks
- 27 Apr - Rifles Freedom of Birmingham Parade
- 7-9 Jun - LI Assn Reunion (Shrewsbury)
- 24 Jun - 'Flag Raising', Armed Forces Week – Hereford Shire Hall
- 29 Jun - Armed Forces Day tbc Suvla Barracks
- 13 Jul - Rifles Freedom Parade, Sounding of Retreat & Reception – Ross On Wye.
- 8 Sep - Heritage Open Day (HOD Museum Open Day)
- 15 Sep - Association Dinner tbc
- 19 Oct - AGM & Lunch

e-mail addresses:

The secretary would be pleased to receive your e-mail address so that all correspondence can be sent electronically and save the Friends the cost of postage.

Prior to deployment overseas in support of the invasion of mainland Europe in June 1944, and whilst stationed in Aldershot, the 1st Battalion had group photographs taken by Messes and Companies.

The photograph of HQ Coy is shown to the left.

The Museum is keen to acquire a full set of the photographs and would be pleased to hear from anyone that has a photograph of this type.