



Friends of the Herefordshire Light Infantry Museum



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

2013 has again been a year of steady progress and consolidation, not least with the long awaited launch of the Museum's website which can be found at:

<http://herefordshirelightinfantrymuseum.com/>

2014 looks to be even busier looking back to 1914 and the outbreak of World War One and looking forward to the development of The Rotherwas Heritage Centre, and more of both of these later in this newsletter.

2013 also saw the announcement of the expansion of and greater reliance on the Country's Reserve Forces, and the renaming of The Territorial Army as the Army Reserve – I suspect for years to come many of us will continue to refer to 'The TA'! This is particularly significant to Herefordshire as it's County Regiment was always a Territorial unit and it now seems almost certain that The Rifles, the successors of the Herefordshire Regiment/Herefordshire Light Infantry, and the County Regiment will return to Suvla Barracks once more as part of E Coy in Shrewsbury in 6 RIFLES. The HQ of 6 RIFLES is in Exeter with coys/pls in Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Shropshire. The Rifles capbadge has been worn proudly by C Company of The Hereford & Worcester Army Cadet Force who look forward to passing the 'Regimental County Baton' to the Reserve Army.

The AGM took place in October and was attended by over 35 members who were treated to a most enlightening presentation from Colonel James de la Billiere, covering his time on operations in Afghanistan as the Commanding Officer of 1 Rifles. General Sir Peter de la Billiere, our President announced that he would stand down at the 2014 AGM and that General Sir John Foley would take over from him. The rest of your committee is as below, and we are pleased to welcome Danny Rees to the committee, a Herefordian and keen researcher of the Regiment, who has recently returned to Hereford after serving for 12 years with the RAF:

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

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, we had over 50 visitors. The Museum has been well supported by group and individual visitors through the year, and has already several 'bookings' for 2014.

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. At the HOD 3 previously unrecorded groups to the Regiment from World War One were brought in – but not donated – they remain with the families, but indicate the raised awareness of the First World War which the centenary is creating.

Dates For The Diary:

- 15 Mar - Herefordshire LI (Rifles) Officers' Dinner
- 6/7 Jun - LI Assn Reunion (Shrewsbury)
- 23 Jun - 'Flag Raising', Armed Forces Week – Hereford Shire Hall
- 28 Jun - Armed Forces Day
- Service to Commemorate the anniversary of the Assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand (Hereford Cathedral)
- 12 Jul - Rifles Sounding of Retreat & Reception – Hereford.
- ? Jul - Rebadging RMLY Hereford Det to RIFLES
- 5 Aug - Centenary of outbreak of World War One
- 13 Sep - Heritage Open Day (HOD Museum Open Day)
- ? Sep - LI Association Dinner tbc
- ? 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.

Army Form E. 635.

Territorial Force.

EMBODIMENT.

NOTICE TO JOIN.

No., Rank and Name } *7* *Plt E Rees*

1st Herefordshire Regt Regt. or Corps.

Whereas the Army Council, in pursuance of His Majesty's Proclamation, have directed that the **1st Herefordshire Regt.**

be embodied on the _____

day of **5 AUG 1914**

BARRACKS

You are hereby required to attend at _____

not later than *6-30* o'clock that day. Should you not present yourself as ordered you will be liable to be proceeded against.

W. J. [Signature]

Date **4 AUG 1914** **1st Herefordshire Regt.**

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'.

Local events are notified on the County's website which can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/FWWCC>

It is planned to retell the experiences of the Regiment during World War One by publishing a monthly account on the Museum's website; this will be based around the Battalion War Diaries. It will start publication in July 2014.



Members of the Herefordshire Regiment, on Mobilisation 5 August 1914 in New Street Ledbury.



Volunteers for The Herefordshire Regiment prepare to leave Llandrindod Wells to 'join up' at Hereford.



Volunteers for The Herefordshire Regiment Parade on Castle Green

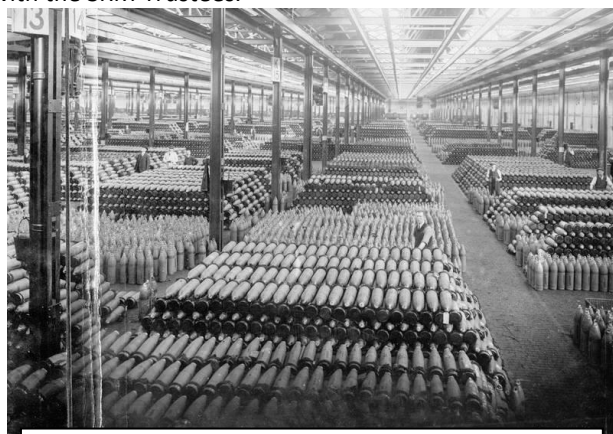
Rotherwas Heritage Centre

The Museum Trustees consider The Rotherwas Heritage Project to offer an opportunity to place the future management and display of the Museum artefacts on a secure basis. It is now almost 50 years since the Herefordshire Light Infantry capbadge was last worn and the ranks of those committed to maintaining its history are thinning, additionally the Museum's location within Suvla Barracks, whilst secure in the short term must be uncertain in the longer term. Additionally the Trustees want to make the collection, and the ethos of the Regiment available to the largest audience and it is considered that the Rotherwas Heritage Project offers a real solution to all of these issues.

The Project has secured the use of an old ammunition storage building on the Rotherwas site – the building is reputed to have been the largest single spanned building in the world when it was built! It is planned to house displays on 3 themes: Women at War (and in support of the war effort), Special Forces and The Herefordshire Regiment (and associated units).

Planning is still at an early stage, and there is much to do including securing funding, but under the very able hand of the Project Chairman (Bill Jackson – also our Vice-President and Chairman of the Museum Trustees) things are moving forward in a most positive way.

It is hoped that the Project will reach fruition before the centenary of the Armistice of the First World War in 2018. This time will be used by the Museum to make sure its collections and their management are able to be transferred to the new centre. It is, at this early stage planned that ownership of the Museum's artefacts will remain with the Trustees but their day to day management will lie with the Heritage centre – this will in many ways be a similar model to the Shropshire Regimental Museum in the Castle at Shrewsbury, and our Trustees are in contact with the SRM Trustees.



A First World War ammunition storage shed.
Rotherwas Ammunition Factory

