



Friends of the Herefordshire Light Infantry Museum



Newsletter

Number 11 February 2017

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

Our most hearty congratulations go to James Hereford on his appointment as a Member of the Order of The British Empire in the 2017 New Years' Honours List. A most deserved award recognising all of the work he has done for The Rifles in Herefordshire, including Curator of our Museum for many years.

The Museum has been active hosting visitors in groups and as individuals and has delivered 11 outreach presentations to local interest groups. Descendants of those that served in The Herefords continue to contact us and we are continuing to add artefacts and information to the Museum's archives.

The web site is up and running and includes a monthly interest feature and an account of what the Herefords were doing 100 years ago that month during WW1. This latter 'post' is attracting much positive comment. If you haven't done already – please take a look!

<http://herefordshirelightinfantrymuseum.com/>

Attendance at the AGM in October was again down slightly, but the Friends were treated to a most excellent presentation by Maj Mick Atkinson on the Battle of Waterloo. One attendee was heard to say that he now (after an undisclosed number of years!) understood what had happened at Waterloo!

The Museum also put on a display at the Orders and Medals Research Society Annual Conference which attracted much interest. The Museum also featured on the BBC's Celebrity Antique Road Show when Jules Hudson and Phillip Surrell were briefed by the Curator.

The Museum has carried out a detailed feasibility study regarding the move of the World War One era wooden building on the old County Record Office site and has concluded that it is not workable.

The Museum has also 're-vamped' some displays and has plans to continue with this. There is also a plan to carry out a 100% 'stock take' and conditioning survey. Plans are also in hand to 'digitize' some reference material, and also to gain digitised copies of Roll Books held by The Herefordshire Archive and Records Centre; this will considerably enhance the Museum's research capabilities.

The Herefordshire and Shropshire Regimental Trust, as owners of the Copthorne Barracks gates have agreed that these gates can be held by The Herefordshire Regimental Museum – we are currently looking at options on siting them.

The Museum remains keen to locate an Efficiency Medal (Territorial) to a soldier in The Herefordshire Light Infantry – named 'HEREFORD LI'. The Museum is also planning a new display and is looking for '37 Pattern Webbing' – does anyone have any in their loft!

Dates For The Diary:

- 11 Mar - Herefordshire LI (Rifles) Officers' Dinner
- 16/17 Jun - LI & Rifles Reunion (Shrewsbury)
- 19 Jun - Flag Raising', Armed Forces Week – High Town
- 24 Jun - Armed Forces Day
- 6 Aug - Hereford Country Fair (King George V Playing Fields)
- Including Sounding of Retreat and Reception
- 9 Sep - Heritage Open Day (Museum Open Day)
- ? 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. e-mail to james@sufton.co.uk

The Friends' Committee

<i>Patron</i>	The Countess of Darnley
<i>President:</i>	Lt Gen Sir John Foley
<i>Vice-Presidents:</i>	Mr Bill Jackson
<i>Chairman:</i>	Mr Martin Jolly
<i>Vice-Chairman:</i>	Maj Dave Seeny
<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	Maj James Hereford
<i>Members:</i>	
Maj Lisa Glover	Lt Col John Marsham
Capt Hugh Patterson	Mr Danny Rees
Sqn Ldr John Scott	
<i>Curator (ex officio):</i>	Col Andy Taylor

We congratulate Andy Taylor on his appointment as Rifles County Colonel for Herefordshire (in succession to Brig Martin Vine) and also as a Deputy Lieutenant for Herefordshire.

We have acquired a Silver Football Medal awarded to 1182 Pte EJ Dykes whilst serving with the Battalion in Germany with the Army of Occupation in 1919.



The Museum is seeking information about the Home Guard in Herefordshire. There were 6 Battalions in the County as follows:

- 1 Bn - Leominster - Lt Col A J Mellor
- 2 Bn - Bromyard - Lt Col J Knott CMG, DSO
- 3 Bn - Hereford City - Lt Col FP Lodar-Symonds CMG (late RN)
- 4 Bn - Hereford Rural - Lt Col RNH Verdin TD
- 5 Bn - Ledbury - Lt Col JL Pearson CMG (Late RN)
- 6 Bn - Harewood End - Lt Col BF Murray DSO

Perhaps 8,000 men served in them, but little is known and few accounts and photographs exist. Some of the photographs held by the Museum are shown below:

The Home guard at Pontrilas



The Museum has had another significant Suvla medal group donated to it; the group of Captain Phillip Ashton – the adjutant who was the last Hereford soldier to leave from the beach at Suvla Bay. Capt Ashton served with the Battalion in the Middle East (winning the Military Cross) and the Western Front, He was mentioned in Despatches on 4 occasions, including for his deeds at Suvla Bay.

