



*f*riends
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Herefordshire Light
In antry Museum



Newsletter

Number 3: February 2009

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

2008 has been a busy year for the The Friends and The Museum. Many of the Friends Committee are also Trustees of the Museum so the two organisations work very closely together!

The Museum has been opened on several occasions during the year including a most successful TA100 open day, held in conjunction with The Herefordshire Army Cadet League, when despite appalling weather we had a good number of visitors.

Soldiers from Herefordshire continue to serve on operations in demanding circumstances, and we wish all of those on operations a speedy and safe return.

Accreditation:

The process goes on! A draft case has been submitted and the final case is to be submitted by the end of February.

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

Key amongst the acquisitions have been:

- a collection of shooting trophies awarded to CSM Jim Powell (C Coy, Ledbury) who retired from the TA on the demise of the Herefordshire Light Infantry in 1966.
- several Home Guard photographs.
- a framed stamp set commemorating 100 years of the TA and featuring Pte Ward of The Herefordshire Regiment - now hanging in The Officers' Mess.
- the Croix De Guerre and associated paperwork awarded to 235567 Cpl WJ Rogers in 1918.

Dates For The Diary:

- 7 Mar - Herefordshire LI (Rifles) Officers' Dinner
- 19/21 Jun - LI Weekend (Shrewsbury)
- 18 Jul - Sounding of Retreat (Castle Green)
- 11 Sep - Heritage Open Day (HOD Museum Open Day)
- Oct tbc - AGM & Lunch

Your Committee: *Sir Thomas Dunne, on his retirement as Lord Lieutenant for Herefordshire has stood down as our Patron. It is also with deep regret that with the untimely death of John Williams we have a vacancy on the committee. The appointment of a Patron and additional committee member will be considered at our AGM; other appointments remain unchanged.*

<i>Patron</i>	Vacant
<i>President:</i>	Gen Sir Peter de la Billiere
<i>Chairman:</i>	Lt Col Tom Hill
<i>Vice-Chairman:</i>	Maj Dave Seeney
<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	Maj James Hereford
<i>Members:</i>	Mr Bill Jackson
	Mr Martin Jolly
	Maj Nigel Jones
	Capt Terry Marsh
	Lt Col John Marsham
	Sqn Ldr John Scott
	Lt Col Andy Taylor



On 19 Jan, our new Lord Lieutenant, Lady Darnley visited the TA Centre in Hereford and was briefed on military matters in Herefordshire. This included a brief by James Hereford on The Rifles, and a visit to the Museum hosted by Andy Taylor. Lady Darnley was most interested in the Museum, its ethos and future as well as the exploits of the soldiers of the county.

Museum Development:

Any recent visitors to the Museum will have seen the new display cases have been received. These were partially funded by The Friends and the team is currently preparing the displays to go in them and reorganising all the displays to try and 'theme' them by time and activity. Anyone who hasn't been to the Museum recently is encouraged to come along and see the progress made.

Whilst many long term options are being considered for the Museum, there is not expected to any change of location for at the very least 5 years.

90 Anniversary of the End of World War One:

2008 saw the 90th anniversary on 11 Nov of when the 'guns fell silent' on the 'war to end all wars'; we now realise how hollow those phrases have turned out to be. However in 1918 the country welcomed peace after the hardships, mud and blood of the previous 4 years. Hardly a village was spared casualties, (although I understand there are at least 4 villages in UK which suffered no casualties, and therefore have no war memorial - one of these consecrated a memorial to 'all of those that served' in 2008 and now have a focus for their collective Act of Remembrance). The Herefordshire Regiment was out of the front line on the day and in spite of normal daily routine there was, no doubt great private and collective relief. Attached to this newsletter is an account written by Andy Taylor and published in 'Stand To', The Journal of The Western Front Association, whilst there is no direct Herefordshire Regimental connection, the great nephew is Simon Jarman currently the QMSI with The Hereford & Worcester ACF.

Volunteer Service Company 1901:

At the open day in July we saw a beautifully engraved pocket watch presented by the town of Ross to those members of the Herefordshire Rifle Volunteers who had volunteered for service with the KSLI in South Africa during The Boer War. This example was to Pte Evans, and we were able to locate 3 photographs of him in the Museum.



RMAS Memorial Chapel:

I recently attended a Church Service in The RMAS Memorial Chapel, and probably for the first time was relaxed, without a blues collar digging into my neck and feeling my drill sergeant's eyes burning into my back and detecting the minutest speck of fluff on my jacket - enough of those halcyon memories! After the service I walked around the Chapel; it is most impressive with the names of those Gentlemen Cadets who made the ultimate sacrifice recorded on the columns, but in addition almost every item in the chapel is a memorial to someone or something; The Herefordshire Regiment is not left out. On a pew dedicated to the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, the capbadge of the Herefords is carved. Unfortunately the pew is in one of the side isles and not easy to photograph, but my best attempt is enclosed.

