



Friends of the Herefordshire Light Infantry Museum



Newsletter

Number 9 February 2015

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

2014 has again been a busy year with commemoration of the centenary of the outbreak of World War One and the associated planning for the commemoration of the centenary of the landing of the Herefords at Gallipoli – more of this later! Work continues on the development of the website at: <http://herefordshirelightinfantrymuseum.com/>

It now features a monthly article on what the Herefords were doing 100 years ago.

At the Friends AGM in October General Sir Peter de la Billiere handed over as President to Lieutenant General Sir John Foley; General Sir Peter had been President since the friends were formed and we thank him for his guidance and support during this period. James Hereford has also handed over as Curator to Andy Taylor. James has also handed over as Rifles County Colonel to Brigadier Martin Vine; James' last act as County Colonel was to preside at the re-badging of the Hereford Reserve Detachment to 10 Platoon, 6 Rifles, something he had worked tirelessly for since the loss of the Rifles in the County in 2007. Lt Col Tom Harper, CO of 6 RIFLES spoke at the AGM about the Reserve Forces - organisation and challenges.

The year has been busy with the Museum seeking and achieving re-accreditation with the Arts Council. Accreditation acknowledges a competent level of organisation, management and 'technical' ability and holding Accreditation is a pre-requisite for most grant aid. That the Museum achieved this is due to the very hard work of our new Curator, Andy Taylor, for which many thanks.

The Museum has also made some major acquisitions during the year:

- The Richards' brothers' medals. George and Alfred, from Leominster enlisted in August 1914, fought in Gallipoli and The Middle East and moved to France with the Battalion in July 1918. George was awarded the Military Medal in August and George was killed in action in September.

The Museum has acquired 3 Military Crosses:

- Maj Whitehouse, killed in action in France in August 1918 and who had been awarded the MC for services in The Middle East in 1917.
- Maj WAP Crofts a Second World War company commander.
- Maj Ken Crockford, who had been one of Maj Crofts' Platoon Commanders.

The medals of Lt Col Drage, CO of the Herefords for most of World War One, as part of the Suvla Bay Centenary have been relocated to Hereford from Shrewsbury.

The Museum has been well supported by group and individual visitors through the year, and several 'outreach' presentations have been given to local interest groups. As a trial the Museum opened on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons during June and July and hosted over 120 visitors during this period.

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:

- 7 Mar - Herefordshire LI (Rifles) Officers' Dinner
- 25 Apr - National Gallipoli Commemoration
- 6/7 Jun - LI Assn Reunion (Shrewsbury)
- 22 Jun - 'Flag Raising', Armed Forces Week – The Shire Hall
- 27 Jun - Armed Forces Day – The Shire Hall
- 17 Jul - Centenary of Herefords sailing from Avonmouth
- 8 Aug - Centenary of Herefords landing at Suvla Bay
 - Sounding of Retreat & Reception – Suvla Barracks.
 - Open Day – Suvla Barracks
- 9 Aug - Wreath Laying & Cathedral Service
- 12 Sep - Heritage Open Day (HOD Museum Open Day)
- ? Sep - LI Association Dinner tbc
- 17 Oct - AGM & Lunch tbc

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-President</i>	Mr Bill Jackson
	Brig Martin Vine
<i>Chairman:</i>	Mr Martin Jolly
<i>Vice-Chairman:</i>	Maj Dave Seeny
<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	Maj James Hereford
<i>Members:</i>	
Maj Mick Atkinson	Maj Lisa Glover
Maj Bob Hayden	Lt Col John Marsham
Capt Hugh Patterson	Mr Danny Rees
Sqn Ldr John Scott	Col Andy Taylor

The Museum aims to raise its profile within the Herefordshire Community in 2015, taking advantage of the Suvla Bay Centenary. Plans are firming up to create a mobile display to take around the County to various shows, galas, fairs and rallies. It is hoped that this will be in combination with C (RIFLES) Company of Hereford & Worcester Army Cadet Force, thus representing the past and current/future face of military in the County. The first 'outing' will be at the Armed Forces Day event in Hereford city centre and Shire Hall on Saturday 27 June.

Suvla 100 - Centenary Commemorations: The National Gallipoli Centenary Commemoration will take place in Whitehall on 25th April; the Curator has secured a place to take part in the service and march past.

In Herefordshire commemorative events will be held over the weekend of 8/9 August. 8 August will see an open afternoon at Suvla Barracks with various displays concluding with the annual RIFLES Sounding of Retreat ceremony. At 1100 hrs on 9 August there will be a wreath laying ceremony at the St Peter's Square War Memorial and a Commemoration Service in the Cathedral in the afternoon.

A major display will be 'the Suvla100', this is a display of the medal groups of 100 Herefordshire Regimental men who served at Gallipoli; there were only about 1100 in total so this represents a significant number. The medal groups expose the experiences of the men behind the medals and show service from the Boer War to the Second World War, the granting of Gallantry awards and the recognition of long and distinguished service. If any friends knows of the existence of any Gallipoli man's medals the Curator would be most pleased to hear from them.

The painting 'Advance at Suvla' is also being cleaned and restored and will be rehung in the Drill Hall by August; it will also be better lit to aid viewing.



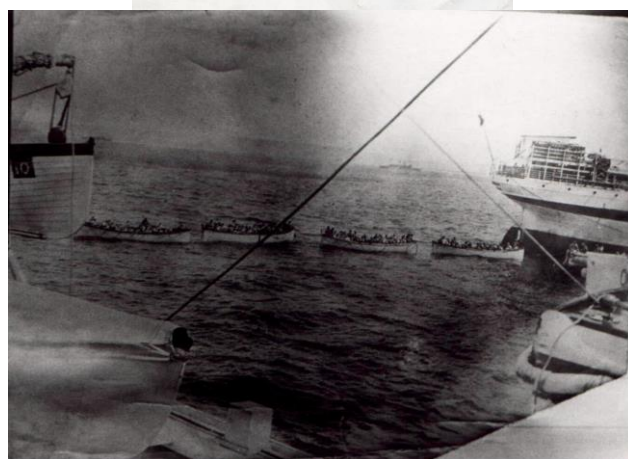
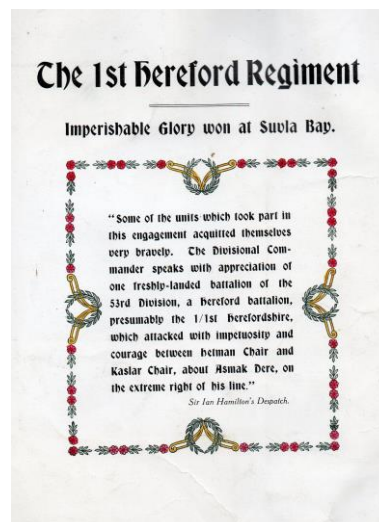
The story of the Herefords at Suvla Bay starts on 16 July when 29 officers and 969 men set sail from Avonmouth on SS Euripedes; for many men this was their first sea voyage and they soon felt the effects having a rough crossing of the Bay of Biscay!



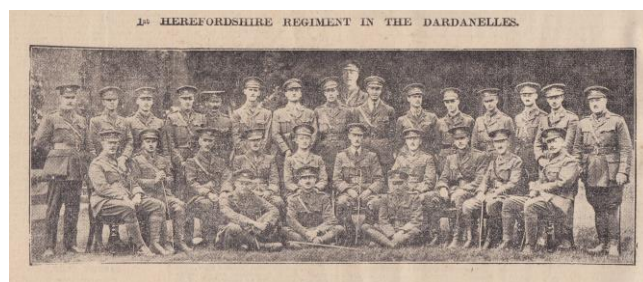
SS Euripedes

The Battalion landed in Egypt and reorganised and 750 men went forward on the SS Snaefell to land at Suvla Bay on the 8/9 August 1915. They suffered immediate casualties and the realities of war were soon recognised. On the 9 August the Battalion received orders to advance to the high ground

about the Chocolate Hills (named because of the burn scars), and it is this advance which the Advance at Suvla painting depicts. The Battalion conducted itself in fine style and its conduct was brought to the attention of the Commander in Chief, Sir Ian Hamilton.



Members of The Herefordshire Regiment leaving SS Snaefell en route for Suvla Bay.



The Officers of The Herefordshire Regiment - taken in England before sailing.

Front: 2Lts WF Lloyd, Howell, Wilmot
 Seated: Capt Barker, Capt & Adjt Nott, Cpts Rogers, Holman, Lt Col Drage, Maj Carless, Capt Green, Surg Maj McMullan, Capt Capel
 Rear: Lt (QM) Roberts, Lts Whitehouse, Capt Lewis, Lt Bourne, RSM Millington, 2Lt Jackson-Taylor, Lts Berney, Hamlen-Williams, Capt Sir Archer Croft, Lts Ashton, Wallis, Collins, 2Lt Carver, Lts GP Lloyd, Pilkington, Phillips.



The Officers' cap badge, based on the Hereford city coat of arms, as worn at Gallipoli.