



# *f*riends of the Herefordshire Light Infantry Museum



## Newsletter

Number 10 February 2016

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

2015 has been a busy year! The Museum contributed fully to the successful Suvla100 commemoration activities over the weekend 8/9 Aug. It proved a tremendous weekend with all of the Rifles family (Regular, Reserve, Cadets, Old Comrades and Museum) working in complete harmony; the sun shone and over 2,500 people visited the open day and over 600 attended the service in the Cathedral on Sunday. Whilst many of those old soldiers would have probably thought 'what is all the fuss about?'; I am sure they would have quietly been proud and pleased that their exploits had been made known and their courage and dedication acknowledged.

The weekend attracted much positive press coverage and thanks are due particularly to Clive Joyce of The Hereford Times and Nicola Goodwin of Radio Hereford and Worcester.

The web site is up and running and features several monthly articles: an interest article and an account of what the Herefords were doing 100 years ago that month. The followers of the website are increasing and the monthly world war one article is attracting much positive comment.

<http://herefordshirelightinfantrymuseum.com/>

Attendance at the AGM in October was down slightly, but the Friends have attracted several new members in the year. Andy Taylor gave a presentation on the background to the Gallipoli campaign and the build up to the Herefords' landing at Suvla Bay.

The Museum also put on a display at the Herefordshire Country Fair which raised much interest.

In 2016 the Museum aims to maintain its high profile and will be taking part in the Armed Forces Day display at Ledbury.

The old Barracks site (old County Records Office) adjacent to Suvla Barracks is to be sold off by the County Council. The Museum has had a look around the site and there is a World War One era wooden building on the site, which we are told was the Officers' Mess. The Museum has considered acquiring the building and moving it into Suvla Barracks. A feasibility study was conducted, but concluded the building was in too poor condition and its construction precluded it being moved at a cost affordable to the Museum. However a second plan is now being considered which would involve building a new sectionalised replica building and where possible incorporating 'parts' from the original building. Watch this space!

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:

6 Feb	- Hereford Rifles Assn Suvla Dinner
12 Mar	- Herefordshire LI (Rifles) Officers' Dinner
14 May	- Freedom of Bromyard
1,2 Jun	- Rifles Sounding of Retreat - Horseguards
17,18 Jun	- LI Assn Reunion (Shrewsbury)
22 Jun	- Flag Raising', Armed Forces Week – The Shire Hall
25 Jun	- Armed Forces Day – Ledbury
10 Sep	- Heritage Open Day (HOD Museum Open Day)
15 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](mailto: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 Brig Martin Vine (RIFLES County Col)
<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 Lt Col John Marsham Mr Danny Rees Col Andy Taylor
	Maj B Hayden Capt Hugh Patterson Sqn Ldr John Scott

We congratulate Andy Taylor on the award of his OBE as Commandant of Hereford and Worcester Army Cadet Force in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

The hut at the old County Record Site



## Suvla 100 - Centenary Commemorations

The National Gallipoli Centenary Commemoration took place in Whitehall on 25<sup>th</sup> April; the Curator laid a wreath on behalf of 'The Herefords'.



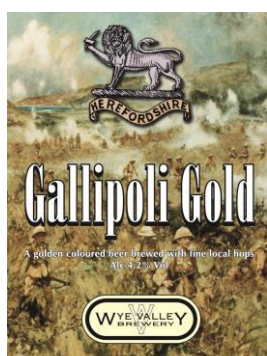
**The local commemorations** of the Suvla Bay landings started on 18 Jul when a plaque was unveiled at the Volunteer pub opposite the barracks to commemorate the sailing of the Herefords from Devonport for Gallipoli; Wye Valley Brewery produced a commemorative beer which was enjoyed by many.



The County Colonel and curator with Lisa and Duane Morris (landlady and landlord)



E Coy soldiers join in! Cpl Dave Jones, Sjt Maj Phil Maine, Maj Tony Freeman, Sjt Dex Coyle, Sjt Mini Minnis.



The main Hereford commemoration took place on 8/9 August and comprised an open day, dedication of a memorial stone, cocktail party, sounding of retreat and a Cathedral Commemoration service. The Museum put on a display of Herefordshire Regiment medals to men who served at Suvla Bay, of 1039 that were awarded 113 were put on display. The weekend provoked a great deal of interest and several descendants contacted the museum to learn more of their ancestors' exploits. Several items were donated to the Museum including the medals of Sjt Maj Faulkner, one of the first fatalities of the Herefords, whose death was related by his son (also serving with The Herefords) in a letter to his mother and published in the Hereford Times. This account featured in the Cathedral Commemoration service.

A selection of photographs recording the day are shown below.

The story of the Herefords at Suvla Bay starts on 16 July when 29 officers and 969 men set sail from Devonport 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. 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 and it is this advance which features in the Charles Dixon painting hanging in the Drill Hall. As part of the Commemorations this painting was cleaned, restored and rehung with new lighting – and now looks superb! The Museum received grants from the Association of Independent Museums (AIM) and the Friends of Herefordshire Museum and Arts to assist with the restoration.

The Herefords were evacuated from Suvla Bay on 12 December the 'cost' to the Battalion had been significant:

Sailed from UK 17 Jul	(29 + 969)	998	
Landed Suvla Bay 8/9 Aug	(25 + 750)	775	
Reinforcements from Egypt		196	Detail of 26 <i>probably</i> remained in Egypt
Draft 1	(2 + 45)	47	Landed Suvla September
Draft 2	(1 + 22)	23	Landed Suvla December
		<b>1039</b>	
Fit & evacuated 12 Dec		79	
Fatalities		78	
Evacuated wounded/ill		882	
		<b>1039</b>	
<b>Notes</b>			
Nominal rolls do not exist for the 'base Detail' left in Egypt – this figure is therefore a best estimate.			
Some men were wounded and evacuated on more than one occasion. Captain Lewis, the officer leading the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Draft had landed on 8/9 August, been wounded, evacuated to UK and was returned fit as OiC reinforcement draft. Many were evacuated to Lemnos and Egypt recovered and returned to Suvla Bay.			
Record show at least 9 soldiers taken as Prisoners of Wars by the Turks.			
Some soldiers died at a later date, as a result of wounds received at Suvla Bay.			





The Commemorative plaque



Viewing the Suvla 100 Medal display



Lady Darnley, Brig Vine and Col Head (representing Col Comdt The Rifles)



The Suvla100 Medal Display in the Cathedral



Our President, Gen Foley leads the wreath laying party, this consisted of Gen Sir John on behalf of past Riflemen, Sjt Maj Maine (CSM E Coy and whose Grandfather served at Suvla Bay with The Herefords) for current Riflemen, and Col Taylor, (Comdt Hereford and Worcester Army Cadet Force, whose Grandfather served with The Herefords during World War One) for 'future' Riflemen.



Cadets of C (Rifles) Coy HWACF, in period uniform



C (Rifles) Coy HWACF, winners of the Herefordshire Cadet Tug of War competition





Ancient & Modern – the weapons of The Rifles



The County Standards March On for the Sounding of Retreat



The Salamanca Band of The Rifles March On



The Bugler prepares to sound  
*No More Parades Today*



The Herefordshire  
Regiment Suvla 100  
Commemorative Medal



Lady Darnley presents the Volunteer Service Medal to Sjt  
Maj Maine



Lady Darnley arrives at the Cathedral and is met by the  
Standard of the Hereford Rifles and Light Infantry  
Association



Lady Darnley advances in the Cathedral