



# Friends of the Herefordshire Light Infantry Museum



Newsletter

Number 13 February 2019

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

The Museum has again been most active hosting visitors in groups and as individuals as well as delivering outreach presentations. 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 has included a monthly account of what the Herefords were doing 100 years ago that month during WW1. The last post was made in January; all posts remain available on the site.

<http://herefordshirelightinfantrymuseum.com/>

Attendance at the AGM in October was 'thin', but those Friends that did attend were entertained to a most interesting presentation by Nicola Goodwin (of BBC Radio Hereford & Worcester) about Rotherwas and the campaign to get National Recognition for those that worked there.

The Museum again put on a display at the Orders and Medals Research Society Annual Conference which attracted much interest. Danny Rees one of our Committee members won several awards for his display titled 'A Hill In Korea', this included reference to the KSLI. Congratulations also go to Danny and his wife Katherine on the birth of their son Thomas.

The Museum also had a stand at the Armed Forces Day event in Leominster and the Herefordshire Country Fair. Many will have visited the weeping window poppy art installation at the Cathedral in the Spring. The Museum led a parallel display of 'the military in Herefordshire' in the Town Hall. The exhibition opened everyday and was staffed by volunteers – we had 1997 recorded visitors, many with Regimental stories and associations including that of Sgt Charles W Davies who had been awarded a Military Medal in World War One as a POW escapee. Sjt Davies was part of the Herefordshire Regiment draft to 11 Border Regiment in Autumn 1916. Sjt Davies had been reported missing presumed killed, but had been taken POW in the fierce fighting on the Somme in late 1916. In his own words 'life at the Fredricshfeld camp became monotonous; highlights were few – although thrashing the French POWs at football was one of them – I was totally fed up with the place and decided to escape ..... Bloomfield (of the Sussex) and myself undertook the journey from Germany to neutral Holland, we used devious routes, dodged military patrols, our POW uniforms were quite obvious, even so a German Army guard on a bridge we crossed gave us a friendly wave and smile'. Sjt Davies was back in Hereford in February 1917 and also earned 2 months leave!

The new display cabinets are now 'dressed' and are a great improvement to the Museum.

The most exciting event for the Museum was the acquisition of the Chipp Medals, and no excuse is given for again attaching a copy of his 'story'. The medals were purchased with the assistance of a very generous grant and loan from the Army Museums Ogilby Trust (AMOT). Fund raising is going well, but we are still short of our target to be able to repay the loan by the end of March. If any Friend wishes to make a donation this would be most gratefully received.

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!

We remain keen to build the history of the 10,000 members of the Herefordshire Home Guard during World War 2 and would be pleased to hear from anyone that has any information.

#### **Dates For The Diary:**

- 9 Mar - Herefordshire LI (Rifles) Officers' Dinner
- ? Jun - LI & Rifles Reunion (Shrewsbury)
- 24 Jun - Flag Raising', Armed Forces Week – High Town
- 29 Jun - Armed Forces Day – Hereford
- 29 Jun - Rifles exercise Freedom of Leominster & Hereford
- 29 Jun - Sounding of Retreat & Reception (Suvla Barracks)
- 21 Sep - Heritage Open Day (Museum Open Day)
- 19 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](mailto:james@sufton.co.uk)

#### **The Friends' Committee**

<i>Patron</i>	The Dowager Countess of Darnley
<i>President:</i>	Lt Gen Sir John Foley
<i>Chairman:</i>	Captain Martin Jolly
<i>Vice-Chairman:</i>	Maj Dave Seeney
<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	Maj James Hereford
<i>Members:</i>	
	Capt Hugh Patterson      Mr Danny Rees
	Mr Pete Weston              Capt Hannah Hatch
	Sqn Ldr John Scott
<i>Curator (ex officio):</i>	Col Andy Taylor

## The Faulkner Family

After the Suvla 100 Commemorations the medals of Sgt Faulkner were donated to the museum by the family. Sjt Charles Faulkner served at Suvla Bay where his father 51 year old Sjt Maj Bill Faulkner was killed, Sjt Faulkner wrote touchingly to his, now widowed mother. *I hardly know where to start this letter; I am so very upset. We landed at 6am and came under shelling. The first to be hit was Stanley Mailes (of the bacon firm in the market hall). But after a little while the shelling died down and we had dinner. Then towards evening we were ordered to the firing line. I should think we had gone about 2 miles when the enemy started to shell us. Well Mum, I can hardly stay myself to tell you that one of the bullets from the shells hit Dad. [Sjt Faulkner had to go on but began searching for his Father when they withdrew]. I could not find Dad anywhere, it was getting dark so I made off in the direction of the beach. Well, I had to give up hope of finding poor Dad; I could not sleep thinking about him. However when I got up the next morning, I was told he had been picked up and was taken to the hospital, but was quite dead, so I never saw him again.*

Sjt Faulkner continued to serve with The Herefords after the First World War and died tragically on a Battalion shooting camp at Ross Ranges in 1929. The family this year donated Sjt Maj Faulkner's medals to the museum. They consist of his First World War trio – 1914/15 Star, British War and Victory Medals. His Territorial Force Efficiency Medal issued prior to 1914 is missing, and gives rise to the question – did he have it at Suvla Bay with him and is it still there?



Sjt Maj 'Bill' Faulkner (rear right); his sons Sjt Joseph (2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion) (rear left); seated Sjt (Drum Sjt Maj) Charles Faulkner.

## Ken Crockford

Many will remember Ken Crockford, a great supporter of the museum who died in 2014. In the Summer his Executors visited the Museum. Ken had no family, his neighbours were his Executors and his friends. They told me that Ken's ashes had been interred in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery at Venray alongside the headstone of Sjt Shotton his old platoon serjeant. Ken always felt guilty that he was due to go out on patrol, but was prevented from doing so, Sjt Shotton led the patrol and was killed. Ken always said it should have been him as he had no family and Sjt Shotton's wife had recently had a child. Ken also told me that on one of his many visits to the battlefields he was at his old serjeant's grave when someone else approached the grave – it turned out to be the child visiting for the first time their father's grave.

On a lighter note Ken told me about when he was 'posted as a deserter'. Ken had trained with The Herefords in England and was sent to Normandy (a few days after D-Day) to join another Regiment. The Herefords had been in action, suffered casualties and the QM was touring the rear area looking for Herefordshire Regimental soldiers to reinforce the Battalion before operation Bluecoat. The QM met Ken and some others and 'persuaded' them to join the Herefords. After about 3 weeks Ken was called before the CO, who somewhat embarrassingly told him he had been posted absent without leave from his intended unit – all was eventually sorted out, but Ken found his 'desertion' story most amusing!



Ken Crockford leading a parade of old comrades.



The Military display at The Town Hall

## The Elms School

As part of the centenary commemorations of the First World War armistice, the Curator took part in a history day at The Elms School in Colwall. The youngsters were keen on dressing up and were fascinated to know of the soldiers' feeding and 'sanitary' arrangements in the trenches!



## Copthorne Barracks

Copthorne Barracks, Shrewsbury so familiar to many Herefordshire soldiers has been 'sold off' and is currently empty awaiting development. The Museum has acquired the Herefordshire Light Infantry badge from the front gate and it is planned that this will be 'hung' in the Drill Hall at Suvla Barracks. The KSLI badge is retained by The Shropshire Regimental Museum.



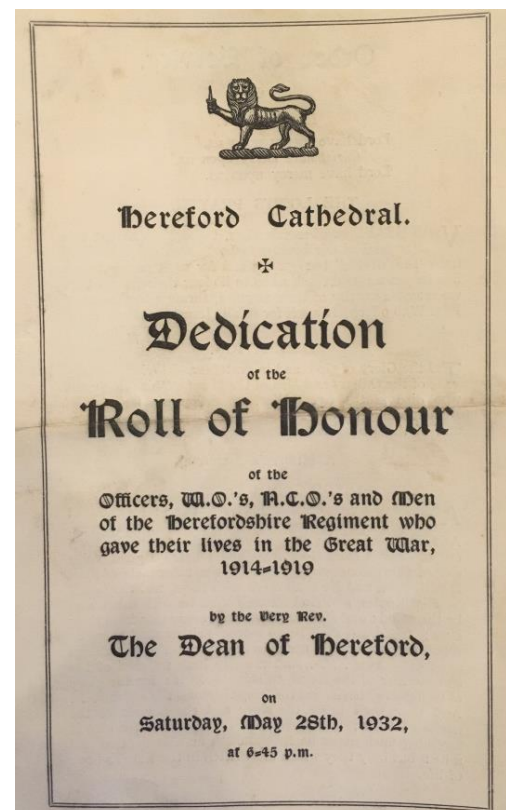
## Eardisland Memorial Walks

An initiative was started by Hugh Vernon (late RGJ) to rename local rural walks in the Eardisland area after the village's casualties from the First World War. These included 2 Herefordshire Regimental soldiers and the Curator was invited to 'dedicate' one of the gates on one of 'our' soldiers' walks. The 2 soldiers were: Pte Thomas Cook via Suvla Bay 10 Aug 1915 and Pte John Lewis via Middle East 6 Nov 1917.



## Reading of Names

The reading of the names of Herefordshire's fallen in World War One took place in the Cathedral in the week leading up to 11 November. Over 3,200 names were read out, including over 500 from the Herefordshire Regiment. Below is the cover from the order of service when the Regimental Roll of Honour, which is located in the Cathedral by the West Door was dedicated in 1932.



## Unknown Soldiers

These 2 photographs have recently been acquired by the Museum; the first was found in a book in a second hand shop in Ludlow, and shows a (newly Commissioned(?)) Second Lieutenant – thought to have been taken 1940 – 46 period. The other has been in the museum collection for some time and shows a WW2 Home Guard Lieutenant wearing WW1 medal ribbons. Does anyone know who these officers are?



## 36 Regiment of Foot – Regimental Medal

The museum was fortunate to acquire this 36<sup>th</sup> Regimental medal – one of only 2 known to exist.

