



# *f*riends of the Herefordshire Light Infantry Museum



## Newsletter

Number 15 - January 2021

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

At the end of this most unusual year, we hope you have kept well and that the return to a degree of normality is achieved soon. The situation has meant that access to the Museum has been severely restricted and we have been unable to host any visitors since March. Despite that much work has been carried out remotely and virtually and in some ways the Museum is in a better place.

The website has proved popular and as a result of a generous grant from AMOT, the website is being 'refreshed' and will be launched in the Spring - this is proving to be both an interesting and taxing exercise - deciding what to include (and more challenging what not to include!) and how to present it!

We were also notified in February that the storage facility we used in the barracks was required by the Reserves - after some very smart work an emergency grant was received from AMOT to purchase a shipping container. Agreement was given by WMRFCA for this to be located in the barracks and it was all system go until ..... lockdown! C (Rifles) Coy HWACF allowed us to put our items in their store until the fully lined and racked container could be delivered - eventually in November the relocation was complete! This relocation has given us the opportunity to stock check and review and reorder the collection.

We are most grateful to AMOT for all their support.

We were also fortunate to acquire some excellent display cases from the RLC Museum, which is relocating and these were delivered to the Museum in March - then again lockdown interfered and we are still to re-construct and dress the cases - hopefully early in 2021.

Enquiries to the Museum from the website have increased and can generally be dealt with without physical access to the museum. More enquiries regarding the Second World War are being received, probably as a result of the VE/VJ anniversaries. The Curator also delivered a Zoom presentation on the Herefordshire Regiment at Suvla Bay; this was 'attended' by over 80 people, including members of the Rifles Reserve from Hereford - some of whom were on UN Ops in Cyprus.

The routine for the year was changed - VE & VJ Commemorations, Armed Forces Day, the Officers Dinner, Heritage Open Day and other events were cancelled. Our AGM was held by Zoom in October.

The year has also seen Lady Darnley retire as Lord-Lieutenant and as our Patron; we are most grateful for all she did to support all elements of the Rifles, including the Museum and the Rifles gave her a special farewell - see later. We are pleased to welcome Mr Edward Harley as our new Patron.

Martin Jolly has also decided to draw stumps after many successful years as our Chairman and is replaced by James Hereford. Rev'd Paul Roberts (already Secretary to the Trustees and whose Great Grandfather served with The Herefords in the First World War) has taken over as Secretary of The Friends.

I am sure you will agree that despite considerable restrictions on our personal and corporate activities there has been a lot going on and much has been achieved for the Museum. We all look forward to 'the virus' being beaten and things getting back to normal.

### The Friends' Committee

<i>Patron</i>	Mr Edward Harley
<i>President:</i>	Lt Gen Sir John Foley
<i>Chairman:</i>	Maj James Hereford
<i>Vice-Chairman:</i>	Maj Dave Seeney
<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	Revd Paul Roberts
<i>Members:</i>	
	Capt Hugh Patterson      Mr Danny Rees
	Mr Pete Weston          Sqn Ldr John Scott
<i>Curator (ex officio):</i>	Col Andy Taylor

### Dates For The Diary:

The Herefordshire LI (Rifles) Officers' Dinner normally held in March is being rescheduled (hopefully!) to the Autumn - date tbc.

- ? Feb - Zoom presentation - 'What the Herefords did after Suvla Bay'
- ? Jun - LI & Rifles Reunion (Shrewsbury)
- 21 Jun - Flag Raising', Armed Forces Week - High Town
- 26 Jun - Armed Forces Day - Ross On Wye
- 16 Oct - AGM

All date subject to confirmation

### 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 [hfdlifriends@gmail.com](mailto:hfdlifriends@gmail.com)

**Retirement of Lady Darnley** - on September 4<sup>th</sup> Lady Darnley retired as Lord Lieutenant and as our Patron. The Rifles wanted to thank her for all the support she has given to all elements of the Rifles in the County - including the Museum. Colonel Andy Taylor, as Rifles County Colonel formally thanked Lady Darnley and presented her with a letter of thanks from the Colonel Commandant and 1RIFLES provided their Bugle Major and 4 Buglers to sound some appropriate calls - including 'No More Parades Today'. The socially distanced event took place in Lady Darnley's garden and other present from the Rifles were Lt Gen Sir John Foley, Maj Ollie Bevan representing the Reserve, Maj Robert Wallbridge representing the ACF, Brian Cheasley representing the Association and Maj James Hereford representing the Museum. Members of Lady Darnley's family were also present as were some of her friends; Mr Edward Harley, her replacement as Lord Lieutenant and our new Patron was also present.



The Rifles farewell to Lady Darnley



Lady Darnley receives a birthday cake from her grand daughter - the buglers enjoyed a piece as well!

The officers' identification badge, worn on the centre of the rear of the uniform collar at Suvla Bay.



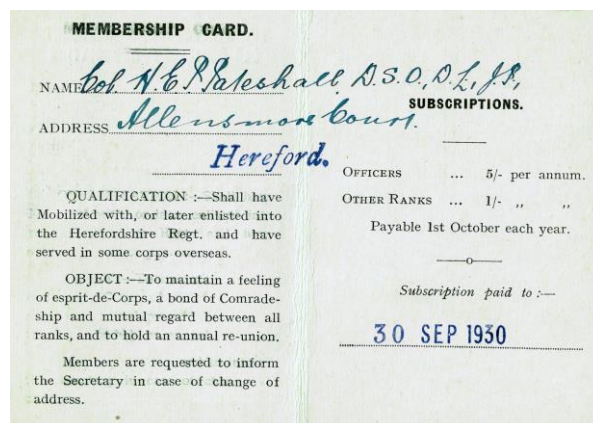
**The Camera Returns** - These photographs show members of The Herefordshire Regiment at Penally camp (Tenby) in 1940 and HWACF at their Annual camp in 2015. In 1940 the building behind the cars was the Officers Mess - in 2015 it was the All Ranks Club.



The Menu card from the 1935 Old Comrades Re-union Dinner held in the Town Hall.

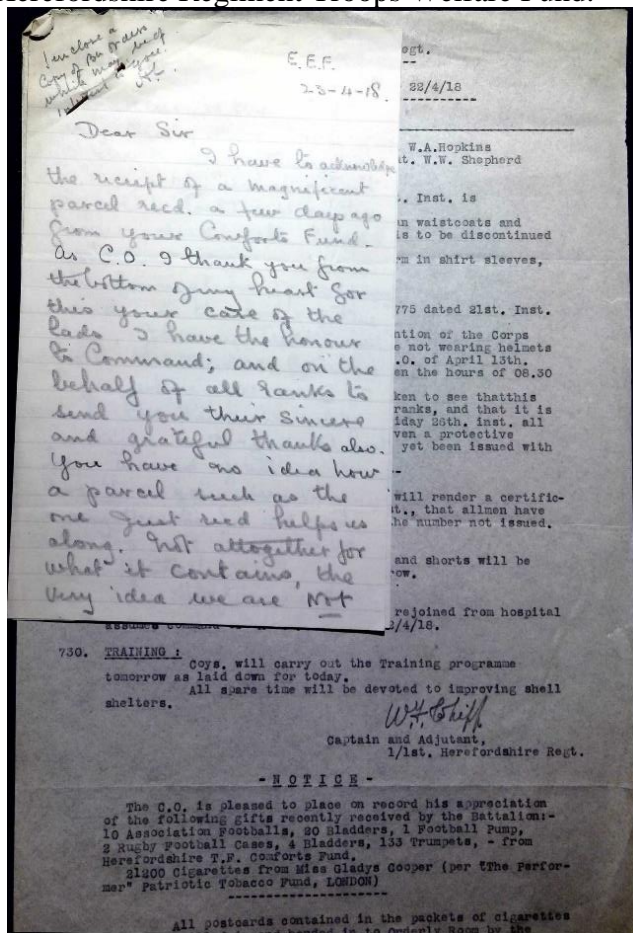


Lt Col Patteshall's OCA Membership card for 1930:





**World War One Comforts Fund** - Many items have been 'rediscovered' while reorganising the Museum store, included amongst these were some papers from Cllr GB Greenland who was Mayor of Hereford during the First World War relating to the Herefordshire Regiment Troops Welfare Fund.



A photograph of an unknown Herefordshire Regiment soldier from the first World War. He is wearing the chequerboard arm flash of the 34<sup>th</sup> Division - so it is taken after the Herefords move to the Western Front in July 1918. He is also wearing 4 overseas service stripes - one was issued for each year served overseas; it is therefore probable that this is one of the original Herefords who served continuously in Suvla Bay, the Middle East and the Western Front.



The following letter was found together/with 20 Commissioning Scrolls for officers Commissioned into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion in 1940. They included that of Sir James H Croft, the son of Sir Archer Croft killed in Action with the Herefords at Suvla Bay in 1915. Sir James was killed in Action in 1941 while attached to No 1 Army Commando.



TO: HEREFORD L.I. MUSEUM  
TA CENTRE  
HAROLD STREET  
HEREFORD  
HR 1 2 QX  
 Date 8 Jul 96

FROM: Ministry of Defence (MS Coord)  
 Government Buildings  
 London Road  
 STANMORE  
 Middlesex, HA7 4PZ  
 Telephone: Stanmore Mil  
 0181-424-7186

#### DISPOSAL OF UNDELIVERED COMMISSION 'PARCHMENTS'

1. The Military Secretary's Department still holds a very large number of commission 'parchments' made out during the period Nov 1938 - early 1940 which evidently were not sent to the officers concerned owing to the outbreak of war. There have been several attempts over the last fifty years to trace these officers and forward, however belatedly, their commissions, but you will appreciate what a massive clerical task this was and will not be surprised that some thousands remain.
2. It has now been decided to offer these commissions to regimental museums. There is no intention to pass on the task of tracing and forwarding, though if you do identify an officer, long since retired, there is no objection to your passing his commission to him. Those which, for any reason, are of no interest to your museum or archives, should be destroyed.
3. Commissions relating to  
Herefordshire Regt / L.I.  
 are forwarded herewith. Would you please acknowledge receipt.

C.M. CROWDEN  
 WO1 (SA)  
 for Military Secretary





The Officers Mess at Annual Camp (late 1950s/early 1960s):



The Sergeants Mess at Annual Camp (Plaisterdown 1962):