



Friends of the Herefordshire Light Infantry Museum



Newsletter

Number 17 - February 2023

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

At the end of this, again most unusual year, we hope you have kept well. The Museum's recovery from Covid was going well, as the Nation celebrated the Queens Platinum Jubilee the Museum was planning an open day to coincide with the National Heritage Open Day scheme. This was due to take place on Saturday 17th September, but was cancelled due to the death of our Late Queen.

We had held a 'soft' reopening on 23rd June for invited guests which went well and the reorganised museum displays attracted many positive comments. We plan to hold a 'full' public open day later in the year; the current planned date is Sunday 18 June – if any Friend could help in stewarding that day it would be appreciated.

The website continues to be popular with monthly updates. We have also launched the podcast, and our Curator and Secretary regularly podcast/cast (whatever the verb is!?) and are becoming seasoned broadcasters! We have also created a 'Patreon' support system, details are on the website and the scheme enables individuals to make a monthly donation to the Museum. Quite a few people have signed up, and they automatically become Friends and receive this newsletter.

The post WW2 display is proving popular and many items have been found in the back of garages and in attics, but the simplest items can provoke vivid memories – amongst many items donated are items from the compo ration pack – steak and kidney pudding, compo sausages, tin opener and toilet paper and NBC equipment!

We continue to receive interesting items and some of these are featured later in this newsletter.

So despite a frustrating year much has been achieved and 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.

The AGM was a hybrid event with the Committee meeting in person and members joining by 'Zoom'. This worked well and looks to become the model for future AGMs.

e-mail addresses:

If you have received a 'hard copy' of this newsletter and have an e-mail address please pass that address on to the secretary and save the Friends the cost of postage. The secretary can be contacted at: hfdlifriends@gmail.com

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
	Maj Robert Wallbridge
<i>Curator (ex officio):</i>	Col Andy Taylor

Dates For The Diary:

22 Apr	- Herefordshire Light Infantry Officers Dinner
17 Jun	- LI & Rifles Reunion (Shrewsbury)
17 Jun	- County Cadet Review
18 Jun (tbc)	- Museum Open Day
19 Jun	- Flag Raising, Armed Forces Week
Sept/Oct (tbc)	- AGM - due to dwindling attendance this again is expected to be a 'hybrid' event with the committee meeting in person and others 'zooming' is as desired.

This year we have lost 2 stalwart supporters of the Museum; Joan Hill, the widow of Tom who commanded the Herefordshire Light Infantry in the late 1950s and the founder of the Museum. Joan died aged 102, she was a regular attendee at Museum functions and a supporter of all things 'Rifles'. In her will she left a most generous bequest to the Museum. As the Museum is a registered charity this donation is exempt of Inheritance Tax; if any other friend would like to make a bequest then details can be obtained from the secretary.

The second loss was Martin Jolly, who after completing his National Service was Commissioned into the Herefordshire Light Infantry in the early 1950s. Again he attended most functions and was Chairman of the Friends from 2009 – 2020.

Requiescat In Pace

The Museum team continue to trawl through boxes of documents, photos and other pieces, many of which have never been recorded – I suspect due to time pressures and the seemingly insignificance of the items they were just 'put in a box'. It is interesting how these seemingly ordinary items are now of great interest and in many cases quite rare. An example is Berlin Travel Documents for a road party of 2 officers and 48 Other Ranks led by to Maj Peter Friend in September 1990.

The Summer started with the celebrations for Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and as part of the Queens Green Canopy initiative, a tree was planted in Suvla Barracks in January. The tree was planted by Maj Gen John Crackett the Chairman of the West Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association.



The death of Her Majesty signifies a change to many things – our secretary Revd Paul Roberts queued for 12 hours at the lying in state, and the Curator, as Rifles County Colonel was present at the County proclamation of King Charles III.



Our secretary looking reasonably fresh after a 12 hour stand in the queue approaching Westminster Hall.



The Proclamation of King Charles III outside the West Door at Hereford Cathedral.

The Museum was most fortunate to acquire, at auction the Territorial Force Efficiency Medal awarded to Regimental Number '1' Quarter Master Serjeant W Moore in 1912. QMS Moore was the senior volunteer soldier in the Battalion when the Territorial Force and the Herefordshire Regiment were formed in 1908. Soldiers received new regimental numbers and clearly numbers were allocated in order of seniority by rank. The medal was awarded for 12 years service. QMS Moore served with the Herefordshire Rifle Volunteers and retired at some time before the outbreak of war in 1914.

Little is currently known about him other than his name is on a Roll of Hereford men that 'transferred' to the new Territorial Force; he did not serve with the Herefords during World War One, but a similar named soldier, of the same age from Hereford did serve with the Royal Defence Corps, enlisting in August 1914. He did not serve overseas, was awarded the Silver War Badge and applied for a pension on the basis of Arthritis contracted as a result of military service.



The Museum was fortunate to receive from Councillor Ed O'Driscoll and excellent example of a World War One era Short Magazine Lee Enfield rifle, which is now on display. Ed, in his capacity as a producer, some years ago was putting on a show of Dad's Army and acquired 8 of these rifles to support the show and has been most generous in donation one to the Museum – Ed Thank you!

Another Efficiency was donated to the museum together with an intriguing story of how it was found!

The medal is the Efficiency Medal (Territorial) and is named to 4105427 Corporal AB Bassett of the Herefordshire Regiment. The Museum archives show that Cpl Arthur Brian Bassett, aged 23, a shop assistant of South Street Leominster joined The Herefordshire Regiment in May 1939. He was mobilised on the outbreak of war in September 1939 and served throughout the war rising to the rank of corporal - although details of his service are not known.

Barry Lindfield presented the medal to The Museum with a mystery behind it! The medal had been found by Barry's son David, buried at the roadside of the A49 main road just north of Leominster.



This photograph of the Officers on board HTS Euripides en route for Suvla Bay has recently been discovered in the archives of the Imperial War Museum – unfortunately there are no names attached to it!



It is only the second photograph known of the Herefordshire Regiment sailing to or at Gallipoli.

The other was given to the Museum by Reg Griffiths who had served with the Herefords at Suvla Bay and is of the Battalion transferring from ship to go ashore.



UNITED KINGDOM
СОЕДИНЕННОЕ КОРОЛЕВСТВО

Date 15 SEP 90
Число

MOVEMENT ORDER
ПУТЕВОЙ ЛИСТ

The following personnel and vehicles are authorised to proceed from Berlin to Helmstedt and return.
Ниследующий персонал и автомашины уполномочены следовать из Берлина в Гельмштедт и обратно.

(a) Personnel
Личный состав

(i) O.C. Transport
Начальник автотранспорта

(ii) Officers
Офицеров

(iii) Other ranks
Радовых

(b) Transport
Автотранспорт

(c) Freight
Груз

(i) _____

(ii) _____

(iii) 1

(iv) _____

(v) _____

(vi) _____

(vii) _____

MAJ FRIEND P.N.
2
48

8 TON
1

1345
1550
ВЫЕСД

Vehicles with weapons
Машины с оружием

Vehicles with ammunition
Машины с боеприпасами

Vehicles with equipment
Машины со снаряжением

Vehicles with clothing
Машины с обмундированием

Vehicles with technical stores
Машины с техническим имуществом

Vehicles with rations, etc.
Машины с продовольственными пр.

Empty vehicles
Машины без нагрузки

Commandant British Sector Berlin
Командант Британского Сектора г. Берлина

Signature Rose G...
Major General

Подпись

КПП Марш-Сторн
ВЫЕСД

BERLIN

Maj Friend's Berlin Travel Documents



Her Majesty visiting Ledbury in 1957, with 2 unidentified officers of the Herefordshire Light Infantry in the background.

The Museum is developing a small display which shows the broader military connection of Herefordshire and Herefordians. Two displays will be:

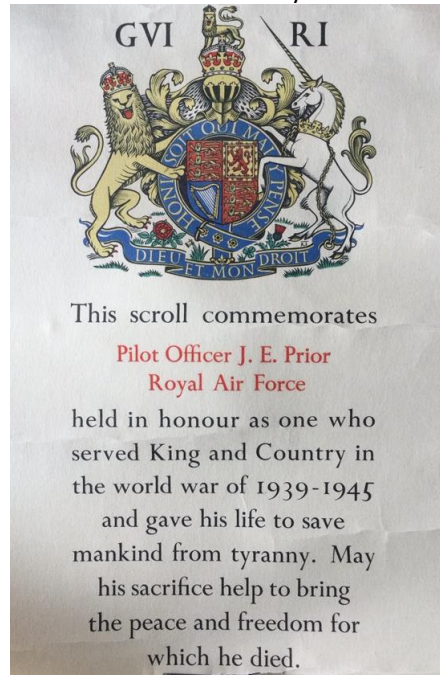
During the Second World War The Royal Hospital Chelsea was evacuated to Herefordshire and was established in Rudhall Manor near Ross on Wye; 3 pensioners are buried locally.



The second is The Prior family's World War 2 Medals. There are 4 groups of medals – only 2 are identifiable to brothers who both served in the RAF and were killed flying over Germany with Bomber Command.



The medals of 173394 Pilot Officer Jack Edgar Prior of 12 Squadron RAF, died 31 March 1944 and buried in Hanover War Cemetery.



How many people remember the panoramic targets? Used principally for target indication. Several were discovered in one of the boxes!

