



AIM

To maintain knowledge within the County of Surrey's Infantry Regiments
from 1661 to the present Day

FOSIM – Tony Ward

NEWSLETTER – TRUSTEE REPORT

I attended a meeting of the PWRR Museum Trustees at Dover Castle on 17th April, and this report summarises the main points from the meeting.

As you will read in Stephen Johnson's report, Tony Ward, Stephen and I met the Guildford Council (GBC) Development Director and Heritage Manager recently, to discuss their plans for redeveloping Guildford Museum and our place in it. It very much remains the intention of GBC to have a permanent SIM presence in the museum, and as you will read elsewhere we have already provided exhibitions and with more to come. Unfortunately, however, in carrying out work on the existing museum buildings in Quarry Street, problems have emerged with the load bearing capacity of the building structures and also with other works that are required. All that work needs to be completed before SIM can occupy the office space earmarked for us. We were told that SIM should definitely be able to occupy that office in the museum by the end of 2019. At the meeting of the PWRR Trustees, our continued occupation of the office at Surrey History Centre until the end of 2019 was agreed. The rental cost of a larger office at Guildford Museum than had originally been planned was also agreed by the Trustees; this larger office can take three/four desks and includes a small storage area.

I was unable to attend a meeting on 9th April of the GBC Economy and Infrastructure Executive Advisory Board, but Tony Ward and Stephen Johnson did. It is pleasing to know that at that public meeting wholehearted support was pledged by Committee members to building the museum extension. Over £6M has been allocated by GBC for the work, leaving around £2M to be raised, but GBC have a clear idea of some of the potential sources to help make up that deficit.

At the Dover Castle PWRR and Queen's Museum, Op Revitalise has started to gather momentum. The committee formed under Col Patrick Crowley to oversee the work has engaged a consultancy to carry out design and costing work. We had a presentation from the consultant doing that work and there is no doubt that the refurbished museum should provide an informative and stimulating visitor experience. Currently the work to refurbish the museum is estimated to cost around

£0.5M. Col Crowley's committee recently met representatives from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to discuss the outline plans, with the intention of making a bid to the HLF for a substantial amount of the total cost. Last year Dover Harbour Board

donated £10,000, on the understanding the PWRR Museum Trustees matched that amount, which they did. The Queen's Regimental Association has pledged a substantial amount, and the PWRR Museum Trustees agreed at the 17th April meeting to donate £50,000. Other significant donations have also been made and the Op Revitalise Committee continues to look for further donors.

Finally, I would like to thank Stephen Johnson and our team of dedicated volunteers, who continue to do such fine work identifying, cataloguing and ribboning the restored medals.

David Pollard - MUSEUM MANAGEMENT and TRUSTEES

The Queens Royal Surrey Reunion at the Union Jack Club

2018 QRS Reunion

Date for diary this year is **12.00 - 4pm on Saturday 10th November 2018** at The Union Jack Club. Application forms available from Surrey Infantry Museum. Tickets will be sent out from late May. All QRS matters are to be sent to Dee Hutchison at the email address below. Tickets will be sent out in Sep 18. Any non-receipt please email below.

fosim@btconnect.com

WW1 Battlefield Tour 14 – 17th May 2018

Those who have booked for the Battlefield Tour should now have received their itinerary as well as other information. If this has not arrived by 6st May please contact Dee

fosim@btconnect.com

Calling all WW2 Italian Campaign Veterans

Do you know of anyone who would either like to attend a 75th anniversary lunch or be willing to have recorded their experience on the Italian campaign from Sep 1943?

On 29th September 2018 we are holding a Salerno Lunch and would like to invite WW2 Veterans to come along. No we are not worried about what Regiment – Just to be able to have their chance to tell their story. This is now a ticketed event and being held at the Farnham Army Reserve Centre. See Lecture Lunch for more details.

Contact Dee at fosim@btconnect.com if you know of anyone who could join in on this day. WW2 Veterans at no cost.

East Surrey Reunion

The East Surrey Reunion will take place at Whitely Village Hall on 13th October 2018 - 1-5pm. Please contact Dee at fosim@btconnect.com for ticket information.

The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru

A film is being made of the sinking of the Lisbon Maru to ensure that the 828 British prisoners of war who perished in the disaster are not forgotten, nor all the other British and allied servicemen who fought in the Far East. Please see the flyer attached and if you know of any one please contact them directly and not through the FOSIM office.

Royal British Legion Calling All WW2 Veterans

If you are a WW2 Veteran or know someone who is please see attached letter where Veterans can travel free. Please contact them direct.

Museum Report – April 2018

Spring at Last?

The Museum has been working steadily through what has felt like an unusually cold, wet and dreary winter. With regard to restoration of items recovered from the fire I



think we are now at the stage of the process where most of the straight forward work has been done. Restoration of the medals has been 'easy' compared to more intricate, delicate or multi-part objects such as Regimental silverware and trophies. However, the Lovelace

Trophy (mentioned briefly in the September 2017 update) is now back in our possession and the transformation is, indeed, astonishing. This gives us confidence that many more items will be restorable after all and we are very grateful to Farcroft for creating the tankard as a 'test piece' and subsequently waiving their fee for the work.

This success led us to search through the 3000 photos of damaged items and select ninety 'key' pieces for the Farcroft craftsmen to evaluate the viability and cost of repair. The exercise is now complete and work is underway on sixty of the items following authorisation to proceed from the Loss Adjuster. The remaining thirty items have estimated repair costs in excess of their insurance value: these will be placed in storage and worked on when, and if, funding is available. (There are, of course, many hundreds more objects awaiting attention.)



Safe and Sound



The office safe from Clandon has finally been 'cracked'. Specialist contractors came from Portsmouth in December and opened the safe through a combination of drills, angle grinder, jemmys and brute force. Although it was totally destroyed in the process, the safe yielded its secrets.





including the memorial plaque for John McNamara VC, some undamaged Orders, £120 in charred bank-notes and, most importantly, the key to the safety deposit box containing the Musum's seven VCs and one GC medal groups. This allowed us to carry out our annual VC audit and I can report that the medals are safe and sound.

David Pollard checking the VCs

Guildford Museum

Negotiations continue with Guildford Borough Council regarding office and display space in Guildford Museum (GM). Complications arising from remedial works on the various GM buildings have resulted in a further delay to SIM taking the office space it has been offered. It is now unlikely that the office in GM will be available until late in 2019. Whilst this is disappointing, with respect to our administrative functions we will simply continue to operate out of the Surrey History Centre in Woking. On April 6 the Trustees and I had our long-awaited meeting with the GBC Head of Environment who is responsible for Guildford's Heritage Services, including GM. Mr O'Connell reassured us that despite delays the GM development would be going ahead, funds had been reserved for the project and that SIM remained very much part of the plans.



Meanwhile on the ground SIM delivered an extremely well-received exhibition in the GM main gallery. Scheduled to run from November 2017 for two months, the exhibition was extended until the first week of February 2018. A Civic Reception was held in the gallery during December attended by the current and former Mayors, Councillors and others from the heritage community.



We were delighted that Ashley Clarke, Managing Director of Farcroft, took the trouble to come from Walsall just to attend the event.



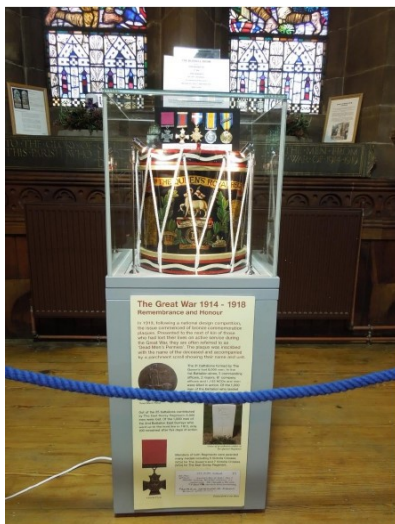
SIM plans to work with GM to put on a joint exhibition this autumn, covering the end of the Great War and the Armistice. In the meantime we have been allocated permanent display space in one of the first floor rooms. After a short delay caused by the inclement weather we built and

installed fixtures in these two display cases during March. The first set of exhibits were put in place in early April: the display space naturally divides into four sections allowing different topics to occupy each area. We plan to update at least one of these areas every three months to keep the display fresh and, hopefully, attract repeat visitors.



Victoria Cross Centenary Commemorations

There are four men between the Queen's and East Surreys who were awarded VC's during 1918. SIM holds the original medal groups for two of these recipients, Lt Col Christopher Bushell and Corporal John McNamara. The first ceremony was held in memory of Pte. Jack Harvey at Islington Green on March 21 closely



followed by Lt Col Bushell's three days later in Neston, Cheshire. We had hoped to be able to take the original Bushell medals to put on display and purchased a museum grade plinth cabinet for the purpose. Unfortunately, although insurance was available to cover the medals on site, arrangements for transporting them proved unworkable due to the insurer insisting they be carried in an armoured van! However, some quick action to recreate the medal group with replicas saved the day and the SIM display was warmly received by both the local dignitaries and over fifty members of the extended Bushell family.



After the ceremony the Mayor of Neston presented the unveiling cloth to the Museum for its collection.

The final two recipients' ceremonies are both in September, L.Cpl. John Sayer (Croydon) and Cpl. John McNamara (Leyland, Lancashire).

Other News

We continue to offer educational visits and our travelling display at external events. Captain Chatfield and Corporal Martin were in attendance at Burgh Heath Memorial Hall in February and Lanesborough School, Guildford in March.



We were pleased to assist 4PWRR by providing a small selection of medals, badges and buckles relating to the 31st Huntingdons to put on show for the new battalion's inaugural Sobraan Dinner.

The Museum has accepted a steady trickle of donated 'new' items including a few sets of medals. Probably the most interesting piece received was sent to us by a French metal detectorist. Private Johnson's Queen's bedplate, dating to the late 1930s, was uncovered in a wood in Eastern Normandy.

The finder assumed that it was lost during the 1944 campaign during the advance towards Paris but initial research suggests Johnson was captured in



1940 and spent the rest of the war as a POW in Poland. We shall probably never know how it came to be where it was found.....

Finally I am eagerly anticipating the upcoming Battlefield Tour in May: it is currently fully subscribed with a waiting list. Most of the people who came on the 2016 tour will be on the coach and I am looking forward to another fascinating trip in friendly and knowledgeable company.

Vel Exuviae Triumphans

Lunch Club at Surrey History Centre

“meet old and new friends, come to lunch”

Luncheon Club

Lecture Lunches are continuing and we have four events confirmed for this year. We must thank the speakers who give their time freely and for those who turn up to support the events.

Our lectures started with one of the two 75th Anniversary we have this year. Stephen Johnson kicked off with the story of Medenine to Marth - 1943 and in September will be the Start of the Italian Campaign. The Salerno lunch will be a sit down event and a hot buffet lunch provided. The costs will increase for this event but hope as the whole regimental family is invited that you will support this event. It is to be held in the Army Reserve Center at Farnham by the kind permission of Lt Col Baker. We will shortly be sending out proforma for attendance as you will need an actual ticket as there is place settings at tables.

New to our lecture scene this year on 28th Jun is Andrew Maclehose who will be talking about his grandfather Lt Col Bushell VC. We are also hoping to have a special guest star as well. Dates for calendar are:-

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| 28 th June 2018 | Andrew Maclehose - Lt Col Bushell VC - WW1 Surrey History Centre |
| 29 th Sep 2018 Anniversary | Lt Col (Retd) Peter Swanson Salerno - 75 th of the Landings Farnham ARC |
| 29th Nov 2018 | Peter Matthews Secret Intelligence |

Luncheon Club - Proforma

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|---|--|
| 28 th June 2018 £12.50..... | Andrew Maclehose - Lt Col Bushell VC - WW1 Surrey History Centre |
| 29 th Sep 2018 | Lt Col (Retd) Peter Swanson Salerno - 75 th Anniversary of the Landings Surrey History Centre £17.50..... |
| 29th Nov 201 | Peter Matthews - Secret Intelligence Surrey History Centre £12.50..... |

Name -----

Email/Address/ Phone if not FOSIM Member

In case of short notice cancellation

Cheque amounts enclosed for ----- Tickets Cost £-----

Please note you can send separate cheques for each buffet lunch. They will not be cashed until the lunch date is due so can pre date.

Arrive for Pre- lunch Museum update for 12.30pm for lunch at 13.00PM

Guests are welcome to attend and do not have to members of FOSIM.

Dietary requirements (if any)
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