



Surrey Infantry Museum

Museum Newsletter - Oct 2016

Volume 1 Issue 11

AIM

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

FOSIM – Tony Ward

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It will be 50 years in December since the demise of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and formation of The Queen's Regiment. It is truly remarkable that the Surrey Regimental spirit is maintained so strongly especially so since the destruction of our "Home" Surrey Infantry Museum at Clandon House. It is very appropriate that tribute is paid to those who voluntary have kept that Spirit alive.

Lt Col Les Wilson MBE who master-minded the construction of our truly comprehensive website which tells the history so well. During this period of commemoration of First World War many have visited the War Diaries on the website.

Our gratitude must also go to all those who have given so much time to the Museum. In spite of the fire at Clandon. It has been good to see the Museum Stand at many events during the summer. Likewise thank you to Ian Chatfield who has continued to give many talks on our Regiment. I am delighted that Ian has been asked and he has accepted to be a Trustee of The Queen's Surrey Combined Charities. He is a remarkable Regimental Historian. It must not have been easy for Stephen Johnson seeing the Museum being destroyed after only 4 months as the curator. Stephen has been a steady, clear headed and very loyal. You will see elsewhere in this Newsletter that plans for the future are starting to be identified. Nothing is certain yet but Stephen has done much to help bring this about. Likewise David Pollard who became a Trustee of the Museum only just before the fire has been very active in getting things going. Lastly thank you all the volunteers for your patience and commitment.

Dee also managed our very successful Battlefield Tour in May. Herding some 32 independent minded amateur historians is harder than herding Chickens. We visited Montauban and walked the ground where 8 East Surreys carried out their successful "Football Attack" and laid a wreath on Captain Billie Nevill's grave. We also followed in the footsteps of Michael More – Molyneaux's Grandfather who was commanding 2 Queen's on the Somme. Michael is currently Lord Lieutenant of Surrey. Ian was also able to identify the spot where Michaels's Uncle won his DSO. We later laid a wreath on his grave. We also walked Beaucourt-sur-Ancre where Lt Col Freyburg Queen's Commanding Hood Battalion won his VC. Our guides were Lt Col Philip Pearce (Ex Co 5 Queen's) who gave the big picture and Ian Chatfield who told us about the actions of our former Regiments. FOSIM is planning a third and final WW1 tour in 2018.

It is good to see The 5 Queen's Re-unions being so well attended and also the East Surrey Reunion. Thank you John Broome and family for organising it so well over many years. Thank you all for your support and especially Dee for acting so well as Editor and Secretary of FOSIM. A very Happy Christmas to you all.

Surrey Infantry Museum

Surrey History Centre,
130 Goldsworth Road,
Woking, Surrey
GU21 6ND

Tel: 01483 770761

email:

fosim@btconnect.com

David Pollard - MUSEUM MANAGEMENT and TRUSTEES

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER – TRUSTEE REPORT

Since the last Newsletter, and as reported here by Stephen Johnson, our discussions with Guildford Council have gone well and been very constructive. It has been reassuring to know that Guildford Council are very keen that SIM be a part of a revamped Guildford Museum, both now and when the museum is extended. We hope to move the SIM office into Guildford Museum by the end of January 2017; A display has been created for this November and a larger one planned for mid-2017 within Guildford Museum. The next steps will be to establish the length of our lease along with the terms and conditions, and the all-important matter of rent.

The last meeting of the Trustees was held in April and mainly discussed routine matters and the annual accounts for the PWRR Museum Trust. The next meeting is this November, when I anticipate representatives of our insurers Ecclesiastical Insurance, their loss adjuster and the lawyers retained by Ecclesiastical, will all be present. The lawyers have recently asked the National Trust for various pieces of information. It is probable that answers will not yet have been provided, but the Trustees may hopefully get a better idea of how Ecclesiastical see matters unfolding in the future, and that will include consideration of the SIM uninsured losses. To date Ecclesiastical have paid us just under £100,000 for items it was certain had been lost in the fire. As Stephen Johnson again outlines below, once a visit has been made to the restorers (Farcrofts) appointed by Ecclesiastical, we will then be in a better position to know what was rescued (and thus what was definitely lost!), as well as deciding if there are items which it is not worth restoring and for which we will receive the insured valuation.

It is gratifying to know that people are still, as Stephen details later, donating items to the museum; on behalf of the Trustees I would like to formally record our grateful thanks for that support. This should mean that once the museum is back on its feet there should be sufficient artefacts to “tell a good story”. Finally, I should like to pay tribute to our volunteers, who continue to support the museum in difficult circumstances, and whose enthusiasm is an object lesson in how not to let a calamitous event get you down.

Regimental dates for your diaries

5th November unveiling of a Commemorative plaque and Stone Richmond in honour of Lt Gen Freyburg VC DSO starting 8 Dynevor Rd at 10.45 followed by civic reception. All welcome but email Dee for further details if you wish to attend.

11th Nov Queen’s Surrey Reunion - Union Jack Club -18.30 – contact Dee.

23rd September 2017 – Presentation New Colours to 1, 2 and 3 PWRR at Canterbury to mark 25th Anniversary. More details to follow.

The Queens Royal Surrey Reunion at the Union Jack Club

2016 Reunion

Date for diary this year is 18.30 on **11th November 2016** at The Union Jack Club.

Application forms available from Surrey Infantry Museum. Tickets have been sent out from late Sep. If not received then please let Dee Hutchison know. All QRS matters are to be sent to Dee Hutchison at the email address below.

fosim@btconnect.com

FOSIM Membership - Dee Hutchison

There has been a significant drop off in payment made to the Friends this year. Please can I ask that if you want to continue to remain a Friend and receive a newsletter that your £10.00 cheque is sent on to Dee Hutchison. We will be contacting a few personally where there has been no communication to chase this up in November and December this year. We quite understand if you wish to no longer be a Friend but we are on the road to a new museum as you will see in the Curators report further on.

Email:

We are using these for quick updates on the Museum and other events here at the SHC - so if you have an email address and have not provided it please do so. We do not pass your details on without prior permission. Also please advise when email changes I am getting a few bounce backs per newsletter or email sent out.

50 YEARS AGO

At the end of 1966 the independent life of 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment was brought to a close on 31st Dec with a Redesignation Parade at Oxford Barracks, Munster, West Germany. On that day it became the 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Surreys). The other Regiment in what was known as the "Home Counties Brigade" became: 2nd Bn The Queen's (Queen's Own Buffs), 3rd Bn The Queen's Regiment (Royal Sussex) and 4th Bn The Queen's Regiment (The Middlesex). This amalgamation had taken place with the agreement of The Colonels of the respective Regiments knowing that severe defence cuts were being planned.



Under its new title The Queens, the Battalion marched past the Brigade Commander. Colonel JW Sewell was the Commanding Officer. During the Parade the Pioneer Platoon change every signboard in the Barracks leaving no evidence of the old title.

It was not until the following year that the TA Battalions who suffered severe cuts were reorganised and redesignated as well under the cap badge of The Queens.

Museum Report - Stephen Johnson

Collection, cleaning and cataloguing

Looking back over the time since the fire it feels as though we have been through two distinct phases, both for the Museum and the National Trust. Firstly, the aftermath, inquest and enabling works: by the end of 2015 the official cause of the fire had been established, the structure at Clandon Park stabilised and the building prepared for the salvage operation. During this time the Museum moved to its temporary home in Woking, worked with other organisations to highlight the need for disaster planning and attempted to maintain a high public profile.



been completely cleared.

The decontamination (of several cubic metres of material) began in August: Farcroft has invited Museum staff to come to their workshops in mid-October to monitor progress. We expect during this visit to be able to physically handle the newly-cleaned artefacts, search for some of the key pieces that we hope have survived and to begin the process of cataloguing and cross-referencing to the Museum records.

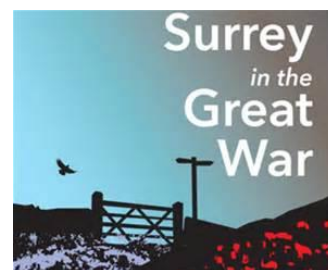
Although the majority of material remains with Farcroft, we have received a consignment of restored medals. Approximately 400 medals, cleaned, re-ribboned and individually boxed were delivered to Woking in June: on inspection only 10 were set aside for further minor remedial work giving us confidence in Farcroft's efforts – albeit, so far we have only seen items that had been subjected to superficial damage.

Preparing for the future

One of the silver linings of the cloud that was the destruction of the Museum is the strengthening of our relationship with the Surrey History Centre during 2016: not just the provision of an office from which to operate and an area to store the increasing amount of new material but also advice, a venue for the lecture lunches and practical support to boost the Museum's public profile.

In all likelihood we shall be moving out Woking over the next few months, however we will still be working closely with the SHC in the future on education programmes, community engagement and in particular the excellent 'Surrey in the Great War: A County Remembers' project.

The second phase, involving clearance of the debris from the house and the treatment of recovered items, started in earnest at the beginning of 2016. Whilst the archaeologists painstakingly sifted through the ashes, meticulously recording their finds, the National Trust announced their plans for Clandon's future, which did not include any provision for the Museum. Over the spring and summer, artefacts identified as Museum property were transported to the facilities of Farcroft, our restoration company based in the Midlands, for storage prior to cleaning. This recovery process is now over and Clandon has



Starting from a few days after the fire we have received consistent backing from Guildford Borough Council (both elected members and officers), firstly in the practical form of temporary office space, but more importantly in support of the objective of re-establishing the Museum within the County and preferably within the Borough.

Guildford Museum (GM), located in a range of converted domestic buildings on the southern boundary of the Castle Grounds in the centre of town, has been allocated funds for refurbishment and expansion. We have had a series of meetings with GM over the summer to explore the possibility of SIM moving into the enlarged building. The project is currently at 'RIBA Stage 2 – *Concept Design*': this means that an architect has been appointed and is working on outline proposals for structural design (in layman's terms, 'how can we fit what we need to fit on this site given the available budget?') We understand that construction work will probably not begin before 2018, however SIM has been invited to participate in the planning process to ensure that there will be suitable permanent gallery space in the finished building for the infantry museum. Due to the limited space available on site (even after expansion) we expect to be working with an area approximately the size of the Onslow Room back at Clandon.



Meanwhile, GM is making office space available in the existing buildings and we hope to move in before the end of January 2017. We are also producing a small display, concentrating on events on the day of the fire, for the GM's 'Community Cabinet', which will be on show during November 2016. This will be followed by a much larger exhibition in the main gallery over the summer of 2017 covering the history of SIM, the relationship of the forebear Regiments with the County and our plans for the future.

Donations and New Material

We continue to receive donations of items and cash for which we are most grateful. Many thanks again to all who have made donations (and my apologies to Brigadier Perrett-Young for inadvertently omitting his title in the last report).

Space precludes mention of everything we have received but here are a few noteworthy items:



The battle-dress tunic worn by Sgt. Andrew Jones 1/5th QRR during the Berlin Victory Parade in July 1945.



Lord Astor's cap from his time as Honorary Colonel of the 23rd London Regiment (The East Surrey Regiment).



The medal group of Pte. A B G Martin 1t Bn (ESR) including the MM awarded for his actions at Tebourba in November 1942.

A large collection of papers and memorabilia from the Sellick estate including medals awarded to various members of the family who served in the Queen's during the Boer War, Great War, WW2 and post-war. Also the Silver Cross of Merit with Swords, a Polish decoration given to Mabel Sellick who was General Sikorski's driver while he was based in the UK.



As before, for those FOSIM members who have access to the internet, I shall be using the Museum Facebook page to keep the SIM community up to date with the latest news.

[\(https://www.facebook.com/Surrey-Infantry-Museum-227378470733863/\)](https://www.facebook.com/Surrey-Infantry-Museum-227378470733863/)

Finally, I would like to reiterate my thanks to the Trustees, volunteers, FOSIM members and others who have supported the Museum over the last eighteen months and help us get to a point where we can be more optimistic about its longer-term future.

Champion Cadet of the Year 2016 – Cadet RSM LAWLESS – PWRR ACF



Our congratulations goes to Cadet RSM Lawless of Surrey ACF PWRR as she has just been awarded ACF Champion Cadet 2016. She did extremely well on the competition which involves the best cadets of each county competing across a range of disciplines. RSM Lawless has also been offered a four year apprenticeship from the Livery of Coopers. Well done from us all.

Commemorations – Over 100 Years ago

We have had a very intrepid explorer within our Friends and who has very kindly laid wreaths and/or crosses in cemeteries in a few out of reach destinations. Firstly at Gallipoli WW1 where the 2/4th Queens were in Aug 1915 and then at Salerno WW2 where a few of the Battns served. Our thanks goes to Lt Col John White - Commandant of the ACF for doing this on our behalf.



The view over Gallipoli from Beach C
Where the 2/4th Queens landed in Aug 1915



Laying of the wreath at Green Hill Cemetery



Pte Addams - Queens Royal Regiment - Salerno War Cemetery

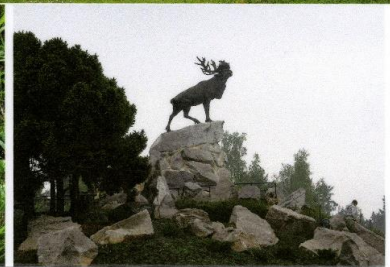
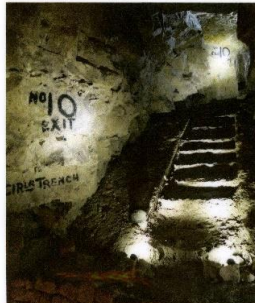
75 YEARS AGO - 2nd Battalion Queens - Tobruk

Tobruk is a port city in Libya and in early 1941 it was an Italian military post until the Australian 6th division took Tobruk in January 1941. The Australian 9th Division pulled back to Tobruk in April 1941 and they became known as the 'Rats of Tobruk'. The Australians became sieged within the city by German and Italian forces with food and water having to be bought in from the Med. In September 1941 the 2nd Battn arrived and became part of 16th Brigade. The task of the brigade was to allow the Tobruk garrison to break out. This met with great opposition from the enemy with heavy losses on both sides. A corridor was created to allow the breakout and this was heavily defended by every available anti-tank weapon possible. Battles continued throughout the months of October and November and it was not until early December that the General Goodwin-Austin sent his signal "Tobruk is relieved and so am I" The Queens response to this was "Tobruk wasn't relieved; it bloody well relieved itself.". The Battalion was left with the nasty job of clearing up the Sidi Rezegh battlefield. Tobruk finally fell to the Germans in June 1942.

Battlefield Tour 2016.

Montage by Steve Johnson

Again the intrepid Friends went off on Tour - this time to explore the area of the Somme where the East Surrey's and Queens were sited. This was a more humbling experience than the previous tour as many of those on board had wreaths and crosses to lay for family members along the way. Our thanks to the Padre Christopher Tuckwell who spoke timely words at the cemeteries. It was not all solemn we had a brilliant time with guides Phillip Pearce and Ian Chatfield who brought the battlefields, its people and villages alive for this period. For those not on Tour this time please consider coming on the final tour in Sep 2018.



SURREY INFANTRY MUSEUM SOMME TOUR MAY 2016

Preparing to descend into the tunnels under Arras

Exit 10 from the Arras tunnels to within metres of the German line, 1917

Examining the remains of Pozieres windmill

Memorial to the 38th (Welsh) Division, Mametz Wood

Lewis gun magazine by the side of the path, Heninel

Monument to the Newfoundlanders, Beaumont-Hamel

Restored trenches at Thiepval Wood

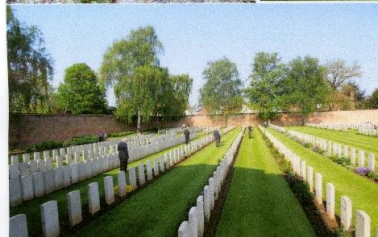
Approaching the Thiepval Memorial

'Billie' Nevill about to go over the top with footballs, Albert Museum

Faubourg d'Amiens Military Cemetery, Arras

'We few, we happy few, we band of brothers...'

'Herbert' on tour



Lunch Club at Clandon

“meet old and new friends, come to lunch”

Luncheon Club

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

Our Christmas lecture sees the return of the author John Lewis Stempel who gives his time freely to us. He talks on his new book and this will be available at a discounted price on the day and he will sign it for you as well.

Also on the 23rd Nov 16 we will be having a book sale. Many people have donated military and other types of books for us to raise funds for the new museum. Thanks you very much for doing this - as they say every little helps.

In March 17 our Curator, Stephen, steps forward and talks about the 2/4th Queens and their little known time in Palestine.

23rd Nov 2016	John Lewis Stempel - Where Poppies Blow Surrey History Centre - Woking
28th March 2017	Steve Johnson - 2nd/4th Queens in Palestine 1917 - Gaza to Jerusalem'. Community Room - Guildford Fire Station
27th June 2017	Waiting confirmation
26th Sep 2017	Waiting confirmation

Luncheon Club - Proforma

23 rd Nov 2016	John Lewis Stempel - Where Poppies Blow Surrey History Centre - Woking	No..... Cost £12.50
28 th March 2017	Steve Johnson - 2nd/4th Queens in Palestine 1917 Gaza to Jerusalem'. Community Room - Guildford Fire Station	No Cost £7 .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).....

Please return to:-

Dee Hutchison - Secretary
Surrey Infantry Museum, Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking,
Surrey, GU21 6ND

Phone and fax: 01483 770761
email: fosim@btconnect.com