



AIM

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

FOSIM – Tony Ward

April 2022

It is worth summarising where we are now. We have a substantial sum of money in the bank. We have a superb Medal Display in the Research Room at the Surrey History Centre. We also have a display in the foyer of the Surrey History Centre and as you will see in Catherine's report a display in the Guildford Museum; so things are moving forward.

With the easing of COVID restrictions activities can be resumed after the two-year pause. The Battlefield tour, tracing the footsteps of the Queen's Royal Regiment and the East Surrey Regiments in Northern France and Belgium during 1940 will now take place between the 10th and 13th of May. There are still a few vacancies for anyone who wishes to come. Anyone who has worn the PWRR cap badge or any of its' forebear regiments will be subsidised by £100. This includes partners.

It is also good that Reunions are now being planned again. We had our first FOSIM lunch and talk on 9th March when Peter Swanson talked about the Regiments action in the Gallipoli Campaign. Over 30 attended and enjoyed getting together. The next one on the 30th of April at the Farnham Reserve Centre at lunchtime will be under the auspices of the PWRR and Queen's West Surrey Association. This function will take the place of the Queens Royal Surrey reunion previously held at the Union Jack Club and also 5 OMA dinner. All are welcome. Do contact D Hutchison if you would like to attend.

Lastly, another date for your Diaries. Do consider getting a party together. On the 17th September *Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark*, Royal Colonel in Chief of the PWRR will be presenting Colours to the 4th Battalion the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment who's headquarters is in Redhill and A Company at Farnham. The parade will take place at Whale Island the home of the Royal Navy Gunnery School with historical Connections with the Queen's Royal Regiment. It will be an opportunity for all who have served in the PWRR and Veterans of forebear Regiments to celebrate the 30th birthday of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. Do think about attending, details will be distributed in due course. It will be a very special occasion.

May I wish you all a very happy summer lots of good reunions and getting back to some normality once Mr Putin is put back in his box.

Maj (Retd) David Pollard - MUSEUM MANAGEMENT and TRUSTEES

There was a meeting of PWRR Museum Trustees on 7th December 2021 at RHQ. This was the first face-to-face meeting since Covid struck, but four of us, including me, elected to take part virtually. Henry Thomas, the Museum Director, reported that work to change the status of the Trust to that of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation continues. Sir Tim Chessells stepped down as a Trustee, having started as a Queen's Royal Surrey Trustee; he has been replaced by James Beeston, ex PWRR and who now

works in the City as an investment specialist. Henry Thomas reported he had met English Heritage (EH) to talk about the Dover Museum roof and also the length of the

Dover Museum lease – EH are well aware the roof needs repairs and are also aware the museum needs a longer lease (of perhaps up to 25 years) if the Trust is to embark on the costs of revitalising and refurbishing the Dover Museum. The Dover Museum has continued with a number of out-reach projects, and has also installed a contactless terminal for donations which has proved successful. During 2021 RHQ PWRR used ARC consultants to investigate a possible change of investment manager for the PWRR investments, and as a result in December moved the management of all PWRR funds from Barclays to Sarasin; the Museum Trust's funds will also move at the same time to be managed by Sarasin.

In January the Trustees held a virtual meeting at short notice to discuss an offer made to settle the uninsured losses claim from the Clandon fire; also present were our lawyer from BLM and Ecclesiastical Insurance. This resulted from a settlement offer made in early November and which was then increased just before Christmas. The Trustees unanimously decided to accept the offer as the alternative was to move to Court action, carrying the possibility of considerable costs and with no certainty of an increase (and at worst possibly even a decrease) in the offer under discussion. The Trustees decided that to do anything other than to accept the offer was a risk they could not take. Whilst the sum is considerable, it can obviously never make up for the destruction of a remarkable museum.

It has been some six years to get to this point. Tony Ward raised the whole uninsured loss issue soon after the fire and then spent many hours searching the deepest and darkest recesses of his computer hard drive for invoices from the 2001 and 2010 Clandon refurbishments. If it were not for Tony raising the uninsured issue, the Trust would never have got this money. Steve Johnson played a crucial role in drawing together all the information for both the insured and uninsured losses; it was many hours of detailed and painstaking work. Steve also drew up a list of 10 unique items (including the Nevill football, the Grenadier Cap, Lord Howe's desk and the Carlisle figures) which although insured we believed were undervalued. He then set about trying to get valuations for these items to bolster the uninsured loss claim. One of the unique items was the Qing Vase, which an academic had pointed out to

Steve some months after the fire, was a rare and expensive piece. After some work we managed to get a local ceramics expert to value the vase at £300,000, but we were regularly challenged by our lawyers to prove that valuation. Last year, in attempting to bolster the valuation, I found examples of auction sales of similar Qing vases – amongst them was a sale in August 2021 in Hampshire for £550,000 (the valuation was £15,000!) and in Ireland in 2020 one sold for €1.2 million (the valuation was €800!). I am deeply grateful to Tony and Steve for all that they did to enable the Trust to recoup some of the loss SIM suffered.

Finally, yet again, I would like to thank the volunteers for their unstinting and loyal support.

Museum Matters by Dr Catherine Fabian

It has been a busy few months for the Surrey Infantry Collection. In February, we launched our new display programme at Guildford Museum, titled 'Soldiers of Surrey: Stories from The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment'. It is in the double display cabinet that Guildford Museum have kindly let us use for many years now, in the Trade and Industry room. The first half of the display gives a brief overview of the history of the regiment and its connections to Guildford. The second half features a series of case studies of soldiers from The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, The Queen's Royal Regiment, and The East Surrey Regiment, to be updated approximately every six months.

The first of these case studies, which is currently on display, is of Jesse Peters, former Town Crier of Guildford and soldier of The Queen's Royal Regiment during the First

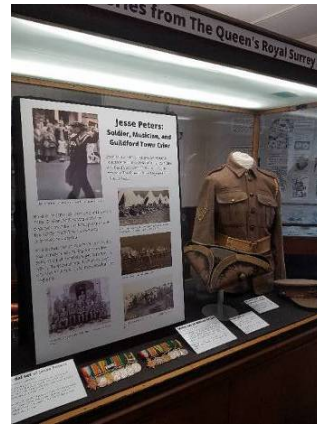


World War. For this display, we worked closely with Dave Peters, who is the current Town Crier of Guildford and also Jesse's grandson.

I would like to express my enormous thanks to all those who helped me to research, design, and install this display, and especially to those who have generously loaned objects from their personal collections.

Guildford Museum is open Wednesday-Saturday, 12pm – 4.30pm (last entry 4pm). I hope lots of you will be able to visit!

In conjunction with this display we have some outreach events planned. On Thursday 5th May I will be giving a joint talk with Dave Peters, as part of Guildford Museum's 'Coffee Time Talks' programme. I will be talking about the history of the regiment and Jesse Peters' war service, and Dave will be talking about the history of Town Crying in Guildford. Venue and times are TBC, but I hope that lots of you will be able to join us. We are also planning some family day activities at Guildford Museum for the May half-term holiday, including a 'make your own Town Crier Hat' session for children.



Alongside planning 'Soldiers of Surrey', we have continued work on our collection review, and we have also recently installed some new racking in our office, to improve the storage area for the collection. Here are Ian and Steve hard at work, putting up the racking! This will help us to better care for the collection and access objects more easily. The next step is to buy conservation-grade storage boxes – watch this space!



Another piece of good news is that we are now working with conservation specialists Spencer & Fry, who are one of the most highly-regarded conservation consultancies in the country, with over 80 years' experience. They are going to be supporting us in two main ways: firstly, to assess individual objects within the collection to determine whether they can be restored or conserved; and secondly, to give us general advice moving forwards regarding how to care for our collection,



especially the fire damaged objects which will require different care to non-fire damaged objects. In the first instance, we will be organising an initial assessment day, during which a conservator from Spencer and Fry will visit the collection and assess up to 50 'priority' objects, alongside a specialist metal conservator that they have recommended. They have been working with the collection at Clandon Park for several years, undertaking similar work, so they are extremely knowledgeable about fire-damaged objects. This partnership will enable us to care for our collection in the best possible way moving forwards, and to think about how parts of the collection could be restored, conserved, and displayed in the future.

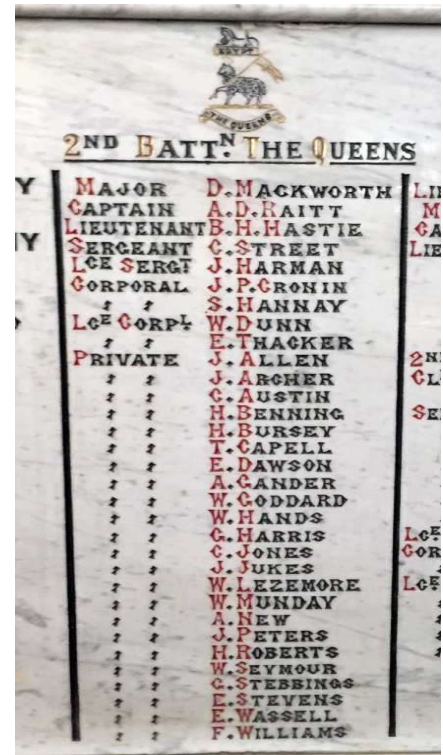
Finally, I am delighted to tell you that we have finalised a settlement with the National Trust regarding the fire at Clandon Park. I would like to express my deepest thanks to everyone who was involved in this process, which has taken many years and a huge amount of hard work. In particular, thanks go to my predecessor, Stephen Johnson, our trustees, and especially our team of dedicated volunteers, who have painstakingly valued and documented every single object in our collection to aid the settlement process. Finally, we are able to close this chapter, and move on to new and exciting things.

Out and About

There has been encouraging Links with the Town of Guildford and the Museum so I continue the Regiments link from further research we were asked to do on the South Africa campaign 1899-1902 and especially some of the Memorials to this campaign.

The town of Ladysmith took a big battering by the Boers and in particular the Church.

In Ladysmith Church – South Africa in April 1904 a large memorial within the church was placed around the church walls which include all the Regiments and Battalions who were involved in the Wars. Included in the 2nd Battalion section is our Pte W Hands who we spoke about in the last Newsletter.



The 2nd Battalion Digest identifies the men of the 2nd Battalion who attended the service as there were representatives of all the Regiments who had lost Men in the conflict.

A Memorial was opened in the parish Church
 Ladysmith on April 23rd to all Officers N.C.O. and
 men of 'The Queens' Reg' who were killed or died
 of wounds from the commencement of the war
 to the relief of Ladysmith. The following Officers
 N.C.O. and men attended the ceremony:

Lieutenant	F. J. Learon	
Serj Major	Robinson	S.
Ct Serj	Terrett	D. Coy
Ct Serj	Osborne	H. "
Serj	Penny	B. "
2 nd Serj	Hawkins	H. "
Coop	Mulkins	B. "
Private	Rowley	E. "
"	Stebbing	B. "

A memorial service attended by all the troops in the
 Garrison was held in the Cemetery at Kroonstad on
 Sunday April 24th 1904 when Lt Acting Lieutenant
 Governor of the O.R.C. (The Hon H. J. Wilson) opened a
 memorial to all Officers N.C.O. and men who were
 killed or died in the O.R.C. from the commencement
 of the war till the date of the Regiment leaving
 the country.
 At the conclusion of the service the Lieutenant
 Governor addressed the Regiment.

The casualties taken by the Battalion during this period is listed as 3 Officer killed, 36 NCOs and men— 10 Officer and 260 men wounded whilst 2 Officers and 97 men died of disease.



The 2nd Battalion had been away for nearly 4 and half years and returned to England in June 1904. It was decided that a memorial was required in England and so in the Holy Trinity Church, Guildford one was erected and then unveiled on 8th October 1904. The memorial is a replica of one, in marble, erected in Pietermaritzburg Cathedral, South Africa.

Extracts from the 2nd Battalion Digest it is written that on 8th October - 22 Officer, 400 Warrant Officer and NCOs were placed on a special train to Guildford to attend the unveiling of the memorial. They were joined in Guildford by Reservists, Militia and Volunteers. The streets of Guildford had been decorated and many thousands of people lined the route to welcome the Battalion home as it marched through the town.

The Memorial was unveiled by Lieut Gen Sir Thomas Kelly Kenny – Col of the Queens two others memorials including one for the 3rd Battalion.

More on our Regimental Chapels can be found in Col P T Crowley's PWRR Historical Supplements booklets available from us or can be found in the Churches.

Dates for Diary

30th April - Queens Royal Surrey Reunion/ East Surrey Reunion and OMA—

new outlook - Proforma Attached.

Please note this is now a lunch time event starting at 12.00 noon and being held at the Army Reserve Centre in Farnham Surrey. This is an amalgamation of many separate dinners/ lunches where attendance has dropped significantly but you all still want to meet up. Three course meal £15.00 (subsidised).

This also open to wives and family members. Please note we are using Round tables seating 8-10 at a table and not in the Regimental long line of tables. This is to ensure there is still circulating air and not being too close to one another.

We are hoping this new venture is a success as we have been offered a far bigger venue for next year and there will be more opportunities to makes this and Veteran/ ex serving members of the Regimental family and make it a true day out.

There will be a big raffle so any donations for prizes gratefully received.

Please ensure that you do a lateral flow test before you come.

Contact Dee Hutchison fosim@btconnect

FOSIM Lunch

22/29th June - Surrey History Centre - Still to be confirmed