



# Surrey Infantry Museum

Museum Newsletter - Mar 2015

Volume1 Issue 8

## 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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Opening times from  
April 2015  
11.00 am - 17.00pm  
Tue,Wed,Thu and Sun  
only. Other by appt

I am delighted to tell you that the handover between Ian Chatfield and Stephen Johnson has been seamlessly completed. Stephen is now fully in the Chair but having a pile of detailed questions for Ian on his return from New Zealand in early March. An excellent surprise lunch was arranged by Dee to say thank you to Ian Chatfield for all his achievements as our Curator. The Museum Trustees presented Ian with a Bronze WW1 Bugler Statuette and Adrian Birtles Chairman of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Combined Charities presented a antique Regimental Print and vouchers. The Volunteers and other donators gathered a nice sum for Ian to have a few days on the golf course.

I hope that you will continue to come to our lunches and talks. Our first talk is given by Ian Chatfield on 18th March on The East Surreys at Hill 60 on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1915 when they won 3 VC's and a shed load of other gallantry medals. Let us ensure we have a full house – do tell your friends or anyone else interested. The programme of lunches for the rest of the year is shown elsewhere in this newsletter.

The big event for 2015 is National Armed Forces Day in Guildford on 27<sup>th</sup> June.. Both 1 and 3 PWRR will be on parade. Some 100,000 are expected – do ensure you are one of them wearing your Regimental tie. Friends of PWRR are arranging for the biggest tent ever for the biggest Regimental and forebear Regiments Grand Re-union ever. Hogs Back Brewery will help any who are thirsty! I fear that is it as far as plans go at present. But we will want to give tickets for the Cathedral Service and those who feel they can March 2 miles. IF YOU HAVE AN E-MAIL ADDRESS PLEASE PASS IT TO DEE – this will allow us to keep you up-dated.

Once more thank you for your support – we are looking into the possibility of doing another Battlefield Tour next year to walk the ground of The Queen's Royal Regiment and East Surreys at The Battle of the Somme. If you think you may be able to join us do let us know.

Tony Ward

## David Pollard - MUSEUM MANAGEMENT and TRUSTEES

### David Pollard – Museum Management and Trustees

I should start by introducing myself to those of you who know me only slightly, or more likely those who have never even heard of me! I was commissioned in early 1972 as, at that time, one of those rare beasts, a Direct Entry Graduate. I joined 1 Queen's in Berlin and spent the next just over three years with the Battalion, before going to Oman for a two year secondment with the Sultan's Armed Forces, where I served with the Muscat Regiment (in which David Dickins had also served). On return to the UK I was a watchkeeper at HQ 8 Inf Bde in Londonderry, before returning in 1978 to 1 Queen's, then based in Werl. I had the good fortune and privilege to be Company Second-In-Command to the late Mike Kealy, before becoming Adjutant. I left 1 Queen's in December 1979 to attend Division 2 of the Army Staff Course. After Camberley, I was the SO2 in GS(OR)17, the Armoured Warfare branch of Operational Requirements at the MOD, where I helped to keep the MCV80 (Warrior) and AT105(Saxon) projects in existence, before both eventually entered service. From OR, I joined 3 Queen's where I commanded B Company, before leaving the Army in 1985 to join the John Lewis Partnership, and specifically the Department Store Division.

David Dickins asked me late last year if I would consider taking over from him as a Trustee, with specific responsibility for SIM. I agreed, and two days later was at Dover for the Trustees meeting, and then three days later joined David, Tony Ward and Patrick Crowley, interviewing candidates to take over from Ian Chatfield. All something of a baptism of fire! Ian has clearly done a wonderful job as Curator, and our good fortune is that he is remaining as a volunteer. Whilst Stephen Johnson has big boots to fill I am sure that, with his passion for history, he will do us proud. There have been no Trustee meetings since the last one at Dover in October, so there is nothing to report on that front.

I live near Woking, and so knew of the museum at Clandon and had visited it on a number of occasions. I had not, however, heard of FOSIM, and it was only when the late Bob McGhie spoke to me about joining and invited me to attend one of the lunches, that I became aware of their existence. Since joining, I have persuaded Malcolm McGill (ex 1 Queen's) to also join, and he too had not heard of FOSIM. It strikes me that if we were both unaware of FOSIM, there must surely be other former members of the Regiment who have not heard of it. Perhaps a task for us all is to make more former (and even serving?) members of the Regiment aware of FOSIM, as in the future we are likely to need all the members we can get.

Finally, I should say a sincere and heartfelt "thank you" on your behalf to David Dickins, for all the work he has done over his years as a Trustee. In talking to him it is clear to me, as various topics crop up, that he has done a tremendous amount behind the scenes to secure the future of our museum, and especially its place at Clandon.

### **Armed Forces Open Day - 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

Guildford, with its strong historic and present day military links, has been chosen to host the prestigious Armed Forces Day national event on Saturday 27 June 2015.

It will start with a Cathedral Service at 0930 – to be seated by 0830am, followed by a March up the High Street starting at 11.00am. The Salute by a senior member of The Royal Family will be outside Holy Trinity with the parade going onto Stoke Park for a Drumhead Service with area events and re-union for serving and ex-service members of the Regiment and forebears. More details can be found on [www.armedforcesday.org.uk](http://www.armedforcesday.org.uk)

## The Queens Royal Surrey Reunion at the Union Jack Club

### 2015 Reunion

The handling of this event will now pass to the Friends and will continue in force for next year. Date for diary next year is **6<sup>th</sup> November 2015**.

Application forms and Tickets will come from Surrey Infantry Museum and all enquiries need to come to FOSIM at Clandon House address or email. Letters will be sent out in May and tickets sent out in September. All QRS matters are to be sent to Dee Hutchison at the email address below.

[fosim@btconnect.com](mailto:fosim@btconnect.com)

### FOSIM Membership - Dee Hutchison

Membership remains stable but we are looking to increase this over the next year. A new application leaflet has been designed for the Friends and is available in the Museum for visitors to pick up

Membership renewal is on 1st Jun 2015 so please can you ensure those who pay by cheque remember to send this in. The Funds are necessary to maintain our standards for you. If you would like to change to standing order then please let me know and I will send on the relevant forms.

#### Email:

We are using these for quick updates on the Museum and other events here at Clandon - 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 still getting bounce backs on the newsletter or other emails sent out.

#### Friends Discount

Please remember to bring your Friends membership card with you on your visits as this will give you 10% discount in the Regimental Museum Shop. Minimum spend £3.00. Please make sure you also annotate your Order form that you are a member as discounts will not be done at a later date.

### News flash - Battlefield Tour to The Somme

After the success of the last Tour we have had further requests to look at another one - this time following our forebear regiments to the Somme. Tour date is approx 11<sup>th</sup> May 16 for four days. We have an estimated price which is around £400 - 450 pp. The hotel location is Arras throughout our stay. Price includes accommodation breakfast and one evening meal, coach and tour guides including Ian Chatfield. If you are interested in this tour please can you advise Dee by Email on [fosim@btconnect.com](mailto:fosim@btconnect.com) and label your email Battlefield Tour. Details will be sent out via email later in the year. Deposit will not be required until this time.

## Museum Report - Stephen Johnson

### **Staff Changes**

As many of you will know I have taken over from Ian Chatfield who retired at the end of 2014. Ian was Curator/Manager for more than ten years and he oversaw the major refit in 2011. Ian leaves the museum in a strong position with high visitor numbers and an exciting offering to the public, particularly during the centenary anniversary years of The Great War. Ian has not gone forever though, and we look forward to welcoming him (and his encyclopedic knowledge) back in March as a Volunteer after his well-deserved break in New Zealand.



### Ian with his presentation

I have already had the pleasure of meeting a number of the Friends at various functions before Christmas but for those I have not yet met, I offer a brief introduction. A Kentish man, graduating from Newcastle University in the late 1970s with a degree in biochemistry, I qualified as a management accountant whilst working in finance and operations for an aerospace engineering and manufacturing company, with whom I stayed for thirty years. However I regard this as only preparation for becoming manager of the museum because my abiding passion from childhood has been history, and especially military history. So I am very much looking forward to working with the Trustees, Volunteers, and Friends to maintain and develop the museum over the coming years.

### **Visitors and Opening Hours**

January and February is usually a quiet time for pre-opening “spring-cleaning” and maintenance. However, 2015 has been different with the NT Clandon Park property opening at the weekends and the museum following suit. Despite either gloomy or bitterly cold weather we have seen an average of 250 visitors on each of the weekends

and the feedback in the comments book has been very positive. (The museum opening hours for the coming season are posted on the NT Clandon Park website)

### Accreditation

Ian completed the biennial accreditation exercise before his departure and it was submitted to the Arts Council in December. Apart from an acknowledgement accepting the submission we have not yet received any response.

### Museum Activities

We continue to catalogue, and add to our database, items acquired over the years that are currently being held in the reserve store. Much of the day-to-day work of the volunteers involves research for members of the public who contact the museum wanting to know more about relatives who served in our forebear regiments. We are always happy to undertake this research because it invariably adds to our body of knowledge as well as bringing great satisfaction to the surviving relatives and quite often we receive a donation for this “free” service!

Following the events last year at Redhill library and Guildford Cathedral we continue our work in local education, including the loan of material to the Raleigh School in West Horsley for their musical production “*A Letter to the Trenches*”. I have also arranged meetings in conjunction with Surrey Museums regarding their “*Learning on my Doorstep*” initiative and I shall be attending a training day at Brooklands Museum on how changes to the National Curriculum affects schools and museums.

### Donations

A number of medal groups were received during the last six months including those of Pte. PT Birch, Pte. EJ Cook, L/Cpl. A Blackman and L/Cpl. WHM Vercoe (Queen’s) and Capt. CF Wilder (East Surrey’s - See below group).



### Forthcoming Events

The Museum annual Open Day has been arranged for **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2015**. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Foot re-enactors and Cinque Port Corps of Drums will be in attendance and we are awaiting confirmation from the “All the Queens Men” living history group Timings are 10.30 – 17.00. If you have not had chance to visit us yet make this a day out on your Calendars.

### 21<sup>st</sup> Jun 2015

Cathedral service with Surrey Joint Service Charities and Surrey Cadet Forces. Refreshment available after the Service, Timings TBC.

## The Gallipoli Campaign – 1915

## 2/4th The Queen's

Much of last year the focus for World War 1 was the Belgium and France confrontations with our main regular Battalions of The Queens and the East Surrey's. However this year we look at our lesser known confrontations of the 2/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Queens and their adventures. This battalion was raised in August 1914 and was designated 4<sup>th</sup> (Home Service) Battalion. The Battalion was based in Croydon and in November 15, was moved to Windsor where it became part of the Surrey Brigade of the 2nd Home Counties Division. Just prior to serving overseas the battalion once again became the 2/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion

In Nov 1914 Winston Churchill started to look at opening another front to weaken the German Army and try to split it up even more. The area he looked at was Turkey and getting through to Constantinople. The Turkish Forces was considered to be an inept lot and badly organised so the German Army would need to support them if the Allies attacked. Many of Churchill's colleagues thought this plan to be to rash and too quick so were being very cautious. It is thought that Churchill had only been given the Ok to carry out a Naval Operation by bombarding the Turkish coast with Naval gunfire and being able to withdraw quickly.

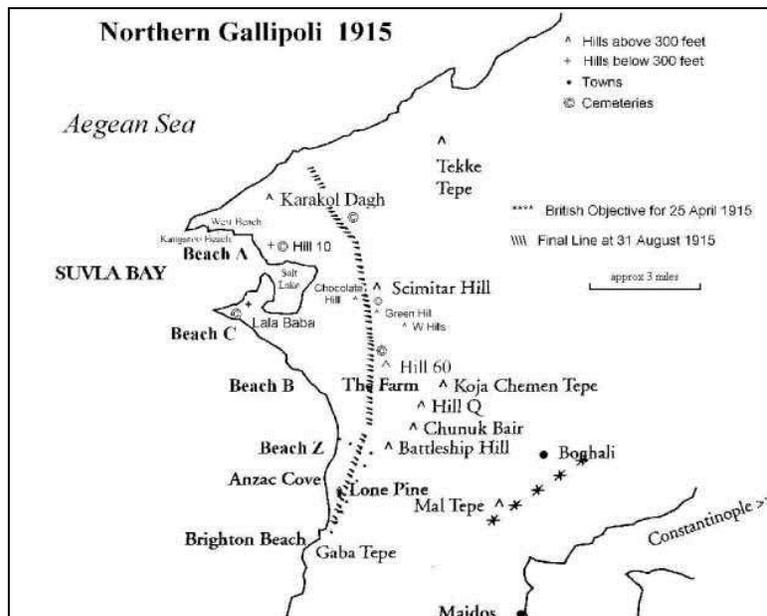
Head of the British Fleet was Admiral Carden and he opened the attack in an area called the Dardanelles on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 1915. Troops from Australia, New Zealand and British were put on standby in Egypt. The actual landings started on April 25<sup>th</sup> and the British landed unopposed at Cape Helles but the landing at Sedd-el Bahr was a disaster with many lives lost. By May British troops had been severely depleted with over 6,000 killed and another 14,000 were either wounded or ill with dysentery and heat based diseases.

The next phase of the battle started in August with 63,000 troops with which 2/4<sup>th</sup> The Queens were part of the 160<sup>th</sup> Brigade. The 2/4<sup>th</sup> Queens and the 2/4<sup>th</sup> Royal Sussex had been combined for ease of command. They arrived at Sulva bay (Beach C) on 8 Aug and were ordered to proceed to a place west of Chocolate Hill (Hill 53) and entrench there. Orders changed and they had to report to the 31<sup>st</sup> Brigade sited actually on Hill 53. The Battalion marched in artillery formation picking up a few casualties along the way. Now as you appreciate once they got there Orders were changed again (where's those Infantry mutterings!) This time they had to go and find the Dublin Fusiliers who were in support of the Border, Stafford and Lincoln Battalions. The 2/4<sup>th</sup> pushed forward and took Hill 53 but came under heavy fire and they had to retire. They managed to push forward again and secure the crest only to be beaten back by scrubland fire. The Battalion losses were starting to mount up with 8 officers and 250 other ranks affected.

The next set of Orders for The Queen's was to move forward and take some ground after an attack at Hill 70. This attack failed and the Battalion fell back to the original trenches on which they were told to hold at all costs. They were relieved on 12<sup>th</sup> August. The 2/4<sup>th</sup> stayed in the trenches coming under constant fire with shelling day and night and suffering many casualties. They stayed here until the end of Aug when they were sent back into reserve at Hill 10.

Over the next month the 2/4th had various changes of command due to ill health of senior officers but of the 27 officers and 900 other ranks that landed, only 5 officer and 335 other ranks remained. A very welcomed 100 strong draft eventually arrived in November. The Battalion took

its share of duty of the front line and when withdrawn was employed constructing various lines of defences around Lala Baba.



Map courtesy of searchpress .com

November brought the most atrocious weather and in both storms and bitterly cold frosty followed by a snow storm. Men died at their posts of exposure and 10,000 soldiers were evacuated due to ill health. Also Nov brought about the amalgamation of the 1/4<sup>th</sup> Royal Sussex Regiment with the 2/4<sup>th</sup> The Queen's. Even this did not bring the Battalion upto full strength.

In England there was growing dismay at the very heavy loss of life. Churchill had been relieved of his ministerial duties in the May and the senior command was handed over from General Sir Ian Hamilton to General Charles Monro in the October. When Gen Monroe landed he found that the situation was unusual in that the coast line was secure but the beaches were exposed to heavy artillery fire from the Turkish forces. He also noted that the troops when withdrawn from the front line had nowhere to escape the constant shelling. He decided there was no point in continuing in Turkey and that a withdrawal was necessary. Lord Kitchener on hearing this news decided it was time to pay a visit. Kitchener toured the battlefield and on his return home the final decision was made to evacuate.

The evacuation was going to be difficult as some of the trenches were only 300 yds away from the enemy and in some other areas even less. However despite the logistics of this, the evacuation at Sulva started on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec and by 5.30 am on 20<sup>th</sup> December completely finished. In one area a device was set up for a rifle to fire indiscriminately giving the impression that the trenches were still occupied. The 2/4<sup>th</sup> were evacuated on 13<sup>th</sup> Dec and were sent to Mudros through Alexandria and on disembarkation sent to Warden. There was no loss of life during the evacuation and the Turks had a mighty surprised on the 21<sup>st</sup> to find the beaches deserted and the Allies had totally slipped away.

Since 1916 the anniversary of the landings on 25 April 15 have been commemorated as ANZAC Day, becoming one of the most important national celebrations in Australia and New Zealand. This year in London for **ANZAC Day 25 April 2105** there is a Centenary Wreath Laying Ceremony and Parade at The Cenotaph, Whitehall at 11.00am:

## Lunch Club at Clandon

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*“meet old and new friends, come to a lunch at Clandon House”*

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The lunches have become extremely successful and we must thank everyone for supporting these events. This year we welcome back our ex curator Ian Chatfield who will tell us the Story of Hill 60 in France not to be confused with the second Hill 60 in Gallipoli. Rather poignantly we welcome new speaker Martin Stoneham from the Commonwealth War Graves. We also have a guest speaker from the Surrey History Center on the Battle of Loos 1915 and then we welcome back Col Patrick Crowley on the story of Kut. The lunches have been matched up to the month when these Battles took place within 1915.

Please see proforma at the back of this newsletter and return to Dee. There has been a slight increase to the price which is now £20.00ph but I hope you still feel that a two course lunch and a guest speaker is still good value for money.

**18<sup>th</sup> Mar 2015 Ian Chatfield - 3 VCs and Hill 60**

**17th June 2015 Martin Stoneham - CWGC**

**22nd Sep 2015 Surrey History - Battle of Loos**

**25<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015 Col Patrick Crowley - Kut 1915**

### **East Surrey Regiment Reunion - 2015**

The East Surrey Regimental Reunion will meet on **3<sup>rd</sup> October 2015**, Whitley Village Hall, Walton on Thames, KT 12 4EH. Cost remains at £5.00. Please contact **J Broom on 01323 489262** for further information and for tickets.

### **Change of Standard Bearer**

Sadly Mick Etherington is retiring from being the Standard Bearer after 20 years. Mick has carried out this duty for the forebear regiments and has handed over the realm to David Havers who will now take this role on. Our many thanks must go to Mick who has given up this role reluctantly and wish him the best.

**Obituaries****Captain James Hay Patterson (Jimmy) QRR - 25 Dec 2014**

Capt Jimmy Patterson passed away at East Surrey Hospital on 25 December 2014 aged 97. With the threat of war looming, Jimmy, along with many of his new local friends, joined the TA at Reigate into the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Bn The Queens Royal Regt. Later he took an interest in the Surrey Army Cadet Force and received a commission in 1<sup>st</sup> Cadet Bn The Queens Royal Regt. He served the Army Cadets until his retirement in 1978. In the late 1950's he became Secretary of the 5 Queens Old Members Association and organised the first of the annual dinners, then at Sandfield Terrace in Guildford. It proved highly successful over previous gatherings and attendance grew dramatically and still continues to this day at Farnham. His loyalty to his beloved Queen's Regt has been unshakeable throughout.

**Drummer Douglas M Heryet QRR - 23 Sep 2014**

Drummer Heryet entered the regiment as a boy soldier at the age of 16 in Howe Barracks, Canterbury. He served in many places including Hong Kong and Munster with the Regimental Band and Corps of Drums.

**Major Vic Sheppard MC QRR - 3 May 2104**

Maj Sheppard joined 2/7th Queen's in the ranks in June 1939 and was commissioned in Nov 1942. He rejoined the 2/7th ready in time for the move to Italy. He was wounded at Salerno and also awarded the MC for leadership of the company after the River Garigliano Crossing. After the war he moved to Yeovil and became a very active member of the Queens Surrey Golf Society.



Luncheon Club - Clandon House

18 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2015	Ian Chatfield - 3VCs and Hill 60	£20.00 ph	No ....
17th June 2015	Martin Stoneham - CWGC	£20.00 ph	No ....
22nd Sep 2015	Surrey History - Battle of Loos	£20.00 ph	No ....
25 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2015	Col Patrick Crowley - Kut	£20.00 ph	No....

Name -----

Email/Address/ Phone if not FOSIM Member

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In case of short notice cancellation

Cheque amounts enclosed for

£-----

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

Arrive for Lunch 12.00pm for seating at 12.30. All lectures will be held in the Onslow Room. If we reach capacity we will be moved into the main restaurant.

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

**Please return to:-**

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