



Newsletter April 2019

AIM

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

FOSIM – Tony Ward

_ David Pollard - MUSEUM MANAGEMENT and TRUSTEES

Newsletter April 2019

On 4th April I attended meetings of both the Heritage Committee and the Museum Trustees. Col Patrick Crowley (Dep Col Heritage) asked me to attend the Heritage Committee meeting to brief them about SIM. Both meetings were held at Redhill at the new Bn HQ of 4 PWRR, who welcomed and looked after us very well.

At the end of March Tony Ward, Stephen Johnson and I went to the Offices of BLM, the lawyers representing Ecclesiastical Insurance, to discuss issues arising from the potential claim for insurance losses as a result of the Clandon

2019 QRS Reunion

Date for diary this year is **Friday 1st November 2019** at The Union Jack Club. Application forms available from Surrey Infantry Museum from May 2019. Tickets will be sent out late Sep/ Oct 2019. All QRS matters are to be sent to Dee Hutchison using the email: fosim@btconnect.com

OMA Dinner – 12th June -Farnham Army Reserve Centre

The OMA Dinner will be held at the Farnham ARC on 12th June start time 18.30 Regimental Blazer and ties to be worn. For tickets to this event please contact ian_chatfield@hotmail.com. Carers are welcome to be at the dinner.

East Surrey 44th Regimental Reunion

This will be held at Whitley Village Hall - Postcode KT12 4EH on from 13.00 Saturday 28th September 2019. Mini buses available from Walton on Thames Railway Station from 13.00 and will be returned from 17.00.

Tickets available from Ken Bowden - phone 07710 815791 or contact Dee fosim@btconnect.com

Sint Niklaas - Belgium.

A small contingent of Queensmen are going over to the town of Sint Niklaas to commemorate the liberation from German Occupation from 06 – 08 Sep 2019. If you are interested in please contact Dee on who will aide contact fosim@btconnect.com for more details of this event

WW2 Battlefield Tour - May 2020 - Warning Order

We are pleased to announce that we will be holding a WW2 Battlefield Tour in May 2020. This Tour will concentrate on the BEF in 1940 and the Queens/ East Surreys move to Belgium and France and the return journey through Dunkirk. More details will be in out shortly but we will highlight that a quick response will be required as we had a waiting list for the last one.

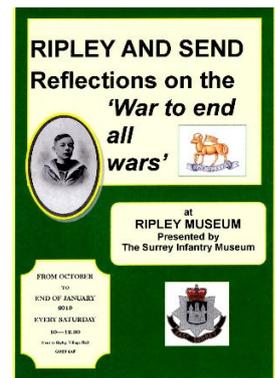
Surrey Infantry Museum – March 2019 Update

The winter of 2018-19 has been a relatively quiet period for SIM: the ‘campaign’ season when we attend events and display the travelling exhibition ends after Remembrance Day and doesn’t start in earnest until Easter. Nonetheless, SIM has maintained a presence in Guildford Museum with both its permanent display case and a temporary exhibition in the main gallery covering the experience of the Surrey Regiments on Armistice Day 1918.

The SIM-curated exhibition in Ripley and Send Museum on the ‘villages’ experience of the Great War, and their ‘local heroes’, which ran until February 2019 was also well-received.



The SIM community was deeply saddened by the sudden death of Julian Martin in February 2019. Julian was a Volunteer, stalwart supporter and living-history re-enactor who had given a great deal of his time and energy to the Museum for well over a decade.



The processing of material recovered from Clandon Park carries on. Of the first sixty pieces selected for renovation, work on twenty has been suspended due to significantly increased cost estimates following more detailed assessment of the restoration work required: work on the remaining forty items continues.



In order to generate a comprehensive schedule of what could be restored and how much this is likely to cost, all the remaining items held at Farcroft Restoration have now been returned to SIM for appraisal, apart from the items that are work-in-progress, the framed Colours rescued, undamaged, on the night of the fire and a small number of medals needing further repair. Many of these recently-returned items are the remains of firearms and bladed weapons. On initial examination the swords of Mehra Khan and his Adjutant taken in the storming of Khelat in 1839 and a rare Drum Major's sword have already been identified and earmarked for restoration.

Quite by chance it would appear that the display bay in the Onslow Room at Clandon that held the material relating to regimental bands and music was not as badly-damaged as the rest of the collection. A few of the maces have survived and should be restorable.



Fragments of larger artefacts have been identified including a solid silver Lewis Gunner which was part of a magnificent East Surrey table centrepiece known as 'Farewell to the Horse'. Unfortunately, the accompanying Vickers gunner, horses, limbers and other figures have not come to light.

Work continues on moving SIM into Guildford Museum. The project to refurbish and expand Guildford Museum, which has full support from Guildford Borough Council, has grown significantly in scope and vision. The budget is now set at £12 million, of which £6.5m will be provided by GBC and up to £5m is



anticipated in grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund with the balance from public fund-raising and donations. The revised project is now due for completion in the summer of 2023.

Meanwhile SIM has received a number of donations to enrich the collection. Amongst the items acquired is an impressive sporting cup from the daughter of Lt. 'Buck' Buchanan (1st Bn. ESR) together with a telegram to his family announcing his safe return to the UK from Dunkirk. Also, a good example of a Queen's 'sweetheart' cushion from the Great War and a particularly interesting group of medals (and other items) belonging to RQMS W G 'Nobby' Clarke who served with 1st Bn, ESR from the '30s through to his retirement in 1952.

The Friends of SIM continue to organise lecture lunches and other events. In June 2019 there will be a 'behind the scenes' tour of The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and plans are underway for the next Battlefield Tour in May 2020. This trip will follow the two Surrey Regiments through the campaign in France during



1940 including
the Battle of
the Escaut
Canal and
the

evacuation
from the



Channel coast.

***Vel
Exuviae Triumphans***

Out and about

War Graves Commemorations.

The BEF in 1914 was not prepared for the losses of men and women and had no method to deal with the scale of burials. A unit called the Graves registration was set up in Mar 1915. This became the Directorate of Graves Registration and Enquiries (DGR&E). They only recorded the death - it was still upto military units to bury their men. It was after WW1 Burial parties started to search the land of Belgium and France searching out the War Dead and identifying them. We know now this as The Commonwealth War Graves Commission and we are often sent photos of Graves and are asked questions so here we have selected a few stories.

1914 France

The first person we have on record who died in the First World War and listed as a battle casualty was **L/10580 Pte Arthur Elliott - 1st Bn Queens (RWS)** who was killed on 14/08/14. The Battalion had only just arrived in Le Havre so it is presumed there was an accident as they had not moved into Battle at this point. The first East Surrey Man was **8108 Pte Arthur Walters 1st Bn ESR** who died on 18/08/1914. His death is reported in the War diaries as death by drowning during a platoon exercise.

The first Officer recorded as killed was **Lt RLG Henriques** who was in action Near Paissy. The German attacked the 1st Bn QRWS and many casualties were suffered on this day. Lt Henriques is buried in Vendresse British Cemetery which we visited on our first Battlefields Tour in 2014. Also buried in this cemetery are Queensmen who were only identified by their badges and uniform.

England – All Saints Church, Fleet, Hampshire



7707 LCpl James Charles Morgan 2nd Battalion Canadian Infantry 28th November 1914 – Age 33 - LCpl Morgan was a Cook and enlisted September 22, 1914 in Valcartier, Quebec. The Battalion was based in Bustard Camp, Amesbury in Wiltshire. In the Battalion diary we found that the Bn was given the afternoon off. He died from injuries received when he fell off a train going to London from Salisbury!

Messines - Bayenwald

On our Battlefield Tour in 2018 we visited the German trenches which was part of the front line for the Battle of Messines. On the other side of the road is the Croonaert Cemetery which was set up by the 19th Division Burial Officer This cemetery was only opened in Jun 1917 and in it is **8444 LCpl Walter Dennis Sinfoil** who was killed on 17th January 1917. The Battle of Messines was in the Jun 1917 and it is possible that as this area was under constant bombardment it is not the first burial spot for this soldier and others buried alongside.



Malta -Pieta War Cemetery

The graves here show three to four people buried in the same spot 13481 Cpl



there was a lot of sickness through malaria and dysentery men were shipped to Malta to be hospitalised.

Also we have members of the 2/4th Bn Queens who were at Gallipoli. The War diary states that a few were taken to hospital with sickness on 4th Sept 1915 and no battle casualties reported. More men died in the Gallipoli campaign through disease than the actual fighting because of the squalid conditions and the freezing cold temperatures the men had to live in.

World War 2 - River Escaut area - May 1940

The 1/5th, 1/6th, 1/7th Bn Queens were fighting by the River Escaut in Belgium. On the 10th May the Germans started to invade through this area. On the 19th May we have 8 recorded deaths from these Bns. War diary states the German attacked and in the ensuing battle 2 Lt HM Candy was fatally hit. His body was bought back by the platoon Sergt Baker under heavy firing and for which he gained the MM for his action. More on this in our next Battlefield Tour 2020.

Singapore 1942 - Photos acknowledged to Terry Isaacs 8th – 15th Feb 1942 Battle of Singapore – Kranji Cemetery

From Dec 1941 – Aug 1942 1st Battalion The Leicester Regt and 2nd Battalion East Surrey Regiment were amalgamated and became the British Battalion and fought together. These two battalions were serving in the 11th Indian Division in Malaya when the Japanese attacked Singapore. On the night of the 10th/ 1st Feb 1942 the Japanese entered the area around the Jurung Road where the Bns were in the midst of a

counter attack. The positions were attacked violently and many lost their lives if not captured by the Japanese. Notice these War graves have buried near this spot engraved on them. We have a total of 51 men who died in this short period in the Kranji Cemetery.

6141717 LCpl A Nuttall

6140626 Cpl WG Paul



The Italy Campaign 1943



1943. On 10th September **Capt Fevez** was with 2/5th Bn “D Coy” and was caught in a German Tank Barrage. He was shot and killed by German soldier from a tank which was witnessed by our surviving WW2 veteran Sgt Ted Adcook. 2/5th lost five Company Commanders and 170 men within 30 hours of landing.

If you visit a War cemetery and find an East Surrey Regiment or a Queensman we can find the story around the action. You can also check for yourselves on CWGC.org. Remember to sign the visitor books when you visit a Cemetery.

Lunch Club at Surrey History Centre

“meet old and new friends, come to lunch”

Luncheon Club - Proforma

12 th June 2019	Tour and Visit to Royal Military Academy Sandhurst Ticket only event 10.00am start. Separate application form	£20.00
18 th Sep 2019	Tim Richardson Surrey on the front line From the Normans to WW2	£12.50
27 th Nov 2019	Steve Johnson and Ian Chatfield The Russian Campaign and Brigadier GRP Roupell VC CB DL	£12.50
25 th March 2020	Lt Col (Retd) Peter Swanson 2/4 th Queens in Gallipoli Campaign	£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.