

**NEWSLETTER**  
**THE FRIENDS OF**  
**THE SOLDIERS OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE**  
**MUSEUM**



**AUTUMN 2015**



*The Rugby World Cup trophy, the Webb-Ellis Cup, visits the Long Room on its UK tour, viewed by Directors of the SoGM.*



*'Old Bragg', our contribution to the Gloucester 'Scrumpty Trail' sits outside the Museum and has attracted attention during the school holidays as children follow the city trail advertising the World Cup.*



*In March nine buses from Gloucestershire's Stagecoach routes gathered in front of the Museum in a special remembrance event, entitled 'Saluting the Gloucestershire Regiment'. Each bus carried the name of a member of the Regiment who had been awarded the Victoria Cross or the George Cross and each contained leaflets about the local service men and details about the Museum.*

*The convoy (right) and RBL representatives made its way through the city to the Cathedral where they were met by the Lord-Lieutenant, Dame Janet Trotter, Margaret Purves, the only living woman to hold the George Cross, Major Pete Norton GC, chair of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association and Sam Mercer MBE, the Korean War Veteran who was present when one of the servicemen being remembered, Lieutenant P K E Curtis, fell.*

*There followed a short service of Dedication within the Cathedral and a performance by the Innsworth Military Wives' Choir.*

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Last year the Autumn Newsletter marked the mobilisation for the European campaign that began the First World War. This edition recalls the events that involved the county regiments at Loos, the largest 1915 battle of the Western Front, and the ill-fated campaign in Gallipoli. Following these battles many Gloucestershire homes were in mourning as the war began its second year. Many of their stories and, in some cases, photographs, letters and medals are preserved in the Museum, our memorial to soldiers of our county who did not return.

This archive and artefact collection store is a costly business to maintain and the Friends provide a steady financial support for the Museum Trustees. Like all museums, the SoGM struggles financially from month to month and is reassured to know that it has an active, generous 'Friends' behind it. This last year alone we have funded a security camera, at short notice, so that the valuable Waterloo Casket, on loan from 1 Rifles, could be the centre piece in the Waterloo Exhibition. We have also funded, along with a generous gift from the Frampton Country Show 2014, the magnificent display case containing the sabres and musical instruments of the Frampton Volunteers of 1794 (please see the article on the last pages of this edition). This has been our largest donation to date and I believe the result is outstanding. The Museum is worth another visit just to see this addition display, so do call in again and see the latest changes.

A significant donation to the Museum was received earlier this year in the will of a private soldier who had served with the Gloucestershire Regt. in Burma and Malaya, probably with the 10<sup>th</sup> Bn., between 1944 and 1946 and was wounded, almost certainly at Shweli if he was with the 10<sup>th</sup>, in Burma in 1945. He was discharged from service in June 1947 in Singapore. It is a reminder to us all that a legacy is a generous way of supporting our great Museum.

We look forward to greeting you at the Autumn Lecture, our major fund raising event of the year, at Chavenage House on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, when our speaker will be Peter Snow. Better known as a TV presenter, he has a number of books to his credit, as well as battlefield guides written in conjunction with his son, Dan Snow. The Friends could be a bigger group of donors and we need more members, so please encourage your friends and relations, especially those with a military background, to come to hear the talk and join us. We have made a special offer to anyone becoming a life member during this Waterloo year, they can gain free entry to Chavenage!

Many of you will know that the Chairman of Trustees, Col. Robert Dixon, has been ill this summer and has taken time away from the Museum to convalesce. The Friends wish him a speedy recovery and send best wishes. We look forward to seeing him back at the helm fairly soon.

**Lt Col Ralph Stephenson TD.**

## World War I

### THE GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN - APRIL 1915 TO JANUARY 1916

**Ottoman Turkey's support of the Central Powers of Germany and Austro-Hungary resulted in Russia declaring war on Turkey on 1 November 1914, followed by Britain and France. The ill-fated Gallipoli campaign, following an equally inadequate naval action to force the Dardanelles Strait and secure the sea route to the southern Russian ports, was an attempt, conceived by Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty, to overcome Turkey and to draw Bulgaria and Greece (both formerly ruled by the Ottomans) into the war on the Allied side.**

The initial landings, scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1915, but postponed until 25<sup>th</sup> April due to bad weather, were to be made at six beaches on the peninsula, on either side of the Helles headland. The Ottoman defenders occupied good defensive positions and inflicted many casualties on the British infantry as they either emerged, one by one, from sally ports on the converted collier SS *River Clyde* to be shot by Turkish machine-gunners or landing from open boats, under fire, to a shore overlooked by dunes and obstructed with barbed wire. After the landings, little was done by the Allies to exploit the situation and, apart from a few limited advances inland by small groups of men, most troops stayed on or close to the beaches. The Allied attack lost momentum.

As part of the 13<sup>th</sup> (Western) Division, the 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. the Gloucestershire Regt, a 'Service' battalion of citizens who had volunteered enthusiastically in late 1914 with only ten months of training, sailed from Avonmouth on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 1915 and landed on Cape Helles between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of July to relieve the 29<sup>th</sup> Division.



*Men of the 7<sup>th</sup> Bn. The Gloucestershire Regt. start their climb, advancing up Chunuk Bair.*

The 7<sup>th</sup>, a battalion of 1000 strong, were in action on the heights of Sari Bair, at first light on August 8<sup>th</sup> coming under heavy fire and, as Gen. Sir Ian Hamilton writes in his famous Dardanelles Dispatch:

*“On they went until, with a last determined rush, they fixed themselves firmly on the south-western slopes and crest of the height of Chunuk Blair..... The 7<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters suffered terrible losses here. The fire was so hot that they never got a chance to dig their trenches deeper than some six inches and there they had to withstand attack after attack. In the course of these fights every single officer, company sergent-major or company quartermaster-sergeant was either killed or wounded and the battalion, by midday, consisted of small groups of men commanded by junior non-commissioned officers or privates.*

At the end of the day only 181 all ranks were alive or unwounded in the battalion that had started on the initial advance. Later Private Domican recalled:

*“When sunset came those of us who were able crawled back to our lines and had our wounds attended to. We, of course, heard the firing all day on the ridge, and afterward learnt of the terrible losses which the 7<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters and other regiments had suffered both in men and officers.”*

By September 1915 the 13<sup>th</sup> Div. had also taken part in the Battles of Russell’s Top and Hill 60 and had suffered nearly 6,000 killed, wounded, or missing out of its original strength of 10,500. At the beginning of October, the Division was moved to Suvla Bay in reserve, but it was still taking daily casualties from the Turkish Artillery. They were evacuated from Suvla on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of December. In evaluating the units under his command, General Birdwood wrote that he considered the 13<sup>th</sup> Division was the best division in the Dardanelles Army.

The Royal Gloucestershire Hussars had already arrived in Alexandria in Egypt on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1915, a mounted force 537 strong, without having lost a single horse or mule on the voyage, despite some rough weather that incapacitated many men. A routine of training, escort and guard duties came to an end when the Regiment was ordered to Gallipoli on 11<sup>th</sup> August but, to the disappointment of many, to leave their horses behind with a rear party of 100 men.



*Site of the RGH advance, under fire, across the open Salt Lake to Chocolate Hill, in the centre ground.*

They landed at Suvla Bay on 18<sup>th</sup> August and like others there before them, the Hussars landing was generally unopposed, being only intermittently shelled as they established a foothold on the beaches. On 21<sup>st</sup> August, with the rest of the dismounted Yeomanry Division and in support of the 29<sup>th</sup> Div., they took part in the attack on Chocolate Hill, advancing over the flat, dry and featureless Salt Lake.

General Sir Ian Hamilton, commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force, watched the Hussars advance on Chocolate Hill that day:

*“The advance of these English yeomen was a sight calculated to send a thrill of pride through anyone with a drop of English blood running in their veins. Such superb martial spectacles are rare in modern war. Ordinarily it should always be possible to bring up reserves under some sort of cover from shrapnel fire. Here, for a mile and a half, there was nothing to conceal a mouse, much less some of the most stalwart soldiers England has ever sent from her shores. Despite the critical events in other parts of the field I could hardly take my eyes off the yeomen; they moved like men marching on parade. Here and there a shell would take a toll of a cluster; there they lay. There was no straggling; the others moved steadily on; not a man was there who hung back or hurried.”*

There then followed weeks of trench duty in the Green Hill and Chocolate Hill sectors where the severe conditions and either dysentery or jaundice took its toll of the yeomen.

The Commanding Officer was wounded in the August action, along with three other officers and one killed and, by the end of September, the Regiment was reduced to 169 men and some of them were on ‘light duty’ or ‘no duty’. On October 31<sup>st</sup> the RGH, just eight officers and 81 men under the command of newly promoted Lt. Col. Elwes, embarked for Lemnos to start the return journey to Egypt (and their beloved horses!).



*Trench life on Chocolate Hill 1915*

**Editor**

***Further reading:***

*‘Cap of Honour – The 300 years of the Gloucestershire Regiment’ by David Scott Daniell*

*‘A Troopers Diary – The Royal Gloucestershire Hussars on Service 1914-1918’ edit. by Lawrence Birkin.*

*‘Yeoman Soldiers - The RGH Yeomanry 1795-1920’ by John Lewis.*

**These and many more books are available at the SoGM Bookshop  
Call at the shop or purchase on-line**

## MUSEUM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It has been a very busy few months at the Museum.

The Tall Ships Festival, held in the Docks at the end of May, attracted over 150,000 to the Dock Basin over three days, with over 4000 visitors to the Museum itself. The festival coincided with the opening of a Special Exhibition on the Battle of Waterloo, which is continuing to excite visitors and the press alike. Other events in the Docks, such as the Food Festival and the forthcoming Christmas Market, are an opportunity for us to attract large numbers of visitors to the Museum and show them why we are one of the top visitor attractions in Gloucestershire.

Earlier in the year the Museum teamed up with the Royal British Legion and Stagecoach West to launch nine special buses across the County. The buses feature the nine men to have been awarded the Victoria Cross or George Cross from the Regiment and will be seen across Gloucestershire for the next couple of years.

The Rugby World Cup begins on 18<sup>th</sup> September, with four matches in Gloucester and the official FanZone just 400 yards from the Museum. The Museum is one of the sponsors of the Sculpture Trail across the City. Our 'Scrumpty', nicknamed "Old Bragg", is currently sitting outside the Museum wearing both Gloster and RGH badges. We also have ten mini-Scrumpty's hidden throughout the Museum for visitors to try and find. The trophy, the Webb-Ellis Cup, spent a few hours in the Museum on its way through Gloucester as a stage in the UK tour. Visitors from ARRC, 1Rifles, the City and County Councils and schools were welcomed to the Long Room.

After eighteen months of negotiation there is at last a Gloucester Museums Pass, which offers entry for a year to us, the City Museum, Folk Museum and National Waterways Museum; it costs just £10 for an individual or £20 for a family. The Pass can be purchased at any of the participating Museums or the Tourist Information Centre on Southgate Street. It represents real value for money and should benefit all the city museums.

Staff from the Museum are continuing to visit schools and organisations, giving talks on topics including Waterloo, The First and Second World Wars and Korea, as well as welcoming many of different groups to the Museum for escorted tours.

We are always in need of more volunteers, both to help in the shop and tea-room and to assist in the archives. If you are able to give up a few hours of your time each week, we would love you to join us.

**Christopher Chatterton**

### THE FRIENDS AUTUMN LECTURE

*will be presented by*

**PETER SNOW CBE**

*Friday 23 October at Chavenage House at 6.45 for 7.30 pm.*

*on*

**'WITH WELLINGTON FROM PENINSULA TO WATERLOO'**

*Invitations have been mailed to Friends. For further information or entry please contact the Hon. Sec.  
Maj. Simon Colbeck: [simoncolbeck@msn.com](mailto:simoncolbeck@msn.com)*



## World War I

### THE BATTLE OF LOOS - 25 SEPTEMBER TO 14 OCTOBER 1915

**The Battle of Loos in September/October 1915 was a major Allied offensive by twenty five divisions (nineteen French and six British), supported by two British cavalry corps, whose role was to exploit the planned breakthrough. The Germans had thinned out on the Western Front, while they strengthened their forces in the East against Russia and the Allied intention was to take advantage of this situation.**

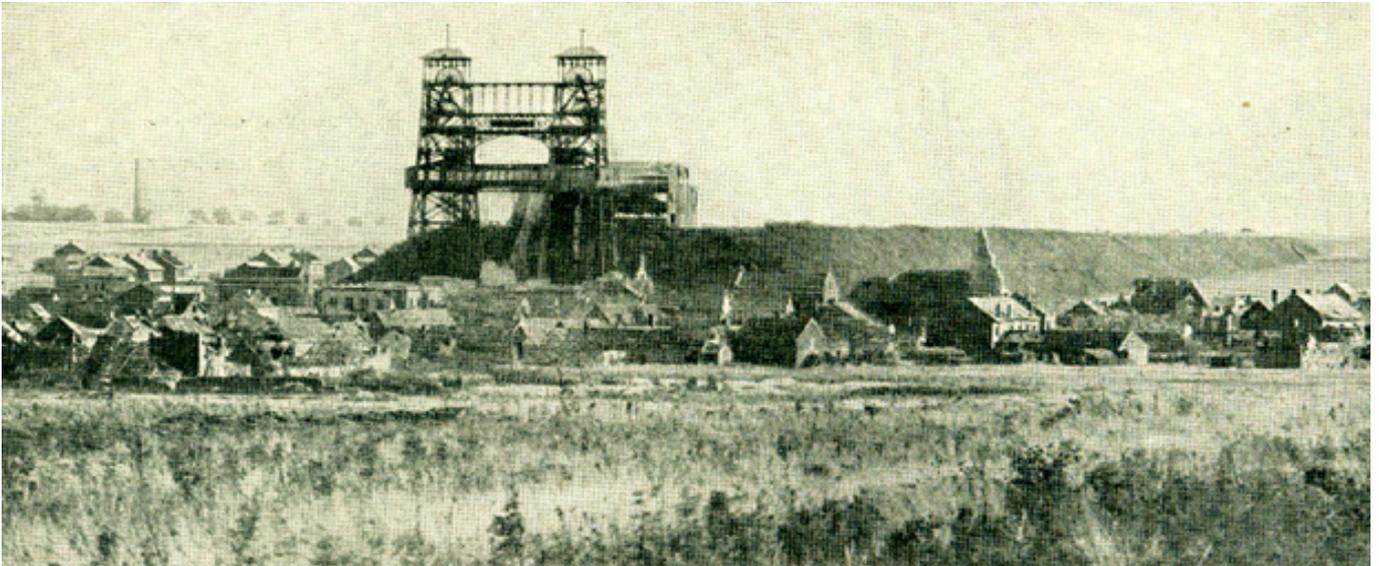
Whilst sound in theory, its execution was a disaster for the British Army; the artillery did not have enough ammunition to neutralise the German machine guns or cut the wire and much of it was faulty. The bombs the men carried would not function. The wind was insufficient to take the chlorine gas, supposed to make up for the lack of artillery, across to the German trenches and, instead, poisoned our own men waiting to assault. Despite all these difficulties, in some remarkable examples of determination and courage, the British did break through the German lines in several places but the reserves were not in a poised to exploit this initial success before the Germans had reacted effectively.

Two battalions of the Gloucestershire Regiment took part. The 1st Battalion and 10th (Service) Battalion were in 1st Division, one of the centre divisions. The battle can be roughly divided into four phases: The British assault on 25th September; the stalemate from 26th September to 7th October during which some key points were lost and gained in fierce fighting, but the overall situation was little changed; the failed German counter attack on 8th October and the final British attempt to break through on 13th October that lead to more casualties.



*Members of the 10th Battalion the Gloucestershire Regiment pose during training at Leckhampton Hill in early 1915.*

The regular battalions of the British Expeditionary Force, who had experienced the fighting in France and Flanders for a year, had lost some of their enthusiasm and it was felt that inserting some of the New Army battalions would make the leading Divisions more effective. 10th Glosters, a 'Kitchener' battalion, raised mainly in Cheltenham, where they did much of their training, only arrived in France the month before the battle and replaced 1st Scots Guards battalions in 1st Brigade.



*The Loos battle field was an industrial landscape of mine works, miner's cottages, railways and lifting gear.*



*The battle was fought on a 20-mile front between Arras and La Bassée. Above, the ruins of Loos after the attack*

The 10th Glosters and 8th R. Berks, another 'New Army' battalion, were chosen to lead the assault of 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade at 6.30am on 25 September 1915. These two battalions advanced some 1,200 yards against a hail of machine-gun fire over wire that remained a considerable obstacle. Some men were left retching due to the chlorine. They took the German First and Second Line trenches and were only checked at the Third Line; here the other battalions of the Brigade joined the two leading battalions; only 60 men of 10th Glosters were left in the front line, the rest had been killed, wounded, lost or left out of battle.



*The 47<sup>th</sup> Div advancing through a gas cloud; an unusual 'action' photograph, said to have been taken by a soldier involved in the fighting and not by an accredited photographer attached to the Division.*

While 1st Brigade had achieved spectacular success despite huge casualties, 2nd Brigade on the right were held up by an extremely strong German position in the area of 'Lone Tree' and more and more reserves were poured into fight; four Victoria Crosses were won in the fighting. 1st Glosters, who were in the reserve brigade of 1st Division, did not advance until early afternoon with the object of outflanking the Germans holding up 2nd Brigade. As they did so the Germans at last surrendered and the Battalion took 200 prisoners. They then continued to a new objective without significant casualties, an indication of the opportunity that existed for a short period to exploit the breakthrough achieved in the morning, which by nightfall had been lost.

Over the next twelve days both sides tried to capture or recapture key points. On 5th October, 1<sup>st</sup> Glosters took over in the Chalk Pit sector, which included Chalk Pit Wood. The expected German counter came on 8th October, preceded by 5 hours of intense shell fire, which caused significant casualties throughout the Brigade so that when the massed Germans advanced, six German battalions attacked 1<sup>st</sup> Glosters in Chalk Pit, there were very few men to oppose them. As the German bombardment stopped, however, every man was instantly on the fire-step, pumping well-aimed fire into the oncoming hordes. The machine guns were effective as was the British artillery fire; within ten minutes, the attack had been broken. The Battalion lost 68 all ranks killed and 256 wounded.

Although all prospects of achieving the breakthrough planned were no longer realistic, the Battle of Loos was not over. Having been relieved on 27th September, the remnants of 10<sup>th</sup> Glosters marched to billets and began to reorganise. Stragglers came in and some of the wounded returned so that by 30th September the fighting strength was 9 officers and 276 men; new drafts of reinforcements began to arrive. On 13 October, both 1st and 10<sup>th</sup> Glosters attacked German positions. Neither battalion reached its objective owing to heavy rifle and machine gun fire from the enemy trenches and at nightfall both fell back on to its original line. 1st Glosters lost 7 killed and 48 wounded, 10th Glosters had 62 killed and 80 wounded. The Battle of Loos was over.



*Chlorine gas, used for the first time but with limited success, was released by Royal Engineer Special Companies.*

Lieutenant General Sir Henry Rawlinson addressed 1st Brigade after the battle:

*“As Commander of the 4<sup>th</sup> Corps I have come here today to inspect you, and to thank you for the magnificent work you did on September 25<sup>th</sup> last, especially the two battalions that led the assault – the 8<sup>th</sup> Royal Berkshires and 10<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters – supported by the 1st Camerons.*

*I have been over the ground since, and, standing the other day on the old first line of German trenches, and taking into consideration the nature of the ground and the strongly fortified condition of those trenches, I must say it seemed to me a marvel how you managed to take the position. I can assure that no more brilliant feat of arms has ever been performed by a body of men during this present war, and I am proud to have such regiments under my command...*

*Of the courage and fearlessness of the two leading battalions who were ordered to take the first-line German trench, I cannot speak too highly, for on their efforts depended much of the success of those following them. Having taken the first-line trenches, you wisely pushed forward and took the third and the fourth, and some of your gallant comrades, I feel safe in saying, actually got into and took possession of some house in Hulluch.*

*The 2nd Brigade on your right was not at first successful, and the fine courage you displayed in pressing on, with your flank exposed, is worthy of all admiration, and the great lesson to be learnt from it is that, in battle, it behoves a battalion to push on irrespective of anything that is happening on their flanks.*

*It has pleased me greatly to ride through your ranks today, and to notice the fine spirit displayed by all, also to see the improvement in your condition since coming to rest.*

*You will shortly be called upon again to go into the trenches, and I feel sure that whatever work you are allotted will be done with the same cheerful spirit as in the past, which has been characteristic of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade.*

*I wish to thank you again for your work on September 25<sup>th</sup> last, especially the battalions who led the assault.”*

The harsh truth is that whilst 10th Glosters had done all that was asked of them in the initial assault with desperate casualties, their sacrifice was in vain because of the failure to have the reserves far enough forward to exploit the breakthrough. 1st Glosters had also suffered casualties, but had distinguished themselves at the Chalk Pit by their ability to deliver effective small arms fire. There were many lessons to be learnt; had they been, the same mistakes might not have been made on the first day of the Somme offensive 9 months later.

**Maj. Gen. Robin Grist CBE**

**Further reading:**

*“In the Shadow of the Lone Tree: The Forging of the 10<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters and the Ordeal of the First Division at the Battle of Loos – 1915” by Nick Christian*

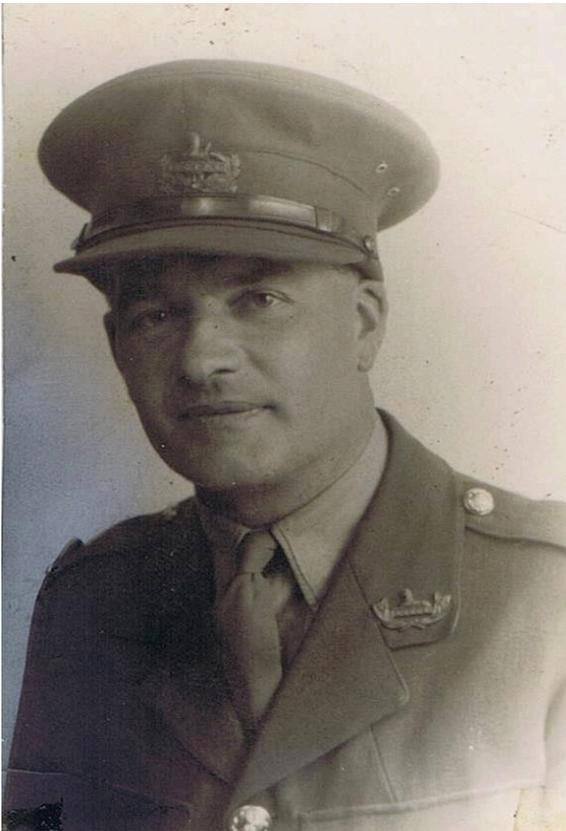
*Available from the SOGM shop.*

## Recent Acquisition

### POSSESSIONS OF MAJ. LESLIE HAUTING

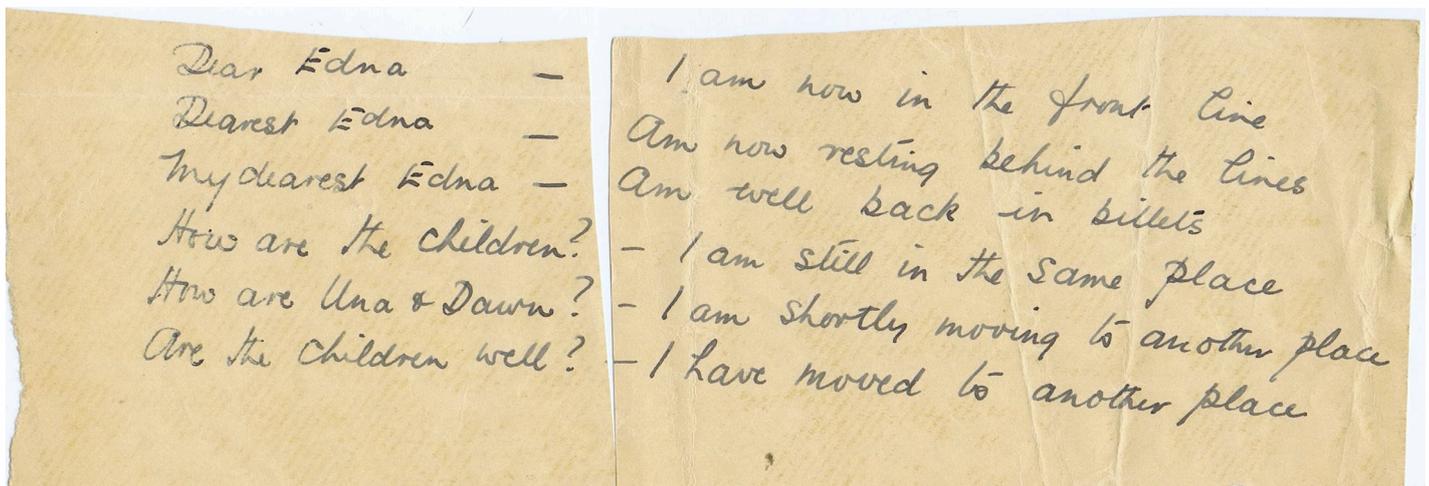
The daughter of Maj. Hauting, who had been the Adjutant of the 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. Gloucesters in the withdrawal to Dunkirk, has recently donated his medals, assorted papers and some military artefacts from 1940 to the Museum.

Born in Gloucestershire, his father had been batman to Sir Percival Marling VC. of Stanley Park, Stroud, during the Boer War and his mother was the Lady's Maid to Lady Marling. He attended Marling School, in Stroud, and joined the Territorial Bn. of the Gloucesters during the 1930's. Being a pre-war officer, by 1940 he was adjutant and played a major role in the stand at Arneke and Ledringhem, whilst the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. held the Cassel front, together delaying the German advance to the Channel and allowing time for the British Army to be evacuated from the beaches of Dunkirk.



Immediately after mobilisation in 1939, although he was not a musician, he created a dance band within the Bn. 'The Fore and Afts' (after the cap badge), who were good enough to tour locally where ever the Bn. was stationed in England.

One of the first TA units to arrive in France, in January 1940, the 5<sup>th</sup> fought alongside the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. in 48<sup>th</sup> Div. during the fighting retreat from Belgium to the Dunkirk/Calais pocket as the front collapsed. After defending the Ledringhem position for nearly three days, the survivors of the 5<sup>th</sup> withdrew, at night, concentrating at first in an orchard illuminated by a burning windmill and then along a stream. The 143 all ranks were hungry, exhausted and many wounded and progress was slow, creeping along hedgerows to avoid the sleeping German attackers and, his daughter maintains, Capt Hauting had to push and bully the men into continuing the six hour escape march to Bambeccque, where the survivors were met



Maj. Hurting's code sheet for his wife to tell of his position when writing home from France in early 1940



*The compass used in the move from Ledringhem to the coast, led mainly by the Adj. – Capt. Leslie Hauting.*



*A German officer's binoculars captured near Ledringhem. During the disengagement from Ledringhem 'they came across a party of sleeping Germans, stopped to take an officer and two men prisoners without waking the others and went on'.*

by the 8<sup>th</sup> Worcesters. 'Their eyes were sunken and red from lack of sleep..... at their head limped a few prisoners, with Capt Hauting in close attendance.... The last march, which began after midnight on 30 May, was the most difficult of all. The men were at the limit of their endurance. But the beaches were reached near Bray at 4.30 am'. Eventually all were able to get away on assorted ships, Capt Hauting on an old paddle steamer, the 'Glen Avon'.

In 1943, he was promoted to Major and posted to West Africa to train troops. There he died of a tropical disease, probably malaria, in March 1944. He was 'mentioned-in-dispatches'.

## **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY AND TREASURER'S REPORT**

As at 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 the Friends have 398 members in all categories: 267 Life and 131 annual members including 24 overseas. Three members took up the *Waterloo* offer, converting from annual to life membership.

Despite our funding of the display case this year, our finances remain robust and we are well placed to continue our support to the Museum. We continue to receive one off donations from members and would like to say many thanks, all donations are most welcome.

*For those of you who pay for your membership annually and have already renewed many thanks, for those of you still to renew, you can do so as follows:*

*By cheque made payable to 'The Friends of the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum' forwarded to the Friends at the Museum address 'Custom House, 31, Commercial Road, Gloucester, GL1 2HE'.*

*Over the internet through the Museum website at 'www.glost.org.uk' – follow the link to the Friends' page on the Museum's Home page.*

*By Banker's Standing Order. To save having to write cheques, pay for postage, or remember that you need to renew your subscription annually, why not complete a Banker's Standing Order Mandate?*

**Annual rates are £20 single, £30 couples and £10 for juniors. Conversion to Life membership is for a single payment of £200.**

**Patrick Smart**

## THE FRAMPTON VOLUNTEERS

**The Friends have made a considerable donation, supported by a gift from the Frampton Country Fair 2014, to the Museum for providing a display case to exhibit the Frampton Volunteers artefacts that had been stored in the City Museum for some seventy years. It is now a striking fixture in the Napoleonic Peninsula Room.**

The April 1798 Defence of the Realm Act, enacted during the so-called 'Napoleonic scare', encouraged citizens, especially along the south coast of England where a French invasion was expected, to join local militia units as a last bastion of defence against a persistent foe. The country as a whole raised some 450,000 volunteers. These volunteer corps known as 'armed associations' were self regulated, self financed (usually by means of membership subscriptions), elected their own officers and were to serve only within a few miles of the towns in which they were raised and were not even expected to serve to the limits of the county. Lord Hobart, who as Secretary of War, considered the yeomanry cavalry a very useful force but was less convinced about the volunteer infantry who he considered were "*by no means so well composed or regulated*". Therefore the infantry volunteers and armed associations were disbanded on the Peace of Amiens (March 25<sup>th</sup> 1802) while the yeomanry remained. However, when war resumed in May 1803 a new wave of volunteerism swept the nation . As the threat of invasion declined after 1805 so did the volunteer infantry movement and by 1808 most units had been disbanded.

In Gloucestershire several units of 'Loyal Volunteers' were formed, the Stroud Volunteers had several hundred men, mainly cloth and mill workers from the valleys, whilst even nearby Kings Stanley had a unit. In Frampton-on-Severn Nathaniel Clifford, the Squire, established 'an independent infantry unit' of volunteers at his own initiative and expense, save the muskets and bayonets which were provided by the Government's Board of Ordnance. The unit were prepared to serve 'the purpose of protecting and policing an area within a radius of eight miles of this "Towne of Frampton", extending to Gloucester on the north, to Berkeley on the south and eastwards to Stroud and Dursley'.

By July 1798 the Corps strength was 120 with Nathaniel Clifford as Captain; Henry Hicks of Eastington, a clothier, as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut; William Fryer, a farmer, as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut; Edward Gardner, a malster as Ensign and J. Earle as surgeon. Most of the remainder of the force were farmers, with a mixture of cloth workers, shop keepers, a couple each of butchers, bakers, tailors, school masters and cordwainers, a bricklayer and a pig killer.

The uniform was listed as 'a round hat with cockade and scarlet feather; scarlet jacket faced with blue, lined and edged white, turnbacks blue; white waistcoat and breeches; gilt buttons with "F.V." surmounted by a crown; white cotton stockings, black velvet hose, half gaiters of black cloth'.

A band was formed and consisted of '4 clarionets, 2 horns, 2 bassoons and 1 base drum', which would also be usable for concerts and church use, together with 'a triangle, 2 octave flutes and the regulation drums and fifes'. The Colour was purchased by Capt. Clifford from a Mr Robert Hall of Barbican for £14-14s-0d, together with the staff, buff belt and packing case.

The Colours were presented to the Corps at Frampton Court on August 22<sup>nd</sup> 1799, after consecration by the Vicar Chaplain, by Lady Mill of Arlingham. The inspecting officer was Maj. Powell Snell of Guiting Grange, Northleach, who had formed the first Troop of Gloucestershire Yeomanry at the Plough Hotel, Cheltenham in August 1795. The 'ground



*The Frampton Volunteers stand before Frampton Court about 1800.*

*The standard Volunteers dress (right) was a red jacket with blue facings and cuffs whilst a bandsman (left) had the colours reversed. The officer wears a white cross belt with a brass belt plate, which is also on display.*

*Painted by Simon McCouaig*

was kept', (perimeter guard mounting) by the 'Loyal Stroud Volunteers' and the 'Longtree, Bisley and Whitston Yeomanry' were also present. It was also recorded that the vicar's wife caught a 'severe chill' by having the Court window open to be able to listen to the martial music.

Some of the band instruments, sabres and scabbards and the Colour remained at Frampton Court long after the Volunteers were disbanded, probably about 1808. In fact the items remained at the Court, in an attic, until 1948 when Mrs Clifford and her mother, Mrs Jack Miller, gave them to the Gloucester City Museum, where they were quickly put into store. An agreement has been reached with the City Museum that the instruments, bass drum, sabres, with their scabbards and belts, will be displayed in the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum on a rotating loan and will be on viewed, we think, for the first time for nearly 70 years.



*The Frampton Volunteer's display case in the Peninsular Room of the SoGM.*

The cabinet, which matches those already in the Peninsular Room and is suitably illuminated, and the work of the display consultant, have been funded by grants from the Friends of the Museum and the Frampton Country Show 2014. A painting of three Volunteers has been done by our 'artist-in-residence', Simon McCouaig.

The Colour however, which is some six foot square with the brilliant blue and scarlet well preserved, needs some skilled conservation work to restore areas where the Frampton Volunteers badge and motto has been painted onto the silk, before it can be displayed. This specialised work has not, as yet, been funded.

The Museum Trustees have passed on their thanks to the Friends and are very grateful to have all these objects in the Museum as they represent a local military unit formed from the farmers and villagers of this county, as opposed to the soldiers of the 28<sup>th</sup> and 61<sup>st</sup> Regiments of Foot (the antecedent Gloucestershire Regiments) which were manned by recruits from many counties in the Kingdom. The Colour represents the 'heart' of the Volunteers and the Trustees are looking beyond the Museum for financial assistance in preserving and displaying this important artefact in the heritage of the county.

**Lt Col Ralph Stephenson TD.**



*Preservation of the drum – flaking paint had revealed a yellow undercoat (left). After cleaning, the damage was treated with a neutral colour (right) allowing the original decoration of oak leaves and the FV motif and motto to be more prominent. It now occupies the base of the display case.*