

NEWSLETTER
THE FRIENDS OF
THE SOLDIERS OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
MUSEUM



SPRING 2012

‘A TOMMY’S SKETCHBOOK’

This spring, the Museum, in co-operation with ‘The History Press’ of Brimscombe, Gloucs. are publishing the sketches of 2746 L/Cpl Henry Buckle of the 1/5th Bn. The Gloucestershire Regt. Henry Buckle, a married man and an amateur photographer from Tewkesbury, enlisted in the 1/5th Bn. in September 1914 and went with the 48th (South Midland) Division to France in April 1915. Unable to take his photographic equipment with him he recorded images of the Front Line in simple sketches. He was invalided home in December 1915 after a trench collapsed on him, injuring his leg, and was discharged unfit for further service.



“On the way from “Hyde Park Corner” to the front line trench. Ploegsteert, Belgium, 1915”. (above)

“A hole cut in the clay back of the trench, and parts of a biscuit tin, made this fireplace, where six of us cooked all our meals for weeks”.
(far left)

“The necessary tilt is obtained by fixing the gun in a special stool. Allouange, 1915”. (left)

David Read, the Museum Archivist, has interwoven the sketches with diary entries to provide a story line linking the pictures. The forward has been written by Jack Russell, the Gloucestershire and International cricketer, who is an accomplished artist himself as well as losing a great-uncle in the First World War. Jack Russell is also a Friend of the SoGM.

‘A TOMMY’S SKETCHBOOK – writings and drawings from the Trenches’

Published by The History Press at £9.99
now on sale from the Museum Bookshop.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



You will see from the Curator's report that the Museum is on the cusp of an exciting phase, now that it is over twenty years since HRH The Duke of Gloucester officially opened the joint Glosters and RGH venture. To move this forward the Trustees need funds to 'revamp' the displays and a bid has been made to the Heritage Lottery Fund to provide this capital. We now know that the initial phase of this bid is successful and, as the Curator reports, the work starts of the second phase of the bid, which itself will require funding. Some of the sum will have to be raised by the Museum and the Trustees should know that the Friends will dig into the reserves and contribute to this.

Whilst on the subject of money I would draw your attention to the Treasurer's report. The annual and life membership fees have not been reviewed since the Friends began, some twenty years ago and we need to increase these, in line with the museum admission fees. You will see that we are doubling the annual fee to £20 and the lifetime membership to £200. However, should you wish to convert your annual membership to life you may do so now for the current £100; I urge you to do this as it seems a bargain. Those paying by standing order will need to change the existing order.

Whilst the Museum looks at a 'makeover', the Trustees are also looking at the feasibility of enlarging the scope of the Museum to encompass more of the Gloucestershire military heritage, from the hill forts of the Severn Vale, the Roman Legions that garrisoned Glevum, through the Royalist and Parliamentarian actions in the county during the Civil War to the contribution that the county made to the 'Home Front' during both World Wars. This could produce an amazing display of the military history of the county without losing the emphasis on the county regiments. To launch these new endeavours and announce the ambitious plans the Friends were delighted to host an 'Evening with Sir Max Hastings' in February. He spoke to a large audience at Cheltenham College on the substance of his latest book, 'All Hell let Loose – 1939-1945' and we are extremely grateful for his attendance and that he donated the funds raised by the brisk sales of his books.

I am also delighted to announce that Sir Francis Richards, KCMG. CVO. DL has agreed to become the President of the Friends, a post that has been vacant for some time since His Honour Gabriel Hutton stood down. Sir Francis served with the Royal Green Jackets, now incorporated in the Rifles, before entering the Diplomatic Service. He was Director of the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) in Cheltenham from 1998 to 2003 and then served as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Gibraltar from 2003 to 2006. He has also been chairman of the Bletchley Park Trust and is currently chairman of the Trustees of the Imperial War Museum. We are very grateful that he has agreed to serve the Friends and look forward to a long association.

To raise the profile of the Museum and to provide a further event for the Friends, we have been granted the use of the Yeomanry Marquee for lunch on Friday, May 4th, the Friday of the Badminton Three Day Event. A two course lunch with coffee, with wine at a small extra charge, will be available from 12 noon. We look forward to seeing Friends there and keeping them up to date with Museum's development programme.

Lt. Col. Ralph Stephenson TD.

THE CURIOUS CASE OF A COURT-MARTIAL

When a copy of the 1 RGH War Diary was found on the internet together with records from the Australian Imperial Force 1914-18, transcribed from documents in the Australian Archives, interest was aroused. But why from Australian sources and not from British?

Of the preserved reports that make up the War Diary of 1 RGH some are original “Brigade Copy”, (the RGH, like the other Yeomanry Regiments in Northern Sinai in 1918, were under Australian Command at this time), some others are only scans of the “Carbon Paper” used between the typed sheets; three pieces of carbon paper were always used to produce a total of four copies; three went up the chain of command and one was retained at RHQ. However, this was not always the case with RGHY, as such a luxury item as a type-writer was not always possessed. At Gallipoli, note pads were scribbled on, often in pencil and later, more than once, the type-writer was “lost” and in one instance it was even “bombed to bits” As far as is known, the Regimental copies were “removed to safe keeping” some time around the post war re-organisation of 1922 and are probably still hidden in a large house somewhere within the county! Other papers were lost or even destroyed by successive Adjutants or Permanent Staff, between the Wars, but thankfully, there are other copies at The National Archive, Kew, including some early ones; Gallipoli 1915 for example, which are available to view on-line.

But back to the story; an entry that is intriguing was dated 30 June 1918;

WADI NUEISAMEH 30/6/18

Maj AHS Howard MC, Capt ET Cripps, Capt AA The Lord Apsley, A/Capt E Gilholme, 235005 RSM A. Butler and 235096 L/Sgt Cotterall EP proceeded to Bethlehem by motor lorry at 0900 from Jericho, to attend General Court Martial on Capt AG Wykeham-Musgrave.

The regiment was relieved in Wadi Neuiameh at 2000 by the 12th ALH (Australian Light Horse) and proceeded to Tellat Ed Dumm, arriving there at 2400, distance 10 m.

Marching out strength 10 Officers, 361 ORs, 408 horses, 8 mules, 6 donkeys, 23 L D horses and 33 LD Mules.

ET Cripps, Capt & Adjutant. Royal Gloucester Hussars Yeomanry.

What was so serious a crime that it required six witnesses to travel from Jericho to Bethlehem to support the accused and why Capt. Wykeham-Musgrave, an experienced officer?



Capt. Aubrey Wykeham-Musgrave, was born in 1888 at the family home of Thame Park, Oxfordshire, and was gazetted 2/Lieut. in the RGH in March 1912 whilst he was a land agent at Barnsley Park, his papers declaring that he ‘would not join any other unit’. He survived the battles of Gallipoli, although a bout of dysentery kept him away from the firing line for three weeks in October 1915.

Capt. Aubrey Wykeham-Mugrave’s Kodak Vest Pocket camera, patented 1913, carried through the Northern Sinai campaign.
- RGH Trustees

He embarked for Egypt on 9 November and rejoined the RGH at Mena Camp on 28 November 1915. He was promoted Lieut. in February 1916 and Adjutant in March 1916, after the loss of Capt Viscount Quenington. He served with the Regimental HQ through the Northern Sinai campaign and in September 1917 he assumed command of 'A' Sqn. as acting Major. It was in this position that he was called to Bethlehem in June 1918 to face his Court-Martial:

Extract from FGCM 1/7/18 at Bethlehem – Capt AG Wykeham-Musgrave.

Charge I – Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline in that in the field in the month of April 1918, posted or caused to be posted a parcel addressed to Mrs. Wykeham-Musgrave, Daglingworth House, Cirencester, England which contained undeveloped photographic films, contrary to the Regs. of the E.E.F.

Charge II – In a certificate signed by him, knowingly made a false statement in that he in the field in the month of April 1918 signed a certificate on the wrapper of a parcel containing undeveloped photographic films to Mrs. Wykeham-Musgrave at Daglingworth House, Cirencester, England, to the effect that the said parcel contained "Registered Egyptian Charms" which statement was false, as he well knew.

Charge III – In a certificate signed by him knowingly making a false statement in the field in the month of April 1918 signed a certificate on the label attached to a parcel containing undeveloped photographic films and addressed to Mrs. Wykeham-Musgrave at Daglingworth, Cirencester, England to the effect that the said parcel contained "Registered Egyptian Charms" which statement was false, as he well knew.

Pleaded – not guilty to all charges.

Found – not guilty on the first charge; guilty of the second and third charges.

Sentence – to be severely reprimanded

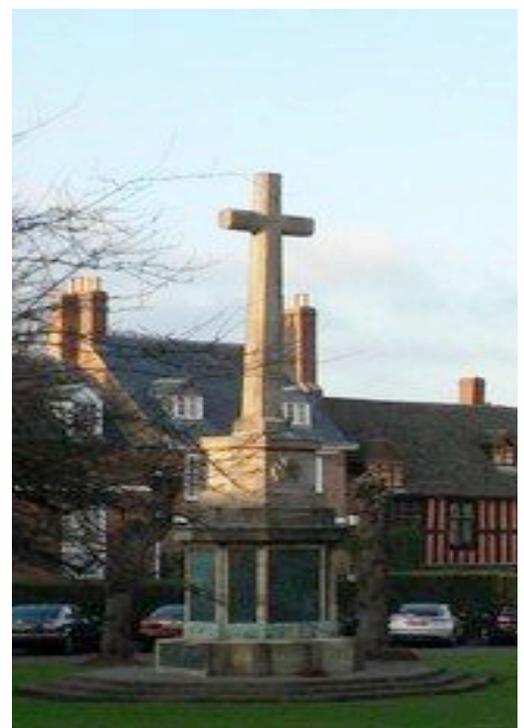
Confirmed – H W Hodgson, Maj. Gen. Comd. AMO Bethlehem 2/7/18.

It appears to be well known that Capt Aubrey W-M was a keen photographer, his crime being to send undeveloped film to his mother, risking information 'falling into the hands of enemy aliens' and calling them Egyptian charms! Many of the scenes he recorded give a pictorial record of service that both men and horses endured through the campaign in Sinai and Palestine. Some of the photographs also allowed the sculptor Capt. Adrian Jones to create the bas-relief panels on the RGH war memorial in College Green, Gloucester, 'representing outstanding episodes in the campaign in which the regiment gained so much distinction'. The scene "The Sand of the Desert, Sinai (1916)" Frank Fox describes as 'a reproduction from an actual vest-pocket camera snapshot taken as the regiment descended a sand hill returning from a reconnaissance'.

Jane Wykeham-Musgrave, his daughter, has kindly given this vest-pocket camera to the RGH Trustees which enables the RGH to link the action, the photographs and the bronze bas-relief panels into a story. The Court Martial adds another dimension to that memory.

What about the six character witnesses? Well, perhaps they saw a 'jolly' in the offing in Bethlehem.

The Royal Gloucestershire Hussars War Memorial, College Green, Gloucester. Three of the side bas-relief panels, by Adrian Jones were from photographs provided by Maj. Aubrey Wykeham-Musgrave MC.





Maj. Aubrey Wykeham-Musgrave MC. mid. at about the time of his wedding in 1927.

The Sand of the Desert, Sinai 1916'. Troops returning from a patrol down a gully, a photograph taken by Capt. Wykeham-Musgrave was used by Adrian Jones for one of the panels on the RGH War Memorial, College Green,.

Another twist in the story of Capt. Aubrey W-M has also been discovered whilst searching for his papers. He had been recommended for the MC on 28 January 1918; the London Gazette, however, published it in his eldest brother's name and had to follow this with a correction:

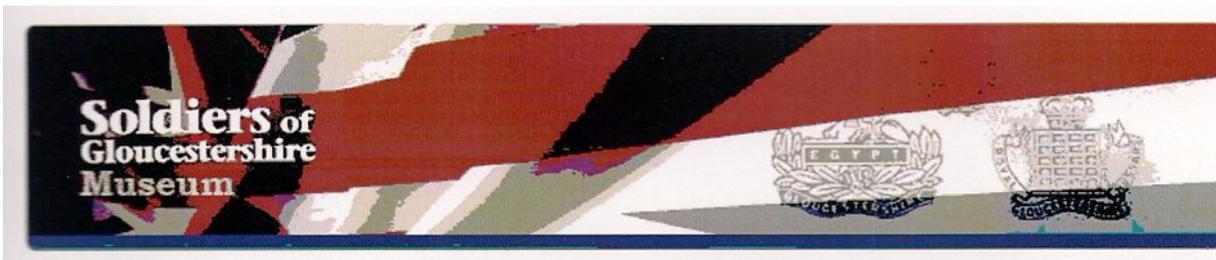
London Gazette: Recommendation Military Cross 1st March 1918
Capt H M Wykeham-Musgrave

London Gazette 20th March 1918
*The initials of Capt A G Wykeham-Musgrave are as now described
 and not as stated in the gazette of 1st Mar 1918*

Gazette issue 30624 published on the 9th April 1918
 Awarded the MILITARY CROSS
Capt Aubrey George Wykeham-Musgrave, Yeo.

He was also 'mentioned in dispatches' by Gen. Allenby in the London Gazette, issue 30746 of 11th June 1918. He resigned his commission in July 1920.

- References:* - www.awn.gov.au/collections/records/awm4item9/6/16.
 - *Officers Service Records, National Archives, WO 374/77334*
 - *History of the RGHY 1898-1922, The Great Cavalry Campaign in Palastine – Frank Fox 1923.*
 - *London Gazette March- June 1918* **Lt. Col. Ralph Stephenson TD.**



CURATORS REPORT

It has been a busy winter this year sorting out the displays and we approach the new visitor season with greater confidence, expecting a much busier year. The Docks look much better with spring approaching and, with the public realm virtually finished, the visitors are starting to emerge from their winter hibernation. Also I expect that with the strength of the pound, overseas holidays may not be as affordable as in the past and may lead to a better domestic tourist season, with more days out and weekend trips than last few years. To boost this Gloucester Quays have launched a new marketing campaign to boost their number and have offered us a shop window to boost our footfall and for us to benefit for their huge marketing spend. The city is certainly becoming a more attractive and modern tourist attraction with more organized special events to boost footfall. This year we are holding a History Festival during the holiday season and this should help with the numbers – Last year's Tall ships event brought in over 1200 visitors over the weekend - a record for the Museum

It is now nearly 20 years since the Museum opened in its present form and there is a need to bring the displays up to date and to use more modern ways to get the message across to an ever demanding public. Lack of funds has always been our problem and so we have submitted a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund so that we can revamp the whole museum and do the job properly. We have just heard, as we go to press, that our Round 1 Application, which brings with it some funding to support a Round 2 application, has been accepted. Round 2 has to be submitted at the end of this year or next year. This is very exciting; so the project design and planning will start immediately.

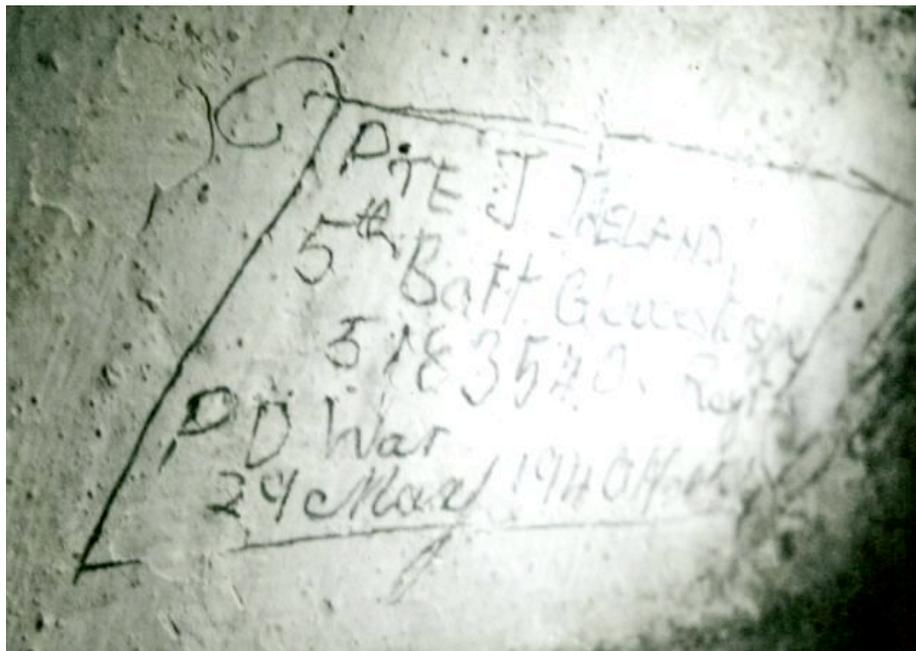
In the interim we expect to put on a new Modern Army display to replace the Burma display which will be covered elsewhere in the Museum. The 1st battalion now back from another tour of Afghanistan has supplied some magnificent "kit" which we will put on display. What is striking is the quality and the design of it all. The safety, comfort and welfare of the soldier have clearly been in the forefront of the minds of the designers and manufacturers. Gone are the days of "Draws cellular" and "Shirts hairy" – those instruments of torture so familiar to many of us. It should be an exciting new display and will show our commitment those that are serving now.

Finally, I would like to thank the Friends for all their support over the years. Without it we would have struggled to survive and certainly would not have had the quality of new displays to show collections of to their best advantage. We are all very grateful

Mr. George Streatfeild

Gloster's History from Poland.

The Museum has recently had an email from a British resident in Poland, attached to which is a photograph of graffiti found in the subterranean passage of one of the many old Prussian forts outside Toruń, in northern Poland. Apparently this Fort, No. 11, is not normally open to the public and, as he walked around the darkened corridors, he came across hundreds of graffiti scrawled by prisoners of the Nazi's, held there in the 2nd World War. He sent the image written by:



*5183540 Pte. J. Ireland
5th Bn. Gloucestershire Regt.
PO War 29 May 1940.*

The forts, along the old border between Prussia and Russia, were commenced by the Prussian government in 1872, at first using French prisoners taken during the Franco-Prussian War and, in 32 years, some 200 fortifications were constructed, ranging from seven main forts, six smaller forts, through to infantry shelters and 'mid-field' buildings used for artillery and ammunition shelters. They were constantly modernised, the last time in early 1914, but had no part to play in the First World War. The Torun complex of some seven buildings was used for British prisoners of war in World War II and was known collectively as Stalag XX-A.

The 2nd and 5th Battalions of the Glosters, both of the 48th Division, were tasked to form part of a defensive line, close to the town of Cassel and the villages of Arneke and Ledringhem, a few miles to the north of Cassel, as the BEF withdrew towards Dunkirk in May 1940. For two days the Germans attacked the 5th Bn. with mortar and artillery bombardment, probing infantry assaults and tank infiltration around the village and farm buildings, but 'the position was to be held at all costs'. By the evening of the second day the companies from Arneke were pulled back to Ledringhem as the Germans consolidated their containment of the village and word was received from Brigade HQ, by runners who had got through the strong enemy positions (both received the MM for their efforts) that the Bn. was to try to break away after dark. After a determined enemy effort to enter the village at dusk was beaten back with Bren and rifle fire from every house in the street and three determined bayonet charges, the 5th, now some 140 strong, began to creep away after midnight, silently through an orchard and then, in single file, along a stream; 'at one time they came across a party of sleeping Germans, stopped to take an officer and two men prisoner without waking the others and went on'. When the 5th Bn. were all accounted for and concentrated in Herefordshire, they were some 400 strong. Most of the wounded, some ninety, were taken into captivity, along with seven officers and over 200 other ranks. Private J. Ireland was known to amongst this group. He was released by the Russians in 1945 and his name was amongst those that were repatriated. Nothing more seems to be known about him after the war.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY AND TREASURER'S REPORT

As at 15 March 2012 the Friends have 359 members in all categories. New memberships for the year stand at 20 (7 through the Museum Internet site and 13 from Museum visitors or at the highly successful Max Hastings lecture).

There are still 25 Friends paying annually who have not paid yet for the year June 2011- May 2012. Annual rates are £5 for junior, £10 for single and £15 for couples. Conversion to Life membership is a one off charge of £100. Payment can be made:

- *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? Receipt of your payment directly into the Friends' bank account will trigger action on my part to issue your new membership card. You can of course cancel a standing order with your bank at any stage so if you would like a Standing Order form please contact me at the Museum.

You will be aware that we are increasing subscriptions for the year June 2012 – May 2013. The new annual amounts are: £10 (junior), £20 (single), £30 (couple) - and a £200 one off charge for life membership.

Friends paying annually by Standing Order on 1 June or later will need to amend their Standing Order with their Bank. Members using internet banking should be able to do this on line and those using telephone banking should be able to contact their bank direct to make the change. Any member requiring to amend their Standing Order in writing should use the Standing Order Mandate form enclosed with this Newsletter. Please contact me at the Museum if you need any assistance.

Wng. Cdr. Chris Campbell

Museum Lunch at Badminton 3 Day Event

Have a break from shopping or watching the dressage and join the Friends and guests for lunch in the

Royal Wessex Yeomanry Marquee on Friday May 4th 2012 from 12 noon.

Bring your family and as many friends as you like to enjoy a two course lunch, coffee; a full bar is also available.

News about the Museum development will on display and your questions answered.

Please book you places either online to simoncolbeck@msn.com or drop a line to Hon. Sec. Friends of the SoGM, Ashcombe Edge, Chedworth, GL54 4AJ.

The RWxY Marquee is to the east of the Main Arena and can be identified by the flags of the county squadrons

Two Hundred years ago - No. 7

THE PENINSULAR WAR 1812

After the Battle of Albuera, described in the last Newsletter, and Wellington's attempt to blockade the fortress of Ciudad Rodrigo in August 1811, which was driven off in September by Marmont's forces when the Allies were dangerously scattered along their supply line, the troops under Wellington went 'into cantonments for three months from 1 October, to recover their health'. In January 1812 Wellington ordered a new investment of Ciudad Rodrigo.

On the night of 8 January, 450 troops under Col. Colbourne sized the main outworks, enabling the digging of siege trenches to begin and, through the snow and ice, the work continued until the 19 January when Gen. Picton's 3rd Div. stormed the main breach in darkness. Under heavy fire the breach was taken until a mine exploded beneath them, 'blowing the troops sky-high'. The town was eventually captured by brave troops who promptly turned into a mob of drunken looters. As the victorious 52nd Foot (later The Oxfordshire Regt.) marched out the following morning Wellington asked 'who the devil are those fellows, as a series of bizarre apparitions passed in front of him festooned in silk gowns, garlanded with strings of pretty Spanish shoes and carrying hams, tongues and loaves on the points of their cold iron'. – Longford, *Wellington, The Years of the Sword*

British and Portuguese casualties from the start of the siege totalled 1,121 killed, wounded and missing of which 562 were accounted for during the storm itself. French casualties totalled around 530 killed or wounded - mostly in the assault - with a further 1,360 unwounded taken prisoner.

Badajoz was next to be invested, in March 1812, with more trench digging, much detested by the line regiments, until the attack began on the evening of the 6 April. After a difficult assault over the walls, men 'again and again rushed up ladders which were continually thrown down' until at last 'Huzza, there is one man up!' the 45th built on this success until 'hundreds flew over and the castle was in Allied hands'. But again the triumphant troops, having been through hell, transformed themselves into a mob of drunken looters, pillagers, killers and rapists, Wellington himself narrowly missed being killed by indiscriminate *feu de joie*.



Picton's 3rd Division manage to reach the top of the walls of Badajoz



"The Devil's Own" The 88th (Connaught Rangers) Regiment scale the walls at the Siege of Badajoz
by Richard Caton

Seeing he could no longer hold the defences, Gen Philippon, the French officer commanding, withdrew to the neighbouring outwork of San Cristobal and surrendered once the town had fallen.

The drinking and looting continued for 72 hours before order was restored and the 4000 or so victims were found to be innocent Spanish civilians and not French troops. Despite this, Capt. J. Kincaid of the Rifles, saw nothing wrong; *'the men were permitted to enjoy themselves for the remainder of the day'*. When dawn broke on 7 April, Wellington wept at the sight of some 4800 British bodies piled high in the breaches in the city walls; the Light Division losing 40% of its fighting strength.

Before Napoleon set off for Moscow in May 1812 he wrote to the luckless Marmont, unaware of the true situation, that *'it is necessary to maintain an offensive posture'*. But now Wellington had secured the Spanish-Portuguese border and he could take the offensive against Marmont at Salamanca.

THE 61st REGIMENT AT THE BATTLE OF SALAMANCA - 22nd JULY 1812.

The Battle of Salamanca was a classic example of the way in which The Duke of Wellington handled troops. For the 61st (South Gloucestershire) Regiment the Battle of Salamanca was one of which they were proudest.

It came at the end of a long period of manoeuvring for position between Wellington and Marshal Marmont. During June and July 1812 the two armies marched and counter-marched in the plains and hills between Madrid and Salamanca, each sparring for an opportunity to catch the other at a disadvantage. Wellington's lines of communication lay westward to Ciudad Rodrigo and into Portugal; Marmont's lay eastward to Madrid. The two armies were equal in numbers, about 42,000 men, and neither general would give battle without having the advantage of the other.

After six weeks of this the French took up a strong position on the northern bank of the River Tormes on July 20th July and Wellington went into lines on the southern bank. On the night of July the 21st there was a violent thunderstorm. The British light infantry, fording a stream at the time, found the water swirling round their armpits, and lightning played on their bayonets in a continuous dazzle of blue fire. Horses broke in panic from their pickets and ran wild; men were killed by the lightning, and everyone was soaked by the rain. The great storm was an apt prelude to the next day's battle.

The morning of July 22nd, 1812, dawned fine and clear, the two armies stood to arms, and Wellington and Marmont began again the old game of scrutinizing each other's positions. Wellington had three divisions hidden from the French behind hilly country - the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh. At midday Wellington left the hill-top where he had been watching movements in the enemy positions and went to a farmhouse for dinner. While he was eating, a staff officer came in hurriedly and reported that Marmont was moving several divisions south-westward as though to outflank the British army. Wellington said, "The devil he is!" and went out to see for himself. He scanned the enemy movements, and then closed his telescope with a snap and said, "Marmont is lost!" For by marching part of his army to his left Marmont had opened a gap in his lines - the mistake Wellington had been hoping for so patiently. Wellington ordered forward the three divisions which had been hidden behind hilly ground, and then he sent the Third Division, commanded by his brother-in-law, Edward Pakenham, into the gap in Marmont's lines.



"Ned, move on with the Third Division," Wellington said; "take the heights on your front, and drive everything before you!" Pakenham replied, "I will, my Lord, if you will give me your hand."

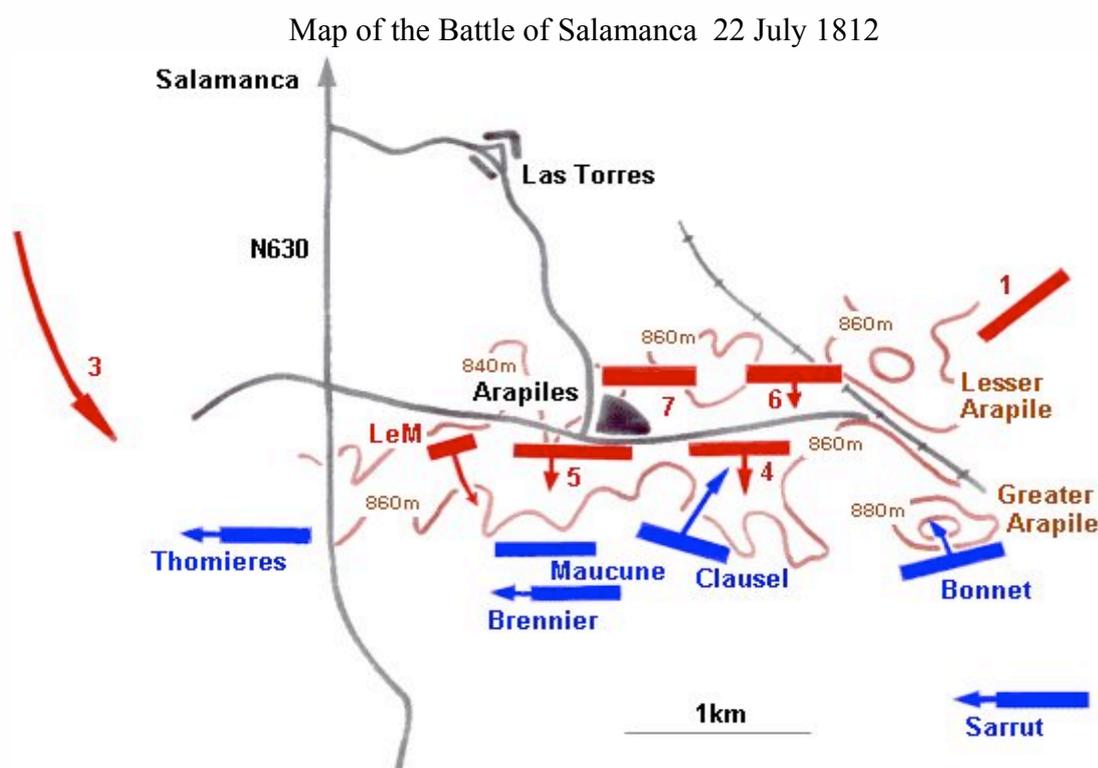
Wellington at the Battle of Salamanca 22 July 1812

By William Heath 1795 - 1840

The 61st, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Barlow, were in the Sixth Division, in Hulse's Brigade with the 1/11th (North Devons), the 2/53rd (Shropshire), and a Rifle Company of the 5/60th (Kings Royal Rifle Corps). Frederick Barlow was a brother of John James Barlow, who had led four companies of the 61st 120 miles across the desert in Egypt in July 1801. The Barlows were one of the many families which served the Regiment; another John Barlow had commanded the 61st from 1758 to 1773, and had then become Colonel of the Regiment until 1778. Three other members of the family served later, one as commanding officer in 1823, and two who joined as ensigns in 1825 and 1830. Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Barlow, who commanded the Regiment at Salamanca, had joined the Regiment as ensign in 1784.

The Sixth Division was brought up to support the Fourth Division, which was in hot action near the village of Arapiles. For the first part of the battle the 61st, with 27 officers and 420 other ranks, waited beside the 11th Regiment, while the Fourth Division attacked the French on some high ground. For a while all went well. Wellington's sudden onslaught with the Third Division, and a glorious charge at another part of Marmont's line by the Heavy Dragoons led by General Le Marchant, swept the French back. Marmont was wounded early in the battle and was carried from the field. His second-in-command also fell, and thus, at a time when the battle was all but lost, General Clausel assumed command. With great skill he rallied his forces, brought up reserves, and threw the new divisions into the battle at the vital point around Arapiles in furious counter-attacks. Here two hills dominated the plain and offered valuable advantage to the side which could occupy them. The French infantry responded vigorously, and after violent fighting they drove the British Fourth Division down from the high ground, and occupied the two hills.

It was then that the Sixth Division was sent forward to relieve the hard-pressed Fourth Division and to drive the French back from the hills. Both brigades of the Sixth Division advanced. It happened that the 11th and 61st faced a remarkably steep stretch of ground, down which the exultant French were preparing to attack. When Hulse's brigade was given the order to advance it was faced with a desperate task: the high ground ahead of it was occupied by large numbers of determined enemy, who had a perfect field of fire down the slopes. But the men received the order to advance with three cheers, and in close lines, shoulder touching shoulder, The Colours in the centre, and their colonels, sword in hand, at their head, the regiments set off up the slopes towards the enemy.



The approximate positions of British and French forces at the battle, the numbers denote British Le Marchant's heavy cavalry is denoted by LeM. French Divisions are labelled according to their commanders.

The three cheers which the men habitually gave before a battle must have had a very heartening effect; it was an opportunity to give vent to the mixed emotions immediately before action; the great cheers engendered confidence, shouted defiance, and exalted each man's feelings to fighting-pitch. Certainly the three cheers of the Sixth Division at Salamanca were the cheers of very brave men. The 11th and the 61st were subject to most intense musket-fire as they marched up the slopes, but the rule of shoulder to shoulder was maintained, and men closed up and filled the gaps as they marched. When they were near to the enemy they halted and fired one volley, with parade-ground precision, and then they lowered their muskets and charged up the remaining part of the hill, cheering again as they went at the enemy with the bayonet. The fighting was furious, but gradually the French gave ground, and before long the Sixth Division was pursuing them down the other side of the hill.

Lieutenant-Colonel Barlow was killed, and eight other officers and more than a hundred men of the 61st fell. The French were formed up again with reinforcements, on a further hilltop, and the Regiment was re-formed, in four divisions, two deep. They were under fire from the enemy ahead and from sharpshooters out on the flanks. They were under close-range cannon-fire, and a squadron of French cavalry was forming on a flank to charge them. Yet the men were as steady as on a parade at home. Then the order was given to advance, and again the men gave three cheers. The 32nd (Cornwall) Regiment took part in the attack in the other brigade of the Sixth Division, and one of their officers described this second attack:

The ground over which we had to pass was a remarkably clear slope, like the glacis of a fortification—most favourable for the defensive fire of the enemy, and disadvantageous to the assailants; but the Sixth Division advanced forward towards the position with perfect steadiness and confidence. A craggy ridge, on which the French infantry was drawn up, rose so abruptly that they could fire four or five deep; but we had approached within two hundred yards of them before the fire of musketry began, which was by far the heaviest that I have ever witnessed, and was accompanied by constant discharges of grape. An uninterrupted blaze was then maintained, so that the crest of the hill seemed to be one long streak of flame. Our men came down to the charging position and commenced firing at that level, at the same time keeping their touch to the right, so that the gaps opened by the enemy's fire were instantly filled up. The success of the attack was complete, for as soon as the 6th Division got near enough they dashed forward with the bayonet, and, another portion of our troops acting on Clausel's right, his army was quickly driven from the position into the wood in their rear.



Contemporary engravings of the Battle of Salamanca 1812.



Privates Crawford and Coulson. 61st (South Gloucestershire) Regiment. From the painting by Lieutenant-Colonel A.C. Lovett

There is a footnote which, coming from an officer of another regiment in the battle, is high tribute indeed; 'the 61st, which was by far the finest regiment in the Sixth Division, was almost annihilated in this action'.

'Almost annihilated' was tragically true. Of the 27 officers and 420 other ranks of the 61st who went into action that day there remained only 3 officers and 78 other ranks. Six reliefs of officers and sergeants were shot under the Colours, and at the end Private William Crawford and Private Nicholas Coulson seized the Colours and carried them triumphantly to the top of the hill. Crawford was promoted sergeant instantly, but Coulson refused the promotion, with the unusual reason that he was 'over-rewarded by the cheers and thanks of my comrades'.

The 11th, who had fought with the 61st, had suffered almost as severely and for a while the two battalions were formed into one, and there has been a close friendship between the two.

The Battle of Salamanca was an extraordinary victory. First there was Wellington's instantaneous appreciation of the opportunity suddenly presented by the opening of the enemy's lines, when Marmont moved his divisions to his left, and Wellington's immediate action. Secondly, the British infantry fought with a splendid aggressive spirit, in spite of terrible punishment. Although the armies were of equal strength, the Spanish troops left the field of battle, so that in effect seventy-four French battalions and twenty-three squadrons were utterly beaten by twenty-eight battalions and the same number of Portuguese, and twenty-six squadrons of cavalry.

THE MEMORABLE BATTLE OF SALAMANCA! 22ND JULY 1812.



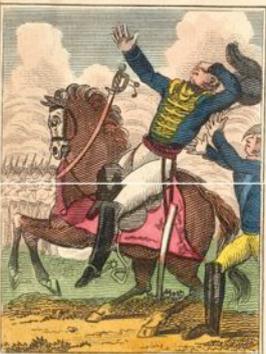
Marquis Wellington defeating the French at Salamanca O!!!



Gen. Talavera Changing the Enemy's front.



Driving the French through the Wood.



Death of Major Gen. Le Marchant.



Skirmish with the Cavalry on the 23rd

The French lost more than 14,000 killed or wounded while Wellington's army lost 5,200 casualties. There were handsome trophies too – two Eagles, six Standards and twelve guns.

It is worth noting that all the Regiments in Hulse's Brigade are now in the Rifles and Salamanca is the Regimental Day in the Rifles.

Maj. Gen. Robin Grist CB. OBE.



The French Marshall Marmont Wounded.



Surrender of Madrid.

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"The Memorable Battle of Salamanca 22nd July 1812" - Sheet with seven illustrations depicting scenes from the battle of Salamanca and the capture of Madrid in 1812. The paper is watermarked with a date of 1816 but the prints were originally published on November 9th 1812.