



Surrey Infantry Museum

Museum Newsletter Mar 2014

Volume 1 Issue 6

AIM

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

FOSIM – Tony Ward

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** FOSIM
- 2** Trustees report and Membership Update
- 3 - 5** Museum matters
- 6** Battlefield Tour
- 7** Lunch Club
- 8** Remembrance by Col Sewell
- 9** Events and Publications
- 10** Events
- 11** Lunch booking Form

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Phone and fax:
01483 223419
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fosim@btconnect.com
Opening times from
02 Nov 2013
12.00 am - 16.00pm
Tue, Wed, Thu only.
Other by appt

The Museum is about to enter a very busy four years commemorating the “Great War 1914-18”. Ian Chatfield has already had a long list of requests for talks to Schools, clubs and many others on our regiments during this time. FOSIM has agreed to pay for a First World War uniform to help make our display and talks more realistic.

I do urge you all to visit the Museum during the year as some of the displays will be changing as they reflect the story of the Great War. Undoubtedly many families will also want to try to trace their relatives who fought in the War who have served with our regiments. As there will be an upsurge in people wanting to trace their ancestors this will put more pressure on Ian Chatfield and his staff. If you feel that you can on a regular basis give help in anyway, do contact Ian. The Museum will also be having a display at The Surrey County Show this year as well as doing other events. The bespoke tour by Holts following 1 & 2 Queen's and 1 Surreys action in the autumn of 1914 is going ahead in May 14. This is very much bespoke so the cost is slightly above the normal as Holts have not followed these battles before. A very generous subsidy for those who have worn our cap badge from the Queen's Surreys Combined Charities Trustees has offset some of these costs. It is still not too late if you want to come- see further in the newsletter. One of those going has already researched that his Grandfather was serving with D Coy 1 Queen's and captured when the Company was surrounded on 30th Oct 1914. We shall be visiting the spot on our tour.

Next week Gill and I will be representing the Regiment at the un-veiling of the memorial to HMS Birkenhead which was sunk in 1852 with the loss of 53 Queen's Royal Regiment soldiers whilst: “Stand fast, Women and Children first”. I will tell you more about it in the next Newsletter.

To increase our Committee I have asked Bob McGhie to become our Vice Chairman and I am pleased report he has accepted.

Lastly, I know you will join me in thanking Dee for all she has done keeping the membership running, and arranging some fantastic speakers and lunches beside this Newsletter.

David Dickins - MUSEUM MANAGEMENT and TRUSTEES

The Trustees do not meet again until April so the report will be included in the October newsletter.

FOSIM Membership - Dee Hutchison

There has been a slight increase in numbers over the year and we are holding our own on the budget income versus expenditure. However a better cost saving is on postage so please if you do have an email address please let me know. Also I am still getting quite a few bounced back emails where there have been changes and we have not been informed of them.

The Queens Royal Surrey Reunion at the Union Jack Club**2014 Reunion**

The handling of this event has passed to the Friends and will continue in force for next year. Date for diary this year is 7th November 2014.

Tickets will come from Surrey Infantry Museum. All enquiries need to come to FOSIM through the Clandon House address or our email fosim@btconnect.com.

A separate mailing will also be carried out later in May as we know you are not all members of FOSIM.

The Museum Shop

The Shop is now fully stocked with items for sale. There has been an increase in demand for items as we move into the 1914 -18 Remembrance periods.

If you want certain items before the Battlefield Tour then these must be ordered before March 2014 to ensure we have them before you go.

SHOP SALE

Regimental Ice buckets for Queens Surreys have been reduced from £20.00 to £10.00. There is no further discount on this.

Please note also included with newsletter is the Shop catalogue and Price list. If you are purchasing Items over £3.00 and wish to have your Friends discount please annotate the Order forms or email accordingly for it to be applied.

Friends Discount

Please remember to bring your Friends membership card with you on your visits as this will give you the 10% discount in the Regimental Museum Shop. Minimum spend £3.00.

Artifacts received - Ian Chatfield



WW1 Victory Medal awarded to Pte E Alexander 45402. We would not normally mention this medal as many of these are received. What was unusual was the museum already held the British War Medal belonging to Pte Alexander, which had been donated in 2008 by a lady from Milton Keynes. These two medals are now back together after being so long apart.

WWII Medals group received for Pte CR Holmes

WWI Medal Groups for Pte CW Barnes and Sgt Doubtfire

What have the Volunteers been upto.

The Volunteers are very busy researching items for the 1914 commemorative display. So far they have traced around 2000 soldiers of the original three battalions that were mobilized in August 1914 and failed to return home by Christmas 1914. This period of time was a severe devastation of the regular Battalion of soldiers. If anyone has any artifacts or historic notes from this very short period of time please could you let the museum have details.

Visitors' numbers are slightly down on last year season but that is reflective in the good weather that had been had. We had enjoyed the military displays in the lawns and these events have been highly attended.

The Museum was also open for the period Jan to Mar 14 on Saturdays as an experiment along with parts of the National Trust House. This was very successful and the NT is looking at doing this again. It makes a long week for Ian and the Volunteers have to step up again. During tis time we had 2579 visitors and for the half term week we had 1049 visitors. This gives us a good start for the year. We must thank Allan Mornement as he has taken up the task of cataloguing all the Military maps which are in the Attics of the House and it is very cold up there!

Ian Chatfield - Museum Matters

We have just started what looks like being a very busy year at the museum with many requests for help with commemorations from all around the County. I start next week with a talk to the West Surrey History Society in Guildford that follows an interview on BBC Radio Surrey about the talk.

In April I am talking to the Royal St. Georges Society on regimental history then in May we are off to France and Belgium on the FOSIM Battlefield Tour. This starts in Mons where the 1st Battalion the East Surrey Regiment was soon in action on the canal, after then we follow the retreat south toward Paris to the Marne.



Officers of the East Surrey Regiment

We then follow the advance to the Aisne where the Queen's lost the first of several commanding officers - Lt. Col. Dawson Warren along with his adjutant, several other officers, and many men. We then move north to cover the 1st Battle for Ypres where all three battalions of both regiments were decimated.

TABLE OF DISTANCES MARCHED		
Aug.	20. Leschelles to Le Sart	<i>Miles.</i> 8
"	21. Le Sart to Les Bodelez	13
"	22. Les Bodelez to Croix	19
"	24. Croix to Neuf Mesnil	13½
"	25. Neuf Mesnil to Le Grand Fayt	15
"	26. Le Grand Fayt to Oisy	12
"	27. Oisy to Bernot	16
"	28. Bernot to Barisis	26
"	20. Barisis to Brancourt	9
"	21. Brancourt to Missey	18
Sept.	1. Missey to La Ferté Milon	17½
"	2. La Ferté Milon to Crégy	20
"	3. Crégy to Perreuse	18
"	4. Perreuse to South of Coulommiers	12½
"	5. South of Coulommiers to Rozoy	10½
"	6. Rozoy to Vaudoy	8½
"	7. Vaudoy to Choisy	14
"	8. Choisy to Hondrevillers	15
"	9. Hondrevillers to Le Thiolet	12½
"	10. Le Thiolet to Sommeclans	10
"	11. Sommeclans to Villeneuve	12
"	12. Villeneuve to Vauxcère	17½
"	13. Vauxcère to Bourg	5
	Total	322½
		<i>Miles.</i>
	Advance to Mons	40
	Retreat from Mons	188
	Advance to the Aisne	94½
	Total	322½

The table shows the miles that were covered by the regiments mostly on foot through the Aug to September period.

In May I am talking to Bookham U3A Military Group and later in the month we have been asked to provide a stand at the Surrey County Show. This is where will shall have one of our volunteers dressed in WW1 uniform and hopefully run a research road show giving

advice to visitors on how to find information on the military service of their families.

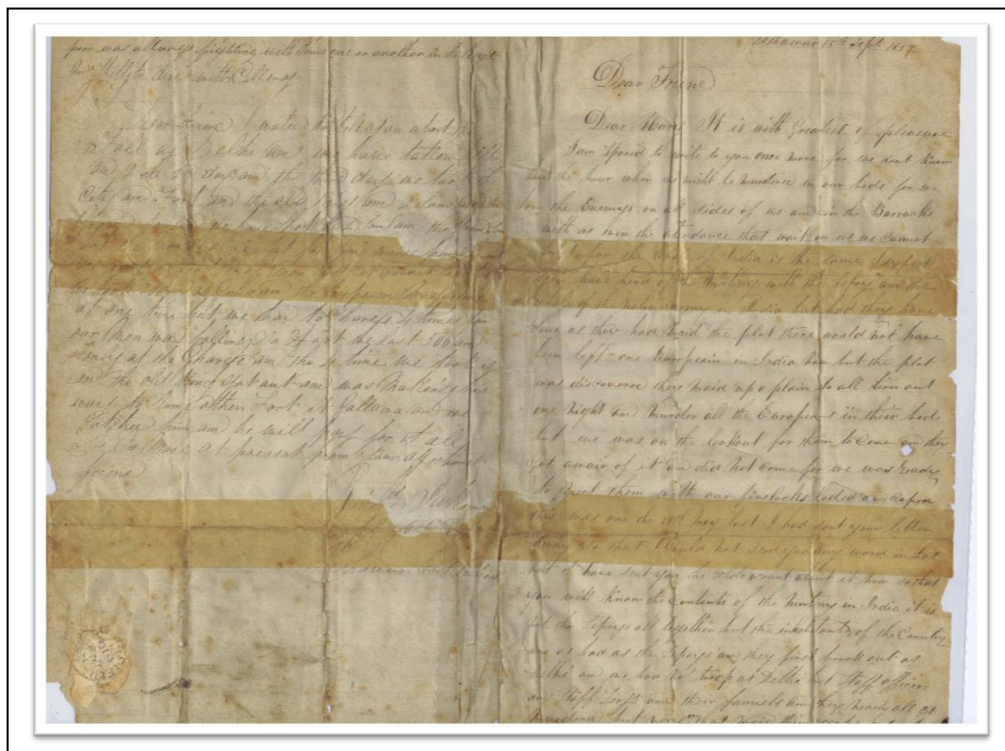
In June I will be one of the speakers at the Western Front Association seminar in Dorking on WW1 and then in July I am in Surbiton talking to their history group and in August back in Guildford with the Civil Service Pension Alliance.

In September it's off to Reigate on a return visit and in October it's the Schools in Redhill. Following up in November I will be attending Guildford Cathedral where they are holding commemorations for a week leading up to Remembrance Sunday for the local school children.

As well as the above the Museum is helping out with loan uniforms and equipment to Kingston Museum, Burpham, Jacobs Well, and Cranleigh to mention a few.

Julian and David, two of our research volunteers, have been very busy tracing as many 1914 soldiers who served in the Queen's and Surrey's and so far have traced over 2,000 officers and men. These details have been entered onto our new touch screen computer that visitors will be able to research on once we have completed our task. Arthur has returned to the fold after a minor operation on his shoulder whilst Roy and Peter have been busy on cleaning and maintenance. Dee along with other chores has been deciphering a letter written by an officer of the 70th (Surrey) Regiment in 1857 that as you can see below is no mean feat. The transcript is nearly ready.

As you have probably read earlier in the Newsletter we or rather the National trust decided to try opening in January and February to see if anybody would visit and it has proved to be a great success with many visiting during what was a very wet start to the year.



May 2014 - WW1 Battlefield Tour - following the Queen's Royal and East Surrey Regiments in 1914.

Breaking News

FOSIM are coordinating an exclusive Battlefield Tour Break 7 -10 May 2014 with Holts Tours. This is in response to several requests if we will be doing something in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of WW1. This is a one off tour and we go further down into France than the other Battlefield Tours as we follow our regiments from Aug to Dec 1914.

Costs are £350 per person and include

All travel throughout the Tour on a coach
3 nights' accommodation and breakfast in selected Hotels
One Group dinner (others at your own cost)
Tour Manager, Guide, and Speakers
Entrance to all museums

Areas to be visited

Day 1 Travel from Surrey to Mons area, Group Dinner
Day 2 Battle and retreat of Mons, Battle of Cateau drive to Aisne and stay overnight in Compiègne, Dinner under own arrangements.
Day 3 Cross the Marne Pursuit to the Aisne, Drive to Ypres. Dinner as above
Day 4 Battle of the Ypres and Flanders Field Museum. Return to Calais onto Surrey.

If you are interested in this event as there are still some places left please can you contact Dee Hutchison or Ian Chatfield and the relevant Forms will be sent on. Please note that full payment will now be required if you wish to go.

Your wives and family are all welcome to come to this event - it's not just for the 'Old Boys'.

Lunch Club at Clandon House

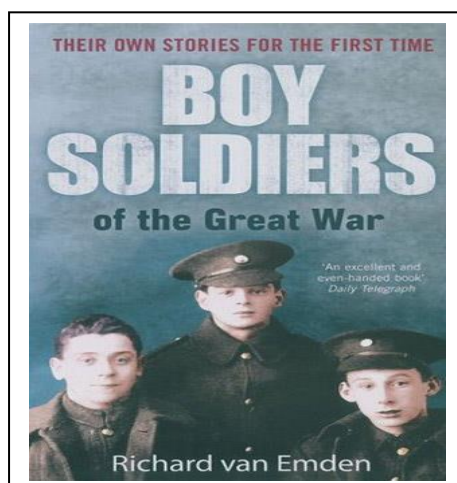
“meet old and new friends, come to a lunch at Clandon House”

Well we did do well with speakers. All turned up and a good time had by the audience. The catering stands up to its good reputation. Have I enticed you yet? There is a good selection of members of FOSIM who turn up and listen to our guest speakers. We continue to offer a wide choice of speakers and who give their own time without charge and it is a good way of raising funds for the museum.

Last year we had celebrity speaker Anne Widdecombe who had us in stitches and author John Lewis Stempel telling us about the Young Officers who had a life expectancy of only six weeks. John is kindly returning at Christmas so you will have an opportunity to hear John again. John can also be followed as a columnist on WW1 articles currently in the Sunday Express.

Our speakers for this year are as below please do come and join us. The form is on the back of the newsletter.

25 th March 2014	Richard Van Emden Boy Soldiers in WW1	£20.00pp
25 th June 2014	Brigadier Matt Maer Iraq - The VC Tour	£18.50pp
24 th September	Jack Chaffer - One Man's Service	£18.50pp
26 th November	John Lewis Stempel POW in WW1	£20.000pp



Remembrance

Article by Colonel JW Sewell - Commissioned into: The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1943, Commanded 1 St Bn The Queen's Regiment on formation in 1966.

As we approach the National Remembrance of the first Great War 1914-1918 how should we as individuals remember?

The War was a tragedy, but also a necessity. The elite of Germany, led by the Kaiser had been building their military strength over the years with an aim of establishing their place as perhaps the major World power. There is evidence that plans had been drawn up for invasions of both France and Russia. The incident in Sarajevo in July 1914 led them to having the excuse to act with the immediate aim of reducing France and subsequently Russia. Britain with a treaty to come to the aid of Belgium was committed when German troops attempted to pass through Belgium in August 1914.

The War immediately became intense with the major actions taking place on the Western Front where after the initial three months of manoeuvres and long marches, it became a war of attrition with neither side able to manage the development of modern weapons (Machine guns, aircraft and field guns) or adapt tactics other than to slog it to mutual destruction. Both sides became stuck in their trenches and when they attacked achieved little except more attrition at great cost and with appalling loss of life.

However now we should not concentrate on or re-apportion blame. Rather it may be right to celebrate in our remembering the great courage and bravery and achievement of all those who played their part. The distinguished academic and later Labour Peer, Lord Elton, having served during World War 1 in the Royal Hampshire Regiment, wrote that military virtues are the most fundamental of all virtues and are the basis of civilization. He classified them as: loyalty, courage, endurance, and discipline, which all require the basic quality of unselfishness. Out of these there stems comradeship and cheerfulness. He further suggested that these qualities are very close to the core of the Christian religion. Indeed in action acknowledgement of God and the presence of Jesus Christ are much part of the strife of battle. To many whose relationship with religion in normal life may be marginal to pray personally for help and deliverance, as indeed to call: "Oh God" or "Jesus Christ" can be very real under trauma of battle. As the Rev Tom McAlister said to me (Col Toby Sewell) when I first joined St Bartholomew's, he would welcome me as an ex-soldier because "many of you will have had a passing acquaintance with the Almighty".

In all this Remembrance we will recall all those who were actively involved. In the First World War there was no conscription until late 1916; before this the Army, including Kitchener's' first "hundred thousand" were all volunteers who joined because they understood their country needed them, there being a greater spirit of

Remembrance continued.....

patriotism than is now the case. The British people understood they were part of the greatest Empire ever known and most had an inherent pride in our country. We should recall that the majority were very young, as were many in the Second World War and subsequent campaigns since. Most young officers moved straight from school into the Army. Soldiers joined at 18 with many joining before that having given a false date of birth. All this when the average survival time then for a young infantry officer was just 6 weeks and perhaps a bit longer for soldiers as they wouldn't need to be so exposed.

Besides companionship, humour and cheerfulness sustained many. We might also recall the lines from two much sung songs:

"We'll pack up our troubles in an old kit bag
And Smile boys, that's the style"

And then by soldiers as they went off to or returned from the front:

" Good-bye-ee, Don't cry-ee, wipe that tiny tear from your eye-ee"

Inevitably remembrance of 1914-1918 will be focused on the Western Front where the greatest sacrifice and carnage took place, and where are the greatest numbers of War Cemeteries, particularly round Ypres and on the Somme, but we should not forget the Royal Navy and Merchant Navy who suffered and sacrificed themselves – they must have equal commemoration.

To sum up, in our Remembrance let a sense of pride together with cheerfulness take prominence, and may we have renewed inspiration to do what is right, as those who we remember did as far as they were able.

Finally let us thank God that, although awful and hard things go on, no equivalent World tragedies have occurred since 1945, and continue to pray that his influence and our acknowledgment of him will prevent them ever coming again.



Obituaries

Don Chittenden – Sadly Passed away in October 2013 He served from 1954 -1957 1st Battalion The Queens Royal Regiment during the Malayan emergency, as a valued member of the Machine Gun Platoon as a Bren gunner. His quiet, unassuming, and utterly reliable nature made him an ideal infantryman, who was respected by all.

Harry P. Sharland ex 2nd Bn. East Surrey Regiment

Harry Sharland - Died in January at the age of 93 after a short illness although Harry had been unwell for some years. Harry was commissioned into the 2nd Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment and joined them on the Thai Border where the battalion was fighting the Japanese. Harry fought his way down the Malay Peninsula and surrendered along with the rest of the Singapore Garrison and was then transferred to Thailand to work on the "Death Railway" along with the rest of the battalion. Harry smuggled drugs into the POW camps to help sick comrades and for his work in the camp was awarded the MBE.

Events 2014

- 2nd March: Clandon House Reopens with Museum
- 25th Mar: Lecture Luncheon 12.00pm - Author - Richard Van Emden
- 20th April: 2nd Foot and Cinque Ports Corps of Drums at Clandon House
- 7 - 10 May: Battlefield Tour in France and Flanders
- 26th May Surrey County Show - Museum Stand
- 22nd June: Queens Victorian Soldiers encampment at Clandon House
- 22nd June: Freedom Parade of PWRR in Guildford
- 25th June Lecture Luncheon - Brigadier Matt Maer
- 13th July: Music on the Lawn - Old Whitgiftians Corps of Drums
- 24/25th Aug Soldiers through the Ages at Clandon House - 1800 -2014
- 24th Sept Lecture Luncheon - 12.00 - Our very own Jack Chaffer
- 7th Nov QRR Reunion at Union Jack Club
- 9th Nov Armistice Sunday - Trinity Church Guildford
- 26th Nov Lecture Luncheon - 12.00 Return visit of author John Lewis
Stempel.
- 18th Dec Museum Close for Christmas

Luncheon Club - Clandon House

25 th March 2014	Richard Van Emden The Boy Soldiers in WW1	£20.00pp	No-----
25 th June 2014	Brigadier Matt Maer Iraq - The VC Tour	£18.50pp	No-----
24 th September	Jack Chaffer - One Man's Service	£18.50pp	No-----
26 th November	John Lewis Stempel POW in WW1	£20.00pp	No-----

Name -----

Email/Address/ if not FOSIM Member

(Cheque amounts enclosed for)
Made payable to Surrey Infantry Museum

£-----

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

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:-

Dee Hutchison - Secretary
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