

The Lion & the Dragon

Celebrating the past and championing the future

The Magazine of
Cumbria's Museum of
Military Life, published
by the Friends of the
Museum.

CUMBRIA'S
MUSEUM OF
MILITARY LIFE



Spring 2026

Laurels and Worms

The Regiment's Fontenoy honours

Canada as the 34th saw it in 1838

Paintings by a Royal Engineer Officer

Kidnapped on the NW Frontier

The ordeal of an officer's daughter in 1923

You owe me Sir!

Gansel, Colonel of the 55th, in debt

Gansel's Bergamot

A pear bred on the Colonel's estate?

"A most rascally corps"

The 55th in Jamaica in the early 1800s

Vellore in Somerset

A link to the 1806 mutiny

News from the Regiment and the Museum

Current and memories



The Military Festival

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CUMBRIA'S MUSEUM OF MILITARY LIFE

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Contents

Lead story
Laurel and Worms: the Regiment's Fontenoy honours
Features
Canada as the 34th saw it in 1838. Paintings by a Royal Engineer

Kidnapped on the NW Frontier. The ordeal of an officer's daughter in 1923

You owe me Sir! the Colonel of the 55th in debt

Gansel's Bergamot. A pear bred on the Colonel's estate?

"A most rascally corps" the 55th in Jamaica in the early 1800s

Vellore in Somerset: a link to the 1806 mutiny

News
Current news and memories from the Regiment, the Regimental Family and the Museum.



Next edition
The Summer edition will be published around the 1st of May 2026. Its lead story will be 6BORDER on Gold Beach at D-Day.

The Lion & the Dragon magazine

The Lion & the Dragon takes its name from the Regimental magazine of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment.

If you'd like to write an article please get in touch.

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SITREP

IN the early Eighteenth Century, Classical Rome was the height of fashion. Rome inspired poets and artists. The period is known as a second Augustine Age; named after Augustus, the first Emperor. It even reached the monarchy. Augustus was a family name of the Electors of Hanover, the British Monarchs.

ROMAN historians drew on the past to highlight the behaviour of great men. Sadly it was usually men. Dates, numbers and even events were annoyingly less important than the philosophical lessons that might be learnt from the lives of politicians and generals.

LAUREL wreaths were a Roman honour and I felt like the reader of a Roman history as I tracked back to 1745 searching for records of the Regiment's laurel wreath.

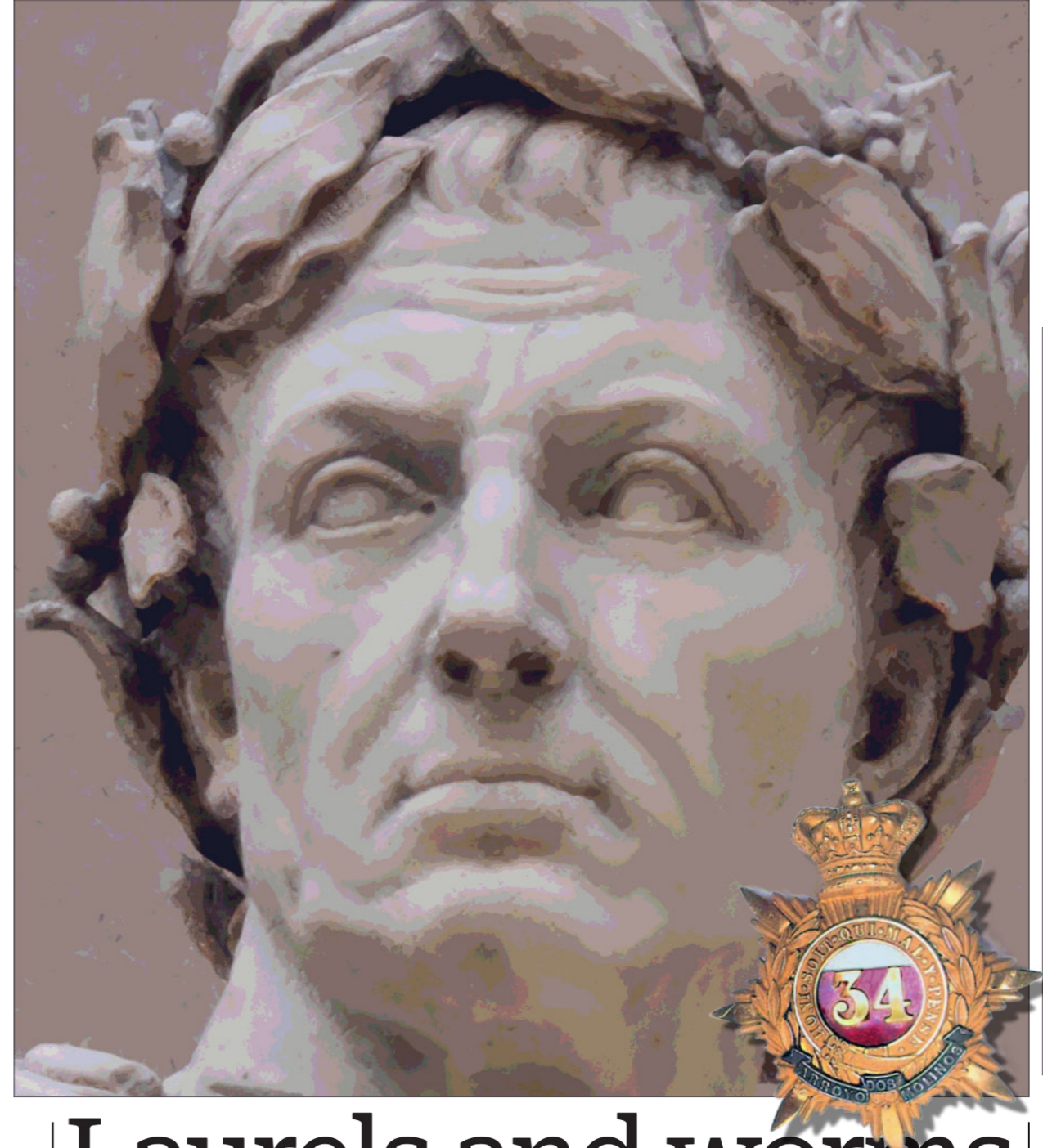
IN Georgian England the 34th Foot was less important than Generals or the household troops. The 34th does not get a mention in the despatches of the time, whilst the Generals' performance and that of other Regiments is highlighted.

THE Regiment was included in "many other" regiments by the London Gazette in its report of the battle.

THAT doesn't mean it wasn't a hard won achievement, just that other issues were more important at the time than a record of every part of the battle or of the units that took part.

DIFFERENT news values in 1745. But the same valour. The same honour.

Peter Green – Editor
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Laurels and worms

THE Regimental Handbook states that at Fontenoy:

"...the British Infantry broke the French line but, unsupported and outnumbered, they were obliged to make a fighting withdrawal. For their gallantry in covering the retreat the 34th were given the right to emblazon a Laurel Wreath on their Colours. This battle is commemorated annually by the Regiment."
The Duke of Lancaster's Regimental Handbook

THERE are surprises about the honours from Fontenoy: the wreath and, according to Noakes, the 'Royal Worm' in the drummers' lace (*more on page 3*). Firstly, the Regiment is not mentioned as being in the rearguard in the Duke of Cumberland's report of the battle. And secondly, why were the other regiments in the rearguard not honoured with a wreath?

LAUREL Wreaths were a symbol of victory and honour for the Romans. And Roman culture was the height of fashion in the mid-18th Century, when Fontenoy was fought. However Fontenoy was a defeat. In 1906 Francis Skrine¹ quotes the Earl of Crawford, who commanded the Rearguard, praising the Household Cavalry's role in the retreat:

"...they had gained as much honour in covering so great a retreat as if they had won the battle."

THE REARGUARD

THE London Gazette's account of Fontenoy follows Cumberland's despatch almost word for word. There are references to several infantry regiments involved in covering the retreat, but not to Cholmondeley's.

"...the Highlanders Regiment, the Regiment late Handasyde's [22nd Foot], Duroure's [12th Foot], and many others, also distinguished themselves."

London Gazette Tuesday 7 May to Saturday 11 May 1745

HOWEVER an anonymous biography of Cumberland², published in 1767 does mention Cholmondeley's:

"As the Earl of Crawford had the honour to bring up the right wing out of the plain until they entered Vesont, with the brigade of horse-guards, and the remains of the battalions of Skelton and Cholmondeley, his lordship was astonished it was so long before the enemy came in sight..."
'Historical Memoirs of his late Royal Highness William Augustus Duke of Cumberland', Waller London 1767

SKELTON'S and Cholmondeley's had begun the battle in different brigades. Skelton's in Howards and Cholmondeley's in Sowles. Each brigade had three battalions at the start of the battle.

Laurels

The laurel wreath can be traced back to Greek mythology.

The god Apollo, the patron of poetry, musical performance and athletics, is depicted wearing a laurel wreath on his head.

Wreaths were awarded to winners of athletic competitions, including the ancient Olympics

In Rome they were symbols of martial victory, crowning a successful commander during his triumph. Whereas ancient laurel wreaths are most often depicted as a horseshoe shape, modern versions are usually rings.

Worms?

The name 'worm' was an archaic term for a wavy line.

The Cockpit of Europe

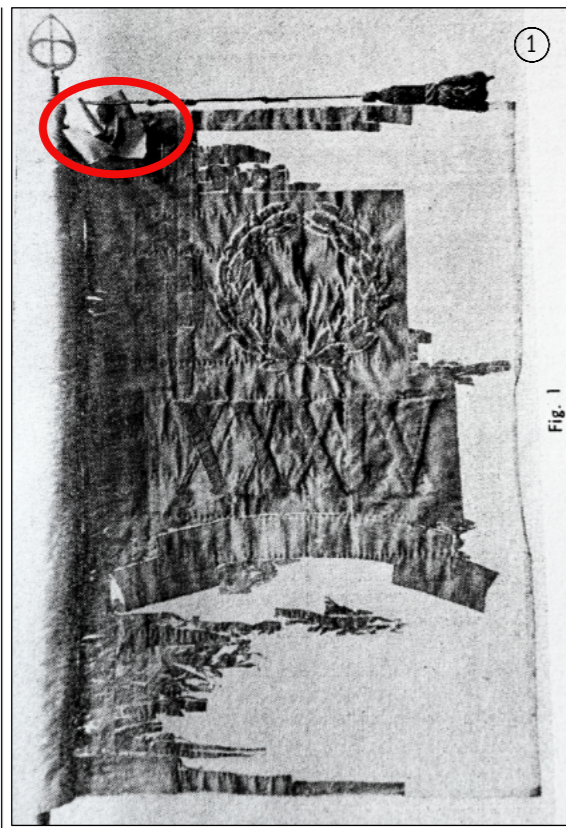
Fontenoy was one of many battles fought in what is now Picardy, Belgium and The Netherlands.

In the 17th Century it was Spain trying to retain their Habsburg possessions in the Low Countries with religion added to the mix.

During the 18th Century war resulted from French efforts top achieve the Country's natural frontiers—the Pyrenees, the Alps and the Rhine.

Once the long 18th Century was over and the 20th underway, it was the German threat.

Britain always feared a hostile power controlling the Low Countries. The collapse of France in 1940 that gave Germany control of the entire North Sea's southern coast was a nightmare beyond anything Elizabeth or Marlborough or Pitt could imagine.



1

picture of the King's Colour and the Regimental Colour that are described as the Fontenoy Colours. They are in the Regimental Chapel in Carlisle Cathedral. May states:

"These colours had hanging over them, the "Laurel Wreath" that was given to the 34th Foot for the battle of Fontenoy, 1745; these Laurel Wreaths have now fallen asunder and the ribbons have been placed in the form of a bow in the upper corner near the spear head."

STUART Eastwood suggests that these Colours are unlikely to date from 1745, but are probably the 2nd Battalion's Peninsular War Colours laid up when the Battalion was disbanded in 1817. But Douglas Sutherland in 'Tried and Valiant: the story of The Border Regiment 1702-1959' who has the 2nd's Colours being given to the 1st Battalion and then lost in a fire in London. Another puzzle? Sadly Sutherland's book has no bibliography or references.

THE 1747 regulations, 'Colours, Clothing of Drummers, Grenadier Caps, Drums, Bells of Arms and Camp Colours of the Marching Regiments of foot' required the Regiment's number to be surrounded by a wreath of roses and thistles. Regiments with "ancient Badges" were to have their number in the upper corner of the Colour.

WAS 1745 in relation to 1747 too soon for the 34th's laurel wreath to be considered an "ancient Badge". The first time the award of a laurel wreath appears in print is in 1868, when the Queen's Regulations has "A laurel wreath" as an honour of the 34th and it is shown before the separate list of battle honours (see illustration 2).

NOAKES in his history of the 35th and 55th Foot, after repeating the story of the 34th's role in the rearguard, includes a footnote explaining that the honour had been in abeyance for many years. Noakes served in the 55th Foot so may not have seen the 34th's Colours. Possibly his "abeyance" comment is based on Queen's Regulations for 1844 and 1859, which have no reference to the wreath and those of 1868, which have.

"...[the 34th Foot] was granted the high honour of bearing a laurel wreath on its colours and appointments, and also the privilege of wearing the "royal worm" in the lace of the drummers' coats, so that for performing a good retreat it received a greater reward them for all its victories..."

** The distinction of the laurel wreath seems to have been in abeyance for many years, it not appearing in the Queen's Regulations of either 1844 or 1859. It was however afterwards revived, and the 34th is now the only regiment which bears this emblem upon its colours. The distinctive drummers' lace was abolished in 1873, when a general raid was made by the authorities upon regimental devices and distinctions, and universal patterns adopted for the whole service.*

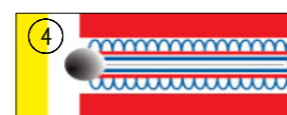
Noakes, 'Historical Account of the Services of the 34th and 55th Regiments', Thurnam, Carlisle 1875

CERTAINLY Queen's Regulations for 1844 and 1859 do not include a reference to the wreath.

JUST ONE WREATH?

WHY didn't Skelton's and the Horse Guards also receive the laurel wreath honour? Was Cholmondeley's the last battalion to leave the battlefield? Colonel Swiney writing an history of Skelton's – "Historical Records of the 32nd (Cornwall) Light Infantry..." published in 1893 does not even refer to the Skelton's role in the rearguard.

ROYAL WORM



THE 'Royal Worm' on lace that Noakes refers to was a wavy line round the edge of the lace. Since drummer's uniforms were reversed, the

34th's drummers wore yellow coats with red facings. The Royal Worm could have been red, yellow or blue.³ We don't have a definitive description of the 34th's lace.



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SHOT PLOUGHING THROUGH RANKS

'TRIED and Valiant: the story of The Border Regiment 1702-1959' has this quote from an unnamed contemporary account:

"...with the French artillery ploughing through ranks and the triumphant squadrons of French horse riding around it, the regiment with cool soldier-like courage and discipline, covered the retreat of their comrades..."

Sutherland, 'Tried and Valiant: the story of The Border Regiment 1702-1959', Leo Cooper, 1972

WHERE did the quotation – Sutherland describes it "as contemporary" – come from? How did the artillery fire on the British if the French cavalry were riding all around them? Cannon's history has "the retreat was effected, without serious loss." Though he may have been referring to losses at Army level – fatalities, prisoners and canon. The casualty figures for Cholmondeley's as printed in the London Gazette are relatively low⁴, presuming a strength of around 500-1,000 men – 34 men killed.

THERE is certainly evidence that the Regiment fought well at Fontenoy. When Cumberland was ordered to release troops, including Cholmondeley's, for service against the Jacobites in Britain he described the regiments selected as the best in his army. They included Cholmondeley's. The London Gazette of 18 June 1745 records Colonel James Cholmondeley as being promoted to Brigadier General, which suggests a good performance by him and therefore by his regiment. And in Horace Walpole's Letters published a century later in 1840, the editor says in a footnote:

"Colonel James Cholmondeley, only brother of the Earl. He afterwards distinguished himself at the battles of Fontenoy and Falkirk, and died in 1775."

Horace Walpole's Letters

POLITICAL EXPLANATION?

CHOLMONDELEY, who was elected MP for Montgomery in 1741, was in the same political group as Cumberland and Robert Walpole. Cholmondeley's father was Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire. The family was also linked by marriage to the Walpoles.

CUMBERLAND is recorded as rewarding bravery during the battle.

"We hear by a Letter from Flanders, that a private Man of the Highland Regiment killed nine Men with his Broad-Sword at the Battle of Fontenoy, and made a Stroke at the tenth, but a Cannon Ball (shot off his left Arm, when he was brought off by his Comrades, and that his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland had preferred him for his Bravery to be a Lieutenant in the aforesaid Regiment."

Caledonian Mercury 27 May 1745

WAS the 34th's laurel wreath a similar award? Made to a friend in the immediate aftermath of the battle? "You deserve a laurel for that James!"

1844 AND NO WREATH

RICHARD Canon in the first history of the Regiment published in 1844 records the Regiment's "conspicuous" performance at Fontenoy, but not the award. Is this a link to

Noakes and his reference to the honour being in 'abeyance'?

"...The Thirty-Fourth Regiment evinced great gallantry on this occasion, and it had the honour of performing a conspicuous part in covering the retreat, and in bringing up the rear of the right wing out of the plain, to the village of Vezont. The determined bearing of the regiment, with that of the Thirty-second Foot, and the brigade of Life Guards under Major-General the Earl of Crawford, intimidated the enemy, and the retreat was effected, without serious loss..."

Richard Cannon, 'Historical Record of the Thirty-Fourth, or, the Cumberland Regiment of Foot: containing an account of the formation of the Regiment in 1702, and of its subsequent services to 1844' Parker, Furnival, and Parker, London 1844

7

CANON does refer to the award of the Arroyo medal to Moses Simpson. Perhaps in the 1840's under Lieutenant Colonel Airey the Regiment was focussed on Arroyomolinos and the battle honour?

THE 'History of British Regiments', published in 1878, has the 34th with the laurel wreath honour and the Royal Worm in the lace of its drummers. However in the Preface to his book, Trimen remarked on, what Noakes had called "the general raid" on regimental badges:

"We have seen esprit de corps sat to its foundations, and attempted to be destroyed by the abolition of every Regimental tradition, badge, and even button, that our civilian Army reformers could do away with."

Richard Trimen 'The Regiments of the British Army chronologically arranged', Allen & Co, Pall Mall 1878

FRANCIS Skrine wrote the first comprehensive account of the battle of Fontenoy in 1906. He identifies the 34th, but makes no mention of any honour for the Regiment. He does have Crawford saluting the rear guard. And makes the claim that the retreat was as a good as a victory.

"He [Cumberland] then made provision for covering the retreat through Vezon. Skelton's (32nd Foot) and Cholmondeley's (34th) were told off as a rearguard. Howard's (The Buffs) were ordered to hold the churchyard, while hedges and ravines were lined with the Black Watch. On either flank the cavalry closed in to form a screen for the retiring army. In this hazardous service the Royal Horse Guards especially distinguished themselves. When the last battalion had passed the zone of danger Lord Crawford saluted his horsemen..."

Francis Skrine, 'Fontenoy and Great Britain's share in the War of Austrian Succession, 1741-1748', Blackwood, Edinburgh 1906

FINALLY

WHERE does this leave us? Military records and the relative importance of Lords of the Realm and battalions, especially the Guards, in 1745 were not the same as today. And writers of more recent regimental histories did not attach the same importance that we do now to crediting sources.

THE earliest records of the Regiment's wreath may have vanished in the mists of time, but it is clear that at Fontenoy Cholmondeley's did their duty and more, even if the news values of the time meant that it didn't make the headlines.

The Editor

2

"...HRH turning his attentions to him having ordered me to make the Retreat with six Battalions sent me the Ammunition which we lacked with a Reinforcement of two thousand Men and six squadrons..."

Despatch from Cumberland to the Government, in the National Archives

WERE the six battalions the remnants of Howard's and Sowles' Brigades? Skelton's Regiment having formed part of Howard's and Cholmondeley's part of Sowles'? And each Brigade having three battalions each. Sadly I wasn't able find any reference to Cholmondeley's at Fontenoy or laurel wreaths in the National Archive at Kew. The newspapers of the time reprint the London Gazette's account.

COLOURS

COLONEL Ralph May's article 'The Colours in Carlisle Cathedral' (March 1949 edition of 'The Border' magazine) has a



3

Captions

Cover and overleaf: Julius Caesar by Nicolas Coustou, commissioned in 1696 for the gardens of Versailles.

1. The 34th's Foot Regimental Colour taken from 'The Border Regiment Magazine' 1949, with the remnant of the bow in place of the wreath ringed.
2. An extract from Queen's Regulations 1868
3. Flanders in 1745
4. A suggested pattern by Gary Gibbs (see notes) for the 34th Foot Drummers' lace, with Royal Worm.
5. The Duke of Cumberland
6. Colonel James Cholmondeley
7. The 34th's entry in Trimen's History of British Regiments.

Notes

- 1 Francis Skrine, 'Fontenoy and Great Britain's share in the War of Austrian Succession 1741-1748', Blackwood and Sons, 1906.
- 2 "Historical Memoirs of his late Royal Highness William-Augustus Duke of Cumberland ...", London 1767. The author may have been Richard Rolt.
- 3 Royal Worm information from Gary Gibbs, Military Historical Society.
- 4 Casualty figures for Cholmondeley's Regiment – Killed: 1 sergeant and 7 men Wounded: 7 officers, 2 sergeants and 53 men Missing: 1 sergeant and 27 men **The London Gazette 7 May-11 May 1745**

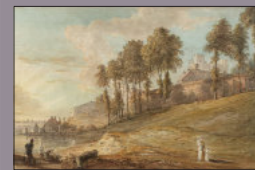
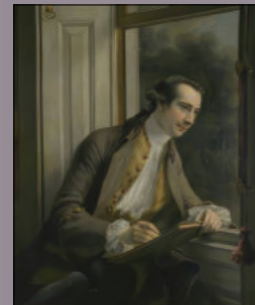
Topographical drawing

The Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, had been, founded in 1743. It taught topographical drawing to artillery officers and engineers, who were expected to record the landscape for military positioning.

The students were taught by recognised artists.

One was painter and engraver Paul Sandby who taught at Woolwich from 1768 to 1796.

Below is a portrait of Sandby by Francis Coates and Sandby's painting of the Medway at Rochester. Both pictures are in the Tate Gallery.



Canada as the 34th saw it in 1838

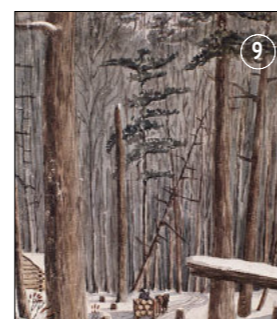
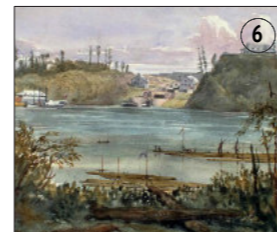
Paintings by Lieutenant Philip John Bainbrigge, Royal Engineers have left a visual record of places that the 34th Foot visited in the late 1830 when it was posted to Canada.

IN 1836 Lieutenant Philip Bainbrigge, Royal Engineers, was posted to Canada. Bainbrigge had received artistic training at the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich. Here was taught techniques for topological painting. His paintings include places that Ensign Cunningham, 34th describes in his diary of the same period. Bainbrigge was born in Lichfield and graduated from Woolwich in 1833.

HE arrived in Canada in time to take part in the military operations during the Rebellions of 1837–38 and returned to England in 1843. Bainbrigge was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1856 and Major General in 1863. He died in 1881.

ENSIGN Cunningham arrived in Canada in 1838. His diary covers the period 1837–1841. Extracts the diary have been printed in our 2024 and 2025 Winter editions.

The Editor



Kidnapped on the North-West Frontier

The teenage daughter of an officer of The Border Regiment kidnapped and her Mother murdered.

IN 1923 the 1st Battalion, the Border Regiment were stationed at Kohat on the road to the Khyber Pass. On the 14th April a gang broke into the bungalow of Major A J Ellis DSO whilst he was away, murdered Mrs Ellis, and kidnapped their 17 year old daughter, Mollie.

REVENGE

AJAB Khan, the gang's leader, claimed his raid was in revenge for the dishonour of a British raid in which the purdah of his women had been violated by searches for stolen rifles.

OTHERS recalled that Khan had been the subject of derision for escaping from an

earlier British raid dressed in women's clothing. In addition some of Ajab Khan's group were in prison.

AJAB Kahn claimed that the death of Mrs Ellis was an accident, whilst she was struggling with her attackers. He demanded a ransom for Mollie. The first problem

therefore was to find Mollie.

RECCE AND RESCUE

THE Commissioner, Sir John Maffey, selected a team of two men and a woman to rescue her. Zaman Khan, a tribal leader, travelled throughout the region spreading the word that Mollie was not to be harmed.



AT the same time, Kuli Khan, an Assistant Political Agent, was tasked with searching probable hiding places and if possible get food and clothing to Mollie. Mollie and her abductor were found at Khanki Bazar, 60 miles from Kohat.



NURSE STARR

TO return Mollie, Sir John selected Mrs Lilian Agnes Starr the matron of the Peshawar Mission Hospital. Sir John believed that a women might succeed where a man would fail.

LILLIAN Starr had spent her life in missions and hospitals. She travelled with an escort led by Risalder Mohgal Baz Kahn, formerly of the Indian Army's Corps of Guides.

THE Risalder played a major role in negotiations with local leaders and ensured that Lilian's status as a female civilian was understood and respected.

THE rescue was not easy. At one stage during negotiations, news was received that Zaman Khan was threatening to burn Ajab Khan's house. But finally, agreement was reached. Mollie was released into the care of the local Mullah. The members of Ajab's gang, still in prison were released and Mollie was free.

RETRIBUTION

ONCE Mollie was back in British hands, Sir John Maffey, began the hunt to put Ajab and his gang behind bars. He was declared an outlaw by his fellow tribesman and, eventually, starving, he gave himself up. He and his gang were jailed.

The Editor

Captions

1. Moravian Indian Village. Cunningham spent several days in the Moravian Village.
2. Lieutenant Philip Bainbrigge Royal Engineers.
3. Chatham Barracks.
4. Chatham Barracks from the Thames River.
5. Merrickville from the Rideau River, with the fort at the Rideau Canal lock, top right.
6. The entrance to the Rideau Canal, Bytown.
7. Jones Falls, Rideau Canal
8. Fort Amherstburg from the Detroit River
9. A bush road in Upper Canada
10. Mollie Ellis (A) and Lilian Starr (B), and Afridi leaders after her release. From Lilian Starr's 'Tales of Tirah and Lesser Tibet', 1924. Image Church Mission Society Archives
11. Mollie, then aged 77, revisited the scene of her ordeal and visited her mother's grave in 1983. Image kindly provided by Qissa Khani, Pakistan.
12. Mollie reunited with her father at Shinawari Fort. (A) Lilian Starr, (B) Rissalder Khan, (C) Mollie Ellis, (D) Major A J Ellis DSO, (E) Sir John Maffey.
13. Lilian Starr.

Another military pear

'General Leclerc' a desert pear was first introduced in 1950. It was bred at Angers, France.



Philippe François Marie Leclerc de Hauteclocque (1902 - 1947) was a Free-French general who became Marshal of France posthumously in 1952.

He was one of the first soldiers to defy the French Government's armistice in 1940. He came to Britain and fought under General de Gaulle. He adopted the nom de guerre of 'Leclerc' so that his wife and children would not be put at risk if his name appeared in the papers.

'La Division Leclerc' fought in Normandy, and took part in the liberation of Paris and Strasbourg.

He saw the need for a political solution to the problems in Indochina, but was ahead of his time.

He was killed in an air crash in Algeria in 1947.

THE Colonel of the 55th Foot in the 1770s, General William Gansel, was not good with money. Officers were expected to present a face to Society that required plenty of it. For many gambling was more an occupation than a hobby; expensive clothing was essential. Expenditure of most types was usually on credit, with settling of debts made at irregular intervals.

Lieutenant, Gansel had the rank of Major if he were he to transfer to a Line Regiment.

IN November 1749 he was a Captain, that is the equivalent of a Lieutenant Colonel.

GANSEL became Colonel of the 55th Foot in August 1762. At the time the Regiment were in Ireland. Being the Colonel of a regiment was an investment. In March 1765 Gansel was promoted to Major

You owe me Sir!

Lieutenant General Gansel, the 55th Foot's Colonel in 1769 and one of his money problems.



IMMIGRANTS

GANSEL came from a family of Huguenot refugees. He had inherited properties at Leyton and East Donyland in Essex in 1753.

GANSEL'S military career had begun in 1733 when he joined the 2nd Foot Guards – the Coldstream Guards – as an Ensign. His Uncle Joshua Ward had successfully treated George II and he was able to use the Royal connection to get William "a pair of colours in the guards."

GANSEL was unmarried and for most of his life lived in rented rooms at Craven Street, near Charing Cross. He continued to maintain his Essex estate.

A letter from Gansel reprinted in the Ipswich Journal refers to him shooting game at Donyland. Owning a country estate and having Town lodgings was not unusual at the time, but it required money.

BY 1739 Gansel had risen to Lieutenant. At the time officers in the Guards were double-ranked: a Guards rank equating to two higher ranks in a Line Regiment. As a

General and to Lieutenant General in May 1772. He continued to hold the Colonelcy of the 55th.

ARRESTED

IN 1769 Gansel was arrested by bailiffs on Piccadilly over a debt. The newspapers do not explain what the debt was for. Telling the bailiffs that he had a friend who would pay at St James Barracks – now Horse Guards, he led them to St James'. But once at the Barracks men from the Guards intervened and released him.

THE fracas came to the attention of the King who was concerned at the involvement of the Army. A Brigade Order was circulated.

"His Majesty has signified to the field officer in waiting, that he has been acquainted that Sergeant Bacon of the first Regiment, and Sergeant Park of the Coldstream Regiment; William Powell, William Hart, James Potter, and Joseph Collins, private soldiers in the first regiment of foot guards, were more or less concerned in the rescue of Major General Gansel, in

Sept. last; the King hopes, and is willing to believe, they did not know the Major General was arrested, and only thought they were delivering an officer in distress: however, his Majesty commands, they should be severely reprimanded for acting in this business, as they have done; and strictly orders for the future that no more commissioned officer, or a soldier, do presume to interfere with bailiffs, or arrests on any account or pretext whatsoever, the crime, being a very atrocious nature; and if any

are found guilty of disobeying this order, they will be most severely punished. This order to be read immediately at the head of every company in the brigade of guards, that no man may plead ignorance for the future." *The Gentleman's Magazine* May 1770

IMPRISONED?

THERE is no reference to Gansel's role in the rescue, but he surrendered himself to the civil power and was imprisoned in the King's Bench Prison in Southwark.

HOWEVER it was possible that he might have been allowed to live at his lodgings at Craven Street; a practice known as the 'Liberty of the Rules'. Far more preferable to the prison itself, which had frequent outbreaks of typhus.

ANOTHER STORY

THIS was not the end of Gansel's money problems. In 1773 he would be on trial for attempted murder, after bailiffs tried to serve him a writ for a debt.

BUT that is for another article.

The Editor



The Colonel's fruit

General Gansel's unusual memorial or perhaps not?

'GANSEL'S Bergamot' is a desert pear that may, or may not, have been bred on General Gansel's estate in the 1760s. Nothing is simple with Gansel, as this demonstrates:

"Gansel's Bergamot"

It is generally believed that this variety was raised from a seed of the Autumn Bergamot, by Lieut.

General Gansel, at his seat Donneland (sic) Park, near Colchester, in 1768; and this account rests upon a communication to that effect from David Jebb, Esq., of Worcester, a nephew of General Gansel, to Mr. Williams of Pitmaston.

Mr. Lindley¹ however says—"the Bonne Rouge of the French is evidently the same sort, and the English name must have been given after it had been received from that country." In the manuscript Catalogue of the Brompton Park Nursery it appears that both the 'Bonne Rouge' and 'Brocas Bergamot', were cultivated there in 1753, and it had probably been grown there at a much earlier period under both these names, so that it is exceedingly doubtful whether General Gansel had anything to do with its origin, and it is most probable that he had not. A good figure of it is given by Lindley, *The Gardeners' Magazine* 1828."

"*The Herefordshire Pomona containing coloured figures and descriptions of the most esteemed kinds of Apples and Pears*"

The Editor



"A most rascally corps"

Dr Eamonn O'Keeffe unearths a sad episode in the history of the 55th, in Jamaica

THE 55th Regiment cannot boast of an especially glorious or action packed record during the Napoleonic Wars, but courts-martial documents preserved in The National Archives reveal that its officers had ample opportunity to pick fights with each other.

WHILE on garrison duty in Jamaica in 1808, Captain Hamilton Clune was shunned by his messmates for suggesting that Ensign Davis's wife had loose morals. Although Clune requested a court of enquiry to clear his name, officers of the regiment pressed the principals to resolve their quarrel in a manner 'totally different from that of a public investigation', especially after Davis boasted of calling Clune a scoundrel. Lieutenant Colonel Douglass extracted promises from both men to avoid a duel, but once he departed for England, the pledges were widely regarded as void. Even the regiment's second in command, Major Heyliger, tacitly endorsed an exchange of pistol shots, noting that other officers were "in hope that the pair would settle their dispute as gentlemen commonly do, and give the regiment no further trouble."

DOUGLASS was obliged to intervene in another affair of honour several years later. Denouncing an 1811 duel in which Lieutenant Blake wounded Lieutenant Adams, he insisted that "the world does not contain a more detestable character than that of a

professed duellist." While Douglass refrained from pressing charges, he extracted written undertakings from the participants to refrain from such quarrels in future. Blake's declaration would later be used against him when he was court martialled and cashiered in 1814 for caning Captain Clune in the streets of Windsor and telling him to "kiss my arse" after parade.

IN the 55th Foot, as in other regiments, officers met collectively to deliberate on the misbehaviour of their peers without recourse to potentially career-ending courts-martial. In 1808, for example, the captains of the corps recommended ostracizing both Clune and Davis for slanderous language. Clune rejected this judgment, accusing his comrades of arrogating judicial authority, only to later demand that Lieutenant Blake be shunned for calling the 55th "a most rascally corps."

CLUNE was known for his 'unhappy temper', and Richard Blake was clearly an impetuous rogue, but the pair were by no means the only troublesome officers in the regiment.

IN 1806, for example, the 55th's paymaster was court martialled and cashiered for "highly unbecoming conduct" after exchanging blows with a lieutenant in a Jamaican mess room; his disgrace was compounded by the fact that a

private soldier had been forced to separate the brawling duo.

ANOTHER subaltern, Alexander Proudfoot, was expelled from the mess for failing to pay his bills and prosecuted on a variety of charges in 1808. Proudfoot contrived to relocate his lodgings to the room beneath his court-martial so he could eavesdrop on the supposedly confidential sentencing proceedings through the floorboards.

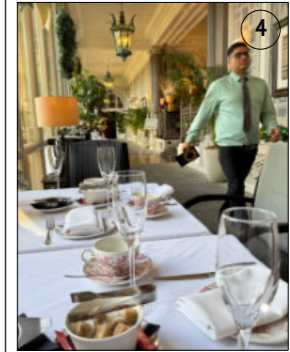
SUCH antics may amuse us today, but they caused no little consternation at the time. Military men fretted about declining standards and the erosion of social exclusivity, complaining that incessant wartime demand for manpower made it all too easy for uncouth candidates to secure commissions. Major General Hugh Carmichael, for example, noted the extreme youth of many officers in the 55th Foot and blamed the frequency of courts martial in Jamaica on an influx of "persons...insensible to those feelings that should actuate British officers and gentlemen". Captain Clune put matters more bluntly when casting aspersions on Mrs Davis, allegedly asserting that even "highwaymen might get commissions" in return for marrying "the cast-off mistresses" of influential philanderers.

Dr Eamonn O'Keeffe is the Pratt Research Fellow in History at Memorial University of Newfoundland. He is the author of a forthcoming book on British military music during the Napoleonic Wars and is currently researching duelling and honour among Georgian army officers.

CHRISTMAS 2025, saw the editor and his wife spending a few days at 'The Bath Spa Hotel'. The hotel is a link with the Regiment and the awful days in 1806, when our Colonel was killed and around 1,200 soldiers, British and Indian died.

Vellore in Somerset

A link to the 1806 mutiny



THE building had originally been the home of General Augustus Andrews. He called it 'Vellore House'. Built in 1836 and now considerably enlarged, it has served as a school, a nurses' home and during WW2 Admiralty offices - visited by Winston Churchill - as well as having two incarnations as a hotel.

COLONEL Andrews was born at St Omer, France, on 18 December 1778. His father was a parson. Andrews became a Cadet in the Madras Infantry and saw service with the 27th Madras Infantry at Seringapatam during the last Anglo-Mysore War, when Tipu Sultan was killed. Two of his sons were being held at Vellore during the 1806 mutiny.

ANDREWS was dismissed for his part in the 1809 'White Mutiny' over European pay. But in 1810 was readmitted to the East India Company's army "without prejudice" at his old rank.

BY 1819 he was a Major in the 1st Madras European Regiment. In 1820 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. He was appointed Companion of the Bath in July 1823. He left India on health grounds in 1824 and died at his house in Bath in 1858 having reached the rank of General.

The Editor

Captions

1. The New Horse Guards, painted by John Chapman circa 1760. The original is part of the Government Art Collection.

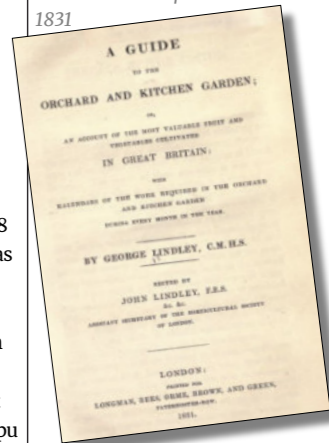
2. Gansel's Bergamot, from 'Pomona Londinensis' (1818), a collection of 49 engravings of fruit drawn by William Hooker. The original is in the Natural History Museum's Collection.

3. 'Harbour Street, Kingston' an aquatint by Sutherland after Hakewill. The original is in Brown Digital Repository.

4. The Bath Spa Hotel, formerly Vellore House.

Notes

¹ George Lindley was the writer of 'A guide to the Orchard and Kitchen Garden' published in 1831



Still serving

News from the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, our successor regiment, the local Cadet Force and MoD.

From the Manager's desk

News from Jules Wooding, the Manager of the Museum.



ILANCS NEW CO

LT Col Russell-Blackburn (right) has taken over command of ILANCS. Lt Col Carman has left the Battalion on promotion. Lt Col Russell-Blackburn commented, "I am immensely proud to have been selected to command the 1st Battalion. I began my career here in 2006 and am deeply honoured to now command its Soldiers and Officers."



MARK HARDING HONOURED

BRIGADIER Rob Singleton presented Mark with the Regimental Medal, in recognition of his fundraising work for military charities, his inspiring courage in overcoming serious injuries sustained while serving with the ILANCS in Afghanistan.



CADETS FLASH

CUMBRIA Army Cadet Force (ACF) has proudly unveiled a new county flash inspired by the Community Flag for Cumbria a design that beautifully combines community pride with military tradition.

I am writing this piece on New Year's Eve, reflecting on the busy year that we have had. An exceptional engagement programme with an increase in attendance at our Tuesday talks, a successful Lecture Day in October, continued support for our monthly veterans' lunches and an even bigger and better Military Festival.

WE have seen the departure of Rachel, our Learning and Events Officer to Japan (we wish her well!) but look forward to the arrival of her replacement, Christina, who starts with us in January.

THE last year has been full of a variety of events from the Arroyo reception at the Spanish Embassy to the Balkans veterans event in November, but we still host our regular school visits, family workshops and veteran events. All in all it has been a busy year with the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War as the main focus.

ALL this activity could not have been undertaken without the assistance of our wonderful volunteers. From maintaining the Museum, assisting with lunches, being a member of the Museum Friends or writing and producing this magazine we appreciate the time and effort everyone has given over the past year. Thank you.

OUR latest exciting news will continue to preserve the collections for the future as in November we were awarded £244,948 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for our Down to Brass Tacks project. engagement work.

WE look forward to 2026, which will involve getting Brass Tacks up and running and look forward to the opportunities that this project will open up for the Museum as the year progresses. Thank you for your continued support.

Friends and Supporters

News from the Museum and those who proudly support our heritage in Cumbria and beyond.



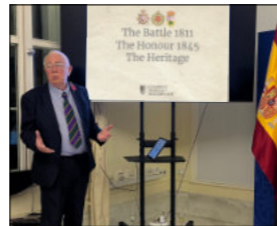
MUSEUM GRANT SUCCESS

THE Museum has been awarded £244,948 from The National Lottery Heritage fund to help transform how the we care for and shares its collections, and to safeguard them for the future.

THE 'Down to Brass Tacks' project will recruit and train volunteers to work alongside staff to undertake a collections' inventory, digitising records, condition checking, repacking and researching objects to provide a sustainable framework for future development.

JULES Wooding, Museum Manager said: 'As a focus for the local infantry regiment, the Museum is excited to be embarking on an ambitious project to protect and preserve our collections for the future.'

THE Colonel of The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, Brigadier Rob Singleton, said: 'Our heritage really matters to us, and this award is fantastic news. The Museum does a fantastic job of looking after our rich and varied heritage – and providing a focal point for the Regiment in Cumbria. This grant is hugely appreciated: it protects our heritage, helps to connect the modern-day Regiment with both our forebears and our current recruiting area.'



SPANISH CELEBRATION

SIXTY members of the Regimental Family and military historians joined the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Singleton, and the Museum, as the guests of the Spanish Embassy to celebrate the Cumberland Gentlemen's achievement at Arroyomolinos in 1811.

THE Spanish Defence Attaché, Captain Rafael Guerra, hosted the event which included short talks on the Arroyo dos Molinos battle and honour, its significance for Spain and the battle's importance for the Regiment today.

NEW STAFF MEMBER

CHRISTINA Staka, has joined the Museum staff as part-time Learning and Access Officer.



BALKAN DROP-IN

THANKS to the veterans that dropped in to share their stories for our Balkans event One of the veterans said, "Amongst all the laughs and banter, we witnessed some awful things." It is important that we never forget.

HONOUR SERIES?

IT has been suggested that 'Singular Honour', the history of the Arroyo battle honour and its relevance to the Regiment, should be followed by other titles, 'Airborne Honour' perhaps? This would

require a sponsor of a few hundred pounds, if you can help please get in touch with the Editor.



LECTURE DAY 2026

OUR annual lecture day will be Saturday 3 October 2026. The theme will be Gallipoli.



NEW HEADSTONES AT CLEATOR MOOR

NEW headstones for two members of the Border Regiment were dedicated on 26 November at Cleator St Mary Roman Catholic Churchyard. The headstones are part of the Cleator Moor Memorial project led by Joseph Ritson. Joseph has spent almost 30 years researching the memorials of Cleator Moor.

CORPORAL John Cash served in IBORDER and 3BORDER. He was born in Whitehaven in 1901 and spent most of his youth in Cleator Moor. Private Welsh was born in Frizington outside Cleator Moor in 1887.

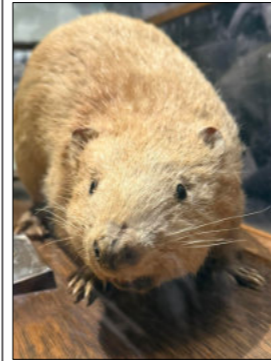
ZULU FILM SUPPORT

MUSEUM Trustee Simon Sole's feature-length documentary 'AMASHINGA' will be screened in Cumbria for the very first time, at Rheged in Penrith with proceeds going to support the Musuem.

THE film tells the story of the last sovereign King of the Zulu Kingdom, a British female missionary, an ambitious colonial official, and a young Welshman. These perspectives come together to create a powerful account of the British invasion of the Zulu Kingdom in 1879.

From the Collection

Museum Manager, Jules Wooding selects an item from the Collection with a special interest.



TUCKED away in the Museum between the rifles and regimental history is one very unexpected resident. Our Canadian beaver!



GIFTED to the Border Regiment in 1930 by their counterparts in Saskatchewan, he serves as a reminder of the long-standing connections between British and Commonwealth regiments.

THE Saskatchewan Border Regiment was an infantry regiment originally part of the Canadian Militia.

THE regiment was created in 1924 in Estevan, Saskatchewan, from the reorganisation of The South Saskatchewan Regiment into five separate regiments.

IN 1936, The Saskatchewan Border Regiment was amalgamated with The Weyburn Regiment to re-form The South Saskatchewan Regiment. The Regiment is no longer active.

Diary

Events at the Museum and elsewhere.

10 February, 1730, Tuesday Talk

The Museum, 'The Regimental Music of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment', Martin Glen.

Monday 17 February, 1230, Veterans' Lunch

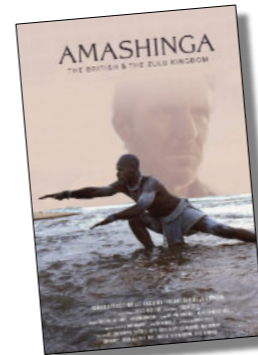
The Museum, Light Lunch, £4.00. Pre-booking essential.

10 March, 1730, Tuesday Talk

The Museum, 'The Miracle Workers of HM Factory Gretna', Rebecca Short.

Monday 16 March, 1230, Veterans' Lunch

The Museum, Light Lunch, £4.00. Pre-booking essential.



Friday 20 March, 1930 'Amashinga', Zulu film Rheged Centre, Redhills Penrith CA11 0DQ. Proceeds to the Museum
14 April, 1730, Tuesday Talk The Museum, "The British Army and The "Forgotten War:" Korea 1950-1953, James Goulty.

Monday 20 April, 1230, Veterans' Lunch The Museum, Light Lunch, £4.00. Pre-booking essential.

12 May, 1730, Tuesday Talk The Museum, "Wild Colonial Boys?" 6th Colonial Parachute Regiment in Tu Le, Vietnam in 1952, Peter McCutcheon.

Monday 18 May, 1230, Veterans' Lunch The Museum, Light Lunch, £4.00. Pre-booking essential.

30 & 31 May 2026, Military Festival The Museum, with re-enactors, displays and talks.

Book shelf

New books and ones that you may have missed. In this case a book from Moon's Bookshop, 19 Lowther Street, Whitehaven



They call it 'U-Boat Hotel' Simon Crump Grizedale Books Paperback From Moon's Books 19 Lowther Street, Whitehaven 01946 599010 £14 inc p&p

A fascinating account of a camp for German officers at Grizedale in the Lake District written by novelist Simon Crump, whilst writer-in-residence at Grizedale Forest.

THE book describes the camp's creation and operation housing mainly Kriegsmarine Officers waiting transfer to North America in WW2.

THE book includes International Red Cross (IRC) reports that I found interesting to compare with IRC reports on Oflags – German camps holding British Officers.

OF particular interest is an interview with one of the local guards and the detailed account of Oberleutnant Franz von Werra's escape from Grizedale in October 1940. Von Werra spent several nights on the Fells around Coniston.

MOON'S bookshop have managed to buy the remaining stock of this book which provides an unusual account of wartime Cumbria.

BUY a copy before they are gone!

The Editor

And almost finally

Memories of Regimental life by Alex Paterson, formerly KORBR and now designer at the House of Commons.

THE BATTLE OF ROSEMOUNT

by Richard Redhead
Rosemount was a small base in the Creggan, Londonderry.



When the 1994 ceasefire announced, a 2,500-strong crowd marched on the base.



Pte Cornell and I rushed out into the small compound.



We banged our shields and shouted out fake names to sound like a whole platoon.



With all lights off, we defended the gaps in the wall, fighting rioters who broke into the compound.



When we finally jammed the gap, with a saxon, we turned the lights back on. That's when the crowd saw there was only two of us!



ENDEX

A miscellany of military history, some serious, others less so, from all periods and from all countries.

SUDDEN DEATH

The Essex Standard – 18 January 1860. Yesterday a sergeant of the 34th Regiment, named Henry Gray, went into a field near the Camp [nr Colchester] where a man was ploughing, and requested him to allow him to take his place for a short time. The man did so, and the sergeant, on taking the plough, dropped down dead.



THAT TAKES THE BISCUIT

A member of the Grenadier Company of the 55th Foot around 1770, created by Lawrence Newman, Company Clerk 55th Regiment of Foot, Illinois, USA. Picture: Lawrence Newman.

HISTORIC SLANG

"A soldiers' supper" A drink of water and a smoke, 19C. The final meal of the day for men in barracks until Colonel Airey, 34th Foot introduced the evening meal to the Regiment and in due course to the rest of the Army.

MAINTENANCE

"Vehicles are maintained properly by tools, elbow grease, and dirty hands, not by pencils and forms." General Lesley McNair, US Army

LAND FOR SALE

MOD land at Eskmeals Range, Skelda Tower, Eskmeals, Millom, Cumbria is for sale. No price quoted. If you have to ask, you can't afford it.

Our Heritage

Cumbria's military heritage includes the Militia, the Yeomanry, Territorials and specialist units.



55th Foot button
19th Century

9th
BATT



PIONEERS

9BORDER WWI
Divisional Pioneer Battalion



KORBR Berlin Garrison
1981-83

THE regiment that became known as the 34th Foot and then the 1st Battalion of the Border Regiment was raised in Essex in 1702, as Robert, Lord Lucas' Regiment.

FROM the mid-18th Century regiments became known by their precedence number not their Colonel. In 1782 the 34th was given the regional title 'Cumberland'.

THE 55th Foot were raised in 1755 by Charles Perry. They were originally the 57th Foot, but when two lower numbered regiments were disbanded in 1756, they became the 55th Foot.

IN 1782, the 55th Foot were given the territorial title 'Westmorland Regiment'.

THE 34th were combined with the 55th in 1881 to form 'The Border Regiment'. At the same time the Cumberland and Westmorland Militia were re-organised as the Special Reserve and in 1908 the Rifle Volunteer battalions became the Territorial Force.

IN 1923 the 51st Field Regiment, Royal Artillery was created that included the Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry. In time the Gunners joined the Territorial Army battalion of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment.

THE King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) joined the Border Regiment to become the King's Own Royal Border Regiment in 1959.

IN 2006 the King's Own Royal Border Regiment were merged with other regiments in the North West to create 'The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment'.

Lest we forget

Events, distinctions and memorials of our local regiments and their men.



12 February 1702, The 34th Foot, raised.

The Regiment is raised as Lord Lucas's Regiment in Norfolk and Essex. *Image CMOML*

27 February 1814, Battle of Orthez, France, 2/34th Foot

The penultimate battle of the Peninsular War, Wellington's army attacked the French army led by Marshal Nicolas Soult.

March – July 1944, Imphal, India, Border Regiment, Japanese armies attempted to destroy the Allied forces at Imphal and invade India, but were driven back and from then on XIV Army advanced through Burma to Rangoon.



March 1946, Somaliland, Border Regiment

Until 1950 the 1BORDER were engaged in peace-keeping duties. *Image CMOML*

March 1727, Siege of Gibraltar, Haye's Regiment of Foot

After an arduous sea journey to Gibraltar, the precursor to 34th Foot, formed part of the garrison during the war against Spain of 1727-29.

10 March 1915, Battle of Neuve Chapelle, France, Border Regiment

The British broke through German defences in a salient at the village Neuve-Chapelle, but the initial success could not be exploited.



12 March 1918 Rest in Peace Lance Corporal Frederick W Brown 28134 'C' Company, 11th Battalion, Border Regiment

Missing on the Western Front. *Image IWM*



22 March 1918, Castle Crag, Borrowdale

Castle Crag was given to the National Trust as a memorial after the First World War by the family of 2nd Lieutenant John Hamer, Kings Shropshire Light Infantry. The memorial is dedicated to the memory of Lieutenant Hamer and "the men of Borrowdale" who lost their lives in the war, and whose names are listed on the stone tablet. *(Picture by Adrian Pearson, formerly KORBR)*



25 April 1915, Landing at Helles, Gallipoli, Border Regiment

1Border part of 29th Division landed at 'X' Beach, although the beach head was secured, fighting became heavier as the day progressed. The Regiment suffered heavy losses including their Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Hume. *Image IWM*

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enquiries@cmoml.org
web site: <https://t.ly/Blcbo>

For opening hours see web site

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Duke of Lancaster's Regiment
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CUMBRIA'S MUSEUM OF MILITARY LIFE



ACCREDITED MUSEUM



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