



The Fusilier Museum

WARWICK

Monthly E-Newsletter - July 2023



MUSEUM NEWS

THE IMPORTANCE OF MUSEUM LEARNING

Welcome to the July edition of the e-newsletter. We continue to get positive feedback about the newsletter and even one expression of jealousy from another museum!

In this issue, we are considering the importance of learning activities and partnerships. Museums at their very core are learning organisations and as the museum mission statement says: 'The Fusilier Museum Warwick's vision is to enable people locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally to gain a deeper understanding of the lives of individuals who served in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and its successor, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, through its 350-year history'. How we achieve that 'deeper understanding' depends upon the audience. The galleries and events programme aim to serve a range of users from general visitors and families to military enthusiasts. However, a bigger challenge lies in providing a relevant learning offer to primary, secondary, and post-16 schools and colleges.

Regular visits by schools are the Holy Grail for museums because they demonstrate their value in the community as well as offering a welcome source of income. Schools have long recognised how 'out of the classroom' teaching can enhance the education of students but increasing pressures on teachers to fulfil academic targets matched by the bureaucratic hurdles in organising school trips, means that museums must be very persuasive to convince schools to come through their doors.

As it happens, Warwick is particularly rich in cultural offers, and the Fusilier Museum Warwick sees great opportunity in linking with its colleagues at the Yeomanry Museum and the Queen's Royal Hussars to entice school visits from farther afield. Now though, as the museum completes its first six months at Pageant House, rebuilding the relationship with local schools after a two-year closure, has become paramount.

What does the museum need to do to get schools in and regularly using its education offer? Firstly, to demonstrate that the stories it tells are relevant both to students but also the National Curriculum which dictates what schools should teach and what students should learn. Secondly, it needs to show that it has the facilities and professional expertise to make learning accessible and engaging for young minds.

Raising the funds to make the Brandwood Room a suitable learning space has been a key priority until now and with fantastic support received, that project is now completed! The museum's new objectives are to develop learning resources that can be tested with school partners, to train staff and volunteers to deliver learning sessions, and to effectively promote the museum's learning offer to schools in the region. The project news update will show, plans are now afoot to make all this happen and we welcome your support through donations to help deliver this important area of the museum's work.

—Chris Kirby, General Manager



CURRENT PROJECTS

The museum continues to manage different projects that will both enhance the access to the collections, promote the Regiment's story and provide opportunities to generate funding essential to the organisation's future.

REFURBISHING THE BRANDWOOD ROOM

Project Complete!

THANK YOU!

Through generous online donations and donations directly made in the museum, we are delighted to report that the £1,000 target has been reached to fund essential additions to the Brandwood Room!

After the purchase of the blinds, new chairs have been purchased suitable for a range of events and easily stackable. The next stage is to produce a commercial brochure which outlines the different types of hires the room can accommodate - these include boardroom meetings, lectures, formal receptions, and communal exhibitions and events.

The other key function of the room will be for learning activities, and this brings us to a new museum learning initiative outlined below.

BUILDING BRIDGES – A NEW MUSEUM LEARNING PROJECT

As discussed in museum news, after two years of closure of the museum and the move to Pageant House, there is a priority to rebuild the relationship with local schools to encourage learning session bookings. **The first priority is to connect with primary schools** because the greater flexibility in their timetables makes it easier for them to accommodate learning sessions with museums.

There are three key areas to the Museum Learning Project:

- **1)** linking with local primary schools to pilot new learning sessions;
- **2)** developing resources and training staff and volunteers in the delivery of museum learning; and
- **3)** effectively promoting the museum's learning offer to regional museums.

For the first of these, the museum has been very lucky, thanks to proactive Headteacher, Matthew Watson, in making a connection with Westgate Primary School based in Warwick. Matthew brought four year 6 students to the museum recently to do a one-hour learning session to explore the possibilities for future learning work between the museum and the school.

The priority now is to raise funding to pilot learning sessions with Westgate school which are delivered by museum staff and museum volunteers. When these sessions have been evaluated and finalised, the plan is to roll these out to regional primary schools through promotion in an e-learning brochure.

The total budget required for this project is £3,000 but the museum will be applying for grants to help source some of the funding.

According to Westgate's Matthew Watson:

"As the school History coordinator, I was thrilled with the children's answers, questions and their ability to problem-solve using their historian skills."

"The children were enthralled by the discussion of Field Marshal Montgomery and his command of ground forces during World War II."

"It was definitely proud headteacher time!"



If you can donate at least £10 to the Building Bridges Learning Project to help the Fusilier Museum Warwick to create effective learning sessions for regional primary schools, please donate and make a difference – <https://fusiliermuseumwarwick.com/support>

OBJECT OF THE MONTH

Each e-newsletter, we will ask someone to choose an object from the collection to tell its story and what it means to them. Museum Volunteer Graham Roberts explains how German Pickelhaube Helmets, like the one on display in the museum's trench display, developed over time.

GERMAN PICKELHAUBE INFANTRY HELMET (1895 MODEL) 1960.902

1. On display in the museum is a German Pickelhaube infantry helmet (1895 model) acquired by the Regiment on the Western Front during the First World War. It was manufactured in three pieces from boiled leather. The bowl, front visor and neck visor were lacquered black and decorated with brass fittings. The style of the front plate inscribed "*Mit Gott Für Koenig und Vaterland*" ("With God for King & Fatherland") and the black & white cockade denotes that this belonged to a soldier from the state of Prussia.



2. With the outbreak of war in August 1914 and the shortage of leather from Argentina due to the British Blockade, plus the need to quickly and cheaply equip the increasing number of men required to fight, as a stop gap a pressed, stiffened felt, one-piece Ersatz (replacement) Pickelhaube helmet was produced to the same design as that of 1895, with brass or silver fittings. This example is in the museum's reserve collection.



3. In 1915, as both brass and silver were needed for the war effort, the pickelhaube was again altered. It was still made in three parts from boiled leather, however much thinner than pre-war and the fittings were made from grey steel, oxidised to give a flat, non-reflective finish. The spike was now removeable making the wearer less visible. All versions of the pickelhaube gave the wearer little protection from head injuries. This example is not in the museum collection.



4. Another helmet in the museum's reserve collection is the M1916 helmet. This example was recovered from the third battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) on 12th October 1917 and presented to the Regiment.



The steel helmet (*Stahlhelm*) was developed in 1915 to counter the effects of headwounds in trench warfare. It was first trialled in December 1915 by the first assault battalion and was so successful it was issued to all troops from January 1916. The helmet was made from high quality chromium nickel steel and gave protection to head, neck, and ears. The side lugs were for ventilation and to accommodate a forehead shield. This helmet also bears the scars of battle. In 1918, the Stahlhelm was painted in the camouflage colours of green, yellow ochre, brown and rust, segmented by lines of black paint.

VISITOR NEWS

Henry Ainsworth, RWR Captain, Engineer & Chairman at Hotchkiss

Stuart Ainsworth writes about his remarkable great-uncle Henry Mann Ainsworth who was commissioned and served as a Captain in the 7th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment in the early 1920s.

Henry Ainsworth (known as 'Hal') joined Hotchkiss the French luxury car manufacturer in 1904. This was because his Uncle J. J. Mann, a Director at Marshall's, had recently partnered with Hotchkiss to manufacture engines and gearboxes and act as UK sales agent for them. Hal started in the drawing office of the Hotchkiss's factory in Saint-Denise and by 1911 was their chief engineer.

With the outbreak of war in 1914 Hotchkiss continued to make cars but were also an important armaments producer, which was the company's origin in the USA. With the advance of the German Army, the Saint-Denise plant was moved to Lyon in 1914 around that time Hal joined the Intelligence Corps with the BEF in Belgium. As a fluent French speaker with a technical background, Hal was an obvious asset and he served as a 2nd Lieutenant and a Lieutenant in the Intelligence Corps at Mons, Aisne, and 1st Ypres.

After 1st Ypres, Hal was given special leave to return to Coventry as Hotchkiss had been invited by the British Government to set up a factory producing M1909 light machine guns. The Benét-Mercié light machine gun, was produced in the UK as the 'Hotchkiss Portative' for the British Army. More suitable for cavalry and mounted infantry units this machine gun was widely used in campaigns in Gallipoli and Palestine. Under Hal's direction, over 40,000 machine guns were produced with productivity increasing from around 30 complete guns per week at the beginning of 1916 to 420 machine guns per week by 1918.

Hal was promoted from Lieutenant to Captain on 22nd December 1920 and served with the 7th (Territorial) Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment whose HQ was in Coventry. He was in this role whilst retooling the factory to make auto engines for Morris. Hal went on to join the 5th Battalion, another territorial division, which was based in Birmingham. The plant was subsequently sold to Morris in 1924 and Hal returned to France.

The Hotchkiss Artillery Works still stands in Gosford Street and is now the University of Coventry's Morris Building. In the inter-war years, Hal became Chairman of Hotchkiss which set world speed and endurance records with its cars.

In the 1920s, Hal turned Hotchkiss's focus to tanks as he had a keen interest in the global tank industry.



Images courtesy of Stuart Ainsworth

VISITOR NEWS *continued*

The Hotchkiss R35 emerged in 1935 as a replacement for French cavalry's armoured cars and was soon in general service with the Infantry too. The tank was fast and had good armour to the front which surprised the German anti-tank gunners when they clashed in 1940.

By the time of the invasion of France, 400 H35s and 710 of the upgraded H39 tanks with the longer SA38 37mm canon and the more powerful Monte Carlo inspired engine, were in front line service. About 550 Hotchkiss tanks were captured and used by the German Army as Panzerkampfwagen 35H 734(f) or Panzerkampfwagen 38H 735(f) mostly for occupation duty.

Hal was based in Paris when the Nazis invaded France. He made plans for a dramatic escape South. Hal assembled a caravan of trucks loaded with plans and jigs and headed out as the German Army marched in. Many of the trucks were intercepted and the workers returned to Saint-Denise where the factory saw out the next few years of occupation repairing military vehicles.

However, Hal reached the South coast and eventually made it to Algeria. From Casablanca, he took a fishing boat to Lisbon from where he sailed to the USA. In August 1941 he was flown back to the UK in a bomber and took up an appointment working for Lord Beaverbrook as the Director General of Tank Design. In 1944 after the liberation of Paris, Hal returned to Saint-Denise to organise the factory to provide vehicles for the Allies.

For Hotchkiss, tough competition meant car production stopped in 1955. Military vehicles were made until 1967 and trucks till 1971 when the Hotchkiss brand then disappeared forever. Hal himself was recognised twice by the French Government with the award of Legion d'honneur and retired in 1949 after Peugeot had taken a controlling stake in Hotchkiss. Hal saw out his later years in Paris at the heart of the automotive and golfing scene. He died peacefully at the age of 86 in 1971.



THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1941



REGIMENTAL STORIES

Honouring the enduring legacy of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, formed on April 23, 1968.

This month marks the 70th anniversary of the Korean War ceasefire. The Korean War is often referred to as the "Forgotten War" because so little public attention has been given to it. On July 27, 1953, the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed. This month, the Fusiliers held a commemorative service at Holy Sepulchre London. One of the veterans who attended the Holy Sepulchre service was Sir Michael Caine, a former Fusilier and Korean War combat veteran.

In 1952, Sir Michael, then known as Maurice Micklewhite, was called up for National Service at age 19 and served in 'C' Company, 1st Royal Fusiliers. In a 1987 Daily Mail interview, Sir Michael described experiencing "human wave" attacks by communist troops. Sir Michael's service in the Fusiliers had a profound impact on his life—so much so that for his 90th birthday this past April, Lady Caine worked with The Fusilier Museum in London to give him a surprise gift reflecting his military service. The Fusiliers presented Sir Michael with his framed service record, photos and medals—the Queen's Korea Medal, UN Korean War Medal and (unofficial) National Service Medal—with a Royal Fusilier cap badge and hackle, along with a framed unit crest.

The British made significant contributions to the Korean War. Arriving in Busan in August 1950, British troops went straight into combat alongside United Nations forces. Nearly 60,000 British troops fought in the war; more than 1,000 were killed in action, more than 2,600 were wounded and over 1,000 are officially missing.

One of the most notable engagements fought by the British was the Battle of the Imjin River in 1951, also known as the Battle of Gloster Hill. During one of the fiercest and bloodiest battles the British Army had fought since World War II, the 29th British Independent Infantry Brigade Group stood in the path of China's Spring Offensive.

Despite being hopelessly outnumbered, the stalwart British soldiers stood alone and held off massive Chinese "human wave" attacks for three days. Their actions dashed the communists' objectives and gave UN forces time to rally to protect Seoul from being overrun.

"The 29th Brigade's performance on the Imjin demonstrated that the British soldier in defence was a stubborn and formidable foe."

- National Army Museum



Sir Michael at the service & with his medals. Images from the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

The sacrifices made by those who fought in the Korean War have resulted in South Korea becoming a powerful independent nation, known as one of the four economically strong "Asian Tigers," wielding great influence in the world today.



An officer of the 10th Royal Hussars points out landmarks near the Imjin River to a Centurion tank crew during a patrol.



Men of the 1st Battalion, Royal Northumberland Fusiliers wear roses in their caps to mark St George's Day, 1951. The roses were flown in from Japan.

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM TALKS

JULY-OCTOBER 2023

We invite you to attend our history talk series hosted by the Friends of the Fusilier Museum Warwick. Talks are offered online and hybrid.

DASHING HUSSAR, BRAVE CUIRASSIER



Maj. Mick Atkinson

2 PM London Time
Saturday, 29 July

P.J. PRETORIUS & THE SMS KONIGSBERG



Peter Griffiths,
Chair, East Rand Military Historical Society

2 PM London Time
Saturday, 30 September

DUNKIRK



Maj. David Seeney
Vice Chair, Friends of the Fusilier Museum Warwick

2 PM London Time
Saturday, 28 October

To learn more about & register for these events, please email:

friends.fusiliermuseumwarwick@gmail.com

For Zoom talks, a link will be sent to your email upon registration.

JOIN THE FRIENDS

The Friends support the museum and its mission of preserving regimental history and also promote education and activities for history lovers, both online and locally. All are welcome to join!

To learn more, contact us at friends.fusiliermuseumwarwick@gmail.com

VISIT THE MUSEUM

**Pageant House,
2, Jury Street,
Warwick,
CV34 4EW**

01926 258288

enquiries@fusiliermuseumwarwick.com



MUSEUM EVENTS FOR 2023

Here is a list of museum events for the rest of 2023.
Make sure to get them into your calendar!



Fusilier Fun

10am – 5pm, Saturday 29th July 2023

A programme of family activities and re-enactor demonstrations at the Fusilier Museum Warwick. Watch out for our special stall in Warwick Market! There will be the launch of the Big Summer Art competition!

World War I Day

10am – 5pm, Saturday 12th August 2023

A special day of events in collaboration with the Yeomanry Museum Warwick and the Gallipoli Association. exploring the regiment in WWI including the campaign in Gallipoli. A talk by well-known historian Peter Hart, special exhibitions of Gallipoli material in the Court House, Warwick and WW1 family activities and reenactors in the Fusilier Museum Warwick.

Please see attached flyer from event organisers on the next page for more details.



A Soldier's Tale

10am – 5pm, Saturday 28th October 2023

Marking the beginning of the autumn half term, a day of exciting events in the museum, including reenactors presentations in the museum looking at the life of the soldier.



Armistice Day

12 – 4pm, Sunday 12th November

A special presentation at the museum marking Remembrance Day or Armistice Day following the laying of the wreaths at the Warwick War Memorial





GALLIPOLI ASSOCIATION

TO REMEMBER, TO HONOUR, TO STUDY



World War 1 Day

12th August 2023 10am – 5pm

Learn about the lives of soldiers in The Great War with talks, exhibitions, demonstrations and activities.

A special themed day on World War 1 in recognition of the 108th anniversary of the significant campaign at Gallipoli.

In August 1915, men of the 9th Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and the 1st Warwickshire Yeomanry took part in this ill-fated World War 1 campaign against the Ottoman Turks.

The Fusilier Museum and the Warwickshire Yeomanry Museum, in conjunction with the Gallipoli Association, present a day of events suitable for military history enthusiasts, general visitors and families. These will be held at the Court Room and both museums.

10.00: Both museums open. There is a small entry charge for the Fusilier Museum. Entrance to the Yeomanry Museum is free but a donation is welcome.

11.00: Peter Hart, an eminent historian, broadcaster and author will speak on the Gallipoli campaign. This is a ticket only event. Tickets cost 6.00 and are available from Eventbrite (see below). The ticket can also be used for access to the Museum.

12.00 onwards: Displays and re-enactors in the Court House. These are open to visitors who purchase a ticket or donate to the Museums. There will be activities for children.

3.00: A Gallipoli themed walking tour of Warwick, led by local historian Jonathan Davy. This will take in various sites. Booking can be made through Eventbrite (see below). The tour will depart from the Fusilier Museum.



Tickets for Peter Hart talk are £6 and can be booked at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gallipoli-day-talk-by-peter-hart-tickets-657504803567>

Tickets for Jonathan Davy walking tour of Warwick are £6 and can be booked at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/military-walking-tour-of-warwick-by-jon-davy-tickets-657522937807>