Case objects and descriptions
COVID-19

Please remember as you go around the Museum:

Use the one-way system indicated by the signs around the Museum (except in the event of an emergency).

Use the hand sanitisers that are available at reception, the toilets and at the entrance to each floor.

Avoid touching any surfaces around the Museum or getting too close to the glass fronts of the cases.

Please wear a face covering at all times (unless you are exempt from doing so).

Keep your distance from other visitors, staff and volunteers.
Introduction

Thank you for visiting the Keep Military Museum!

Due to COVID-19, we have had to remove some of our interactive elements and interpretation to ensure the safety of staff and visitors. This includes our ‘paddles’ which provide information on the wonderful objects you will see around the Museum.

We have produced this booklet to help you find out more about the objects as you go round the Museum. There is a guide to each floor with information on cases and objects, which are individually numbered.

Some cases have labels in them so these do not appear in this booklet.

We hope you enjoy your visit to the Keep Military Museum.
First Floor Map: 1685 - 1958

Welcome to the First Floor! Please follow the route clockwise around the floor. You will exit through the same door to go up to the Second Floor.
Case: Plassey

1. **Uniform of a 11th Foot, Devonshire Regiment**

2. **The Arcot Staff**: presented to Lord Robert Clive to commemorate the Battle of Plassey 1757. The Inscription reads: ‘Plassey 1757, the Nabob of Bengal, overturned by the 39th Regiment of Foot and the Companies troops’ (East India Company).

3. **Pike**: carried by a sergeant and used mainly against attacking cavalry c.1702 – 1830.

4. **Flintlock Musket**: the firepower of the British Infantry with a range of approx. 80 metres. c.1770.

5. **Cannonball** made of cast-iron, 3.3” in diameter and weighing 5lbs 4ozs.

6. **Plug Bayonet**: fits into the muzzle of the musket. The English stopped using it when they were charged by the Scots at the Battle of Killecrankie and were unable to remove them in time to reload their weapons.

7. **Breech Loading Block ‘Petrieroe’**: with gunpowder and projectiles packed into the hole in the centre, it would be placed onto the cannon and the small hole on top held the taper which would be lit.

8. **The Plassey Medal** awarded to the Officers of the 39th Regiment of Foot who served at Plassey, India 1757.
Case: The Early Years

1. **Scarlet Tailcoat** worn by a Major in the Roborough Battalion of the Devon Militia c.1790.

2. **An Infantry Officer’s pattern sword**.

3. **Coatee**: Of the 46th (South Devon) Regiment worn by an Ensign c.1790.

4. **An Officer’s pattern sword c. 1786**, adopted after the American War of Independence.

5. **French Heavy Cavalry Trooper’s Sabre**.

6. **Spontoon**: officer’s half-pike, used by the 39th Foot. Leather bound socket with two twist frills, a 76” shaft, and 10” double-edged blade.

7. **Battle of Dunblane Medal 1715**: awarded to those in the 11th Foot by George I.

8. **The Carlisle Medal: 1745**: awarded for the capture of Carlisle, by the Duke of Cumberland.

9. **The Siege of Mons Medal 1709**: awarded to those in the 11th Foot by Queen Anne.

10. **The Naval Medal for Cape Passaro 1718**: 39th Foot served as Marines aboard HMS Montague off the coast of Sicily in 1718.

12. *Metal Powder Horn*, adjustable to four different measures of powder.

13. *Officer’s Belt Plate c.1780*: cross belts were worn over the tunic and secured at the front by the belt plate.

14. *Major Andre’s Snuff Box*: inscribed ‘To the Memory of Major Andre’, Tappan, 10th August 1821’.

15. *Major Andre’s Personal Leather Tankard*.

16. *A Lock of Major Andre’s hair*.

17. *Major Andre’s Shoe Buckle*.

18. *A Flintlock Carbine*.

Case: The Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars 1793 – 1802.

1. **Tenor Drum 54th West Norfolk Regiment**: used in the barracks and on campaign. The principle use was to keep the men in step and to retain discipline and cohesion when advancing.

2. **English Key Bugle c.1810**.
   
   In barracks, the bugle would sound the ‘post’ to call the men to routine. On the battlefield, the bugle would be used to convey orders.

4. **Powder Horn – 39th Regiment of Foot**: the black powder for priming the soldier’s musket was carried separately. This example is from the Peninsula War 1808 – 1814 and was decorated by the soldier himself.

6. **Coatee – 3rd Battalion Dorset Volunteers**: typical design worn during the early part of the Napoleonic Wars by the regulars, volunteers and militia.

7. **Artillery Grape Shot – Albuhera 1811**: the shotgun-like effect of this ammunition was used to cut through ranks of infantry and cavalry.

8. **Bullet Mould**: used by soldiers to make their own ammunition from heat-softened lead, or to re-shape the bullets to fit the barrel better and ensure greater accuracy.
9. Military General Service Medal: the battles of the Napoleonic Wars were the earliest to be officially recognised through the issuing of medals, although not until 1848. This medal was given to Samuel Manning of the 39th Foot who fought in the Peninsula War.

10. Army Gold Medal: awarded to senior officers, this medal was issued to Lt. Col. Rufane Shaw Donkin of the 11th Foot, who was present as a headquarters staff officer at the Battle of Talavera. Port Elizabeth in South Africa is named after Donkin’s wife Elizabeth.


12. Stone from Fort Marabout: the 54th Foot successfully attacked the enemy position at the Fort in Alexandria, Egypt. They captured enemy guns – one of which is in the Keep Archway – and the regiment earned the Sphinx badge in commemoration.
Case: Napoleonic Wars 1802 – 1815

1. Officer’s Coatee 11th Regiment of Foot.

Typical pattern worn during the Napoleonic Wars. The green cloth facings were typical of the regiment, with a green cloth star, gold sunburst and XI, North Devon on the buttons.

2. Baker Rifle c.1811: more accurate, but slower to load than the musket. Infantry soldiers worked in groups firing at high value targets such as officers and artillerymen.

2A Powder Horn used by riflemen in the Napoleonic period in conjunction with the Baker Rifle.

3. Steel Cuirass – French Cavalry: offered protection against stab wounds and enemy musket fire to men on horseback.

4. French Artilleryman’s belt buckle found at Waterloo a year after the battle.

4A: 11th Regiment of Foot buttons: Dug up from the Salamanca battlefield.

5. Cannonball: field guns would fire steel balls weighing around 6, 9 or 12 pounds and were effective from 600 – 1200 yards.

War. On 15 February 1814, his mount was shot from beneath him and he led his battalion on foot, personally killing three of the enemy. Later that year, he was promoted to Major General, to Lieutenant General in 1830 and Colonel of the Regiment in 1831. He died in 1849 aged 63. He was awarded the Gold Medal for the Battle of Maida, Peninsular Gold Cross, Star and Sash of Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Bath.

7. **1796 Pattern Light Cavalry Sabre** designed for slashing cuts in close combat with either mounted or dismounted opponents.

8a. *French Carbineer’s Helmet* 8b. *French Carbineer’s Cuirass*.

9. **Sergeant Major James Duffy**.

Born c.1788 in Augnamullin, County Monaghan, he enlisted in 1805 11th Regiment of Foot. On 22 July 1822 after the Battle of Salamanca, only he and two Privates were left standing in the Grenadier Company. On 16 January 1814, he and his patrol captured 200 French Infantry. 6 enemy soldiers were seized whilst ‘entertaining a lady’. Sergeant Duffy went on to assist his Captain in the capture of more than 200 French men by pretending to be a deserter. He was awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in 1840 and became a Yeoman of London in 1841. He died in London in 1867 aged 79.

10. **Waterloo Medal**.

Unlike the other battles of the Napoleonic Wars, all Waterloo veterans were almost immediately awarded this medal. This medal was awarded to James Barnes, a drummer boy in the 54th Regiment of Foot.
Case: Napoleonic Wars, Citizen Soldiers

1. *King George III reviewing the Dorset Volunteer Rangers*; he did this on four occasions between 1794 and 1801.

2. *Shoulder Scales* worn by officers in the Dorchester Infantry Volunteers, established in 1798. The purpose of the unit was local defence against a possible French invasion.

3. *Miniature Painting of James Bower*, an Officer in the Weymouth Loyal Artillery. He was born in Cornwall, but served in Weymouth as Principle Burgess (1802), Bailiff (1804, 1810, 1811, 1833) and Mayor (1809, 1816, 1818, 1831).

4. *Napoleonic Love Token*, engraved by 19 year old Thomas Purch of the Royal Horse Artillery for his sweetheart before he departed for battle. He fought at Waterloo in 1815. Thomas became an engraver and died in 1865.

5. *Bridport Loyal Company of Volunteers in 1793*.


7. *Lord Milton* who founded the Dorset Rangers and, in 1798, commanded the Dorset Militia who later deployed to Ireland to restore order.
8. **Coatee** worn by Private James Pitman of the Beaminster Town Loyal Volunteers.

9. **Shooting Medal**: the inscription reads ‘The gift of John Holam Esq. to the best shot in the Weymouth volunteers adjudged to Mr Henry Clayton, 30\textsuperscript{th} August, 1803’.

10. **Early Regimental Buttons**:  
A – Dorchester Company of 1\textsuperscript{st} Battalion, the Dorset Volunteers  
B – Local Militia, who had existed since the 15\textsuperscript{th} Century  
C – 1\textsuperscript{st} Battalion Dorset Volunteers button.

11. **Sword, Buckle and Buttons belonging to Sergeant Daniel Penny of the Sherborne Loyal Volunteers, 1798.**

12: **Coatee, worn by a member of the East Budleigh Volunteers.**

13. **Coatee and waistcoat belonging to Thomas Hallett of Axminster in the Local Defence Volunteers, c. 1800.**

14. **Militia Sword from the 3\textsuperscript{rd} Militia Battalion, Devonshire Regiment.**
Case: The 39\textsuperscript{th} and 54\textsuperscript{th} Foot in India

1. Officer’s Bell-Topped Shako 54\textsuperscript{th} Foot: made of heavy leather with brass fittings, it was designed to give protection from the elements and the enemy at close range.

2. Officer’s Coatee 54\textsuperscript{th} Foot 1820-1826: worn in the hot jungles of Burma, this example has the green facings of the Regiment.


4. Drum Major’s Mace 11\textsuperscript{th} Foot

5. The Maharajpore Cup: a commemorative cup presented to the 38\textsuperscript{th} Foot by Lord Ellenborough, Governor General of India.

6. Army of India Medal 1799-1826 issued to the survivors of the 54\textsuperscript{th} campaign in India, in this case Private P Purland.

7. Maharajpore Star made from the bronze of guns captured by the 39\textsuperscript{th} Foot in battle. This belongs to Private James McBride.

8. Officer’s Belt and Buckle, 11\textsuperscript{th} Foot. Worn by Lieutenant Colonel Keightley between 1826 and 1835, while serving in Ireland, Portugal and in the Ionian Islands.

9. East India Company Coin: They virtually ruled India until 1858 and issued their own coinage. This is a ¼ Anna piece.
9A. *Plate*: painting is of Lieutenant Charles Haviland Williams, who joined the 39th of Foot as a 2nd Lieutenant in August 1879. He died in Jubbulpore, India in 1881 from cholera.

10 *Wagnuk or ‘Tiger’s Claw’* These devices were used by members of the Thugee sects to give the impression that those who had been killed had been attacked by a tiger.

11. *Cap Badge 39th Foot* worn by Lieutenant Colonel Bray while commanding the 39th at Maharajpore.

12. *Uniform – Ensign Bray 39th Foot.* Son of the Commanding Officer, Ensign Bray was mortally wounded in the battle. His officer’s undress shell jacket has bullet holes in the left arm and in the chest. There is a bullet hole marked by a silver disc in his Queen’s Colour Belt. The officer’s pattern forage cap with its embroidered badge represents a move to more practical clothing in the field and in hot climates.

13. *Mahratta musket balls:* these are the musket balls that mortally wounded Ensign Bray. They were removed by his father.

14. *Indian Tulwar Sword* taken from one of the enemy soldiers during close quarter fighting.
Case: The epic of the Sarah Sands and the Indian Mutiny

1. **Tippoo Sultan’s Staff**: one of a pair of silver staffs taken by Major General Baird at Sheringapatam.

2. **Officer’s Tunic 54th Foot 1856 – 1868**.

3. **Infantry Officer’s Pattern Sword c.1820** carried by Captain J Chute.

4. **Colour belt and piece of the Sarah Sands** rescued along with the Colours from the cabin at the rear of the burning ship.

5. **Silver inkwell set** inscribed ‘From Major JW Hughes to his friend Colour Sergeant Thomas Copsey in remembrance of their friendship, etc. and of their Service together on the Sarah Sands.’

6. **Escritoire Writing Desk** engraved ‘Colour Sergeant Lewis Parnell 54th Regiment’. He such suffered significant hearing loss from the exploding kegs of gunpowder aboard the Sarah Sands that he had to decline an Officer’s commission in the Regiment.

7. **Officers 1855 Field Service Cap and Leather Neck Stock** carried by Captain J Chute of the 54th Foot.

8. **Plate – Regimental dinner service**: part of the 54th’s dinner service which was rescued from the fire and used for many years afterwards.
9. *1851 Pattern Enfield Rifled Musket:* with greater accuracy than its predecessors, this musket was introduced to the Indian Army and was one of the causes of the Mutiny.

10. *Native Club* taken by the 54th Foot in India in 1857.


12. *Elephant Goad* used by ‘Mahouts’ to control and guide their elephants.

13. *The Royal Humane Society Medal* awarded for saving life from drowning. This medal was awarded to Lieutenant Colonel Moffat, Commanding Officer of the 54th Foot.


17. *Enfield Bullet Mould* used by soldiers to make up bullets and cartridges from lead and loose gunpowder.

18. *Cartridges:* pre-packed cartridges for the Service musket were covered in pork or beef tallow to keep the gunpowder inside dry.
Case: Citizen Army

1. **Officer’s Helmet c.1900. Dorset Rifle Volunteers.**

2. **Officer’s Patrol Jacket** standard issue in ‘Rifle Green’, worn by Captain A R Pope of the 1st Dorset Rifle Volunteers. He later became chairman of Pope Brewery and Mayor of Dorchester.

3. **Officers Cross Belt** worn by Lt L T H Cave. The whistle was used to issue orders in the field.

4. **Helmet Kettle** made of lacquered tin, used to safely transport the helmet inside. The brass nameplate states ‘Colonel Troyte, 3rd Volunteer Battalion, Devonshire Regiment’.

5. **Home Service Helmet** worn by Captain Cutler, Dorset Militia c.1878.

6. **Parade Notice**: these would be placed around the town.

7. **Militia Long Service and Good Conduct Medal** issued to 940 Sgt. F. Herridge of the 3rd Battalion. To receive this medal you had to have served 18 years and 15 annual camps. It was superseded in 1930 by the Efficiency Medal with Militia bar.
8. **Volunteer Long Service and Good Conduct Medal** issued to Private J H Robinson, awarded for 20 years’ service. It was superseded by the Territorial Force Efficiency Medal in 1908.


10. **Rules and Regulations**: a standard rules and regulations sign for display in all common areas. Every member of the Volunteer Corps was issued with a copy as well.

11. **Medal and Glove** presented to Thomas Studley after 20 years’ service in the Sadborow Independent Troop of Yeomanry. The glove bears the crest of the Prince of Wales.

12. **Silver Kettle Drum**: silver-plated kettle drum with banner of the Queen’s Own Dorset Yeomanry, c.1833, worked by Harriet Frampton, daughter of Lord Ilchester.

13. **Officer Uniform of the Queen’s Own Regiment of Dorsetshire Yeomanry Cavalry 1854 – 1859** with the narrow-topped Shako introduced by Prince Albert.
Case: The Crimea and the North West Frontier

1. **Officer’s Shell Jacket** worn by 39th Foot c.1850. The jacket could be worn in undress as displayed, or as mess dress, opened with a waistcoat underneath.

2. **Grenadier Badge** found on the battlefields of the Crimea.

3. **Active Service Set** candle and holder, matchbox and wax matches used in the Crimea.

4. **Cigarette Box** presented by Captain R B Foster RN in memory of his brother Captain F W Foster, who served in the 39th Foot in the Crimea and to whom the breastplate on the cigarette box belonged.

5. **Miniature Painting** of General William Munro CB, adjutant to 39th Foot, wounded at the Battle of Maharajpore.

6. **Drummer’s Sidearm and scabbard.**

7. **Russian Helmet captured by the 26th Infantry Regiment during the Crimean War 1855.**

8. **Afghan Dagger:** ‘From Tirah, North West Frontier, India 1897’.

9. The **Medals of General William Munro CB.**, who joined the 39th Foot in India in 1834 and commanded the Regiment in 1853 – 1856, which included the Crimea.

9A. **Buttons of the 39th Regiment of Foot** dug up from the Battlefields of Sebastopol in the Crimea.

10. **Full Dress Tunic** of the type worn by Private Samuel Vickery VC, the only Dorset Regiment recipient of the Victoria Cross.
11. **Victoria Cross medal group of Private Samuel Vickery.**

12. **Side Cap:** other ranks’ field service cap, issued from 1900.

13. **Afridi Powder Horn** taken during the Tirah campaign c. 1897.

14. **Afghan Knife** taken in Afghanistan in 1889 by the Devonshire Regiment.

15. **Drumstick Holder:** 39th Foot, used during 19th Century.
Case: South Africa 1899 – 1902. Defence and Relief of Ladysmith.

1. **Long Lee Enfield Rifle**

   Used during the Siege and Relief of Ladysmith, .303 calibre. Privately manufactured by the Birmingham Small Arms Company.

2. **Captain Lafone**: photograph taken prior to the capture of Wagon Hill. Killed in action fighting as part of the 1st Bn. Devonshire Regiment on 6th January 1900. This is his watch, recovered from his body after the attack.

3. **Shrapnel bullets** used by the British during the Siege.

4. **Drinking Mug** used by the Officers during the Siege and struck by a Boer bullet.

5. **Playing Cards**: Devon Regiment cards used by the 1st Battalion during the Siege.

6. **Photograph**: Lieutenant Dalzel, 1st Devonshire Regiment, killed in action at Wagon Hill. The photograph is in a silver locket with a regimental coloured ribbon and a silver clasp with ‘Wagon Hill’ engraved into it. The locket was originally worn by his mother and then his sister.

7. **Mother Seigel’s Operating Pills**, used by the Boers and found by Cpn Jacson, Devonshire Regiment at Helvetin Farm.
8. *A Ten Shilling Bank Note*: the official currency used during the Siege of Ladysmith and belonging to Sergeant Dowman.

9. *Pipe* presented to Sergeant N Freeman. It was carved with the Regimental badge and Natal over Ladysmith at a later date with a penknife.

10. *Major J E I Masterson VC*: “During the action at Wagon Hill, on the 6th Jan 1900, Lieutenant Masterson commanded, with the greatest gallantry and dash, one of the three companies of his regiment which charged a ridge held by the enemy and captured their position. The companies were then exposed to a heavy and galling fire from the right and the left front. Lt Masterson undertook to give a message to the Imperial Horse, who was holding a ridge some hundred yards behind, to fire to the left front and endeavour to check the enemy’s fire. In taking this message he crossed an open space of a hundred yards, which was swept by a most heavy cross fire, and although badly wounded in both thighs, he managed to crawl in and deliver his message, before falling exhausted into the Imperial Light Horse trench. His unselfish heroism was undoubtedly the means of saving several lives”.

11. *Ladysmith Postcard sent 1 March 1900 – the day the Siege was lifted*.

12. *The bullet that killed Private Bamfield during the Siege*

13. *A 12lb shell captured by the Boers and fired back to the British in Ladysmith*

14. *Colonel C W Park’s walking stick*: he carried the stick at the Charge on Wagon Hill while commanding the 1st Battalion, the Devonshire Regiment.
15. Boer ‘Long Tom’ Shell which killed Lt Dalzel and Lt Price Dent.


17. Boer Hand Grenade found in Waterval, Balwana.

18. Wooden spoons produced by a Boer prisoner while being held by the 2nd Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment.
Case: Hardy and the Military

1. *Tarleton Helmet* worn by the Dorset Volunteer Rangers Yeomanry 1794-1814. The Dorset Rangers were raised to defend the Dorset Coast against potential French invasion.

2. *Nile Sword* thought to have belonged to Admiral Thomas Hardy, who lived in Portesham, Dorset, and commemorating Admiral Nelson’s victory at the Battle of the Nile.

3. *1788 Pattern Cavalry Sabre* carried by the Troopers of the Dorset Rangers

4. *Drum of the Evershot Company of Dorset Volunteers.* Formed in 1794, the Dorset Volunteers were centred on the towns and landed estates of the County. This drum was discovered in a loft of a house in Evershot with the colours of the 1st Battalion.

6. *Queen Victoria’s Chocolate Gift Box* Christmas 1900. Sent by the Queen to her troops serving in South Africa, one box still contains its original contents marked Cadbury. The provision of chocolate to fighting troops must have presented something of a dilemma to the Quaker – and therefore Pacifist – Cadbury and Rowntree families.

7. *Drum and Drummer’s Kit, Dorset Regiment:* drummers were recruited as boys, often orphans or the sons of soldiers. Trained by the Drum Major, the ‘Band Rats’ accompanied their regiments into battle and shared the dangers of war. The Khaki drill tunic here would have fitted a 10 year old.

8. *When the Men Marched Away:* a production by the students of St. Osmund’s Middle School, Dorchester, this mix of music and drama featured characters modelled on Dorchester soldiers and civilians from the First World War period, including Thomas Hardy.
1. Clothing and equipment of a Dorset Regiment soldier in Gallipoli. The helmet is made of cork and covered in a cotton ‘pugaree’, which protected only against the sun. The Khaki Drill tunic is made of cotton so it was light and practical.

The Pattern 1908 webbing was lighter and more comfortable than the leather equipment. This set was discovered in a house in Dorchester.

2. Turkish Model 1893 Mauser Rifle: takes a 7.65mm round in a 5 round internal magazine.

3. Medal Group of Lt Col. C C Hannay DSO: commanded the 5th Dorset Battalion from August 1914 and led them from the chaos of the landing beaches to take their first objective, Hill 10. His medal group comprises the Distinguished Service Order, India General Service Medal with bars Tirah 1897-98 and Punjab Frontier 1897-98, 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal, 1911 Coronation Medal and Order of the White Eagle of Serbia, 4th Class with Swords.


5. Rations Consisted of two items; ‘bully beef’ (now known as corned beef) and ‘hard tack biscuits’. Corned beef still survives in the British Army 24 hour Ration Pack as a breakfast sachet.
6. *British map of Khoja Dere.* This map shows the area of the Suvla landings, and was carried in his Sam Browne belt by Lt. A. G. C. Grant, 5th Dorsets, a Platoon Commander, in ‘C’ Company. The staining produced by the action of sea water on the leather of the belt is clearly visible.

7. *British Army mess tin and cover:* served as plate, bowl and cup and provided insect proof storage.
Case: The Queens Own Dorset Yeomanry at Gallipoli

1. **Medal Group of Squadron Sgt Major P Finlay**, awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his actions at Scimitar Hill on 21 August 1915. His medal group also comprises the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medals.

2. **Turkish Flag** taken by Lt A G C Grant, a Platoon Commander in the 5th Dorsets who later served in the Machine Gun Corps on the Western Front and in the Yemen.

3. **1908 Pattern Cavalry Sabre**: the Queen’s Own Dorset Yeomanry were primarily a cavalry regiment. The Sabre was designed as a thrusting weapon with a plain steel basket hilt and composition anatomical hilt.

4. **Cavalry Mess Tin.** This tin is different in design to the infantry tin in that it is circular and designed to be strapped to the saddle of the horse.

5. **Queen’s Own Dorset Yeomanry Trumpet carried at Gallipoli**

6. **Lt Col.Edward Troyte-Bullock C.M.G Medal Group and pistol.** Commanded the Yeomanry at Gallipoli and, following the attack at Scimitar Hill, was the only Officer in the 2nd Mounted Brigade left alive and unwounded. His medal group comprises the neck badge of a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George, 1914-15 Star, British War medal, Victory Medal and Territorial
Decoration. The .38 Colt Automatic Pistol, shown with its holster, was carried as a personal weapon by Lt. Col. Troyte-Bullock during the Gallipoli campaign.

7. **SMLE Mk.III and No. 3 Mk.1 Rifle Grenade.** The SMLE (Short, Magazine, Lee-Enfield) Rifle was a bolt action rifle carried by the British Army in both World Wars. It was accurate, robust and had a ten round magazine to the Mauser’s five. The No.3 Mk.1 Rifle Grenade was a rod type grenade, having a steel rod, which was inserted into the rifle barrel. Propulsion was provided by firing a blank round. An illustration of a Dorset Yeomanry Trooper firing one of these grenades can be seen on the back board of this case.

8. **Dorset Yeomanry clothing and equipment:** this is the Helmet Wolseley Pattern of khaki drill covered in cork with a cloth pugaree. The green felt square indicates the Dorset Yeomanry. The leather bandolier is the 1903 infantry pattern and had five ten-round pouches.
Case: Mesopotamia

1. *Turkish Officer’s Sword* taken at Sahil from an army officer.

2. *Turkish Hospital Flag* taken at Junction Hospital Palestine in November 1917 by the 4th Battalion the Dorsetshire Regiment.

3. *Fez* taken from the battlefield at Mesopotamia in 1917 by a member of the 2nd Dorsets.

4. *Prayer Beads* taken from two members of the Turkish Forces in Mesopotamia.

5. *Turkish Brown Leather belt with brass buckle* taken from its owner when he was captured at the battle of Hai Salient in February 1917.


7. *Cartridge Boxes* for ammunition.

8. ‘B’ *Company Field Colour* designed for the 5th Battalion, Dorset Regiment by Mrs Hannay, wife of the commanding officer Lt Col Hannay. All the Colours were handmade by nuns in Dorchester.

9. *Turkish Bone Handled Revolver*: 8mm, nine shot revolver, captured from an officer of the Stanboul Guard, by the 2nd Battalion after the Battle of Shaiba, April 1915.
10. **Turkish Souvenirs**: medals, badges, belt buckle and stamp, taken from members of the Turkish Army.

11. **Lieutenant H J Baillie MC (2nd Dorsets)**: this group includes a posthumous Military Cross for Bravery near Alwaz on 3rd March 1915. Lt Baillie was killed in action during the Siege of Kut El Amara on 2nd March 1916.

12. **Turkish Flag Pike Head** taken at Sannaiyat in September 1914, the first engagement for the 2nd Dorsets in Mesopotamia.

13. **Turkish POW Armband** worn by member of the 2nd Dorsets. The inscription reads ‘POW 1316’.

14. **Kut survivors’ Lapel Badge** owned by Mr Burwood who fought with the Dorsets at Kut and was taken prisoner.

15. **Turkish Dagger**: type used by the Turkish Army in Mesopotamia 1914 – 1918.

16. **Trench Art**: paper knife made from a Turkish bullet. The blade has Gaza engraved on one side and Palestine on the other.

17. **Turkish Carbine**: German-made Mauser, engraved on the side of the breech with markings for the Moslem year 1307 (Christian era 1891).

18. **Wolseley Helmet belonging to Private F C Prior, B Company, 1.4th Battalion, Dorset Regiment**.

19. **Soldier’s Field Service New Testament and Rosary** carried by the Devon Territorials in Mesopotamia.

20. **Solar Topee with embroidered badge (1/4th Devons)**.
21. *Sand Glasses* issued to soldiers of the 2nd Battalion Dorset Regiment to protect their eyes in Mesopotamia. Made of two green lenses, a wire mesh and a string to tie them on around the back.
Case: 1916 – the Battle of the Somme.

1. **German G98 Rifle and Bayonet:** standard infantry rifle that had a 5 round magazine as opposed to the 10 rounds of the British SMLE.

2. **British 18 Pounder Shrapnel Shell:** a total of 113 million 18 pounder rounds were manufactured and 98.8 million fired in the period 1914-18. The shrapnel shell was a 19th Century concept by which a timed fuse detonated a charge at the base of the shell and blasted out around 300 lead balls or “shrapnel bullets”. Although effective against troops in the open, it had little effect on trenches or fortifications.

3. **MG 08/15.** The Machinegewehr ‘08 had a rate of fire of 450 rounds per minute. When the need for mobility became apparent, the original sled type mount was replaced by a bipod and the weapon fitted with a shoulder stock, pistol grip and belt box. This adapted weapon was known as the MG 08/15.

4. **3 inch Stokes Mortar Round.** Introduced in 1915, it was an efficient weapon with a rate of fire up to 25 rounds per minute and a range of 800 yards.

5. **Wurfgranate 1915 round:** German spigot mortar firing a fragmentation type grenade. Propulsion was provided by a blank rifle cartridge inserted into the tail of the bomb. A good mortar crew could loft bombs right into enemy trenches owing to the weapon’s steep trajectory.

6. **No.5. Mk. 1 Grenade (Mills Bomb):** the first effective fragmentation grenade adopted by the British Army and introduced in 1915. It replaced earlier designs including the soldier ‘jam tin bombs’.
7. **Stielhandgranate**: the iconic German ‘*stick grenade*’ was introduced in 1915. The grenade was detonated by unscrewing the cap at the bottom of the handle and pulling a bead on a cord.

8. **1907 Feldmutze**: an example of the most commonly worn Germany Army ‘other ranks’ headgear, nicknamed the “Kratzchen” or “Scratcher”. This example has German national and Prussian state cockades to the front plus a cloth strip to make the red cap band less noticeable in field service.
9. *Ersatz Pickelhaube*: this example of the traditional German Army spiked helmet is an early war “ersatz” or replacement helmet made from thin steel plate instead of the original leather. Commonly worn for field service, the “tarnzug” or cloth cover bears the numerals of Infanterie Regiment 119.

10. *German Army tunic and equipment*. The tunic, the *Waffenrock m.1910*, is in *feld grau* - field grey – wool, the equivalent of the British khaki. Flourishes such as extra buttons and coloured piping would disappear as the war progressed. German equipment consisted of a leather belt, ammunition pouches and yoke with a hide and canvas pack and canvas “bread bag”. The waist belt was fastened with a buckle which differed from state to state. This is a Prussian example with the royal crown and *GOTT MIT UNS* motto.

11. *Book of Common Prayer* carried by Pte. W.G. Burden, 5th Dorsets during the Battle of the Somme. The damage to the corner was caused by a shell fragment which was deflected by the book, thus turning a potentially fatal wound into a minor injury. Pte. Burden was later killed in action in October 1918 and is buried at Epinoy, near Cambrai.

12. *German Army Pioneer’s spade*. Both sides rapidly came to realise that survival on the Western Front meant the construction of increasingly sophisticated defensive structures – trenches and bunkers. German soldiers began to call this new form of warfare *Der Spatenkrieg* – the Spade War.

13. *British Brodie Pattern helmet* with painted Devonshire Regiment badge. As the war progressed, all the combatant armies realised the need for head protection – in a trench, the head is the most exposed part of the body. This British design was based on the archer’s helmet of the medieval period and designed to deflect objects falling from above. By the time of
the Somme, helmets had ceased to be termed “trench stores” and were issued as personal kit to each soldier.

14. **Section of German barbed wire from Hawthorn Ridge, Somme.** Both sides used colossal quantities of barbed wire suspended, initially from wooden posts, later from steel screw pickets, an example of which is shown here (17). For attacking armies, the process of destroying enemy wire entanglements was a major problem, only really solved later in the war with the advent of the tank and advanced shell fuses of sufficient sensitivity to detonate on contact with the wire.

15. **Chalk carving – 2nd Devons. The Somme:** The Somme is an area of chalk geology and soldiers, in moments of idleness, amused themselves by carving designs such as this.

16. **German Stahlhelm:** probably the most advanced design of the war, the stahlhelm was based on a medieval design of helmet called a sallet. The painted camouflage acted to break up the shape of the helmet when seen at a distance. The projecting bolts on either side were used to attach a stirnpanzer, a bullet proof browplate.

17. **German screw picket:** barbed wire was initially attached to wooden posts which had the disadvantage of being easily smashed by artillery as well as hazardous to install – most wiring parties went out at night and banging in wooden posts was guaranteed to attract unwelcome attention. By 1915, the posts were replaced by steel screw pickets such as this example from Ploegsteert, near Leper. These were more durable and – to the relief of those maintaining the wire - far quieter to install.

18. **SRD Rum Jar:** the daily rum ration, 1/16th of a pint per man, was issued from stoneware jars marked SRD, meaning
Supply Reserve Depot. Pte. Thomas Atkins, needless to say, invented alternative meanings, the commonest of which was *Seldom Reaches Destination*.

19. *British Army Service Dress* – tunic and equipment. Made from a practical and hard wearing khaki serge, the British uniform was worn with ankle length boots and puttees. The 1908 Pattern Web Equipment, as shown here, enabled soldiers to carry 150 rounds of .303 ammunition, water bottle, entrenching tool and bayonet plus the Small Pack or Knapsack containing rations. Cotton webbing as a material had considerable advantages over leather, being lighter and less prone to become stiff when wet, but the load carried by British soldiers was still around 30 kilos (66lbs) including rifle and grenades.

20. *Walter the Pigeon and the message cases*

Pigeons were the unsung heroes of many battles and campaigns; they were relied upon to carry messages when other means of communication failed. 95% of all messages carried by pigeons were delivered. 12,000 birds were used during the Somme offensive, with an average delivery time of 25 minutes. The only disadvantage was that they couldn’t fly at night.
1. **Horse Tender**: a wooden handle would be put through the ring at the top and it would be screwed into the ground. The handle is removed and the reins tied through the loop at the top, thus, ‘tendering’ your horse to the ground.

2. **The Hales Rifle Grenade** mounted on a rod that fitted into the muzzle of a Lee Enfield rifle. This no. 19 type was made obsolete on 14th July 1919.

3. **Lee Enfield Rifle**: short magazine Lee Enfield Mark III rifle, issued to all infantry units of this period.

4. **Lewis Machine Gun**: .303 inch calibre Lewis machine gun complete with the front bipod, and fitted with the 47 round drum magazine. The barrel length is 26 inches, overall length is 50 and a half inches, and the gun was sighted out to 1900 yards. The gun could also be mounted on a tripod for further distance fixed firing.

5. **Loaded Wooden Stick**: metal studs in three rows at the end meant that this truncheon could be used as a weapon in trench fighting.

6. **Spike and Case**: the spike and its storage or carrying case were a private purchase made by officers and used in hand to hand trench fighting. The user put their hand through the pistol
grip type handle, and used the weapon in either a thrusting or slashing manner; on the front of the hand grip is a hand guard just like a sword.

7. Officer’s Whistle used for directing troops during the heat, noise and confusion of battle.

8. Lifeguard Patent Periscope and Case: concertina-action trench periscope which would be pulled open. The upper mirror would be above the trench top; the user would then look through the bottom mirror to observe out the front. This periscope and case was owned by 2nd Lt E C Jacks of the Devonshire Regiment who was later killed in action.

9. New Testament issued to every person on enlistment. They would be ordered to read a part every day to keep of ‘Good Character’.

10. Soldier’s Pay Book showing payments made to 6373 Sergeant G Gray, 1st Battalion, the Dorsetshire Regiment between 9th Sept 1917 and 11th Sept 1918. Payments were in French francs.

11. Pig Tails - Men would be sent into No Man’s Land at night, banging in wooden stakes to erect barbed wire defences; the enemy would hear them in the quiet of night. The ‘Pig Tails’ were therefore a great relief as a replacement for the wooden stakes. The user would place the point on the ground and screw the item into the ground, thus making very little if any noise at all, and saving many lives which would have previously been lost. The loops would then have the barbed wire put through them, saving the need to hammer the wire to posts, saving even more lives. Commonly called ‘Pig Tails’ because of the curly effect like a pig’s tail.
The Second World War Gallery

You will find labels for these objects within the cases.

Don’t forget to watch the films:

i) D-Day – the diary of Private Terry Parker

ii) Kohima – the battle for the tennis court.

iii) Hill 112 – the recollections of Ron Beale, 4th Dorsets and fighting with his best friend, Eddy Snook.
Case: The Korean War 1953 – 1954

1. **Medal Group** of Captain Brian Hawkins, Dorsetshire Regiment.

2. **Moisin-Nagant M44 Carbine**
   These weapons were supplied to Soviet client states such as China and North Korea. Manufactured at the Ishevsk Arsenal in 1947, this weapon is fitted with a folding cruciform bayonet.

3. **Communist Hat and Flag**
   taken from a communist group in Korea. This flag is homemade with a hand-painted insignia.

4. **Browning Light Machine Gun**: this gun is .30 calibre, World War Two vintage and has been used in many theatres of war and conflict.

5. **Cigarette Case** presented to the Dorsetshire Regiment. On the rear, inlaid in gold: “In memory of your sincere friendship and kindness during your stay in Japan. August 1955. H Iwasaki”. The badge on top and the scene on the front are both inlaid in 24-carat gold.

6. **Wooden Bowl and Brass Spoon** taken from a hut in front of the Battalion lines near Samichon by a patrol under the command of Lt J Hawkins, who had been ordered to destroy or deny its use to the enemy.
7. *Silk Korean Flag.*

8. *United Nations pale blue cravat emblazoned with the Commonwealth badge.*

9. *Divisional badge of the 40th Infantry Division of which the Dorsets were part.*

10. *Regimental Stable Belt:* prototype used by Officers and Warrant Officers, made by the regimental tailor Au Wai Lam and worn by the Commanding Officer.

11. *Divisional Badge of the Wessex Division of which the Dorsets were a part.*

12. *Figure* dressed as a soldier serving in the Dorset Regiment in Korea: issued warm clothing including a combat jacket with hood and a waterproof peaked cap with drop down earflaps.

13. *Photograph* of Kohima Camp, Korea, about 35 miles northwest of Seoul. The Imjin River runs through the hills behind, a scene of severe fighting with the Chinese. The 1st Battalion the Dorset Regiment were stationed here.

Case: The Malayan Emergency 1948 – 50


2. **Sub-Machine Gun:** Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), Type PPSH M1941, 7.62mm Calibre Sub Machine Gun, made in China. A crudely made but highly effective sub machine gun, complete with its “pan” magazine.

3. **Communist Flag.** The red Communist flag with yellow star, hammer and sickle, made of cotton. Taken from a camp north of Paloh, on a raid led by Captain Speller in November 1948, during one of the battalion’s ‘sweeps’ of their area.

4. **Communist Hat:** khaki peaked soft cap with a red communist star on the front, taken from a communist bandit in Malaya, 1949, by the 1st Battalion, Devonshire Regiment

5. **FARELF (FAR East Land Forces):** red felt shoulder flash.
Worn by the 1st Battalion, Devonshire Regiment when part of the Singapore District, Malaya, 1949 - 1950.

6. **1st Devons Malaya** red felt shoulder flash with the words ‘1st Devons Malaya’ embroidered on it. Worn by the 1st Battalion, Devonshire Regiment in Malaya, 1949 - 1950.

7. **Jungle Carbine**: Lee Enfield No.5 Mk 1 Jungle Carbine, manufactured November 1944, with rear battle sight.

8. **Figure** dressed in jungle shirt and trousers with 1944 pattern webbing.

1. **Lieutenant Colonel P T Willcocks MBE. MC.** Born on 6/4/1920, he was commissioned into the Devon Regiment 3/7/1939 and later commanded the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. The medal group consists of: MBE, Military Cross, 1939/45 Star, Burma Star, Defence Medal, 1939/45 War Medal, United Nations Medal with Korea clasp, Africa General Service Medal with Kenya clasp and the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal. The Military Cross was won in Burma.

2. **Kikuyu Guard Bow and Arrows:** Bows and arrows were found to be the most effective weapons against Mau Mau gang attacks on Kikuyu guard posts at night. The District Officer decided to train up to a dozen bowmen in each post, and his servant, Kimwochels arap Chebii, a kinsman of President Daniel arap Moi, was persuaded to pass on some of his considerable expertise. A course was set up in Karatina in which he taught the Kikuyu guardsmen how to make and use bows. He himself could launch three arrows at a 100-yard target as quickly as an average rifleman could fire three rounds.

3. **Mau Mau Spear:** standard type used by the Mau Mau and taken by the Devons on 19th November 1954.

4. **Mau Mau Knobkerie:** wooden club used by the Mau Mau and taken by the Devons on 19th November 1954.
5. **British Army Bugle** taken back from the Mau Mau by 1st Devons on 19th November 1954.

6. **Homemade Pistol and Presentation Box** taken from the Mau Mau by the Devons. The pistol was later boxed and presented to ‘C’ Company by the Kikuyu Guard that were stationed at the village of Lari after the massacre by the Mau Mau.

7. **Wrist Knife**: the user put their hand through the hole in the centre and wore the knife as a bracelet, complete with its own blade cover.

8. **Panga**: general purpose tool used for cutting and slashing, and also as a fighting weapon.

9. **King’s African Rifles’ Officer’s Uniform**: Many of the officers of this regiment were attached to them from regiments such as the Devon or the Dorsets.

10. **King’s African Rifles’ Bush Hat**: khaki felt bush hat complete with black hackle, cap badge on the left hand side and the black chinstrap that was always worn under the chin.

11. **Patchett. Model L34A1**: the silenced version of the standard British SMG, the L2A1, adopted for service in 1953. The barrel is enclosed by a spiral diffuser, which deadens the sound of the standard 9mm rounds. This weapon was ideal for very close quarter battle and for the environment of the Kenyan Jungle.

12. **Regimental Flag**: the flag of the 5th (Kenya) Battalion, King’s African Rifles, presented to the Regiment.
National Service 1946 – 1963

1. **Photograph**: ‘Rusty’ messing around in the G1098 store, Minden, Germany. Armed with Bren gun, revolver and bayonet in the teeth.

2. **Discharge Card**: ‘Demob’ card given to all servicemen in the regiment when leaving and signed by the Commanding Officer. Also signed by all ‘muckers’ or friends.

3. **Photograph and ‘Dog Tag’**: ‘Nobby’ having a Rest and Recuperation (R and R) day, whilst on exercise, Soltau, Germany. Note the hobnails on the underneath of his boots. Hanging from the photograph is Nobby’s ‘Dog Tag’, issued to all servicemen; stamped onto it is his army number, initial, surname and religion

4. **Photograph**: ‘More beer’: other members of the QM’s department R and R day, whilst on exercise, Sennelager, Germany.
5. *Army Issue Mess Tins (c.1951)* used for cooking, eating and washing and shaving in the field. In National Service barracks, the mess tins had to be cleaned and polished so highly you could see your face in them. This was to show the importance of hygiene where food was concerned.

6. *Army Issue Boot Brushes (c.1953)* made of animal hair; the smaller one was for applying the polish and the larger one for shining.

7. *Webbing Belt (c.1937)* worn as part of the webbing equipment or on its own as a dress belt. The belt (according to regiment) would have been blancoed green or white. The brass buckles on the front and rear and the slides on the front would have to be highly polished.


10. *Photograph*: National Servicemen as members of Gaza Platoon at the Dorset Regiment Depot, during training, 1955. The photograph was taken on the parade square, behind The Keep.

11. *Photograph*: ‘Demob Happy’. National Servicemen of the Dorset Regiment waiting at Minden train station in Germany to start their journey home. On the front of their kit bags, is a black painted patch with the words ‘Blighty’ and ‘Demob’.

12. *Housewife*: this was issued to all soldiers for minor repairs to kit and for the replacement of buttons etc. It contained different sizes, colours and types of buttons,
different coloured threads and wools, various sizes of both sewing and darning needles and a steel thimble, all wrapped in a cloth bag tied with a lace.

13. **Jack Knife:** the stainless steel clasp knife, dated 1952, was issued to all ranks for general use, and had ‘oil points’ marked on it for maintenance.

14. **The Devon Regiment Stable belt, brass bedplate, and war department button stick.** Devon Regiment cap badge, lanyard, shoulder titles, 4 small brass buttons and 4 large brass buttons. The ‘Stable’ belt originated from the early cavalry days when the horsemen wore the belt in case the horses girth broke.

15. **The Dorset Regiment Stable belt, brass bedplate, and war department brass button stick.** Dorset Regiment cap badge, lanyard, shoulder titles, 4 small brass buttons and 4 large brass buttons. The bedplate hung over the bed head of the individual’s bed and had to be highly polished.

16. **Commemorative Medal** instituted by the British Legion; can be claimed by all personnel who served during National
Service. Being a commemorative medal, it cannot be worn with a medal group, but can be worn underneath.

17. Officer’s cloth cap badge and metal ‘Other Ranks’ cap badge of the Wessex Regiment.

18. Hob Nail Boots and Woolly Socks: two pairs of hobnail boots were issued, had to be highly polished. One pair were considered as ‘Best Boots’ and had to be expertly ‘bullied’ to a high gloss glassy finish. The grey socks are dated 1950 and are labelled as being ‘shrink resistant’.

Please exit through the door in front of you (where you entered the floor) and go up the stairs to Floor 2. You can pick up a new booklet there for Floor 2.

Please be mindful of other visitors entering the floor.