Floor 2. Gallantry, Weapons and the Yeomanry
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). We can provide you with a visor.

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.
Second Floor Map:

Welcome to the Second Floor! Please keep to the left and go around the Yeomanry case at the end. Exit through the door you came in.
In 1857, the 54th Regiment of Foot were dispatched to India, to assist in suppressing the Indian Mutiny. The Battalion was sent out in three ships, two of which arrived in India after uneventful voyages. The third ship was the ‘Sarah Sands’, which carried fourteen Officers, three hundred and fifty four Non-Commissioned Officers and men and eleven women.

The ‘Sarah Sands’ left Portsmouth on August 15th; on 11th November, eight hundred miles North-East of Mauritius, a serious fire broke out. The boats were lowered to take off the women and the sick, but some of the crew also left the ship, leaving the members of the 54th and the rest of the crew to fight the fire and save the Colours. Barrels of gunpowder were thrown
overboard, but two remained unseen and these later exploded, causing extensive damage to the masts and sails. Much of the ship was gutted and the soldiers’ uniforms were in rags.

Eventually, with the fire under control, the ship limped slowly into Mauritius, arriving ten days later. Another ship then took the men of the 54th to India. Not a life had been lost and a General Order was read at the head of every Regiment in the army, commending the 54th for “their remarkable gallantry and resolution, presence of mind, high courage, coolness and discipline.” All members of the 54th subsequently received the Indian Mutiny Medal.

On the back wall of this case you can see a large painting of the fire on-board the ‘Sarah Sands’. You can also see artefacts from the ship in one of the cases on the first floor.

**Uniforms.**

These Uniforms span the period between mid-19th Century and mid 20th Century. The design of the military uniforms was and is the province of the Army Board, though regiments did have some input. Approval is then sought from the Army Council, the MOD and finally the reigning Monarch.

Early uniforms looked ornamental but would have been worn into battle; later, when uniforms changed into green, only ceremonial dress remained scarlet in colour. The later dress uniforms displayed here would have been worn to ceremonial occasions, parades and formal dinners by senior officers.

They were designed to be practical and elements such as the silver epaulettes on the shoulders and cross belts and sashes were there for protection or for carrying equipment. These details later became more stylised and decorative.
The epaulettes would be used to show rank in later uniforms but to protect the shoulders in earlier times. Sashes had practical uses in the early uniforms, such as incorporating pole holders for carrying the Colours into battle, but later were used to show status and rank.

The plate often displayed in the centre of the sash or cross belt would identify the soldier’s regiment. The colour black in uniforms denoted that they were worn in the light companies within a regiment; the black material was lighter for speed as these groups had different duties in battle which made speed imperative.

Uniforms were made of different materials depending on their use and the status of the man who wore them. Practical everyday uniforms worn by lower ranks were made of rough serge but the ceremonial dress uniforms of the officers were made of a lighter material lined with a silk cotton mix.
Case: Regimental Silver

1. *Drum Major’s Mace* – 1st Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment c.1912.
2. *Drum Major’s Mace* - originally belonging to 2nd Wessex Field Ambulance, formerly Devon Brigade Bearer Company (Volunteers), disbanded 1922.
5. *Freedom Scroll* for the Borough and County of the town of Poole, 7th May 1946.
6. *Officer’s Cane* inscribed ‘Mohamad Yar and Son. Sialkot City’.
8. *Drum Major’s Malacca Cane* c.1886, donated by Major Phibbs, Dorset Regiment.
10. **Malacca Cane** with regimental badge. Used by warrant officers and sergeants whilst part of the Army of Occupation 1927-1928.

11. **Drum Major’s Mace** – 1st Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment c.1912.

12. **Jubilee Challenge Cup** presented to ‘H’ (Blandford) Company, 1st Volunteer Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment.

13. **Boxing Trophy**, engraved ‘Army and RAF Boxing Association (India) individual championships 1935, other ranks middleweight runner up L/Cpl H E Granham, 1st Devons’.

14. **Silver Napkin Ring** belonging to Lieutenant D L Brendon, Dorsetshire Regiment.

15. **Silver Statuette** showing Colonel Morshead and two soldiers at the final stand of the 2nd Devons at Bois de Buttes, presented to the NCOs of the 2nd Battalion by Colonel Lewis.


17. **Boxing Trophy**, engraved ‘Army and RAF Boxing Association (India) individual championships 1936, other ranks middleweight runner up L/Cpl H E Granham, 1st Devons’.

18. **Coronation Cup**, engraved ‘4th Battalion Devon Regiment Coronation Cup (miniature) won by Captain Snell, 15th September 1923’.

19. **Silver Statuette; Officer Full Dress 1900** – presented to the training cadets at the Devonshire Regiment Depot by the London branch of the Old Comrades’ Association, 1955.

21. **The Carrick-on Suir Silver Collection**: In 1798 the Dorset Militia volunteered to go to Ireland to deal with a local rebellion. In the performance of their duties the Militia so greatly endeared themselves to the local inhabitants that they were presented, prior to their departure, with the set of silver on display here. The wine coasters are engraved ‘A Memorial of gratitude from the town of Carrick-on-Suir to the Dorset Regiment of Militia, September 1799’.

22. **National Service League Cup** presented to ‘C’ Company, 6th Battalion, Devonshire Regiment, by four members of the Bideford Branch.

23. **Silver Trophy** engraved: Presented by Mrs Robert Kitson to the Torquay detachment, 5th (Haytor) Volunteer Battalion, Devonshire Regiment.


25. **Silver Casket** featuring an enamelled City of Exeter Coat of Arms and engraved: ‘Presented to the Devonshire Regiment (1st Rifle Volunteers) TA by the City of Exeter, 28th October 1962’.

26. **Silver Model of HMS Dorsetshire 1694-1749** involved in campaigns such as Gibraltar, Velez and the Battle of Cape Pessaro.
27. *Silver Casket* presented to the 54th Regiment of Foot by Colonel W C Trevor CB on relinquishing command in 1877.

28. *Silver Challenge Cup* presented to 1st Volunteer Battalion by Colonel R Williams in 1894 and awarded annually to the winner of the field practice competition, whose name would be inscribed.

29. *Honours from Ireland – the Waterford Medal*: At around the same time as the Dorset Militia were in Carrick-on-Suir, the South Devon Militia were serving in Waterford just a few miles away. The Waterford City Council awarded the Merit Medal to certain members of the Militia in appreciation of their service.

30. *Silver Lighter* engraved: ‘Presented by Major J H Gill to the officers, 3rd Battalion Devonshire Regiment, as a memento of The Boer War’. The Queen’s South Africa Medal was awarded to 5176 Private H Haynes, the King’s South Africa Medal to 6167 Private W Brown.

31. *Silver Cigar Lighter* presented by C E P Jervis TD to Colonel Trevor and officers of the 54th on leaving the Regiment.

32. *Silver Tankard* engraved: ‘Challenge Cup, presented by JA Lock to the 20th Devon Rifle volunteers’.

33. *Silver Lighter* engraved: To the South Devon Militia in Testimony of Merit 1799’. The lamp has a Waterford Medal inlaid, presented by the City of Waterford 1798-1799.

34. *Quill Pen Wiper* engraved: ‘Presented to his brother officers by Lt W R Arnold on his promotion, 5th July 1890’. The top is engraved with the crest of the Dorsetshire Regiment.

35. *Silver Tankard* presented by the Mayor of Exeter, 1876, to the 1st Exeter and South Devon Rifle Volunteers.

37. **Silver Snuff Box** presented to the 54th Regiment of Foot by Lieutenant Wilkinson.

38. **Silver Jug** engraved: ‘Presented to Sgt. J W Hayward, 1st Devon Militia, by the members 20th Devon Rifle Volunteers’.

39. **Silver Snuff Box** presented by the Sergeants, 54th Regiment of Foot, to Colour Sergeant J Banfield, c.1800.

40. **Silver Cigar Box** from the Officers’ Mess, Dorsetshire Regiment.

41. **Silver Shooting Medals** presented by the Army Rifle Association to captain H S L Ravenshaw, 1st Battalion Devonshire Regiment, Jullundur, India, 1898.

42. **Pewter Tankard** engraved: Devon 1st Militia Rifle Volunteers. Permanence and Efficiency. Pte Palmer, 2nd for challenge cup 1871, presented by Captain Acland’.

43. **Snuff Box engraved**: ‘Presented to the Four Companies Depot Mess, 11th Regiment, by Ensign George B Osborne on his promotion, 16th September 1831’.
44. **Salver** engraved: ‘Presented to Lt. A H Borradaile by officers of the regiment on the occasion of his marriage, October 1936’.


46. **Silver Snuff Box** presented to the Officers’ Mess, 39th Regiment of Foot, 1854.

47. **Silver Cup** engraved: ‘The 2nd Devonshire Regiment, 1925, Cross Country Race 2nd Prize, won by A Evans, D Company’.

48. **Silver Coin Case** presented to the Regiment.

49. **Silver Cigarette box** engraved: ‘Officers’ Race 1928’.

50. **Silver-plated Cigar Lighters** presented by Captain C O Meares to 3rd Battalion on receiving promotion 1884.

51. **Silver Cigarette Box** engraved: ‘Presented to Capt T R Johns by the officers of the 5th (Prince of Wales) battalion of the Devonshire Regiment on completion of his tour of duty, 31st Jan 1935’.

52. **Silver Devon Regiment Drum and Bugle**: set of six drums and bugles ‘Presented to the men and women of Devon, to the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Devonshire Regiment, to record the County’s pride in the Valour of her sons 1900’.

53. **Silver Drinking Mug** presented by Lieutenant H C Cary Batten on joining the 3rd Battalion in 1902.


55. **Silver Inkstand** presented to the Dorset Rifle Volunteers by G (Support) company on completion of a pontoon bridge across the lake at Sherborne Park in 1891.

56. **Silver Snuff Box** presented to the Officers’ Mess of the 54th regiment of Foot whilst on the island of Jamaica in 1808, by Major General John Skirrett.
57. **Silver Tobacco Pouch** engraved: ‘Presented to Colour Sergeant Instructor J Bennellick by the officers, NCOs and men of ‘D’ Company (Holsworthy), 6th Bn Devonshire Regiment, January 1914’.

58. **Silver Model ‘Gozo’ Boat** from Malta, presented to Major W Sparks in 1939.

59. **Antelope Hoof Snuff Box** presented to 54th Regiment of Foot by Lieutenant W O Smith on his leaving, 1859.

60. **White Metal Locket** embossed with Hindu gods, made in Lahore in 1882 for Major W Pikesall as a gift for his wife Mabel.

61. **Snuff Box** – round cork and wood, made from the bung of a pipe of port (a barrel containing 105 gallons or 447 litres). Engraved ‘Presented from the inhabitants of Birmingham 1815, to the officers’ mess, 1st Devon Regiment of Militia, when quartered in the town’.

62. **Menu Holders** made from Regimental cap badges of different periods.

63. **Silver Grape Scissors**

64. **Horn Drinking Mug** belonging to Captain Thomas Marlow, 39th Regiment of Foot 1797 – 1812.

65. **Silver Spoon** with crossed rifles surmounted by the Devonshire Regiment badge. Major Burke was Adjutant of the 2nd Battalion at Bois des Buttes.

66. **Silver Wax Seal** engraved: ‘Presented to his brother officers by Lieutenant W R Arnold on his promotion 5th July 1890’.

67. **The Geddes Axe:** On the front of the plinth is a small silver plate engraved: 'Presented to the Officers, 1st Battalion, Devonshire Regiment by Captain J A Park and Captain E G Roberts, to commemorate the Fall of the Geddes Axe, on the 3rd March 1922'. In the early 1920's, Sir Eric Geddes was in charge of the government committee
required to slash public expenditure. There were widespread compulsory retirements, and the army lost twenty one battalions, including five recruited in Southern Ireland. Two Devonshire Regiment officers marked the occasion by presenting a silver cigar cutter to the 1st Battalion, Devonshire Regiment, naming it the 'Geddes Axe'.
68. Maltese Boat engraved: ‘Presented to the Officers, 2nd Battalion, Devonshire Regiment, to commemorate a reunion, Malta 1938, from the Wardroom Officers, HMS Devonshire’.

69. Silver Match Case engraved: ‘Presented by Dawlish to Pte Cumes, 1st V.B.D (Volunteer Battalion Devonshire) Regiment, on his return from the Boer War, 1901’.

70. Silver Snuff Box presented to the 54th Regiment of Foot to commemorate services in the Burmese War and East Indies 1822-1840.

71. Silver Cup engraved: ‘Winner, 3 Mile cross-country, 2nd Dorset Regiment, Pte R Phelps, time 15 mins 15 secs, Poona’.

72. Silver Cigar Cutter presented to the 3rd Battalion by the No. 4 Mountain Battery Royal Artillery on their splitting from the Battalion having been temporarily joined in service.

73. Silver Table Brush, one of a pair, curved to gather crumbs from a tablecloth.

74. Silver Dorsetshire Regiment Drum and Bugle – set of six presented to the Regiment by the County of Dorset after the Great War, May 6th 1920.

75. Silver Cigar Lighter presented to the 3rd Battalion by Lieutenant H V Fison on his leaving in 1896.
Case: Royal Devon Yeomanry

1. **Officer’s Sabretache** of the Royal 1st Devon Yeomanry, Pre-1901, originally dark blue with a silver lace Victoria Reign Royal Cypher. Sabretaches were used for carrying of despatches.

2. **Medal Group** belonging to Lieutenant Colonel A C Mardon DSO TD, commissioned into the North Devon Yeomanry on May 30th 1903. He commanded the Regiment 1917-1928.

3. **Officer’s Full Dress Jacket**, scarlet with silver braiding and ball buttons - worn by Colonel Ackland of Royal 1st Devon Yeomanry. The wearing of Full Dress was discontinued in 1901 except for Levees.

4. **Officer’s Busby** - Royal 1st Devon Yeomanry, c.1900. From 1901 these were only worn for ceremonial dress.

5. **Officer’s Cartouche Box** of the Royal 1st Devon Yeomanry, worn on the rear of the cross belt. Pre 1901.
6. **Commission** - This Queen Victorian Commission is to the Honourable John William Fortescue, commissioned into the North Devon Yeomanry on 9th June 1884, and later to become Sir John William Fortescue, who wrote thirteen volumes of the ‘History of the British Army’ and some twenty five other books, mainly on Military History.

7. **Brass Plate** bearing the crest of the Royal Devon Imperial Yeomanry, made to commemorate their service in the Boer War in South Africa from 1900-1901.

8. **Medal Group** belonging to 1335 Quartermaster Sergeant Walter George Golby Bonner. Part of his Army service was during the First World War with the Royal 1st Devon Yeomanry. Walter was born on the 19th January 1882, originally a farmer from Oxfordshire, and died 10th March 1950 aged 68 years.

9. **Tunic** of a Gunner in the Royal Devon Yeomanry Artillery (the amalgamation of the Royal 1st and Royal North in 1920).

10. **Officer’s Forage Cap** – ‘pill box’ pattern of the Royal 1st Devon Yeomanry, replaced by the peaked cap in 1902.
1. **Sword Hanger**: Infantryman’s sword hanger as carried by the 39th Regiment of Foot, from its formation in 1702 until it was abolished for Battalion Companies in 1768, and the Grenadier Companies in 1784. The blade is 25 inches long and 1.25 inches wide.

2. **Wheel Lock Rifle** - 28 inch barrel with severe groove rifling. The butt is 10 inches long but has been roughly sawn off at some stage. The rifle has an engraved lock plate. The lock was operated using a key to wind up the clockwork mechanism, by the square spindle on the right hand side of the lock, and the hinged upper portion of the lock holding the flint was then lowered into contact with the steel wheel. When the trigger was released, the wheel span at speed against the flint, producing a shower of sparks to ignite the charge. Seen here with one of its Musket Balls.

3. **Muzzle Loading Shortland Pattern Musket**, more commonly known as the ‘Brown Bess’ (possibly because the finish on the new weapons was brown, rather than the modern blue, and Bess a corruption of the German ‘Buchse’ (gun)). This type of weapon was standard issue to the British Forces from 1730 – 1830. The barrel is 39 inches long. This weapon is marked ‘41 Dorset’ which suggests that it was issued to the Dorset Militia before the forming of the Dorsetshire Regiment. Seen here with its fitted bayonet and a musket ball.

4. **Bayonet Practice Rifle** fitted with a round, flat top, spring-loaded bayonet. There is a hammer piece but no trigger. The overall length is 6 feet. This was used to teach bayonet fencing; there was a Drill Book for this at the time,
with over thirty different actions to perform in the bayonet fencing, but over time this became just thrust and parry.

5. **Snider Breech Loading Rifle** with a calibre of .577. This make of rifle was introduced in 1869, and used the new central spring loaded, bolt locking system on the side hinged breech block. This example carries no government ‘Crown’ or ‘Tower’ marks, and is thus a commercial version of the government ‘Enfield’ model, for use by Volunteer Forces. This was a stop-gap conversion of a smooth bore muzzle-loading musket, using a brass case cartridge. Seen here with its fitted bayonet and a bullet.

6. **Westley Richards ‘Monkey Tail’ Carbine**, date stamped 1875, so a late model weapon and a good example of the 1861 carbine designed for cavalry use. Known as the monkey tail due to the shape of the breech lever, this carbine has a calibre of .450”. On this model, the barrel is marked ‘Whitworth Paten’ and the proof mark number 1751. The lock plate is marked with ‘Westley Richards and Company’ together with their logo.

7. **Ball Grenade** - a hollow cast iron ball with a screw plug in the top. The plug would be unscrewed to enable the user to fill it with powder then replace the plug to seal it. The timer and the ignition were calculated by the length of fuse fitted in the top (the shorter the fuse, the sooner the
ignition would occur). The user would then light the fuse and throw the grenade. This is the type of grenade that gave rise to the Grenadiers’ Badge.

8. **British Flintlock Pistol** with a calibre of .625 and dated c.1790. It has a barrel length of 10 inches and an overall length of 15 inches and was operated by putting powder and ball in the barrel, putting the hammer to half-cock and adding powder to the pan. The weapon was then fired by pulling the hammer back to full-cock, aiming and firing.

9. **Caplock Revolver** used by an officer of the 39th Regiment of Foot whilst serving in the Crimean War 1854 – 1856. Operated by putting powder, wadding and ball into each of the 6 chambers (calibre approx .45 inch), placing a percussion cap on each of the chamber nipples, slowly lowering the hammer onto the first nipple then pulling the trigger to fire the revolver; the cylinder would then rotate onto the next chamber. The revolver is seen here with two percussion cap round boxes, and a cleaning rod/ram rod. Seen here with the cap of the rod removed, to expose a screw thread, which was used as a cartridge extractor.
Case: Weapons 1870 – 1940

1. *The Shaiba Sword* carried by Lt Col Rosher, 2nd Battalion the Dorsetshire Regiment, when he was mortally wounded at Shaiba, Mesopotamia on 15th April 1915, the last battle in which swords were carried by officers of the regiment. Mrs Rosher gave the sword to Lt Col White, who commanded the battalion in Burma and Japan during World War II. It was then carried by Regimental Sergeant Major Elbro, when the Dorsets trooped their Regimental Colour in the Imperial Palace, Tokyo, on the 28th June 1956. Length of the blade is 32 inches and 1 inch wide at the hilt.

2. *The Martini Henry Rifle and Bayonet, 1871 – 1888*. After trials starting in 1867, the British Army decided on the Falling Block Breech System, designed by Friederich von Martini, and a barrel designed by Alexander Henry, thus creating the Martini-Henry breech-loading rifle. Originally in .45 calibre, this was found to be under-powered and a .577/.45 inch calibre was introduced. It was a single shot, fitted with a 23” blade Yataghan sword bayonet.
3. **The Lee Enfield Rifle Mark I and Bayonet, 1895 – 1903:** .303 inch calibre with a 10-round magazine. The first magazined rifle on general issue to the British Army was the Lee Metford, where the bolt action was from a design by James Paris Lee, a Scottish-born Canadian engineer. The seven groove rifling in the barrel was from a design by William Henry Metford. These rifles were in what was considered a small calibre of .303 inch. This, together with the black powder charge and soft lead bullets, was found to cause fouling problems and loss of accuracy. To overcome this, a barrel with a deeper five groove rifling was developed at the Royal Small Arms factory at Enfield, thus creating the Lee Enfield Rifle Mark I (or Long Lee Enfield). Fitted here with the bayonet dated 1888 pattern.

4. **The Short Magazine Lee Enfield Rifle or SMLE:** .303” calibre with a 10 round magazine. Introduced in 1902 to replace the need for a Carbine for the Cavalry and Artillery, this was the standard British Service Rifle for the next 30 years, in its many Marks and Sub series. At the end of the Boer War in South Africa, it was found that British Army rifle fire was very poor, so a higher emphasis was placed on marksmanship, and after this the rate of fire. A trained infantry soldier could fire up to 15 well-aimed shots per minute. Fitted here with a 1907 pattern sword bayonet, which is 17 inches long.

5. **The P14 Rifle** Originally designed as the P13 in .276” calibre, with an integral 5 round magazine, it was not so ‘handy’ to use as the SMLE, and unsatisfactory due to the heat generated in the breech. It was recalibrated to .303” and became the P14. Due to lack of production space in the UK, these rifles were produced in the US by Winchester, Remington and Eddystone.
6. The Enfield Mark II Revolver 1884 was designed and brought into production in less than a year. This was one of the first side arms to be on official issue to the British Army. With a calibre of .476”, but with a low velocity, it was an effective close range weapon.

7. The Tranter Revolver 1878, a pistol with a calibre of .433”, it was issued to the British Army as the Breech Loading Tranter Revolver from 1878 and withdrawn in 1887.

8. The Webley Mark II Revolver, the second Webley revolver issued to the British Army. With a calibre of .455”, this model is a break action dating from the 1890’s.

9. Speed Loader: The circular metal holder is the same size as the cylinder of the Webley Mark VI revolver. It retains six rounds of ammunition ready to reload. On firing the sixth shot from the revolver, the action is broken and the fired case is ejected. The speed loader is aligned to the cylinder and the new rounds pushed in; the revolver is then closed and is ready to fire.

10. The Webley Mark VI Revolver was accepted into service with the British Army in 1915 and became the standard issued side arm of World War I. It has a low velocity but heavy .455” calibre bullet which would cause considerable injury or damage to anyone or anything it hit.
1. **The L85A2 (SA 80).** In the 1980’s, it was again decided to change the NATO standard ammunition issued to the British Army, from 7.62mm to 5.56mm. Thus, the L85A1 (SA 80) was introduced. It soon became apparent that this version was not sand-friendly (as the troops found in Iraq and Afghanistan), and this version was rushed into service. The main differences are the new, more secure magazine release catch, the larger cocking handle, the new hand guard which incorporates the bipod (which aids far more accuracy when being fired) and the new flash eliminator, to which the bayonet can still be fitted for close quarter battle. Seen here with the weapon is a clip of live ammunition (brass and copper coloured), and a clip of drill rounds; these are used when classroom training with the weapon.

2. **The Lee Enfield Rifle No: 4 Mark I:** introduced in the 1930’s, it was designed to be easier to produce than the SMLE, but was basically the same, with a ten round magazine and a .303” calibre. Versions of this rifle were used as Sniper rifles up until the mid-1970’s. There are at
least four types of bayonet for this rifle. This model is fitted with the Spike Bayonet, more commonly known as ‘The Pig Sticker’.

3. **The Mark III Bren Light Machine Gun**: this Mark 3 model of the Bren Light Machine Gun was presented to the museum by Major General C T Shortis CBE of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. It was presented to him when he was the Director of Infantry by Royal Enfield. It is one of only two Bren guns that have been sectionalised. This is a Classroom Instructional Model, which has been sectionalised so that the students can see the internal workings of the weapon. Just about every weapon in the Army has had at least one weapon cut away like this.

4. **The L1A1 (SLR)**: In the early 1950’s, it was decided to standardise the rifle ammunition used by NATO forces. The 7.62mm round was much more powerful than the .303”, so a new rifle was adopted, the L1A1 (SLR). Known as the SLR, this was the first Self Loading Rifle on general issue to the British Army. Introduced in 1957, and based on a Browning design being produced in Fully Automatic by the FAL Company in Belgium.

5. **The No:7 Mark 1 Bayonet**: designed to be used with the Lee Enfield Rifle No:4 Mark 1 (this bayonet could also be fitted to the Sten Gun, the only difference is the muzzle ring is a different size). The blade is 7.9 inches long, is of the P Knife type, and came with a metal scabbard.

6. **The L85A1 (SA 80) Bayonet and Scabbard**, when detached from the end of the rifle, can be attached to the scabbard through the use of a lug to form a pair of wire cutters. The scabbard also has a serrated blade for cutting down small branches etc. and a sharpening stone on the side.
7. **Bayonet**, also for the Lee Enfield Rifle No:4; very similar to the No 7 Mark 1 bayonet, but less of a hand-to-hand fighting bayonet.

8. **The Enfield No: 2 Mark 1 Revolver.** At the end of World War I, it was decided that the Webley Mark VI revolver was too large, and a smaller calibre of .38 was chosen. The Royal Small Arms Factory at Enfield designed and produced this side arm. At the start of World War II, it was decided to convert this revolver to double action only, (pulling the trigger cocked the hammer and fired the weapon in one pull). This was to do away with the hammer spur, (which was used to cock the hammer making it a single or double action), as it was thought that this would catch on tank crews overalls and thus fire the weapon accidentally.

9. **The L2 Drill (Practice) Grenade** is the general issue High Explosive (HE) grenade on issue to the British Army. Seen here is the practice grenade, weighing exactly the same as the live grenade. The individual can be taught how to prime it, by screwing the detonator into the top, how to pull the pin out, (at this stage the student should be taught that the grenade is still safe while you hold the handle in position on the grenade), and how to throw.

10. **Browning Inglis Self Loading Pistol:** the 9mm Side Arm was introduced into the British Army in the 1950’s and used extensively in places such as Northern Ireland.
Case: Side Arms

1. *Shasqua, Russian Cossack Sabre*, pattern 1881. The blade appears to be marked ‘Birmingham’. The sabre was allegedly captured by a group of men from a Company which was made up from both the Dorset Regiment and the Hampshire Regiment in the Russian Campaign of 1919-1920, whilst protecting British interests. The weight of the sabre is 2lbs.

2. *Court Sword*, possibly worn by a Diplomat or someone similar in full dress uniform, whilst in the Royal Court or on official engagements. The sword is 28" long.

3. *General Officer’s Sword*, 1803 pattern, cut down and re-pointed to a fifteen and a half inch blade, to be used as a trench warfare knife in World War I, after the original blade had been snapped. There are remains of gold inlay on the blade, with the Royal Arms and other decoration. Originally made by Thomas Gill, 1778-1798, in the Birmingham trade. Thomas Gill was a noted British Sword maker and supplier to the Ordnance Board.

4. *Yataghan bladed sword bayonet*, originally for the 2 band muzzle-loading Enfield short rifle, and its Snider conversion in .577”. The muzzle ring was later bushed for the smaller bore .45” barrel of the Martini Henry. Officially shortened in 1905, probably for Cadet use. There is photographic evidence of these being used, fixed to Martini Henrys in 1915-16, in the training of Kitchener’s Army, to attack straw dummies. The reach is about the same as the short Lee Enfield with the 17” blade, 1907 pattern bayonet. Made originally for a muzzle loader, still in use in the age of the magazined rifle.

5. *Broomhandle Leather Holster*, in use from the Boer War through to the end of World War I. The holster is for
carrying the folded down Mauser Model 1898 (seen at No: 6). These weapons and holsters were a private purchase. The Mauser was detached from its butt. The weapon was then slid into the butt, and then the whole thing was slid into the holster and carried on the belt.

6. **Broomhandle (Mauser 1898 pattern)**, commonly known as the ‘Broomhandle’ because of the shape of the pistol grip. The wooden butt was added to increase its accuracy, turning it from a pistol into a small carbine. See No.5.

7. **Broomhandle (Luger P08)**, commonly known as the ‘Broomhandle’ because of the shape of the pistol grip. The wooden butt was added to increase its accuracy, turning it from a pistol into a small carbine. This Broomhandle was taken by Lt Col Louis Arbon Strange from a German pilot during World War I. Lt Col Strange’s story and medals can be seen at the right hand side of the main medal display behind you.

8. **Colt New Service Revolver**, calibre .455, with an overall length of ten and three quarter inches and weighing forty ounces. Carried by Captain Elvery of the Royal Army Medical Corps in World War I.

9. **Webley Fosbery Revolver**. This model uses some of the energy produced by the cartridge to rotate the cylinder and cock the hammer. The barrel and cylinder are mounted on a separate frame from the grip, trigger, hammer assembly
and are free to slide. The cylinder has a zig-zag groove machined into it, which engages with a peg fixed in the bridge of the frame.

10. *Colt Semi Automatic Pistol* 1911A, calibre .45 and semi-automatic. This model is a ‘C’ series.

11. *Lefaucheux Revolver* has a ten chamber cylinder pinfire with a fixed ejecting rod. This example is chrome plated.


13. *Miniature Pin Fire Pistol*, breech loading single shot. Overall length is 40mm, the barrel is 15mm long. It has a pin which allows it to hinge down for breech loading of the pin fire cartridge, protruding from the right hand side of the frame.

14. *Flobert Salon Rim Fire Pistol*: a Belgian-made single shot breech-loading rim fire pistol, calibre .22. It is alleged that this pistol was used in the Officers’ Mess of the Dorsetshire Regiment whilst in India, for indoor target practice. The Flobert round is a short .22” rim fire case with just the primer to drive the projectile.

15. *Miniature Breech Loading Pistol*, single shot. The overall length is 1.5” and the calibre is 1.5mm.


17. *Adams Revolver*: Muzzle-loading percussion revolver c1850, with a fixed rammer, six chamber cylinder and octagonal barrel. Calibre .457, barrel length 5.75”, overall length 11.5”.

18. *Luger P08 Semi-Automatic*: details as No: 7. The brass plate on the left hand side is engraved “Taken from the German trenches at Neuve Chapelle on March 10th 1915 by Private S Wood, 2nd Battalion, Devonshire Regiment.”
Case: Queens Own Dorset Yeomanry

1. **Silver Tankard**, won by Corporal A Munckton, of the Queen’s Own Dorset Yeomanry. The tankard was the first prize in the tent-pegging competition at the grand military tournament in Taunton, Somerset, 1883.

2. **Silver Tankard**, hallmarked London 1754, presented by the Officers of the Dorset Regiment of Yeomanry Cavalry to Corporal Charles Guy of Captain Loftus’s Troop, for the best carbine shot. 23rd May 1843.

3. **China Jugs**, silver rimmed, presented to the Officers’ Mess by Lt Col W E Brymer Esq., MP from Puddletown, c.1880. The badges on the front of the jugs are Officers’ shako plates, c.1850.

4. **Silver Cup**, presented to Private G W Ross of the Blandford Troop, Queen’s Own Dorset Yeomanry Cavalry. The presentation was for winning the Lloyd Lindsay Prize at Wimbledon in 1876, 1877 and 1878. The Lloyd Lindsay competition was a mounted scouting and shooting competition.

5. **Figurine**: Officer of the Queen’s Own Regiment of Yeomanry Cavalry, in the uniform of 1885.

6. **Leather Jacks and Drinking Mugs**, engraved; “Officers mess, Queens Own Yeomanry Cavalry, from Captain Merthyr Guest, Blackmore Vale Troop, 1884”.

7. **Mounted Yeoman**: silver mounted trooper of the Queen’s Own Dorset Yeomanry in ceremonial order (Hussar). This model was “Presented to Major, the Honourable F W B Portman, on the occasion of his marriage, 7th July, 1892, by his brother Officers, of the Dorset (Queen’s Own) Yeomanry Cavalry”.

30
QUEEN’S OWN DORSET YEOMANRY

1794  Lord Milton raised Dorset Volunteer Rangers
1803-1836  Six further Independent Troops were raised
1843  Queen Adelaide approved title: ‘Queen’s Own Regiment of Yeomanry Cavalry’ later altered to ‘Queen’s Own Dorset Yeomanry’
1900  The Boer War. Regiment provided No 26 Dorset Company, Imperial Yeomanry
1914-1918  Two additional Regiments were raised
1922  Most Yeomanry Regiments ordered to change arms
      Regiment chose Field Artillery
1939-1945  Regiment splits to create a second Regiment: The 94th Dorset & Hants Field Regiment
1946  Both Regiments stood down
1947  Both Regiments re-raised as Territorial Gunners and merged in 1951
1961  Regiment merged with West Somerset & Dorset Garrison Regiment to become Queen’s Own Dorset & West Somerset Medium Regiment
1967  Stood down
1997  The Dorset Yeomanry were raised
Case: Dorset Yeomanry

1. *Framed Picture* of the ‘Mess Kit’ of the Regiment worn from 1997 by all Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers, worn with miniature medals where entitled. A mess kit jacket and waistcoat with miniature medals can be seen in the large octagonal case behind you in the Dorset Yeomanry section.

2. *Shell Case* (75mm) fired from a BMP armoured personnel carrier in the Balkans (Bosnia).


4. *Loyalty Certificates*, found in a building compound in Basra, where two hundred Iraqi bodies were discovered.

5. *Iraq Bank Notes*, scattered everywhere because they were worthless.


6. *Regimental Items*: the two shoulder slides worn by officers and other ranks, regimental tie and regimental stable belt. The regimental buttons and badges can also be seen in the large case behind you, in the Dorset Yeomanry section.

7. *Union Flag Flash*, worn by all units as identification, originally to identify units when on multi-national operations. Also, the modern version of the 43rd Wessex Division Flash, now being worn by the units in the Division.

8. *Soldier’s Bible*, issued to every Dorset Yeoman when he or she joins up.

10. **Challenger**, the modern Main Battle Tank.
11. **Warrior**, the latest Armoured Personnel Carrier.
12. **Iraq Flag**, taken from a gunboat in Um Quasar harbour.
1. **Map of the 94th Regiments Progress across North West Europe:** between the 94th Regiment’s first action on the 26th June 1944 and the cease fire on 6th May 1945, the 94th Field Regiment RA had fought in nearly all the major battles of the campaign in North West Europe: Odon Valley, Point 112, Mount Pirion, assault crossings of the Rivers Seine and Rhine, Nijmegen to Geilenkirchen, Battle of the Rhineland and the final advance to Bremen and Victory.

2. **Slidex Wallet and Message Forms:** battlefield code used by British Units in all theatres of operations. The gunners made extensive use of the code to order ‘Fire Missions’ and to change the location of their gun positions. All radio messages were recorded on the message forms.

3. **No: 22 Radio Set,** standard issue, used on the Battery Net.

4. **Slidex Instructions** in seven easy steps. Seen here with other instruction leaflets and code sheets.

5. **The Forward Observation Officer,** dressed in the normal issue of clothing and equipment including: 1940 pattern battledress trousers and blouse, the insignia on the arm of the 45 Wessex Division and the Royal Artillery insignia; jerkin - leather body warmer lined with a blanket type material; 1939 pattern webbing including compass pouch and revolver; standard issue binoculars and normal Sten Gun for close protection.

6. **WO 1st CLASS (RSM) WEST GM.REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS:** On 14th May 1945, near Soltau, Germany, a patrol of RSM West’s Regiment reported a large half-buried mine by the side of the main road. RSM West was sent to investigate the incident; on arrival he found it to be a 1000lb mine with a six day clock firing
device. He unscrewed this firing device and rendered the mine harmless.

From his knowledge of recent operations RSM West suspected that more than one mine might be buried by the roadside. He therefore began a search, and in four hours, prodding for a distance of over 1000yds he found five similar mines at a distance of about 200yds apart. In each case, without knowing at what moment the mines might explode, he unscrewed and removed each of the clock firing devices in turn.

Fully appreciating the importance of this road – a vital supply route of the Second Army, and without thought for his own safety – RSM West showed devotion to duty of the highest order. His courage, in risking his life on six successive occasions, is beyond praise.

For his gallant action, RSM West was awarded the GEORGE MEDAL (GM). He also earned a Mention in Despatches, in addition to the French Croix de Guerre with Silver Star for his distinguished and gallant war service.
The Royal Artillery 1939 – 1945

Eight of the British artillery regiments fighting in the Second World War had their origins in the regiments of Devon and Dorset, or came from the two counties. Their operational roles ranged from coastal gunnery through anti-aircraft and anti-tank defence, to the general support of armour and infantry. Representatives of the Gunners of Devon and Dorset were present in virtually every operational theatre and it is a truism to say that ‘the longer a campaign goes on, the more the gunners are needed’.

The West Country Yeomanry Regiments had been converted to artillery between the wars, but on the doubling of the Territorial Army, the 94th (Hampshire and Dorset) Field Regiment Royal Artillery was born out of the Queen’s Own Dorset Yeomanry. The 94th fought with distinction as a part of 43rd Wessex Division in Normandy, France, Belgium and Holland during 1944. In the final months of the war, the 94th supported the West Country infantry throughout the winter battles fought in the Rhineland, as well as firing across the Rhine during the assault crossing and were in action during the advance into Germany.

141st (Queen’s Own Dorset Yeomanry) Regiment served in the United Kingdom with 9th Armoured Division until the Division’s disbandment in 1944 and then with the 55th Lancashire Division, also at home.

Of the artillery regiments originating from the Royal Devon Yeomanry, 142nd Regiment was equipped with self-propelled guns and served as part of the embryonic 79th Armoured Division before going overseas. They took part in the landings in Italy, where they fought until the end of the war.
The other Devon Yeomanry Regiment, 96th Field Regiment, was formed with two of its original Territorial Army batteries in July 1939. They served in the 45th and 60th Divisions in the United Kingdom until 1945, when they moved to India, where they trained for the invasion of Japan.

In late 1941 and early 1942, four West Country infantry battalions were converted to anti-tank and light anti-aircraft regiments, fighting in North Africa, Italy and in the North West European Campaign from Normandy onwards.

Please now go back through the door you came in through and head up to Floor 3! Watch out for other visitors who may be entering the floor.

You can pick up a Floor 3 booklet when you get there!