# **MILITARY MUSEUMS GUIDE 2018**

A guide to some of the military museums around the UK, including national museums along with a selection of regimental museums, independent museums and private collections.



## **MUSEUMS GUIDE INTRO PAGE**

#### **BRITAIN'S MILITARY MUSEUMS**

With arguably the richest military heritage in the world, a heritage spanning some nine centuries, it is hardly surprising that Britain has what can only be described as an unrivalled wealth of museums associated to its military past. These range from small private and local ventures, through to official regimental museums and national collections. It is certainly true to say that military history enthusiasts are almost spoilt for choice in terms of what is available for them to see. Visitors to the UK will also find. wherever they go, that they will never be very far from a military museum of some description or another. In all probability, and as a museum genre, it is very likely the most common type of museum to be found in the UK. That said, the rich diversity of subject matter and themes covered by these museums, both national and otherwise. ensures that visitors are most unlikely to find much repetition between venues.

In this overview of some of the UK's military museums, we have looked at a sample selection of the various collections on offer and also showcased most of the UK's national collections. This guide offers just a flavour of what is available for visitors to see, although we have purposely not covered aviation museums since these are dealt with in the aviation museum guides regularly published by our sister publications, *FlyPast* and *Aeroplane*. (An exception was made with the inclusion of the new Battle of Britain Bunker and Visitor Centre at Uxbridge. Whilst aviation related, it is not an aviation museum *per se*.)

One of the joys of visiting Britain's military museums is their diversity. Naturally, all museums vary in standards of curatorial input, conservation, display, presentation and, importantly, interpretation. Such variations are as much driven by funding as by anything else and, of course, the bigger museums and national collections generally achieve a much higher standard. That is not to say that the visitor experience will be diminished or any the poorer when viewing collections which are rather less academically or professionally presented. Very often, the opposite can be the case. Sometimes, these smaller collections are more personal to the visitor, and engagement with the staff or volunteers (who are sometimes even the museum or collection owners) can be an enriching experience. It is frequently the case that these smaller museums or collections are run by groups or societies where those involved simply want to display and share their treasures among a wider audience their enthusiasm often being infectious! So, don't be dissuaded from visiting the smaller museums. They, too, play an important

part in preserving Britain's military heritage.

Hopefully, readers will be encouraged to explore those we have listed and to seek



out other gems and treasures of Britain's military past. We hope, too, that visitors from overseas will come here to experience the wealth of military museums which are to be found the length and breadth of the country.

#### **Further Information:**

To find more detailed and online information about Britain's Army museums, visit the website of The Army Museums Ogilby Trust at:- https://www.armymuseums.org.uk/ NOTE: Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information relating to the museums featured in this guide, readers are urged to check on opening times, admission fees etc. before setting out on a visit. Key Publishing Ltd can accept no responsibility for any inaccuracies in the information given, although every effort has been made to ensure that all such information is correct and up to date at the time of going to press.

COVER ILLUSTRATION (OVERLEAF) Now a familiar London landmark, the twin 15 inch naval guns mounted outside the Imperial War Museum, London, were taken from HMS Ramilles (on right in photograph) and from HMS Resolution.



#### NATIONAL COLLECTIONS

#### Imperial War Museum, London

With its distinctive building and pair of 15 inch naval guns standing sentinel outside the main site at Lambeth in South London, The Imperial War Museum is a well-known city landmark. It is also the location of the UK's premier military history museum.

The Imperial War Museum was established in 1917 as the First World War was still being fought when, on 5 March, the War Cabinet approved a proposal for the creation of a National War Museum to record events still taking place. Interest among the Dominion



governments soon led to it being re-named the Imperial War Museum, although in those early days nobody could have imagined how those initial proposals would lead to the permanent establishment of a world-class museum and research facility. From the very beginning, its purpose was to record warfare as it was experienced by individuals. The London museum site tells the stories of people's experiences of modern war from the First World War to conflicts today. Thus, IWM London explores how the history of modern conflict affects us all, from the front line to the home front and, although the museum closed between 1939 and 1946, its remit was naturally extended to encompass the Second World War, Subsequently, other wars and conflicts in which Britain and her Commonwealth have seen involvement have, appropriately, been included in that remit.

The astonishing scope of exhibits at the Lambeth site ranges from objects of war to photographs and personal letters, and includes film, photographs and sound recordings and some of the twentieth

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century's best-known paintings. However, and whilst the Imperial War Museum, per se, is generally regarded to be the South London location the organisation is more properly described in the plural – ie Imperial War Museums. That is because IWM is, in fact, a family of five museums recording and showcasing experiences of modern conflict. That 'family' includes the Lambeth museum, plus The Churchill War Rooms, HMS Belfast (see also pages 6-7 of this magazine), Imperial War Museum North at Manchester and Imperial War Museum. Duxford. The latter location is primarily concerned with aviation collections, but it also houses the American Air Museum and The Land Warfare Collection. Additionally, aircraft restoration companies are also based here and the airfield stages annual flving displays.

To summarise the scope of what the visitor will see and experience at The Imperial War Museum, London, is an almost impossible task but is, perhaps, best illustrated by the photographs accompanying this section. Suffice to say that the visitor will be awed by the scale and quality of the displays and it is unlikely that any one visit will provide sufficient time to see and take in all that the museum has to offer. Both temporary and permanent themed exhibitions are also regularly staged. Currently, these include the moving Holocaust Exhibition and the stunning Ashcroft Gallery and its Extraordinary Heroes exhibition. Here, the stories of some 250 recipients of VCs and extreme gallantry awards are celebrated, along with Lord Ashcroft's unequalled collection of Victoria Cross medal groups. (Note: Lord Ashcroft is a monthly contributor to Britain at War magazine with his Hero of the Month and other occasional features.)

Certainly, a visit to The Imperial War Museum is a 'must' on any day out in London and, for visitors from overseas, the museum is highly recommended.

#### **Visitor Information**

#### **Opening Times**

10am to 6pm Daily, except 24, 25 and 26 December. Note: Opening times and conditions of entry at other Imperial War Museums locations vary. For information as regards to HMS Belfast, Churchill War Rooms, Imperial War Museum North and Imperial War Museum Duxford, please see website.

#### **Ticket Prices**

Entrance is free

#### Contact Details General Phone Number - +44(0)20 7416 5000

Location IWM London, Lambeth Road, London, SE1 6HZ.

Website www.iwm.org.uk

#### THE NATIONAL COLLECTIONS

## The National Museum of the Royal Navy

The National Museum of the Royal Navy tells the story of the four arms of the British Royal Navy; the Royal Marines, the Fleet Air Arm, the Submarine Service and the Surface Fleet. Theirs is the epic story of the Royal Navy, its impact on Britain and the world from its origins in 625 A.D. to the present day. Particular emphasis is placed on telling the story of the Great War at Sea, a four-year long programme to challenge the notion that the First World War was a land-based war fought mainly in the trenches of France. It includes galleries featuring the 'Racing to War' exhibition; Gallipoli veteran HMS M.33; '36 Hours: Jutland 1916, The Battle That Won The War' and an exhibition highlighting the centenary of the Women's Royal Naval Service.

In Portsmouth, the National Museum's Victory Gallery perfectly complements Vice-





Admiral Nelson's flagship HMS *Victory*, which is not only a flagship of the



Royal Navy but is certainly the 'flagship' of The National Museum of the Royal Navy. The exhibition tells the story of the ship from the laying of her keel in 1759 to restoration and preservation.

Whilst the Fleet Air Arm Museum at RNAS Yeovilton does not feature within the parameters of this look at military museums, the others do and are summarised here:

#### HMS M.33, Portsmouth

HMS M.33 is a unique survivor. Launched in May 1915, she is the sole remaining British veteran of that year's bloody Gallipoli campaign and the only British warship from the First World War to open to the public during the centenary year.

#### **HMS Warrior 1860**

The newest ship to join the National Museum 'fleet' is Portsmouth's HMS *Warrior* Britain's first iron-hulled, armoured battleship. Launched in 1860, at a time of Empire and Britain's dominance in trade and industry, *Warrior* was the pride of Queen Victoria's fleet.

#### **Royal Navy Submarine Museum**

The Royal Navy Submarine Museum tells the story of the Royal Navy's submarine service. Set on the site on the submarine service's 20th century base on the Gosport side of Portsmouth Harbour.

## Explosion Museum of Naval Firepower

Explosion is an award-winning museum of naval warfare created within 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings at the Royal Navy's former armaments depot at Priddy's Hard, Gosport.

#### **Royal Marines Museum**

A brand new museum will open in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard in 2020.

#### **HMS Caroline, Belfast**

The National Museum of the Royal Navy and the Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment worked as partners to restore and interpret HMS *Caroline*, a lone survivor and living legend. She opened for the first time in 2016 as part of national commemorations to mark the centenary of the Battle of Jutland.

## The National Museum of the Royal Navy, Hartlepool

HMS *Trincomalee*, a 46-gun, fifth rate Ledaclass frigate and Europe's oldest warship still afloat today, lies berthed in Hartlepool where

#### NATIONAL COLLECTIONS

#### National Army Museum, London

The National Army Museum is the leading authority on the history of the British Army. Founded in 1960 by Royal Charter and established for the purpose of collecting, preserving and exhibiting objects and records relating to the Land Forces of the British Crown, it is a museum that describes itself as one that: 'moves, inspires, challenges, educates and entertains'.

nearly 30 years. The majestic ship was built

in Bombay during 1817 for the Royal Navy.

With so many varied opening times and admission

fees across so many different sites, visitors should

Caroline, Museum of The Royal Navy Hartlepool and

visit the following website in relation to HMS

**Visitor Information** 

**Opening Times & Ticket Prices** 

The Museum tells the story of the British Army, the personal experiences of the soldiers who have served in it and to connect the British public and its army, demonstrating how the role of the army and its actions are still very relevant today.

In March, 2017, the museum unveiled a dramatic transformation following a three-year £23.75 million re-development, The Fleet Air Arm Museum: https://www.nmrn.org.uk/ our-museums

Contact Details General Phone Number - +44(0)23 9283 9766.

Location

Portsmouth Historic Dockyard PO1 3LA

#### Website

www.nmrn.org.uk/our-museums

NATIONAL including £11.5 million from The National ARMY Lottery. The new MUSEUM thematic displays cover the following topics: Soldier, Army, Battle, Society and Insight. Many new displays are interactive and, in total, some 2,500 exhibits are on display, many for the first time. Regular exhibitions of art and other subject matter are held in the museum which has to be a 'must visit' location for military history enthusiasts in central London - and one that offers free admission!

#### **Visitor Information**

#### **Opening Times**

Open daily from 10am - 5.30pm, last admission at 5pm

**Ticket Prices** Entrance is free

Contact Details General Phone Number - 020 7730 0717

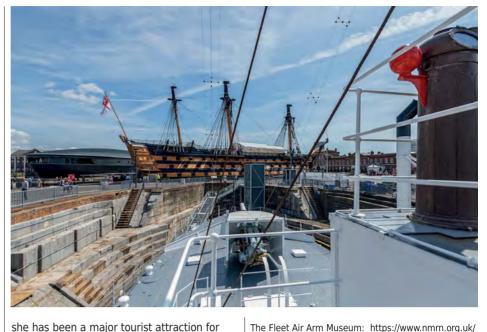
#### Location

National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, London, SW3 4HT

Website

www.nam.ac.uk







The Spitfire and Hurricane Museum is a unique site housing a **Supermarine Spitfire Mk XVI** and the **Hawker Hurricane IIC** as well as a host of objects and artefacts which help tell the story of life in and around Ramsgate during WWII. An absolute must visit, photography is welcome and best of all, it's free to visit too!



As of April 2018, visitors will be able to book a flight in the museum's Spitfire Simulator • Booking is essential.

• £30 charge applies.

For more information go to: www.facebook.com/ManstonSpitfireExperience

Most important of all, there is the Allied Crew Memorial Garden where all visitors are welcome to sit on the benches to relax and reflect in an evocative atmosphere. The museum also offers bespoke education sessions and can accommodate group or coaching bookings.

 Opening Hours
 © Free Admission

 10am - 5pm (1 April – 31 Oct)
 © Free Car and Coach Parking

 10am - 4pm (1 Nov – 31 Mar)
 © Disabled Access

 Closed Mondays in January and February
 © Merlin Café open daily

Tel: 01843 821940 Email: enquiries@spitfiremuseum.org.uk **www.spitfiremuseum.org.uk** The Spitfire & Hurricane Memorial Museum, Manston Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 5DF

🕈 www.facebook.com/ManstonSpitfireExperience 💟 @SpitfireMuseum

RAF Manston Spitfire & Hurricane Memorial Trust. Museum Registration 1991. Registered Charity No. 298229



MEM RIAL PEGASUS

## The Memorial Pegasus museum

Dedicated to the men of 6th British Airborne Division. The 1st liberators to arrive in Normandy on June 6th 1944. Archive films, a guided visit and many interesting and authentic objects enable the visitors to relive this momentous time. The original Pegasus Bridge is on display in the park of the museum along with a full size copy of a wartime Horsa glider.

Open everyday from February to Mid-December Only five minutes drive from the Brittany Ferries Terminal at Caen/Ouistreham

Tel: +33 (0) 231 781944 Fax: +33 (0) 231 781942 Memorial Pegasus Avenue du Major Howard 14860 Ranville Normandy • France www.memorial-pegasus.org

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#### MILITARY MUSEUMS GUIDE 2018

#### **MUSEUM FOCUS**

#### The Tank Museum: The World's Biggest And Best Fighting Vehicle Collection

The Tank Museum is the regimental museum of the Royal Tank Regiment and the Royal Armoured Corps and houses the biggest and best collection of tanks and armoured fighting vehicles in the world. The collection includes over 300 vehicles that span the entire history of the tank, and it holds an unparalleled collection of supporting objects and records relating to armoured warfare. The Museum is one of the South West's most successful tourist attractions and also continues to support Army training. As a site of interest for the military history enthusiast it is unrivalled, and as a venue for serious research and study it is certainly unequalled.

Bovington has been the home of the tank for as long as there have been tanks, with the Heavy Branch Machine Gun Corps moving here in October 1916. The origins of the Tank Museum can be found in 1919 when a collection of First World War vehicles was gathered on nearby heathland.

The collection then expanded during the 1920s and 1930s, but with the invasion scare in 1940 a number of irreplaceable relics were lost to demands for scrap metal. Some survived by being hidden by the staff, or through being used to guard against a German invasion. The museum's core hangar was taken into use in 1947 and the collection expanded further in 1951, with a large gift of vehicles from the School of Tank Technology, including the iconic Tiger 131 and the exhibitions within the Museum tell the story of armoured warfare spanning over 100 years.

Exploring ten powerful exhibitions, visitors come face to face with almost 300 armoured vehicles. This unique collection includes the world's first ever tank, the feared German Tiger and the modern Challenger 2 Main Battle Tank of the British Army today.

'The Tank Story' details tank history from the birth of the tank in 1915 up to the present day, while 'Battlegroup Afghanistan' transports the visitor to today's front line as combat veterans give their accounts alongside the vehicles used on current operations. In 'The Discovery Centre', the astonishing breadth of the vehicle collection is evident and the infamous Tiger tanks in 'The Tiger Collection – The Tanks, The Terror and The Truth' (closing Autumn 2018), are brought together for the first time since the Second World War.

The First World War Centenary exhibition, 'Tank Men', tells the stories of the first men who fought bravely in these revolutionary machines, while the 'The Trench Experience' take the visitor back in time to the trenches of the First World War, whilst 'Warhorse to Horsepower' examines the role of horses in war. Meanwhile, the innovative 'Tank Factory' exhibition explores the making of tanks, with the temporary 'Tanks, Back to the Future' exhibition chronicling armoured fighting vehicles across a thousand years of history.

Throughout the year, special events at the museum include TANKFEST and Tiger Day. TANKFEST, taking place over the last weekend in June, is the world's biggest and best display of historic moving armour. Tiger Day, held every year, is the only chance for visitors to see the world's



only running Tiger 1 in operation. Ever-growing in popularity, The Tank Museum welcomed a staggering 200,000 visitors in 2017; in addition, over 8,700 members of the military passed through its doors. It is certainly a world-class and worldbeating museum and readers of Britain at War can be assured of a very absorbing and worthwhile visit.

#### **Visitor Information**

#### **Opening Times**

The Tank Museum is open daily from 10.00 - 17.00. The Museum is closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day. The Museum is open as usual from 10.00 to 17.00 on Bank Holidays.

#### **Ticket Prices**

Adult £14, Children (5-16) £9, 2 Adults & 2 Children £39, 1 Adults & 3 Children £35, Children (Under 5) Free. Buy online for ticket savings. A free Annual Pass is included in entry fee. An Annual Pass entitles visitors to return to The Tank Museum on unlimited occasions for a year, excluding Special Event Days.

#### **Contact Details**

General Phone Number – 01929 405096 Enquiries Email – info@tankmuseum.org

#### Website

http://tankmuseum.org/home





MILITARY MUSEUMS GUIDE 2018



#### **MUSEUM FOCUS**

#### The D-Day Story

Most of our readers will, thus far, be unfamiliar with the newly transformed D-Day museum, the D-Day Story in Portsmouth, which does exactly 'what it says on the tin' and tells the D-Day story!

The D-Day Story, the only museum in the UK dedicated to the Allied Invasion in June 1944, opened on 30 March this year and follows a £5m transformation undertaken ahead of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day in 2019. The museum contains many exhibits not previously displayed, and in refurbished galleries that feature the words and perspectives of those involved - from military and civilian viewpoints. There are also spaces for learning, for events and for interactive displays. The revolutionised museum maximises the impact of its collection to ensure that this important chapter in history is retold in ways that continue to inspire generations to come.

The D-Day Story is full of personal stories of courage and determination, comradeship and of sacrifice, secrecy and deception, innovation and tactics. It is a story in which ordinary people worked together to achieve an extraordinary outcome, exemplifying: 'the epic made personal; the personal made epic'.

At the heart of the museum's iconic collection is the historic 83-metre Overlord Embroidery, an art textile inspired in part by the 11th century Bayeux Tapestry. Commissioned in 1963 by Lord Dulverton of Batsford, the embroidery documents the Battle of Normandy; codename Operation 'Overlord'.

One of the new items displayed for the first time is a pencil used by Lieutenant Commander John A H Harmer OBE, to sign the order for Force 'G' (the naval forces that went to Gold Beach) to depart for Normandy. He has shaved off part of the pencil end to create a flat surface, upon which he later wrote: 'This pencil started the invasion'.

The D-Day Story includes a varied and eclectic collection of artefacts, of which each have a story to tell. A good example is Betty White's Coat. Troops bound for Normandy (and on the way to the embarkation point at Hardway, Gosport, in June 1944) passed Betty White's house in Albermarle Street. Soldiers gave Betty, aged five at the time, badges and buttons as mementos. Her mother sewed the British Army regimental and RAF metal cap badges, plus British and Canadian shoulder titles, uniform buttons and others, onto Betty's coat. D-Day was a pivotal moment in the Second World War and the D-Day Story re-tells the human stories that underpin the history as the event passes



from living memory. It is also the venue's aim to involve the remaining Normandy veterans in telling their stories and to ensure the D-Day Story maintains international significance.

Landscaping and further improvements to the outside of the museum building will be completed in 2019 when Landing Craft Tank 7074 will arrive in Portsmouth, in time to be in place for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day on 6 June 2019.

#### **Visitor Information**

#### **Opening Times**

Open 10:00 to 17:30 (17:00 from October to March) daily, except 24, 25, and 26 December. Last admission is one hour prior to closing.

#### **Ticket Prices**

Adult standard charge £10, Senior standard charge £8, Child and student standard charge (5 up to 17) £5, Family ticket (up to 2 adults and up to 3 children) £25

#### **Contact Details**

General Phone Number - +44 (0)23 9288 2555

#### Location

Clarence Esplanade, Portsmouth, England, PO5 3NT

#### Website

www.theddaystory.com (For detailed ticketing information go to: https://theddaystory.com/plan-yourvisit/tickets/)





#### www.nelsam.org.uk

To commemorate the thirty fifth anniversary of the first Avro Vulcan delivery to an aero museum, the North East Land, Sea & Air Museum has produced a range of cast items to help raise funds to continue to preserve ex-617 Squadron Vulcan XL319.





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#### **MUSEUM FOCUS**

#### **Eden Camp Museum**

P.W. Work Camp 83, or Eden Camp as it became known, was originally constructed to house Prisoners of War. The first prisoners were Italians who had been captured in North Africa. Under the supervision of British military personnel, and civilian workers of a York based building firm, the prisoners were temporarily housed in a tented encampment and set to work constructing a permanent camp of 45 buildings.

The camp was completed within a year, but with the capitulation of Italy in September 1943, it was cleared of its Italian 'guests' in readiness for the first contingent of German POW's in July 1944. The 'Germans' (many were not actually German by nationality) were to remain at Eden Camp until the spring of 1948.

In 1986, the semi-derelict site was acquired by local businessman, Stan Johnson, who wanted to preserve what was left and create the world's first Modern History Theme Museum, dedicated to telling the story about the military side of the Second World War and life on the Front Line as well as the 'Peoples War', paying tribute to civilians who experienced war at home.

Since it was opened in 1987, the majority of the 45 original huts have been re-equipped

with life size scenes and tableaux containing original artefacts, displays of original documents, 'photos and information panels – all featuring a comprehensive and diverse account of wartime life. Scenes are brought to life with lighting, sounds and technology.

Eden Camp is unusual in the world of museums in that it is family owned and receives no help, financial or otherwise, from national, regional or local government or the Lottery Fund. It has nurtured and formed partnerships with military and civilian veteran groups, associations etc. This, in turn, led to organisations depositing collections of memorabilia and archives with the museum, allowing Eden Camp to create a number of unique exhibitions. The museum presents one of the largest public exhibitions of 20<sup>th</sup> Century British military, and 1930s and 40s civilian wartime history in the world, all in a historically unique and appropriate setting.

Displays include exhibitions and memorials dedicated to remembering those involved with Escape Lines and the Great Escape, RAF Bomb Disposal, Underwater Chariots and Human Torpedoes, The Life of a POW, The War at Sea and the U-boat menace, Women at War, A.R.P. and Civil Defence, LDV and Home Guard as well as Animals at War. One hut is dedicated to the story of the Great War, whilst another covers military actions that HM Forces have been involved in around the world since 1945.

A growing collection of military vehicles, artillery and other hardware is exhibited, including a Churchill Crocodile, M50 Super Sherman and T34 and 85 tanks and full size replicas of a Hurricane and Spitfire - dedicated to famous Yorkshire aviators James 'Ginger' Lacey and Amy Johnson.

The museum hosts annual veteran reunions, whilst the 1940s are brought to life during living history and re-enactment weekends over the course of each year.

#### **Visitor Information**

#### Opening Times

Open from 10.am -5.00pm, 7 days a week from the 2nd Monday in January until 23 December.

#### **Ticket Prices**

£10.00 per Adult, £8.50 for Senior Citizens/Children (aged 5-16) Discounts for pre-booked groups and family tickets also available.

#### **Contact Details**

General Phone Number - 01653 697777 Enquiries Email - admin@edencamp.co.uk

#### Location

Malton, North Yorkshire, YO17 6RT

#### Website

www.edencamp.co.uk



#### **MUSEUM FOCUS**

## Battle Of Britain Bunker And Visitor Centre

The Battle of Britain Bunker played a crucial role in the defence of the United Kingdom throughout the Second World War and this new state-of-the-art museum tells its story in context of the development of the RAF.

In November 2016, work began to construct the brand new Battle of Britain Bunker Exhibition and Visitor Centre after the former RAF Uxbridge site was relinquished by the MOD. The new building includes an expansive exhibition space, a 95-seat auditorium, meeting rooms for corporate hire, extensive library and research facilities, plus a visitor cafe and gift shop.

Displays trace the development of Britain's air defence system from its infancy in the First World War, through the experimental period of the interwar years, to its finest hour during the Battle of Britain. Genuine historic artefacts are displayed, including relics from Battle of Britain aircraft, a Chain Home radar receiver, plotting equipment from the underground bunker, and personal effects of No.11 Group personnel. Audio-visual interactive displays, hands-on games, high quality wartime photographs, and stunning graphic design combines to give visitors an extraordinary experience. Full scale replicas of

the Spitfire and Hurricane are also on display. Reconstructions of the Battle of Britain Bunker's corridors and plotting room recreates the enclosed feeling of the secret underground facility and the urgency of work conducted there. Perhaps most importantly, first-hand recollections from Battle of Britain pilots, plotters and controllers help visitors understand what it was really like to plan, coordinate and fight the world's first entirely aerial battle. The underground bunker itself, with the plotting table set up to represent the very height of the Battle of Britain on 15 September 1940, is also part of the venue and regular daily tours take place for a small additional charge.

#### **Visitor Information**

#### **Opening Times**

**MUSEUM FOCUS** 

#### **The Historic Docyard Chatham**

The Dockyard is home to remarkable exhibits and stories relating to Britain's maritime past, with a great deal of emphasis on the First and Second World Wars and the Cold War.

The Historic Dockyard Chatham offers unrivalled access to ships that shaped the world, from a Victorian anti-slavery sailing ship (HMS *Gannet*) to a Second World War Destroyer (HMS *Cavalier*) and a Cold War submarine (HMS *Ocelot*). Chatham's historic buildings include the remarkable ropery, where the rigging for HMS *Victory* was made. And, apart from the ships on display, identity cards used to enter The Dockyard, items recovered from HMS *Vindictive*, paintings showing damage The Dockyard received from bombing during the war to collections of maritime archaeology, The Dockyard is an indispensable part of Britain's history and heritage.

The Second World War placed Chatham on the frontline, becoming a major naval base repairing and refitting ships and submarines. On the outbreak of war in 1939, over 140 ships were assigned the Chatham Division; from aircraft carriers to battleships, cruisers and destroyers, over 36,000 men served on these ships. One of the three historic warships displayed is HMS *Cavalier*, the National Destroyer Memorial to 142 Royal Navy destroyers sunk during the Second World



The visitor centre is open seven days per week (closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day). Opening times are: 10am to 4.30pm, with last admission at 3.30pm. There is no need to book unless there are 10 or more in your group

#### **Ticket Prices**

Adults: £4.00 (with bunker £7.00) Over 65s: £3.00 (with bunker £5.00) Under 16s: Free

#### **Contact Details**

General Phone Number - 01825 238154 Enguiries Email - bunker@hillingdon.gov.uk.

Location Uxbridge, West London, UB10 0BE

Website www.hillingdon.gov.uk

War with over 11,000 men lost. HMS *Cavalier*, a CA-class destroyer, saw active service towards the end of the war, winning 'Arctic 1945' battle honours. Following a refit in the 1950s she undertook Cold War duties.



When the shipyard closed in 1984, the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust was formed to preserve the dockyard, its buildings, ships and

collections with today's resulting world-class

#### **Visitor Information**

#### **Opening Times**

venue.

10 February - 24 March 2018 10am - 4pm: 25 March - 27 October 2018 10am - 6pm 28 October - 25 November 2018 10am - 4pm

#### **Ticket Prices**

Adult: £19.20, Concession £19.20, Child: £11.20, (Under 5, Free)

#### **Contact Details**

General Phone Number - +44(0) 1634 823800 Enquiries Email - info@chdt.org.uk

#### Location

The Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TE

#### Website

www.thedockyard.co.uk

## **Gaydon Military Show**

## 30 September 2018

A great Show with an impressive collection of military vehicles on display

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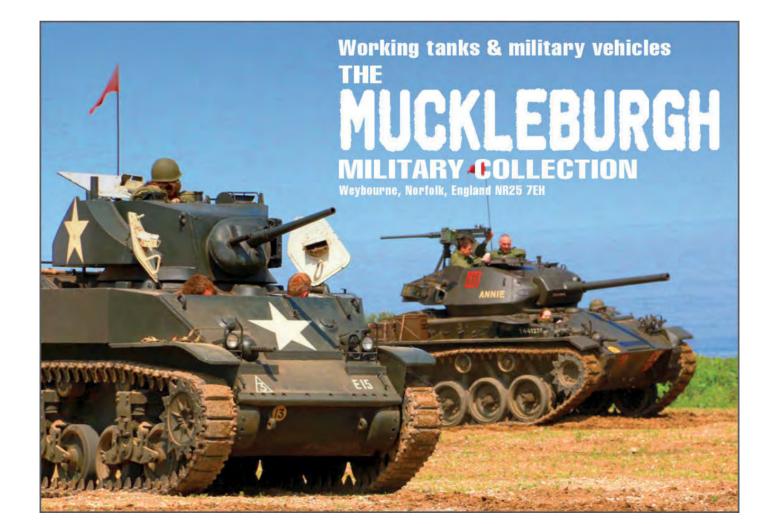


#### britishmotormuseum.co.uk

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## THE WIGHT MILITARY HERITAGE MUSEUM

Museum opens 10am until 4pm - last entry 3pm 7 days a week

#### Admissions: Adults £8.50, Children £4.50 Concessions £5.50, Family £25

Armoured vehicle rides (booking essential) Adults £10, Children £6 (height restriction applies)

Phone 01983 632039 for all enquiries NORTHWOOD CAMP, 490 NEWPORT RD, COWES Postcode for SatNav P031 8QU

Frequent No.1 bus service stops right outside the door



Opened June 2017 the REME Museum is a modern, interactive military museum displaying the proud story of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. There are 7 galleries to explore as well as 2 temporary exhibitions a year, plus the excellent Crowns Café.



Awarded the Visit England 'Hidden Gem Accolade' Feb 2018 Open Tue-Sat 10am– 4:30pm Location: Lyneham Wilts SN15 4XX

Email: enquiries@rememuseum.org.uk Tel: 01249894869



#### MUSEUM GUIDE LISTINGS

#### Independent, Local Authority And Trust Museums And Private Collections

The listings displayed below are a representative selection of military museums across the United Kingdom. These museums vary in terms of scope and content. Some are formal and professionally curated museums, others are independent or privately owned collections. Please check on visiting arrangements before setting out on your journey! Sometimes museums close at unscheduled times for private events, maintenance etc.

#### **Bletchley Park**

What: Bletchley Park, once the top-secret home of the World War Two Codebreakers is now a vibrant heritage attraction telling the story of Enigma and those involved in breaking enemy codes.

Where: The Mansion, Bletchley Park, Sherwood Drive, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, MK3 6EB. (NOTE: If using Sat-Nav, enter Sherwood Drive, Bletchley, MK3 6DS, as the postal address may take you to the wrong location.) Visitor Info: https://www. bletchleypark.org.uk/our-story Summer opening: (1 March - 31 October) From 09.30 to 17.00 (last admission 16.00) Winter opening: (1 November - 28 February) From 09.30 to 16.00 (last admission 15.00) Bletchley Park is open every day except 24, 25, 26 December and 1 January. Adults: £18.50 Concessions: £16.25 Children 12 to 17: £10.75 Children under 12: Free Family Ticket: £48.25

#### Cobbaton Combat Collection

What: Military museum in North Devon, the collection covers mostly World War Two but with exhibits from the Boer War to the First Gulf War. Described as a military collecting hobby which got out of hand!

Where: Chittlehampton, Umberleigh, N Devon, EX37 9RZ. Tel: 01769 540740 Visitor Info: http://www. cobbatoncombat.co.uk/ Open from 15 April 10.00 to 5pm, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Adults: £9.00 Senior Citizens: £6.00 Schoolchildren: (5 - 16) £4.00 Linder 5s: Free

#### Combined Military Services Museum

What: The museum displays an amazing collection of 'Special Forces' equipment including the uniform or 'black kit' used by one of the members of 22nd Special Air Service during the raid to free the hostages during the Iranian Embassy Siege.

Where: Station Road, Heybridge, Maldon, Essex, CM9 4LQ

Visitor Info: http://www. cmsm.co.uk/. Open Wednesday to Sunday and every Bank Holiday Monday and every day during school holidays, 10.30 to 5pm. Last admissions 4pm. Adult: £5.75, OAP/Concession: £4.75, Child: £4.00, Family (2 adults and up to 3 children) £18.00

#### Dad's Army Museum

What: A museum dedicated to telling the story of the Dad's Army TV series, mostly filmed nearby, and to keeping alive the history of the Home guard. Where: The Old Fire Station, Cage Lane, Thetford, IP24 2DS. Tel 07562 688641

#### Visitor Info: http://

dadsarmythetford.org.uk/. Open every Saturday from 17 March until 24 November from 10am. Closes at 3pm. Entry is free. Photography is limited in the museum.

#### German Occupation Museum

What: The German Occupation Museum on Guernsey in the Channel Islands and is owned and operated by Richard Heaume. It all began in 1966 when Richard the schoolboy began collecting spent bullets in the local fields after the plough had gone by.

Where: Les Houards, Forest, Guernsey, Channel Islands, GY8 0BG

Visitor Info: http://www. germanoccupationmuseum. co.uk/index.html. Opening Hours: Apr – Oct: Daily 10.00 - 4:30pm. Nov – Mar: Daily 10am - 1pm Adult: £6.00 Children: £3.00

#### Hack Green Secret Nuclear Bunker

What: Built as part of the 'Rotor' Radar network in the 1950s, the site was also that of an emergency underground Regional Seat of Government, which remained secret until 1993. It now tells the chilling story of the Cold War and the doomsday plans for a nuclear attack on the UK.

Where: Hack Green, French Ln, Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 8AP. Tel: 01270 629219 Visitor Info: http://www. hackgreen.co.uk/. Open every day 10.00 to 5pm until November. Winter Opening 10.00 to 4pm. Adult: f9.25 Child: (5-16) £6.00 Disabled: (and carer) £7.00 Disabled Child: Free. Note: Because of the nature of this site, disabled access can be problematic.

#### **Home Front Museum**

What: Experience the sights and sounds of civilian life during the Second World War at this indoor museum. Where: New Street , Llandudno, LL30 2YF. Tel: 01492 871032 Visitor Info: http://www. homefrontmuseum.co.uk/ Open Daily, 10am - 4.30pm, Sunday 10am - 2pm, from mid-March to November. Adults: £3.50 Children: £2.10 Senior Citizens: £3.25 Family: (2+3) £10.00

#### Manx Aviation and Military Museum

What: A wide range of exhibits relating the military and aviation history of the Isle of Man and people who served in the Armed Forces both on and off island. Exhibits include the story of the Manx Regiment, a rare self-propelled Bofors gun and unique items recovered from the Irish Sea. Where: Ronaldsway Airport, Ballasalla, IM9 2AT. Tel:01624 829294 Visitor Info: http://www.maps. org.im/manx-aviation-andmilitary-museum. The museum is open daily from 10.00am to

4.30pm during the summer, (for 2018 daily opening runs from Saturday 26th May until the end of September) and every Saturday and Sunday throughout the rest of the year. The museum is also open on Good Friday, Easter Week and May bank holiday. Admission is free.

#### Muckleburgh Military Collection

What: An extensive range of military vehicles, tanks, equipment and militaria. Where: Weybourne, Norfolk, NR25 7EH. Tel: 01263 588210 Visitor Info: http://www. muckleburgh.co.uk/. Open every day from 24 March 2018, 10am to 4pm. Adults: £11.00, Children £7.00 (Under 4 Free)

#### **RAF Radar Museum**

What: The museum is located on the site of the world's longest continuously operating radar site and provides a unique window into the history of radar. Where: Neatishead, Horning, Norwich NR12 8YB. Visitor Info: http://www. radarmuseum.co.uk/ index.htm. Open on Tuesdays,Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Bank Holiday Mondays, April to October inclusive. Opening times are from 10.00-5pm. Adults: £10.00 Over 60s: £9.00 Students: £5.00 Children: (6yrs - 16yrs) £5.00 Family Ticket: (2 Adults and up to 3 children): £25 Under 6's: Free

#### Romney Marsh Wartime Collection

What: The Romney Marsh Wartime Collection is a unique collection of wartime equipment, remains recovered from aircraft crash sites and military memorabilia. Where: Ivychurch Road, Brenzett, Romney Marsh, Kent. TN29 0EE. Tel: 01797 344747 Visitor Info: https:// theromneymarsh.net/ wartimecollection Open from Good Friday to the last weekend of October. on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays 10.30am until 4pm. Adults: £5.00

Concessions: £3.00 Under 16's: Free

#### Stockport Air Raid Shelters

What: Carved into sandstone cliffs under Stockport, the intriguing network of tunnels offer visitors an insight into life in wartime Britain. Where: 61 Chestergate, Stockport, SK1 1NE. Tel: 0161 474 1940 Visitor Info: https://www. stockport.gov.uk/topic/air-raidshelters Monday: Closed. Tuesday to Friday: 1pm to 5pm, Saturday: 10am to 5pm. Sunday: 11am to 5pm Bank holidays: 11am to 5pm Adult: £5.00 Concessions:  $(60 + and students) \pm 3.75$ Children under 16 with paving

#### Western Approaches Museum

adult: Free

What: The wartime bunker that protected the tactics and secrets of the British Armed Forces plotting to bulwark the Western Approaches and aid Allied victory.

Where: Western Approaches Museum, 1-3 Rumford Street, Exchange Flags, Liverpool, Merseyside, L2 8SZ. Tel: 0151 227 2008

Visitor Info: http://www. liverpoolwarmuseum.co.uk/ Open six days a week (closed Wednesdays) 10am – 5pm (last admission 4.15pm) Admission: Adults £10.00, Children under 5: Free

## The Wight Military and Heritage Museum

What: The museum holds an interesting mix of tanks, artefacts, military vehicles, small arms and a range of uniforms from the 19th century to the present day. Where: Northwood Camp, 490 Newport Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO31 8QU. Tel: 01983 632039 Visitor Info: http://www. wmahm.org.uk/ Open daily, 10.00 - 3.00pm Monday to Saturday. Adult: £8.50 Child: £4.50 Concessions and 'MOD 90' holders: £5.50 Family ticket: (2 Adults and up to three children) £25



#### Regimental And Other Army Museums:

NOTE: Some of the museums listed may be on military bases, and while they may be open to the general public this may be by prior arrangement only and may require photo ID for admittance. Always check in advance!

#### The Museum of Military Medicine

What: A museum exploring the story of military medicine from the English Civil War to the present day and charting the history of the RAMC as well as animal health (RAVC), RADC and QARANC.

Where: The Museum of Military Medicine, Keogh Barracks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, GU12 5RQ. Tel: 01252 868612

Visitor Info: https:// museumofmilitarymedicine. org.uk/

Open daily 10.00 to 1.45pm, Mon – Fri, and first Saturday of month. Closed Sundays and Bank Holidays. Admission: Free.

#### The Gordon Highlanders Museum

What: The museum explores the dramatic 200-year history of the Regiment from the Napoleonic Wars, India, Afghanistan and South Africa, through to both World Wars and the Cold War. Where: St. Luke's, Viewfield Road, Aberdeen, AB15 7XH. Tel: 01224 311200 Visitor Info: http://www. gordonhighlanders.com/ Mon: (Closed), Tue to Sat: 10.00 to 4.30pm, Sunday: (Closed) Adult: £7.60 Child (Under 16): £5.70 Concessions: £5.70 Family: (2 adults + max 3 children) £12.50

#### Queen's and PWRR Regiment Museum

What: The museum comprises a chronological history of those regiments which have been amalgamated to form the present one and contains objects, memorabilia and audio visual displays. Where: Dover Castle, Castle Hill Road, Dover, Kent, CT16 1HU. Tel: 01304 211067 (Number for Dover Castle) Visitor Info: http:// www.loueens.co.uk/index.html

OpeningHours:Apr-Sept:10am-6pmOct:10am-5pm Mon-Fri the Museum is closed during the winter. It is open during school holidays. (Closed: 24-26 Dec and 1 January) Whilst entry to the museum is

free of charge, it is contained within the walls of Dover Castle where an admission fee is payable to English Heritage.

#### Museum of The Mercian Regiment

What: The museum tells the history of the soldiers of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire from 1741 to the present day. A serving Regiment, The Mercian Regiment was formed in 2007 and is one of the most highly decorated regiments in the British Army today. Where: Nottingham Castle Museum and Art Gallery, Lenton Road, Nottigham, NG1 6EL. Tel: 0115 8761400 Visitor Info: http://www. nottinghamcastle.org.uk/wfr Open daily, 10.00 to 5pm. Last admission, one hour before closing time. Adult: £8.00 (includes one free return visit) Concession: £6.00

(includes one free return visit) Family Ticket: £20.00 (two adults and up to two children) Children under 5: Free

#### REME Museum

What: The REME Museum preserves the heritage of the Corps of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. Formed in 1942, REME exists: "...to keep the punch in the Army's fist" (Montgomery of El-Alamein.) Where: Prince Philip Barracks, MOD Lyneham, Lyneham, Chippenham, SN15 4XX (Sat Nav: SN15 4PZ) Visitor Info: http://www.

rememuseum.org.uk/ Opening Hours: Tuesday to Saturday: 10.00 to 4.30 pm Adult: £7 Child: £5 (ages 5 - 16) Under 5s: free Family Ticket (2 adults and up to 3 children): £21 Serving military: £4 Concession (students with id, over 60s): £5 Ex-REME (with association card or other REME membership details): £4

#### Royal Engineers Museum

What: The museum tells the fascinating story of the Royal Engineers and displays a vast amount of material including 25 Victoria Crosses awarded to Royal Engineers, along with tanks, equipment and even a Harrier jump-jet and V2 rocket. Where: Prince Arthur Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 1UR. Tel: 01634 822839

Visitor Info: http://www. re-museum.co.uk/

Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday 10.00am - 5.00pm Last entry 4 pm Bank Holiday Mondays 10.00 to 5 pm (Last entry 4 pm) Please note that the museum is closed on Mondays.

Adult: £8.80 Child: (Aged 5-15) £4.40 Senior Citizen: £7.00 Student: £7.00 Family Ticket: (2 adults and 2 children) £23.50

#### The Royal Logistic Corps Museum

What: The museum tells the story of how the British Army has been sustained in peace and war and examines how the soldier has been transported, fed. supplied with arms and equipment and kept in contact with loved ones. Where: The Royal Logistic Corps Museum, The Princess Royal Barracks, Deepcut, Surrey, GU16 6RW. Tel: 01252 83337 Visitor Info: http://www. rovallogisticcorps.co.uk/ heritage/museum/ Opening hours: Mon to Fri: 09.00 to 4pm. (Closed Sat and Sun) Admission: Free

#### The Military Intelligence Museum

What: The Military Intelligence Museum displays key elements of the history of British Military Intelligence from the Boer War onwards in a fascinating collection of exhibits. Where: Building 200, Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire, SG17 5PR (Sat Nav Post Code SG17 5QB) Visitor Info: http://www. militaryintelligencemuseum. org/

Mon: Closed Tue to Fri: 10.30 to 2pm. Sat: Closed Sun: Closed All visitors are welcome but please note that the Museum is located inside a gated military camp and all visits are therefore by only prior appointment. Photo ID will be required on arrival. Tel: 01462 752896 or 01462

752024 or email: intcorpshqmuseum-mailbox@mod. gov.uk

#### York Army Museum

What: The York Army Museum is the regimental museum of The Royal Dragoon Guards and The Yorkshire Regiment; one cavalry, one infantry. The museum covers over 300 years of history across every continent.

Where: Situated in the centre of York on Tower Street, opposite Clifford's Tower and next to the Hilton hotel. Tel: 01904 731532

Visitor Info: http://www. yorkarmymuseum.co.uk/ Monday: CLOSED Tue to Fri: 09:30 to 4.30pm Sat and Sun: 10:00 to 4pm. Visits are possible outside of normal opening hours if booked in advance.

Adult: £5.00 Concessions: (over 60s, students, disabled [plus free entry for 1 carer]) £4.00 Children: (5-15) £2.50 Under 5s: Free Service personnel Half price admission Family ticket (2 adults and up to 3 children) £12.00. All tickets valid for reentry for one year.

Members of the Regimental Associations (including those currently serving in either the RDG or the Yorkshire Regiment: Free (plus half price entry for accompanying family).

#### The Gurkha Museum

What: The Gurkha Museum commemorates the service of Gurkha soldiers to the British Crown, a relationship that has endured since 1815 and tells their truly remarkable story. Where: Peninsula Barracks, Romsey Road, Winchester, SO23 8TS Tel: 01962 842832 Visitor Info: https:// thegurkhamuseum.co.uk/ Opening times: 10.00 to 5pm (Last entry at 4.30) Admission: Free

#### **Uncertain Future For Regimental Museums**

In 2017, the Ministry of Defence announced that fourteen regimental museums across the UK were to lose funding from April of last year, with some set to merge with other museums of the same regiment. They were to be the first tranche of institutions to lose out under cost-saving plans by the MOD to limit funding.

The cuts were to be rolled out in stages, with a further set of museums due to lose funding in 2022 and the final tranche set to have funding cut in 2030. This will almost halve the number of regimental or corps museums receiving MOD funding, bringing the number down from 69 to 36. Museums losing funding in April include the Museum of the King's Royal Hussars in Preston, Lancashire, and the Royal Welsh Museum, Cardiff. The 13th/18th Royal Hussars and the Light Dragoons Museum near Barnsley was also to close and merge its collections with those of the regiment's sister museum in Newcastle. Quite apart from these cuts, recent times have seen the closure of the Royal Artillery Firepower Museum, as well as that to the Durham Light Infantry.

The MOD told 'Britain at War' that the plans, which will eventually save around £520,000 a year, were necessary following government cuts to the ministry's overall funding. Use and enjoy regimental and other Army museums while you still can! See our spotlight on one such museum, The Shropshire Regimental Museum, overleaf.

#### **MUSEUM FOCUS**

#### **Shropshire Regimental Museum**

Across the UK there are upwards of 140 British Army museums, many tracing proud regimental or corps histories. Here, we focus on just one of them; the Shropshire Regimental Museum.

Shrewsbury Castle has seen numerous restorations and adaptations from its earliest construction by order of William the Conqueror in 1067, to use as an early 18<sup>th</sup> century family home - although it has held a predominately military role which continues as home to the county's regimental museum.

The Shropshire Regimental Museum, comprising the collections of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, Shropshire Yeomanry, and the Shropshire Royal Horse Artillery, moved to Shrewsbury Castle in 1985 from a Regimental Depot at the local barracks.

An unplanned redevelopment of the museum occurred after the building was targeted by the IRA in 1992. Firebomb devices ripped through the museum, causing extensive damage and largely destroying the regiments' early collections. The museum had to close for redevelopment and a decision made to merge collections of all three regiments and chronologically display their history.

At first appearance, the museum remains largely unchanged since the IRA attack, maintaining traditional approaches to displays; jam-packed exhibition cases and a chronological storyline all framed by arrays of regimental colours, swords, and muskets on the walls. The story begins with the formation of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Foot, and continues to pick up additional regiments and formations as they come into being or amalgamate, creating a timeline from 1755 until the regiments' demise in the 1970s.

While some museums are synonymous with distinguished actions of the regiments they represent, the Shropshire Regimental Museum has no one defining moment upon which the collection is centred, but it is, however, incredibly varied, boasting unusual items that highlight key moments in the history of the regiments. One of the most interesting artefacts on display from the early history are the Colours of the James City Light Infantry and 1st Harford Light Dragoons, captured at the battle of Bladensburg in 1814. The 85<sup>th</sup> were one of the regiments in General Robert Ross's expeditionary force to Chesapeake Bay in 1814, which went on to occupy Washington and burn down important buildings, including what is now the White House.

Regimental involvement in the First World War features significantly, with one exhibit being a unit award granted to the 4<sup>th</sup> KSLI for its capture of Bligny Hill on 6 June 1918, during an offensive which reduced the battalion to company strength and won it the Croix-de-Guerre avec Palme. The original medal, sewn onto the remains of a standard, is displayed.

A powerful artefact is the baton of Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz, successor to Hitler, who became leader of the Third Reich on 30 April 1945. Dönitz set up a provisional government in Flensburg, but just twenty-four days later, Dönitz was arrested together with Alfred Jodl and Hans-Georg von Friedeburg, and handed to the 4<sup>th</sup> KSLI (under 159th Infantry Brigade) when the baton was surrendered. Hitler had presented it to Dönitz as a symbol of attaining the highest German naval rank. As well as being symbolically important, the baton is physically remarkable, embellished with solid gold, silver, and platinum motifs to the specifications of Dönitz himself. Having served on U-boats during the First World War, and commanded the U-boat fleet during the Second World War, Dönitz wanted the customary eagle motif on one end of the baton replaced by a submarine, and the Iron Cross on the other end replaced by a swastika.



The Shropshire Regimental Museum may appear a

traditional military museum, but the collections are anything but ordinary. With over 85% of its artefacts displayed, the museum fills Shrewsbury Castle, the collection providing enough historic detail to interest subject specialists, while the layout and clearly labelled cases will appeal to the average visitor.

#### Visitor Information

#### **Opening Times**

Spring: From 19 February to 25 May: Open 10.30 to 16.00. Closed on Thursdays and Sundays. Summer: From 26 May to 9 September: Open 10.30 to 17.00. Closed on Thursdays. Sunday opening hours are 10.30 to 16.00. Autumn From 10 September to 17 December: Open 10.30 to 16.00. Closed on Thursdays and Sundays. Winter closure: The Castle will be closed during the winter period from 18 December for maintenance work. Reopens Monday 18 February 2019.

#### **Ticket Prices**

Adults: £4.00 Concessions: £3.00 Children and students: £1.00 (Under 5's and former members of the Shropshire Regiments: Free) Disabled access available to both main floors of the Museum. Parking for disabled visitors by prior arrangement.

#### **Contact Details**

General Phone Number – 01743 358516 Enquiries Email – curator@ shropshireregimentalmuseum.co.uk

#### Location

Shrewsbury Castle, Castle St, Shrewsbury, SY1 2AT

#### Website

www.shropshireregimentalmuseum.co.uk

