

THE Battle of Qatia

Commemorative
Brochure marking
the 100th Anniversary
of the Battle of Qatia
23rd April 1916

Unveiling of the Poppy
Memorial Sculpture to the
Worcestershire Yeomanry

1916 – 2016



THE QUEEN'S OWN WARWICKSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE
YEOMANRY COMRADES ASSOCIATION
WORCESTERSHIRE WORLD WAR ONE HUNDRED PROJECT

Qatia 100

Commemorating the Worcestershire Yeomanry

(The Queen's Own Worcestershire Hussars)

Today is the hundredth anniversary of the battles of Qatia (Katia) and Oghratina, a day of deep and tragic significance for the Worcestershire Yeomanry and the rest of the 5th Mounted Brigade in 1916.

In April 1916 the Yeomanry Regiment was protecting the eastern side of the Suez Canal where they were responsible for patrolling the whole of the Qatia water area, a vital part of the military supply process. The three squadrons of some 150 men were based in different areas in the vicinity and with the Warwickshire Yeomanry and Gloucestershire Hussars the Brigade came under overall command of General HA Lawrence.



Soldiers from the Worcestershire
Yeomanry, Egypt, December 1915

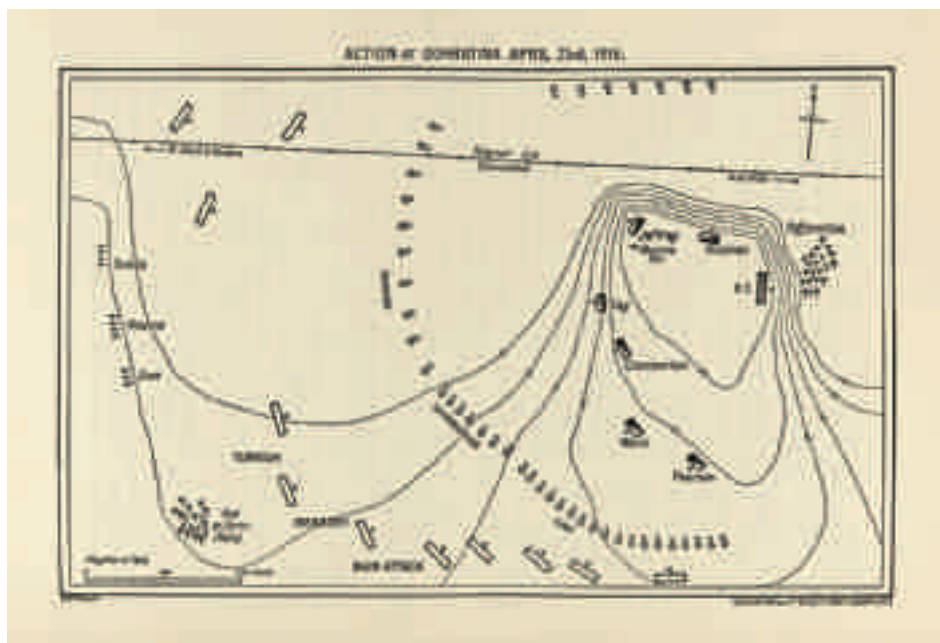


Memorial Cross at
Oghratina Hill, 1916

The small isolated garrison at Oghratina had been ordered to protect a party of Royal Engineers on a well-digging expedition when, at dawn on 23 April 1916, they were attacked by over 3000 Turkish troops, including a machine gun battery of 12 guns. The defending troops repulsed the first attack but were forced back by the weight of the onslaught.

The victorious Turkish troops then advanced to reinforce another attack taking place against the garrison at Qatia, roughly 5 miles west. Qatia fell to the Turkish forces causing the losses of three and a half squadrons of yeomanry. Major WH Wiggin was wounded and managed to withdraw with about half the squadron.

Action at Oghratina 23 April 1916,
map taken from the Yeomanry Cavalry
of Worcestershire 1914 – 1922



Timetable

Saturday 23 April 2016, Worcester

- 11:00** Cathedral Service marking the anniversary
- 12:30** Mess Lunch, Worcestershire Cricket Club (invitation only)
- 14:00** Members of the public and guests gather in Cripplegate Park
- 14:30** Parade in Cripplegate Park
- 14:45** Unveiling of the Commemorative Sculpture to the Worcestershire Yeomanry
- 15:00** Parade March Past
- 15:30** Close

Invited guests include:

Lord Lieutenant Lt. Col. Patrick Holcroft LVO OBE

Cllr Roger Knight, Mayor of Worcester

Cllr Rose Bishop, Mayor of Kidderminster

Robin Walker MP

Bill Wiggin MP

High Sheriff Sir Nicholas Lechmere Bt.

Sir Anthony Winnington Bt., former High Sheriff for Worcestershire

Maj. Gen. J Crackett CB TD ACDS (Reserves and Cadets)

Charles Byrne, National Director Fundraising, Royal British Legion

Councillor Ian Hopwood, Chairman Worcestershire County Council

Councillor C Mitchell, Deputy Leader Worcester City Council

Ms. Victoria Harrison, Sculptor and Designer

Worcester Stone Masons

The Band of the Royal Yeomanry playing inter alia British Grenadiers/Voice of the Guns;
A Farmer's Boy; Warwickshire Lad; Begone Dull Care; Sweet Lass of Richmond Hill

The Poppy Sculpture

The 9 foot high commemorative poppy sculpture designed and created by Victoria Harrison will provide a lasting memorial to the Worcestershire Yeomanry in Cripplegate Park, Worcester, unveiled and dedicated on the centennial of the Battle of Qatia and Oghratina. The sculpture has been funded by Councillor Richard Udall and the Worcestershire County Council Divisional Fund and supported by Worcestershire Stone Masons of Hylton Road, Worcester.

Victoria writes: I chose the iconic symbol of the Poppy as it brings awareness to people of all ages the importance of commemorating those who have made the ultimate sacrifice of defending the freedom we enjoy today. The sculpture represents all these elements. Made from galvanised steel and approximately measuring 2.74 metres high and the flower head span over 1.24 metres will make a stunning impact in the Park. The substrate is covered in coloured stained glass, all hand cut and each piece individually applied to the sculpture. Complementing the Poppy will be a commemorative stone inlaid with a copy of the Worcestershire Yeomanry's Cap Badge made in gold mosaic and engraved. Inscribed into stone alongside the badge will be a list of the Regiment's major campaigns.

Victoria Harrison Sculptor and Mosaic Artist

www.living-mosaics.com



A Short History of the Worcestershire Yeomanry



The Worcestershire Yeomanry was formed in 1794 to protect the United Kingdom against the threat of an invasion by Napoleon Bonaparte.

In 1887 the Regiment was given a new title by Queen Victoria, The Queen's Own Worcestershire Hussars.

During its period of service to the Country and the County, the Regiment fought in battles and wars across the world including The Boer War from 1900–1903 and The Great War 1914–1919 in Gallipoli, Egypt, Syria and Palestine – where they made a cavalry charge to capture guns, the last cavalry charge of this type in British Military History. During the Second World War 1939–1945 the Regiment served in Europe, Palestine and the Far East.

Throughout the history of the Regiment from 1794 to 1956 the Officers and Soldiers were volunteers from Worcestershire who gave their time to train for a possible emergency or future war.

In 1907 the Haldane Army Reforms established the Territorial Army which included what had previously been Yeomanry Regiments. The Worcestershire Yeomanry, Warwickshire Yeomanry and Gloucestershire Yeomanry were formed into the 1st South Midland Mounted Brigade. On the outbreak of the First World War this Brigade joined the 2nd Mounted Division and following extensive training in the Norfolk area, spent the War abroad, firstly in Gallipoli and then in Egypt and Palestine.

The Worcestershire Yeomanry Cavalry of the nineteenth century went through various transformations from its founding in 1794

to the Army Reforms in 1907. The Regiment, was used to quell riots of colliers and nailers and Chartists as well as celebrating Queen Victoria's jubilees. A squadron of Worcestershire Yeomanry joined the 5th Regiment of the Imperial Yeomanry in the South African War 1900–1902.

The history of the Yeomanry after 1918 was sealed when they ceased to be a cavalry unit in 1922. Throughout the 1920s they were an artillery battery and in 1938, an anti-tank regiment and it was in this formation that they entered the Second World War. Part of the 48th Division of the BEF, the Regiment joined the retreat from Dunkirk in May 1940. Training and re-formations followed until it was disbanded in late 1943 – and then re-established as an artillery regiment in the 6th Airborne Division. They took part in the D-Day Landings and Bouncing the Rhine, and were variously used in Europe or were at home, training, until they ended the European War on the Baltic Front. They were then sent to the Middle East on peacekeeping duties, ironically in the same area where the Yeomanry had spent much of the First World War.

By this stage what was now the 33rd Airborne Light Regiment was no longer Worcestershire and it eventually became 7th Parachute Regiment. Back home in 1947 however, the yeomanry was re-established as a Territorial Army artillery unit, later part of the Royal Armoured Corps, with the title of Queens Own Worcestershire Hussars – one of the titles it had held under Queen Victoria. In 1956 the Warwickshire and Worcestershire Regiment (TA) Royal Armoured Corps was formed and the Worcestershire Yeomanry ceased to exist.

Men killed on 23 April 1916, or who subsequently died of their wounds*

Lt Albert Jaffray Cay
 Pte William Christopher Clarke 325119
 L/Cpl Ernest George Collins 325116
 Pte Alfred Charles Cook 2926
 Harry Bertram Cooks 325957 (DoW)
 Cpl Cyril Henry Coombs 2209
 Pte Harry Gardiner Cowell 2057
 Pte Alfred Rowland Crew 325559
 Pte John Neville Robertson Curtis 2911
 Pte Frederick George Dyson 325271
 Pte David John Evans 325142
 Sgt Frederick John Everett 325319
 Pte Jeffery Beauchamp Fear 3162
 Pte William Hughes Phillips Field 2791
 Pte Francis Alfred Folkes 2414
 Pte Frederick Stephen Forgham 325588
 Pte Sidney Douglas Franklin 2329
 Cpl Walter Richard Garland 325422
 Pte Howard Russell Giles
 L/Cpl James Goddard 325170
 Pte Thomas Harold Goodwin 2927
 Pte John Francis Grundy 325441
 Pte Ernest Hanglin 325287 (DoW)
 Pte Percy Hanglin 2635
 Pte Ernest Wilfred Harper 3087
 Pte John Percival Harvey 2473 (DoW)
 2nd Lt Brian Hatton
 Pte Russell John Haycock 325498
 Pte James Haywood 325641
 Pte Walter Cyril Hewlett 2645
 Pte Thomas William Henry Higgins 325395
 SQMS Maurice William Hobson 325015
 Pte Henry Hodges 2504
 Pte Sydney Charles Hodgkinson 325256
 Lt Sir John Henry Jaffray
 Cpl Arthur William James 32509
 2nd Lt Dermot Patrick Jewitt
 Pte Alwyne Victor Jewkes 3022
 Pte Archibald Ray Jewkes 3021
 Pte Henry Wardale King 2577
 Pte Herbert Kings 325315
 Cpl Reginald Henry Lee 325300
 L/Cpl James Ernest Lewis 325132
 Pte Lionel Charles Longmore 325651

Pte Richard Mainwaring 325720
 Cpl Percy Malpas 2431
 Pte William Moulder 3085
 Major Harold Norfolk
 Pte Charles Thomas Norman 3023
 Pte Alfred Reginald Orton 325585
 Pte Thomas Sydney Page 2695
 Pte Horace Norman Parsons 325606
 L/Cpl Arthur Freeman Payne 325090
 Pte Joseph Paynter 325595
 2nd Lt Maurice Murray Pearson
 Cpl Henry George Perrin 325106
 Pte Raymond Wilfred Pocock 2195
 Cpl Douglas Powell 2318
 Pte George Pratt 325718
 Saddler Sgt Joseph Vernon Pratt
 (DoW at Home 26/12/16)
 Pte Charles Henry Rastall 325074
 Pte Walter Ronald Repton 2675
 Pte Samuel Edward Rose 2306
 Sgt George Henry Rushworth 325124
 Pte Claude Shaddock 2750
 Pte Charles Howard Smith 325302
 Pte Ernest Smith 325724
 Pte Frank Thomas Smith 2304
 Pte Osborn Thomas Smith 325257
 L Cpl Robert Essex Surman 2564
 L/Cpl Thomas Leonard Sutton 2028
 Pte William Arthur Thomas 325728
 Staff Sgt Major Frederick John Thorpe 325199
 Sgt William James Tibble 2157
 Pte Alfred Richard Weatherstone 2380
 Pte Gilbert Westwood 325387
 Capt George Robert Wiggan
 Pte Joseph Williams 3027
 Pte Lance Douglas Williams 325326
 Pte Charles Patterson Winterton 325693

Also:

Capt and Adjt L St Clair Cheape
 (1st Kings Dragoon Guards)
 Armourer Staff Sgt Harry Wilson A/1233
 (Army Ordnance Corps)
 Capt Julius Henry Beilby (R.A.M.C)
 2nd Lt M M Pearson listed as Yeomanry

23 April 2016 Acknowledgements

Colonel (Retd) Stamford Cartwright MBE TD
Chairman Comrades Association
Councillor Richard Udall
Worcester City Council
Worcestershire County Council Archives
and Archaeology Service
Heritage Lottery Fund
Dean and Chapter of Worcester Cathedral
Alpharel Staging
The Pavilion, Cripplegate Park
Worcestershire County Cricket Club
Volunteer Stewards
CO The Royal Yeomanry
B (S.WWY) Squadron RY
CO 37th Signal Regiment
54th (QOWWY) Support Squadron
QOWWY Comrades Association
Hereford and Worcester Army Cadet Force

Contacts:

The Friends of the Worcestershire
Yeomanry Museum
www.facebook.com/WorcesterYeomanry

The Worcestershire Soldier Gallery, Worcester
Museum and Art Gallery, Foregate Street,
Worcester, WR1 1DT

Queen's own Warwickshire and Worcestershire
Yeomanry Comrades Association
www.qowwy.org.uk

About Worcestershire World War One Hundred

Cultural and heritage organisations from across Worcestershire have come together to commemorate the 100th anniversary of World War One with an outstanding 4 year programme of events and activities under the banner Worcestershire World War One Hundred. The programme, which received the largest Heritage Lottery Fund Grant outside of London for a project commemorating the First World War, will commemorate the role Worcestershire played in World War One and tell the stories of Worcestershire people, their involvement with and personal legacy from the War.

**For the full Worcestershire World
War One Hundred programme visit:**
ww1worcestershire.co.uk/
or follow @WW1Worcs

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

From the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife, we use National Lottery players' money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about.

www.hlf.org.uk

WORCESTERSHIRE WORLD WAR ONE HUNDRED

ww1worcestershire.co.uk/
ww1worcestershire.co.uk/enquiry/

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