

From Lieutenant General T A Beckett CBE, Colonel of The Regiment



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Deer Association Member

**THE FUTURE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM - APPEAL**

When I took over as the Colonel of the Regiment a year ago we were fairly uncertain about the future of the Collection, which reminds and cajoles us about our glorious past. Employing operational language, we were muddling about in the Assembly Area. Continuing with the theme, in the autumn we moved to the Concentration Area and suddenly we had a plan that saw the possibility of a new Museum, with our Collection protected and secured for future generations.

When I spoke at Regimental events in November we had moved to the FUP and were tying up some coordinating instructions whilst trying to work out what to do with our old museums in Warwick and Eastbourne. It was a warning order – at its core was recognition that we would need your help and support. The notice to move has now changed and, as ever, we are on the move and across the line of departure sooner than we thought. We need resources to fight this battle and win the day. We may not have had quite as much time for getting into good order as the Staff Officers' Handbook recommends but events did not stand still.

We have exchanged contracts to buy a new museum. There is no going back. **We need to raise some £800,000 as quickly as possible to complete the purchase.** This is my immediate objective – to raise it as quickly as we can and to avoid 'bridging'. I have set aside some contingency from Regimental resources but all Trustees are clear that we will restore these quickly so we can press on, make changes to the property and then insert our Collection.

As in any Regimental endeavour we cannot do this without everyone playing their part and contributing to the effort. This won't be easy, but with every shoulder to the wheel, finding support from other friends and families, we will achieve the goal. I can show you the plans, talk things through and agree to tweak this or that, but the Regiment is mounted and has headed off. The plan may not survive contact but it has never stopped us before. But the plan is a good one, it will allow us to respond to events, we have thought through the contingencies. Please look at the Museum plans, understand the Colonel in Chief's Directive, read the bump from the appeal organisers, listen to all the views on whichever net you use, and then decide how you can support this project without delay. Please don't leave it until a later moment. **The Regiment needs your help today.** Mente et Manu.

Yours sincerely

Tom Beckett