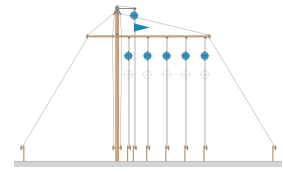


THE FRIENDS OF THE LINES OF TORRES VEDRAS NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2018



CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Since last Autumn's newsletter, the main focus of our activities has been in the planning of the visit to Portugal for this year's Lines of Torres Vedras Day in October, which is coming together pretty well.

Good news to report is the restoration of Beresford's HQ. Although a private house and not expected to be open to the public, the condition of the building before its purchase by the present owners can only be described as being 'at risk' so this is a positive development.

We have also finalised the transaction to pay for the restoration of the Fletcher memorial, which I would like us to visit if possible during the October visit.

We have also worked on building relationships with other groups with an interest in the Peninsula War, Wellington, and so on, such as the Waterloo Association, the British Commission For Military History and those involved in Portugal friendship groups.

Thanks are also due to the Portugal Embassy, for hosting our committee meetings.

Andrew Dismore
Chairman

LINES OF TORRES VEDRAS MADE A NATIONAL MONUMENT.

We have received fantastic news from Portugal that the Lines have been made a National Monument. This will provide additional protection for the remaining forts and minimise future loss to these historically important fortifications.

EVENTS UPDATE 2018

Visit to Stratfield Saye.

There were no dates available in 2018 for a private visit to the Duke of Wellington's estate at Stratfield Saye. We have provisionally requested Thursday 9 May 2019 and will get confirmation later this year. We will provide details as soon as we have further information.

Visit to Lines of Torres Vedras.

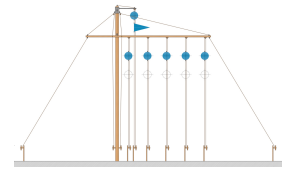
The Friends are moving ahead with plans for a visit to Portugal to coincide with the Lines of Torres Vedras Day (20 October 2018). The Mayor and town council at Torres Vedras are keen to support this event.

The provisional plan is to arrange accommodation near Torres Vedras on Friday 19th and Saturday 20th October with participants arriving on Friday 19th October. There will be a visit to the Lines on Saturday with lunch at General Spencer's HQ, Quinta da Povia.

Dinner on Saturday evening will be with members of the ROTA and the Mayor of Torres Vedras, near Torres Vedras. For those who wish to stay on Sunday, we are looking to arrange a wine tasting.

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We are also looking at the possibility of arranging a trip to the battlefields of Roliça and Vimeiro. The events on the Friday afternoon and Sunday are optional which visitors can attend subject to their travel arrangements. We will not be arranging flights for individuals.

Beresford's Headquarters, Casal Cochim.

Beresford's Headquarters in Sapateira, which have been empty and derelict for many years was bought last year and has been turned into a private property. It is good to see that the building will survive for many more years. There are pictures on the website.

Ultramarathon.

António Teixeira Duarte, organiser of the Running Challenge of the Lines of Torres Vedras has circulated the following message to all those who are interested in this event:

'For various reasons, mostly of a logistical nature, it will not be possible to hold the Lines of Torres Vedras Marathon this year.

It is important, however, to emphasise that we are in contact with the National Defence Ministry who has shown both interest and availability in playing a decisive role to institutionalize this unforgettable heritage of both a historical and military nature.

As a result of this situation, the event will take place on 26th May 2019. An equestrian event will also be involved'.

New UK Defence Attaché.

Captain David Jones has been appointed to serve in Lisbon. We hope to build a mutually beneficial

relationship with him during his time in Portugal.

FRIENDS COMMITTEE

We will always be interested in hearing from members who would like to get more involved with the running of the group.

Finance Update

The Treasurer reported that there is £2,743 in the bank.

We have now paid for the new plaques on the Monument to the Lines of Torres Vedras at Alhandra. There are pictures on the website.

General Data Protection Regulations.

The General Data Protection Regulation comes into force on 27 May 2018. The GDPR significantly tightens the law around data protection and as the FLTV is a data collector, through the information we collect from our supporters, we have needed to revise our data protection policies accordingly. Please read our new Data Protection Policy which you can find on the website and if you have any queries please contact us.

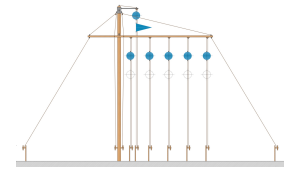
If you no longer wish to receive communications from the FLTV, please let us know and we will delete your contact details from our records.

Membership update

We currently have 41 members. We have had several enquiries about joining.

There are two corporate members.

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MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE.

Website

Development of the website continues. There are now details on all forts in the first, second and third Lines. Where the fort still exists, there will be pictures. For each there will be plans and maps. Details on the fourth line, to the south of the Tagus will be added in the near future.

Website visitor number continue to increase. Over 9,000 individuals have visited the website in the last year, an increase of 100%. We consider this a great success and in line with the stated aim of the Group to publicise the Lines.

Facebook

The Facebook page continues to be active with many contributions from the UK and Portugal. Membership is currently 172.

From Reason To Revolution Conference, York, 29 April 2018.

Mark S Thompson spoke on the 'Role of the Portuguese Engineers during the Peninsular War' and the Portuguese contribution to the building of the Lines of Torres Vedras was covered. The papers from the conference will be published, probably in 2019.

New Promotional Video by Rota

A new promotional video has been produced by the Rota for the Lines. It is available on YouTube; look for: Rota Histórica das Linhas de Torres or use the link on the Friends' website.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on the Lines, the Friends, or our events, please visit our website (www.f-ltv.co.uk) or our Facebook page.