

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

The focus of our recent activity was our visit last year to Portugal to coincide with Torres Vedras Day. We were given a very warm welcome by the Mayor of Torres Vedras, Carlos Bernardes, whose office was of invaluable assistance organising the visit, including inviting us to the Torres Vedras Day dinner held in the atmospheric surroundings of fort São Vicente. Our tour round the lines included lunch at Quinta da Povoá and watching a re-enactment at fort Alqueidão, where we and the Rota exchanged honorary members of our groups. The Rota continue to produce excellent guides to the Lines area. See the website for more details. On Sunday, we visited two vineyards for an excellent wine tasting managed by one of our members, José João Climaco Melicias (Vitiscape). Some of us stayed on after the official visit was over, to see the Roliça and Vimeiro battlefields. A full report on the visit is on the Friends website.

Looking forward, our aim is to mark the Lines day by alternating between visits to Portugal and a dinner in London. For this year's Lines of Torres Vedras Day, we are organising a dinner on 18th October 2019 at the Cavalry and Guards club. The dinner will be preceded by a talk by Peninsula War authority, Marcus de la Poer Beresford on '*The Portuguese contribution to Wellington's defeat of France in the Iberian peninsula 1808-14*'.

All being well, we will organise another visit to Portugal for Lines Day in October 2020.

Our most immediate, exciting, and exclusive event is the forthcoming visit on 9th May 2019 to Stratfield Saye, which is a real privilege, courtesy of his Grace the Duke of Wellington. (Details in this e- newsletter).

Some good news stories too. The restoration of the plaques on the Fletcher monument, which were sadly stolen a few years ago, has been completed by our Portuguese partners, funded by the Friends. I can also report that the house which was Beresford's Headquarters during the occupation of the Lines and was in terrible condition has now been restored by its new owner as a private residence.

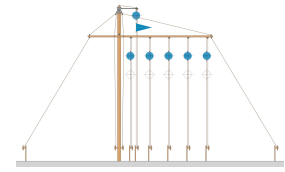
Andrew Dismore
Chairman

Visit to Lines of Torres Vedras, October 2018.

On the weekend of 19-21 October 2018, a group of 17 from the Friends visited Torres Vedras. On the Friday, the group had dinner at a local restaurant with the Mayor of Torres Vedras, Carlos Bernardes. We then attended a very enjoyable orchestral concert by the volunteer firefighters

from the city. Saturday morning, we were officially welcomed by the Mayor at the city hall and given the opportunity to try the new Licor de Vinho, Linhas de Torres Vedras. We then visited fort São Vicente and the new Interpretation Centre there. Next stop was Mount Socorro to take in the magnificent views across the Lines. Lunch was taken at Quinta da Povoá, which was the headquarters of General Spencer

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during the occupation of the Lines in 1810-11. Our host, Gonçalo Vasconcellos Guisado, showed us round his fascinating home, provided an excellent meal and an opportunity to try his 'Old Nosey' pear tonic. Saturday afternoon was spent at fort Alqueidão where a historical re-enactment was staged. Also, during this visit the Friends and the ROTA made each other honorary members of their groups.

On Saturday evening, we attended the dinner to celebrate Lines of Torres Vedras Day which was held in a marquee in fort São Vicente. The food and the entertainment were excellent. Our host for the night from the City council was Ana Umbelino. Also, in attendance was ex-MP Antonio Rodrigues who was central to the official recognition of the Lines of Torres Vedras Day. On Sunday, we visited two vineyards managed by one of our members, José João Climaco Melicias (Vitiscape). Our thanks to José for the wine tasting in beautiful settings. Our visit was a great success and the weather was fine and warm throughout. We would like to express our thanks to the Mayor for his support and attention. We would also like to thank; our guide on Saturday, Paulo Gomes and Ricardo Lopes who made most of the local arrangements. There are some pictures of the visit on the Friends website.

EVENTS UPDATE 2019

Visit to Stratfield Saye, 9 May 2019.

The Friends of the Lines of Torres Vedras were successful in their bid to take a group of up to 50, to enjoy an exclusive private visit to Stratfield Saye House, the country home to the Dukes of Wellington since 1817, on Thursday 9 May 2019. His Grace the Duke of Wellington (President of the

Friends) is very much hoping to welcome the Friends of the Lines of Torres Vedras to his elegant and intimate home, his duties permitting.

Morning Coffee will be served on arrival at 10:30 a.m. The party will be divided into 5 groups of 10 and given a guided tour of the house and gardens, which offer an intriguing insight into the life of the Great Duke of Wellington.

We will view the fascinating collection of paintings and furniture and see the wonderful Wellington Exhibition featuring his magnificent funeral carriage and charting his military and political life. The visit will include a light lunch, and afternoon tea.

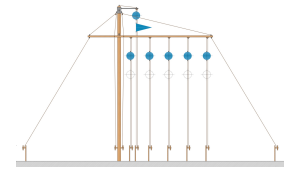
There are plans to assemble at the Cavalry & Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly, from 7:30 a.m., where coffee and breakfast will be served for those who wish it.

We will leave by coach at 09:00 a.m. sharp, in order to arrive at Stratfield Saye House for a 10:30 a.m., morning coffee. The cost of the visit for members has yet to be finalised but it will be in the region of £30 per person, to which the cost of breakfast and a seat on the coach will need to be added. Members and their guests may wish to make their own way to Stratfield Saye, and to meet there at 10:30 a.m.

We will need to bring our own wine and alcoholic beverages. Tea will be served at 15:30 and the visit will end at 16:30. Further details including price per person and booking procedures will follow in March. In the meantime, if you have any questions, or suggestions please email the event organiser, Bernard Hornung:

Bernard@hornung.co.uk

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Lines of Torres Vedras Day, Annual Dinner, 18 October 2019.

A dinner is planned on Friday 18 October 2019, at the Cavalry and Guards Club, London, to celebrate the official Lines of Torres Vedras Day. Before the dinner, there will be a talk by Marcus de la Poer Beresford on: '*The Portuguese contribution to Wellington's defeat of France in the Iberian Peninsula 1808-14*'.

We hope the Portuguese Ambassador and the Mayor of Torres Vedras will be present.

Further details and booking arrangements will follow. Please keep an eye on the Friends website.

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 around £3,200 in the bank.

Membership update

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

There are two corporate members.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE.

Website

Development of the website continues. There are now details on all forts in the first, second, third and fourth (south of the Tagus) Lines. There are also a number of maps of the Lines which can be downloaded.

Website visitor number continue to increase. Over 12,000 individuals have visited the website in the last year, an increase of 50% on the previous year. Visitors to the website have trebled in

the last two years. We consider this a great success and in line with the stated aim of the Friends, which is to publicise the Lines.

Facebook

The Facebook page continues to be active with many contributions from the UK and Portugal. Membership is 171.

OTHER RELATED EVENTS

Friends of the British Cemetery at Elvas, Reception 27 February 2019.

The FBCE are holding their Winter Recital and Reception on 27 February 2019 at the Cavalry and Guards Club, London. Full details are on the Friends website.

Napoleonic Fair Bingham, 2/3 March 2019.

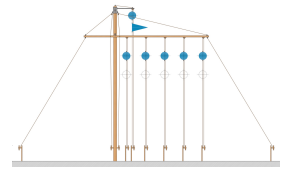
I will be speaking about the Royal Engineer, John Burgoyne. Although he was not involved in the construction, he was responsible for part of the Lines during and after the occupation.

www.bicorn.co.uk/NapoleonicDay.html

Requiem Mass for Portuguese Losses in First World War, 9 April 2019.

Father Ulick Loring the Parish Priest who was inspired to create a First World War Memorial to the Portuguese fallen, has kindly invited us all and our guests to the 12 noon Mass, at the Church of St James, 61 Pope's Grove, Twickenham, TW1 4JZ and to a buffet lunch afterwards, on Tuesday 9 April 2019. His invitation is attached below. Those wishing to attend should respond to Fr Ulick confirming if they and their guests wish to have lunch at the Royal British Legion, a short walk from the Church. Please respond to Fr Ulick before Monday 1 April 2019 at the very latest.

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Wellington Congress, Southampton University, 12-13 April 2019.

Speakers from around the world will be presenting on aspects of the Duke's life. There are keynote papers from Professor Charles Esdaile, Professor Andrew Lambert, Dr Alicia Laspra and Dr Richard Gaunt.

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/archives/news/events/2018/10/wellingtoncongressapr2019.page>

From Reason to Revolution Conference, Derby, 27 April 2019.

To be held at Derby Museum and Art Gallery. Keynote speakers include: Dr Andrew Cormack and Dr Jonathan Coates.

<http://www.helion.co.uk/frtr-2019-conference-lr.pdf>

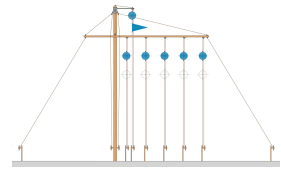
BCMH Conference, London, 14/15 September 2019.

The British Commission for Military History will be hosting a conference at Kings College London; War & Peace in the Age of Napoleon.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on the Lines of Torres Vedras, the Friends, or our events, please visit our website (<http://www.f-ltv.co.uk/>) or our Facebook page.

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Requiem Mass for Portuguese Losses in Great War, 9 April 2019.

**CHURCH OF ST JAMES
61 Popes Grove
Twickenham
TW1 4JZ**

Tel 0208 892 4578 E twickenham@rcdow.org.uk
[Web: www.stjamestwickenham.org.uk](http://www.stjamestwickenham.org.uk)

Parish Priest: Rev Ulick Loring MA BD BACP

February 2018

Dear

Many of you will remember that special and beautiful day at St James's on 9th April 2018 when we unveiled two stained glass windows commemorating the Portuguese sacrifices of the Great War. Incredibly a year has nearly gone by already and shortly we will be approaching the first anniversary.

Last year we only had a temporary commemorative plaque, but as now we have a fine stone plaque in place we feel it appropriate that we should use the first anniversary of the blessing of the windows, to unveil the new plaque. Hitherto it has not been practical to do so. We expect Lord and Lady Guthrie to be present and the Portuguese Ambassador has been invited.

This will take place during mass at 12 noon, after which we have been generously invited to take part in a buffet lunch provided by the nearby Royal British Legion. It is important that we know how many would like to come to lunch. There is no charge for the lunch but there will be a pay bar. A collection will be taken at mass for a Portuguese charity yet to be determined.

We hope you will be able to come and do please let me know your availability to attend. If you wish to bring a guest it is important that you inform us too. I look forward to hearing from you.

With every best wish

Ulick Loring (Rev)