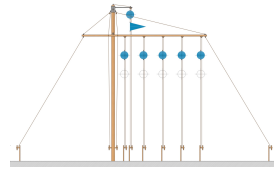


THE FRIENDS OF THE LINES OF TORRES VEDRAS

NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2021



CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

2020 saw Covid restrictions force us to postpone our two main planned events which we hope to rerun this year, lockdowns permitting - details below. Each year we continue to aim to hold an event on or around 1st May (the first Duke's birthday) and in October, for the commemoration of Lines Day.

However, the lockdown did make us think about alternatives and we started the on line Zoom talks programme, something we ought to have thought of before, and which I am sure we will continue even when things start to get back to normal. There are details below of forthcoming events. If you would like to contribute a talk to the series, please let us know, as all offers are welcome.

Also welcome are volunteers to join our committee, meetings have become a lot easier as we are able to hold our meetings on Zoom. We are extremely pleased that Marcus and Rui are joining us, they both have a lot of knowledge and experience to offer. I hope to see you in person or on line this year!

Andrew Dismore
Chairman. Friends of the Lines of Torres Vedras

EVENTS UPDATE 2020-21

Covid-19 caused the cancellation of all physical events in 2020 and the start of 2021. Like many other organisations we have moved to providing some online content for those interested in the Lines.

The Friends have now run three online presentations:

- In October 2020, Mark S Thompson offered 'Some thoughts on the Lines of Torres Vedras' after the AGM.
- In December 2020, Bob Burnham talked about 'The destruction of Arruda; the Light Division out of control'.
- In February 2021, Anthony Gray talked about 'Civilians casualties during the 3rd French invasion of Portugal'.

The 'Napoleonicist'

(<https://anchor.fm/the-napoleonicist>)

Andrew Dismore and Mark S Thompson spoke to Zack White about the Friends and the Lines. There is a link to the podcast on the home page of our website.

Royal Artillery Historical Society.

Mark S Thompson, spoke on the Lines of Torres Vedras for the group on 15 December 2020.

Redcoat History

(www.redcoathistory.com)

Mark S Thompson spoke to Christian Parkinson about the Lines for his podcast series. This should be out in March 2021. Further details will be published when the podcast is available.

EVENTS FOR 2021 (Covid permitting)

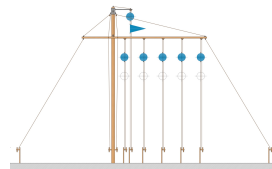
We hope the two events cancelled in 2020 can be run in 2021 although it is too early to confirm this.

'Walk with Wellington' in London, Summer 2021. We hope to run this event in July 2021 subject to lifting of Covid restrictions.

The original outline is described below. We hope to retain this programme.

- *Breakfast at 08:00* near Battersea Park where he fought his only duel on behalf

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of King's College when he was insulted by the Earl of Winchilsea.

- *From The Wellington Arch at 10:00 to walk from Piccadilly to the Household Cavalry Museum, stopping off at a number of locations frequented by Wellington, in off duty mode, to explore some of the more unusual and unknown haunts of his private and personal life.*
- *Visit the Major General's Office at Horse Guards from 12:30 to 13:30 sharp.*
- *A three course lunch at "The Wellington," in The Strand opposite King's College from 14:00.*
- *After lunch, a visit to King's College, and from there to the Crypt at St Paul's Cathedral where Wellington lies.*
- *The day will end with tea in the Crypt at St Paul's the site where the alliance between Britain and Portugal was formalised in the Treaty of London on 16 June 1373.*

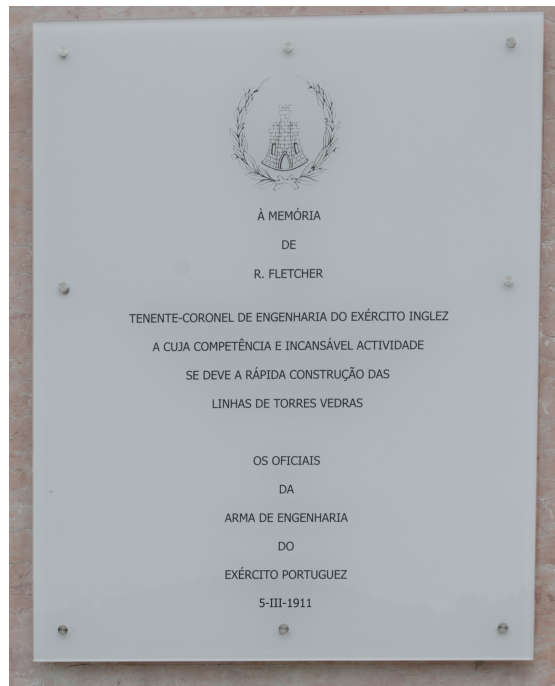
The cost of the tour, excluding public transport to be confirmed. This will include a continental breakfast, entry to the Household Cavalry Museum, a set three course lunch, but not beverages, and a cup of tea in the Crypt of St Paul's Cathedral.

Portugal visit, October 2021.

In the autumn, we hope to again visit the Lines for the Lines of Torres Vedras day on 20 October. We expect to join the official dinner in Torres Vedras.

The outline proposal is: Day 1 - to arrive with a welcome dinner in the evening in Torres Vedras.

Day 2 - we will try to visit different forts from the previous trip, plus the Fletcher Monument at Alhandra where the Friends paid to replace the stolen plaques. Lunch is included.



New memorial plaque to Richard Fletcher RE.

Day 3 - we will visit museums and attend municipality events, including the official dinner on the evening.

Day 4 - we will visit the battlefields of Roliça and Vimeiro, with lunch en route. In the evening a wine-tasting, with snacks. An option is being considered to offer an add-on day 5, to visit Sintra.

Cost to be confirmed, to include four nights' accommodation, 2 dinners, 2 lunches, the wine tasting and the coach. Travel to Portugal is NOT included. Places will be limited to 20.

Forthcoming On-Line events 2021

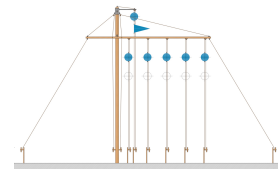
30 March 2021. Dr Will Fletcher will present on Command & Control in Wellington's Army, 1810-11.

27 April 2021. Zack White will present on Crime and Punishment in the British Army.

18 May 2021. Maj-General (Ret'd) Rui Moura will present on the 'claimed' massacre of French invalids in Coimbra in October 1810.

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22 June 2021. Dr Mark S Thompson will present on the telegraphs used in the defence of Lisbon.

Further events are planned throughout 2021. Details to follow.

FRIENDS COMMITTEE

We would like to welcome two new members to the committee:

Marcus Cribb who has been manager of Apsley House and Wellington Arch for over 3 years. He previously worked at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, The Tank Museum and on HMS Warrior 1860. A serving Army reservist and an enthusiastic historian who is currently researching the Second Battle of Porto for an upcoming book.

Major-General (Ret'd, Portuguese Army) Rui Moura who is also an accomplished historian with a deep interest and knowledge of this period and has written many publications including a history of the 14th Infantry Regiment which he used to command.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We currently have 56 paying members.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE.

Website

Development of the website continues. Further maps have been added to help users navigate the forts on the Lines

Facebook

The Facebook page continues to be active with many contributions from the UK and Portugal. Membership has increased to 285.

Twitter

The new Twitter feed has 185 followers and is still growing.

Invade!

The third issue of this magazine has now been published by the *Rota Histórica das Linhas de Torres*. This is an excellent bilingual publication to promote tourism on the Lines. There is a link to it on the Friends website.

OTHER RELATED EVENTS

New Book on the Lines

Mark S Thompson is currently writing a book on the Lines. 'Wellington and the Defence of Lisbon' will be published by Helion in Autumn 2021.

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/>) Twitter or Facebook pages.