

ERRATA

The following report was inadvertently omitted from the printed version of Despatch.

Museum of Lancashire - Gallery Developments and Research: Stephen Bull (Curator)

Since the last edition considerable progress has been made on the development of the Museum of Lancashire World War I gallery that is a significant part of the refurbished Preston museum reopening in 2011. Upwards of 200 First World War artefacts relating to local regiments and the county of Lancashire have now been identified, and some are already undergoing conservation at the Museum Services 'Lancashire Conservation Studios'. Many of the items making up the new display have not been on public exhibition before - and others have not been seen for some time.

In addition to drawing on Lancashire Museums own collections loans have kindly been offered by a number of other North West regimental museums. Amongst these pieces are a rare British 'bomber's waistcoat' from the Museum of the Manchester's, and a German MG 08 captured by the Accrington Pals originating from the Queen's Lancashire collection at Fulwood. From the new Lancashire Fusiliers Museum at Bury come a number of exhibits including a 100 lb aircraft bomb, due to be displayed alongside one of the first uniforms of the new RAF, formed from the Royal Flying Corps in 1918. The Imperial War Museum, which is itself beginning to plan

for the 100th anniversary events of 2014 to 2018, has agreed to the loan of the only known 'West Spring Gun'. This metal grenade catapult, powered by a battery of enormous springs, was issued to divisions at the front in 1915.

Another product of ongoing local cooperation with the Imperial War Museum is the new book *Trench: A History of Trench Warfare on the Western Front* due to be published on both sides of the Atlantic early in October. This colourful 270 page hard backed Osprey volume looks not only at trench life and trench maps of significant parts of the front, but draws on many period photographs and also includes new material illustrating the development of the field work itself during the course war. Advanced orders for 'Trench' by Stephen Bull can be made on Amazon.co.uk