

**The Castle and Regimental Museum, Royal Monmouthshire Royal
Engineers (Militia)**

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| Reference code: | DLums |
| Title: | A A M Lumsdaine, historical research papers on the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers Militia |
| Dates: | c.1955-c.1980 |
| Level of Description: | Fonds |
| Extent and medium: | 3 boxes |
| Name of creator(s): | Archibald Arthur Montague Lumsdaine, 1896 - 1980 |

Administrative/Biographical History

Archibald Arthur Montague Lumsdaine was born in India in 1896. He served as an officer in the First World War, being commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the East Yorkshire Regiment and subsequently promoted to Lieutenant in the Lincolnshire Regiment. He worked in Australia in the 1930s, and during the Second World War he was granted a commission as captain in the Australian Army Reserve of Officers.

In 1955, Lumsdaine began working as a civilian at Great Castle House, Monmouth, the Headquarters of the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia). Here he was a storekeeper in the clothing section of the Regimental stores, remaining in this post for a number of years. After his retirement, he continued an unofficial association with the Regiment and Great Castle House.

Lumsdaine was very interested in military history, and carried out a great deal of research, considering himself the historian of the Regiment. He was probably instrumental in saving some records from destruction, but he also removed some items from the Regimental records, and gave them – without permission and without the knowledge of the Regiment – to a number of different repositories. He corresponded widely with former members of the Regiment and with former members of the German armed forces as well as with a number of museums and archive repositories, gathering a considerable amount of information, especially about the First World War. He also carried out extensive research in the original records which he found in Great Castle House, although in so doing he usually disturbed the original order of the records, and frequently re-arranged them

alongside his own notes. His research was of variable quality, and none resulted in any publications.

Lumsdaine died in 1980, in Penyfai Hospital, Abergavenny.

Sources: Death certificate of A A M Lumsdaine; *The Army List* 1915-1918; Army Officers' files, file on Captain A M Lumsdaine(National Archives, reference WO339/5187); letters among the research notes and in collections in the Royal Engineers Museum and Library (ref. Regimental Histories RMonRE(M)) and the Imperial War Museum (ref. AD); and information from people who knew him.

Archival History

Some of the research papers seem to have been kept with the Regimental Archive in Great Castle House. Some were given to the Gwent Record Office, and subsequently transferred to the museum. Others were given to the Royal Engineers Museum and Library at Chatham, and were also later returned to the museum.

Immediate source of acquisition or transfer:

The Regiment, 1978 .

Gwent Record Office, 2009

Royal Engineers Museum and Library, 2009

Scope and Content:

Research notes and correspondence concerning details of actions in the First World war; various items of research in the history of the RMonRE(M); and research notes on the history of the 43rd Regiment of Foot (Monmouthshire Light Infantry)

Appraisal, destruction and scheduling Information:

Research notes and correspondence judged to be of no value have been destroyed.

Accruals:

None expected

System of arrangement:

The research notes are arranged by subject: research into the First World War; general research on the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers; research on the 43rd Regiment of Foot (Monmouthshire Light Infantry)

Conditions governing access:

Open

Conditions governing reproduction:

Documents may usually be copied, but permission should first be obtained from the museum trustees or honorary curator.

Language/scripts of material:

Mostly English, some German and French

Physical characteristics and technical requirements:

Folders

Finding aids:

An item-level list is available

Existence and location of originals:

Lumsdaine made multiple copies of much of his research work, and deposited the copies in a number of different repositories. It is not always possible to determine which version is an original and which is a copy.

Publication note:**Notes area:**

The 'former ref.' column records:

- for items which have always been held by the Museum, the former reference given to the item (usually D + number)
- items returned from the Gwent Record Office are noted as 'Gwent'
- items returned from the Royal Engineers Museum and Library at Chatham are noted as 'Chat.'

Archivists note:

Description compiled by Rosemary Boyns in accordance with ISAD(G), March 2009, as part of a project part-funded by the Welsh Assembly Government through the Museums Small Grants Fund, and by the Army Museums Ogilby Trust. Revised July 2011.

| Level | Reference | Former ref. | Title/description, extent and medium and related records | Dates |
|--------|-----------|-----------------|---|-------------------|
| Series | DLums/1 | | Research notes relating to the First World War Lumsdaine's overriding interest was in the history of the First World War, and he made contact with a large number of people, both in the UK and in Europe, in an attempt to establish precise details of actions. One of his main correspondents was Dr. Alfred Caenepeel, of Ypres. Not all of Lumsdaine's First World War research related to the RMonRE(M). | c.1955- c.1980 |
| Item | DLums/1/1 | D53 (part) | Notes on RMonRE(M) operations in France, 1914-1918 Includes transcripts of some original records now lost. Topics covered include: 'Sausage Valley railway', 'Family side to life in 14/18', 'Tilloy, Blangy, Telegraph Hill' (1 bundle) | |
| Item | DLums/1/2 | Gwent and Chat. | Correspondence with German army officers Lumsdaine corresponded with a number of former German army officers concerning details of operations in World War 1 in which the RMonRE(M) were involved. He deposited one bundle of this correspondence in the Gwent Record Office, from where it was subsequently returned to the museum. He deposited another bundle of the correspondence in the Royal Engineers Museum and Library; photocopies of this material were later obtained for the museum, and the originals were subsequently returned to the museum. (3 folders, German and English) | 1961-1967 |
| Item | DLums/1/3 | Gwent | Copies of plans of German trenches, battle of Ypres, 1914-1915, with notes Sent to Lumsdaine by German army officers with whom he was corresponding; notes written by Lumsdaine on the envelope in which the plans were contained (1 bundle of plans, photocopies; 1 envelope) | c.1960- 1970 |
| Item | DLums/1/4 | Gwent | Aerial Photograph of Ypres Salient, 1915, and accompanying notes | 1915-1976 |

Photograph taken by German Flying Corps officer, with features numbered and listed in accompanying notes; letter concerning the photograph from Dr. A G Caeruefall of Ypres; notes on the photograph written by Lumsdaine on envelope and folder in which it is contained.
(1 photograph, 3 papers, 1 envelope and 1 folder)

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| Item | DLums/1/5 | Gwent | Correspondence with Dr Alfred Caenepeel of Ypres Dr Caenepeel was an expert on World War 1 history, and became a friend of Lumsdaine's. The bundle includes two letters from Rose Cummings, of the Imperial War Museum (1 bundle French and English) | 1960-1974 |
| Item | DLums/1/6 | D482 | Notes on incident at Hebuterne village 1918 (2 papers, typescript; 2 papers, photocopies) | c. 1963 |
| Item | DLums/1/7 | Gwent | Notes on the Gallipoli Campaign (9 papers, typescript, with manuscript additions) | n.d. c.1955-1980 |
| Item | DLums/1/8 | | Letter concerning Captain H W Clarke Captain Clarke went to Gallipoli with No 5 Company RMonRE(M) (1 paper, typescript) | 1964 |
| Item | DLums/1/9 | D53 | Notes on the First Battalion the Monmouthshire Regiment at the Second Battle of Ypres (1 bundle) | c.1963- c.1972 |
| Item | Dlums/1/10 | D36 | Research notes 'Royal Monmouthshire RE Militia. Number 7 Company. The Battle of Hebuterne during the Easter Week-end March 1918' (1 folder; removed from original ring-binder for conservation reasons) | 1960-1966 |
| Item | Dlums/1/11 | D34 | Research notes 'Royal Monmouthshire RE Militia. Number 5 Company. 1915-1919. Gallipoli Peninsula. Palestine Campaign. Flanders and France' (1 folder; removed from original ring-binder for conservation reasons) | 1960-1966 |
| Item | Dlums/1/12 | D39 | Research notes 'A Collection of the personal stories of all ranks of the Royal | c.1954- c.1970 |

Monmouthshire Militia during the 1914/1919 war. Photographs. Maps and Imperial German Army battle orders'

(1 folder; removed from original ring-binder for conservation reasons; includes envelope attached to the cover of the ring-binder, which was found to be empty)

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| Item | DLums/1/13 | D135 and D248 | <p>Miscellaneous papers relating to research into the RMRE(M) in the First World War. Includes letters from André Coilliot and material on the Red House/Hasler House operations (1 bundle)</p> <p>Related material Lumsdaine also gathered together original records relating to the First World War which he found in the Regimental Archive, re-ordered it, and added his own notes. This material, which is mainly original records with a small amount of Lumsdaine's notes added, can be found in the Regimental Archive at RMRE/24.</p> | c.1954- c.1970 |
| Series | DLums/2 | | Miscellaneous Research Notes relating to RMonRE(M) | |
| Item | DLums/2/1 | Gwent | <p>Notes on Individuals Notes and correspondence concerning 'Brushwood Jones', Sapper Chard, Private Samuel Nutland, and Surgeon Major Wilson (1 folder)</p> | 1972 |
| Item | DLums/2/2 | Gwent | <p>'Henry Fortune Powell and Two Pocket Pistols' Notes and correspondence (1 bundle)</p> | 1966-1973 |
| Item | DLums/2/3 | Gwent | <p>'The Tudor Family 1657 also the Clark Family schoolteachers' Notes and correspondence (1 bundle)</p> | 1967-1972 |
| Item | DLums/2/4 | Gwent | <p>Notes and Correspondence concerning the diary of Captain Thomas Morgan Captain Thomas Morgan of The Hill, Abergavenny served in the Royal Monmouth and Brecon Militia during the Napoleonic Wars. His diary covers the years 1813-1816.</p> | n.d c.1955- 1980 |

A transcript of the diary is held in the museum
(ref. E1)
(1 bundle)

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| Item | DLums/2/5 | Gwent | Notes and Correspondence on James Cole James Cole was RQMS to RMonRE(M), 1867-1898 (1 bundle) | c.1971- c.1972 |
| Item | DLums/2/6 | Chat. | Correspondence and notes concerning the Colours of the Regiment and the name of its first Commanding Officer (11 papers) | 1975 |
| Item | DLums/2/7 | D76 | Research Notes 'Listen to Orders 1805 - 1815' Notes and comments on the Royal Monmouthshire Militia Order Books, 1805-1815 (1 folder; removed from original ring-binder for conservation reasons) | c.1960- c.1970 |
| Item | DLums/2/8 | D77 | Research Notes 'Adjutant's Letter Books' Notes, comments and some transcripts on the Adjutant's Letter Books (1 folder; removed from original ring-binder for conservation reasons) | c.1960- c.1970 |
| Item | DLums/2/9 | D78 | Research Notes 'On the conversion of the Royal Monmouth Light Infantry Militia into Engineer Militia' Also includes notes on the First World War and other areas of research (1 folder; removed from original ring-binder for conservation reasons) | c.1960- c.1970 |
| Item | DLums/2/10 | D32 | Research notes 'Royal Monmouth Light Infantry Militia 1800 – 1877' (1 folder; removed from original ring-binder for conservation reasons) | 1955-1966 |
| Item | DLums/2/11 | D40 | Binder of research notes 'Monmouth Antiquarian Society Library. Miscellaneous. Letters and historical unpublished data. Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers Militia' (1 folder; removed from original ring-binder for conservation reasons) | c.1964- c.1966 |
| Item | DLums/2/12 | D136 | Research notes and correspondence on the history of Great Castle House (1 folder) | 1971 |

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| Item | DLums/2/13 | | Notes and sketch on uniform (1 bundle) | c.1955- c.1970 |
| Series | DLums/3 | | Research notes on the 43rd Regiment of Foot (Monmouthshire Light Infantry) | |
| Item | DLums/3/1 | D47 | Extracts and notes on the history of the 43rd Regiment of Foot (Monmouthshire Light Infantry) Extracts copied from '43 rd Regiment Monmouthshire Light Infantry' by Sir George Augustus Levinge, published 1868; copy of notes by E.T. Davies (1 notebook, manuscript; 2 papers, typescript) | n.d c.1955- 1980 |
| Item | DLums/3/2 | D45 | '43rd Regiment Kaffir War 1851-1853' Notes (1 folder) | n.d c.1955- 1980 |
| Item | DLums/3/3 | D572 | Extracts from 'The Waikato War' Concerning the activities of the 43 rd Regiment in New Zealand in the 1860s (1 bundle) | 1963 |
| Item | DLums/3/4 | Gwent | 'South African War. Bugler Gilmore, Jamieson Raid, Sapper Chard, Percy Freeman' Notes and correspondence (1 bundle) | 1962- c.1967 |
| Item | DLums/3/5 | Gwent | Letter concerning the Defence of Gibraltar by the 43rd Regiment (3 papers, typescript) | 1962 |
| Series | DLums/4 | | Papers relating to Lumsdaine's research activities | |
| Item | DLums/4/1 | Chat. | 'Recording the RMRE Story' . Article by Lumsdaine in the Monmouthshire Beacon, 20 Aug (1 newscutting) | 1965 |
| Item | DLums/4/2 | Chat. | Correspondence between Lumsdaine and the Royal Engineers Historical Society, Chatham (later the Royal Engineers Museum and Library), mainly concerning material that Lumsdaine deposited with the Society. | 1965 |

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| Item | DLums/4/3 | D55 | (Material subsequently returned to the Castle and Regimental Museum) (1 bundle) Correspondence concerning a miniature of an unknown officer (1 bundle) | 1973-1975 |
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