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The Rifles Wardrobe and Museum Trust

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*Custodian of the Living Memory of
The 49th, 62nd, 66th and 99th Regiments of Foot
The Royal Berkshire Regiment The Wiltshire Regiment
The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire)
The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment
The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Light Infantry
Registered Charity No: 272051*

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From: Colonel (Retired) MJ Cornwell OBE
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

The Museum initially opened in 1982 with the title of "Redcoats in the Wardrobe", it then being the museum of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire). With the Defence Reviews of the early 1990's and those of 2006/07 the Regiment amalgamated on each occasion and has now become part of The Rifles. As such the Museum is now called The Rifles (Berkshire and Wiltshire) Museum, to denote its continued heritage of the infantry regiments of the two counties.

In 2001, the then Curator, David Chilton, developed a web site in partnership with Datasouth UK and it was with Datasouth that an upgrade was completed in 2006/07. So when the Trustees sanctioned a further upgrade in 2009 it was to Datasouth UK that we turned for the technical advice and input.

As the present Manager/Curator, my technical abilities are not as strong as David Chilton's and as leader of the Museum's team I have relied on the advice and technical expertise of Datasouth UK to explain and define what could and could not be achieved. The Museum's team has been a small band of keen and enthusiastic volunteers who have worked hard to try to achieve the timelines set out in the Website Specifications.

In these financially trying and challenging times Datasouth UK have worked with the Museum team and consulted with us whenever there might have been technical matters that needed resolving to achieve the desired effect, or where we, the Museum, might have to reappraise our objectives. For the small Museum team it has been a steep learning curve but a large part of the rationale of using Datasouth UK was based on the long working relationship we have had with each other and we believe the quality of the finished product bears that trust out.

The co-operation between Datasouth and us, the client, has produced a fine and professional looking site providing our on-line visitors with a faster and more comprehensive search facility of our collection, which will make improvements to our on-line commissions. At the same time the behind the scene changes allow us the client to make editorial amendments much more easily than the previous web site.

For those of our small team involved in such a project for the first time we have found it a challenging and at times a trying experience. Without the guidance of an experienced and technically adept team from Datasouth UK we would not have achieved our objective. I believe that Datasouth UK have produced a model that will appeal to other museums.

M J Cornwell
28 April 2011