

# WHEN YOU GO HOME



**KOHIMA**  
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

The newsletter of The Kohima Educational Trust

NOVEMBER 2020 17th EDITION

## COVID-19 IN NAGALAND

In January 2020 the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of a new coronavirus disease, COVID-19, to be a public health emergency of international concern. With support from KET our sister organisation in Nagaland the Kohima Educational Society (KES) has been active on a number of levels to support efforts against the pandemic. We are very proud of the work our colleagues are undertaking to assist people at such a difficult time.

In the beginning, North East India was one of the least affected areas in the country, with the entire region marked in Green. Until mid-May, Nagaland was COVID-free. But the virus started making its appearance with the return of Nagas who had been stranded outside the State, with the bulk being students studying in various parts of mainland India. Initially the COVID-19 positive cases started in a trickle but soon began to increase in number. As of October 14, the positive cases in Nagaland were 7363, with Dimapur (the commercial capital) and Kohima (the political capital) presenting the worst case scenarios – together accounting for nearly 50% of the total positive cases. KES joined the state-wide relief fund by giving Rs 50,000 (just under £550) to the Nagaland Chief Minister's Relief Fund. As per report from the Nagaland Chief Minister's office, the money was distributed to District Councils and Municipalities with the bulk used to supply food to people in need and to those stranded by the lockdown including Naga students in various parts of India. It was also used to supply drinking water to residents in parts of Nagaland during the dry season.

KES was able to assist the people of Nagaland in two other ways during this difficult time. The first was through its annual Mind Your Health programme. Like many people in other parts of the world, Nagaland was facing its first serious pandemic in living memory. The people, particularly in the rural interior areas, were terrified, made worse by their ignorance of the virus and how to deal with it. Through its Mind Your Health Programme, conducted by KES Chairman Dr P. Ngully, basic health education was imparted to rural tribe communities in Kiphire District, on the Indo-Myanmar border. After a long time, representatives of four estranged tribes came together to take part in the programme and we hope that this will provide the beginnings of reconciliation and rapprochement among them.



The KES played another significant role in the health scenario in the State in partnership with the Nagaland Medical Council (NMC). As a past president of the Nagaland Doctors Association, Dr Ngully was able to contact the officials of the NMC and together they were able to garner volunteer support from retired medical doctors and medical students. Together they proposed to the Nagaland Health Department the need to open temporary clinics as Outdoor Patients Departments in various districts to treat the non-COVID suffering public patients. The Government agreed as the health department had declared all the District Hospitals as COVID-19 Hospitals and there was no space to treat "normal" patients. Thus, when their help was most needed, the KES/NMC team helped to prevent the health care system in the State from becoming overwhelmed.

The other major contribution of the KES was the distribution of the KET student scholarship to 435 needy families. The early complete lockdown in the whole of India made things very difficult for everyone. Even after the gradual lifting of the complete lockdowns, travel bans remained. Meanwhile, no incomes were available and most families were in dire need. With the active collaboration of the KES bankers in Kohima, Mhasialie Solo, the KES Manager, was able to reach all the 435 scholars in the list. This was a great achievement at a time of great need.

Sadly, of the deaths from Kohima, one has been Mr C. M. Chang, the Minister for Environment and Forests, who also became the first Naga legislator to succumb to the virus. Earlier in 2015, as Minister for Education, Mr Chang was kind enough to publish his message of support for KET/KES in our publication "Key Words: A Glossary of Sixteen Nagaland Languages". In his message he had lauded the KET/KES for its services to the people of Nagaland. He called Key Words "another milestone in the history of Nagaland" recommending it to everyone and encouraged "our young children to...learn each other's languages so that there is better understanding among our people". In him, we have lost a friend. On behalf of the KET/KES, the KES Chairman has sent a letter of condolence to the bereaved family.

War | Memory | Gratitude



# WRITERS' WORKSHOP FOR NEW AND ASPIRING WRITERS



From Left: Dr Aküm Longchari, Dr P Ngully, Easterine Kire, Kethoser Kevichüsa and Pradip Phanjoubam (Morung Photo)

Part of the work we support is the new programme of writers' workshops, the first of which was held in November 2019. They are aimed at encouraging both new and aspiring writers throughout Nagaland. In part, we hope this will also support the Gordon Graham Prize for Naga Literature in that there might be more entries from new authors.

KES welcomed eight speakers who presented nine papers over the course of two days. The workshop was the first of its kind in Nagaland and the various sessions were lively and usually exceeded their allotted times. The speakers came from different walks of life but all well-known personalities and specialized in their fields. They consisted of writers and journalists, publishers, public speakers, and intellectuals from Nagaland and also from the neighbouring State of Manipur. They included KES Chairman, Dr P. Ngully. Since the Workshop, two of the speakers have joined the KES Executive Committee. A soft copy of the workshop report as well as a video report are available. Full coverage can be read/viewed on our website [www.kohimaeducationaltrust.net](http://www.kohimaeducationaltrust.net)

## MIND YOUR HEALTH WORKSHOPS

KES Chairman Dr P Ngully conducted this year's programme of workshops in February, fortunately just a few weeks prior to the lockdown which started in March. Dr Ngully travelled to a remote area of Nagaland called Kiphire District, where the course was attended by four tribes/sub-tribes in the region – the Sangtam, Yimchunger, Thikhir and Sema – in order to promote awareness of good health and hygiene practices. These workshops, held annually, are aimed at women leaders within these far-flung rural communities. Dr Ngully said: "Our Mind Your Health workshops went very well as we were able to bring four conflicting communities under our platform, which I hope will open the way for reconciliation."

The workshops were completed successfully and the following resolutions were made:

1. To promote immunisation.
2. To promote ante-natal care for all pregnant mothers.
3. To promote child birth in hospitals (Institutional Delivery).
4. To promote mental health by increasing love and reducing shame.
5. To promote initiatives for improvement of the health care centres.
6. To promote good rapport and healthy relationships with health care providers.

This year, each participant on the course received a certificate of achievement confirming what they have been taught, and recognising them as "Wellness Ambassadors" of KET and KES



Dr P Ngully (back, L) with the ladies receiving their medical kits



The ladies of Kiphire District receiving their course certificates



Dr P Ngully conducts the Mind Your Health workshop in Kiphire District, Nagaland



# SCHOLARSHIPS 2020

Our scholarship award ceremony sadly had to be cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 crisis. As our readers know, the ceremony is an important and moving highlight of the year for KET/KES and the multitudes of scholars and their families. Instead, our general manager in Kohima, Mhasisalie Solo, spent the months of the rainy season reaching all 435 students to ensure that they had safely received their money. We thank him for this tremendous achievement.

We would very much like to be able to sustain the level of scholarships we award each year but to do so we are reliant on the generosity of our supporters - for which we are enormously grateful. The money you donate will allow the student to attend a privately funded Higher Secondary School by covering not all, but many of the fixed costs. There are just over 400 recognised and permitted private higher secondary schools in Nagaland, many funded by churches.

Every donor receives, in normal times, a letter and photograph from the student(s) sponsored and many donors have taken great pleasure in forming a pen-pal style relationship with the students.



After fourteen years, we have had to increase the amount we ask for each scholarship from £100 per annum to £125. We ask that the initial scholarship is a minimum of three years so that the child is guaranteed at least three years of support, from year 8 through to the end of year 10.

After that time, should you so wish to continue sponsoring the same student, there is an opportunity to donate a further two-year scholarship to take the student through to the end of year 12. Of course, should you choose an initial five-year scholarship that would be ideal as we are then able to commit to those students through to year 12.

Each student is given the money one year at a time and it is allocated to cover the costs of admission fees, books and monthly school fees. Each school's costs vary but a typical example of how this is broken down is £75.00 per annum for school fees and £70.00 per annum for the General Admission fee and books: total £145.00 per annum for each student.

A scholarship is easily donated by going to our website [www.kohimaeducationaltrust.net](http://www.kohimaeducationaltrust.net) and going to the donate button. Alternatively, please find an enclosed leaflet and order form which can be returned to KET at your convenience.



## LETTERS FROM KOHIMA

**From the Headmaster of Baptist High School, Tening:**

***"On behalf of my students and their families our sincere thanks and appreciation of your scholarships. They are a great relief and privilege for the families. For our students in remote areas receiving a scholarship is a Dream Destiny. Thank you."***

**And from typically grateful parents:**

***"Thank you Sir. We have received the scholarship of Bwewa Semy at this very difficult time when we were struggling a lot. We pray that God may bless the person who made this arrangement for us. May God solve all your problems and give you a long life."***



Note: At the time of writing, there is only a partial re-opening of schools and then only for classes 9 to 12. This is subject to the parents giving their consent in writing, allowing their child to attend school to meet one to one with their teachers. Online classes and exams and tests are going on in every school for all classes .

Students are getting their assignments and homework via WhatsApp through their parents' smart phones wherever possible. Alternatively, there are also classes conducted via radio and local television networks.



# YORK 2020

We were incredibly disappointed to have to cancel the annual commemoration service in York this year. We did not want to let the moment go by without commemoration, particularly in the VJ75 year. Thanks to the help and encouragement of both the Dean and CO 2nd Signal Regiment we were able to conduct a more streamlined service, and were very glad of the opportunity to do so.

On 2 July at 11.00am the Dean and 2i/c 2nd Signal Regiment, Major Law, laid wreaths at the foot of the Kohima Memorial in Dean's Park, and the Dean gave a short address. As per the government guidelines, and in stark contrast to last year, the congregation was reduced to just six people.



The Dean, The Rt Revd Dr Jonathan Frost and Major Law 2i/c 2 Signal Regiment preparing to lay their wreaths.

The Garrison Sergeant Major of Imphal Barracks WO1 Brian Kiernan recited the stirring lines from Laurence Binyon's poem "For the Fallen". As ever, his beautiful Scottish lilt did exceptional justice to these words:

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them."

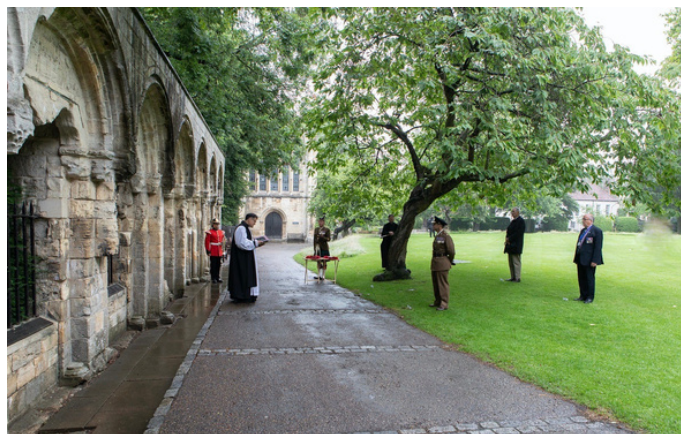
A two-minute silence was observed following the Last Post. Whilst a far cry from the service last year, the sentiment was heartfelt and there was strength in the silence as these few wonderful people helped us all remember loved ones who fought and died in the Battle of Kohima 76 years ago.

We were able to pay tribute to those 'who did not come home' and at the going down of the sun, we remembered them.

The full service can be viewed on our website:  
[www.kohimaeducationaltrust.net](http://www.kohimaeducationaltrust.net)



The Garrison Sergeant Major WO1 Brian Kiernan



The congregation of six observe the two minute silence.

## THE HARRY MAY AWARD



Sergeant Oliver receives the Harry May Award

At Imphal barracks after the Service, Professor Ronald Clayton, KET Trustee, presented the annual Sergeant Harry May Award for Leadership. This is an award given to a senior non-commissioned officer of the 2nd Signal regiment named after Sergeant Harry May who fought at Kohima with 2 Signal Regiment and was Mentioned in Despatches, having displayed initiative in the field of battle.

This year, we were delighted to present the award to Sergeant Christopher Oliver who was judged to display the leadership qualities necessary to "demonstrate the ability to organise, set objectives, take initiative and respond flexibly on a daily basis". It is not intended to reward performance on a single occasion or incident but across a full year whether in barracks, on exercise or on operations. The nominee must have demonstrated a commitment to the education of their subordinates whether through mentoring, training or by encouraging them in their personal development goals. They must always epitomise the Values and Standards of the British Army.

The award ceremony can be viewed in full on our website:  
[www.kohimaeducationaltrust.net](http://www.kohimaeducationaltrust.net)



# VJ DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY

We hope you all managed to watch the absolutely wonderful service held at the National Memorial Arboretum on August 15 to commemorate the day that the Second World War finally ended. HRH The Prince of Wales led the national two-minute silence at 11am.

Eminent historian, and KET Trustee, Dr Robert Lyman was a guest on the BBC presenters' platform. Many friends of KET were in attendance, including veteran John Giddings. Others were mentioned in the service, including our Naga friend, poet and author Easterine Kire, whose poem was recited by actress Shobna Gulati.

## From *In Grateful Dedication* by Easterine Kire

*Ours is a 'today' dearly ransomed in blood  
That freely flowed 'yesterday'.  
A sacrifice, the whole  
This tennis court was too poor to contain.  
Gallantly they laid their lives down.  
What price, what price a soul for the fair Kohima?  
To her, oh faithful dead,  
You can never never die while you live on in our hearts.  
And generation to generation repeats  
The story of your sacrifice.  
May the skies never close over you.  
May the rains woo you softly, the mountains be hushed before you.  
May you rest, in eternal peace.*

In the evening, the BBC staged a pre-recorded performance at Horseguards. Kohima was featured prominently throughout and it was a moving tribute to all who fought when the Kohima Epitaph was recited by HRH The Duke of Cambridge.

## THE NAGAS IN THE BATTLE OF KOHIMA



A new film, produced by Charles Chasie for the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Service's League to mark the 75th Anniversary of VJ Day is available to [view on YouTube](#). The film commemorates the Nagas who fought at Kohima and who served as stretcher-bearers and porters. The film includes an interview with KET founder Gordon Graham, taken from the film "Kohima: An Exploration in War Memory and Gratitude" which is available to purchase from our [online shop](#).

## THE ROAD TO KOHIMA

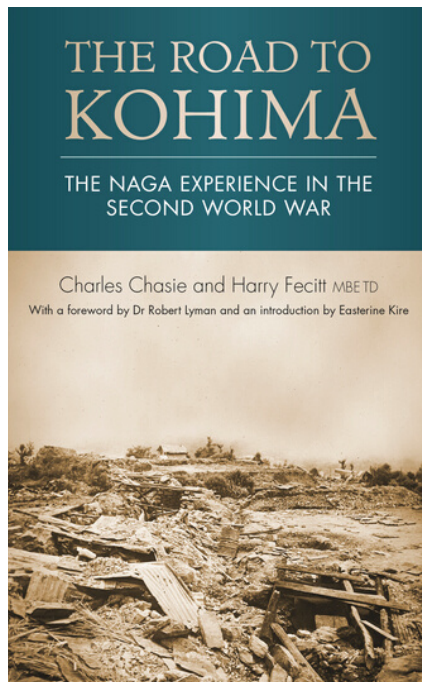
We are delighted to announce the UK publication in May this year of *The Road to Kohima* written by Charles Chasie and Harry Fecitt MBE TD. Previously published in Nagaland in 2018 it is a unique collaboration between a senior Naga journalist and a British historian, writing about the battles in Kohima and all the many other villages between there and Burma. The Introduction is written by Easterine Kire and the Foreword is written by Dr Robert Lyman.

Copies may be purchased from our website. Throughout December, **with every book order, we will supply a free handmade Christmas card!** [www.kohimaeducationaltrust.net](http://www.kohimaeducationaltrust.net)

**The following review of *The Road to Kohima* was written by Amanda Shapland, granddaughter of Brigadier Shapland, Commander of 6th Brigade, part of the 2nd Division at Kohima.**

*The Road to Kohima* sets out to give a voice to the Naga people who were unwittingly and unwillingly transported into a war that was none of their making. The Battle of Kohima raged from April to June 1944 when the British troops vanquished the larger Japanese army who fled back to Burma. This bloody and difficult battle, voted in 2013 as the greatest British battle, was fought over steep jungle hills in terrible conditions of monsoon and deprivation.

The Naga's familiarity with this unforgiving terrain gave the British an advantage when the Naga sided with them as porters, stretcher bearers, translators, fighters and guides. But this was bought at a cost to the Naga and their involvement is given in extraordinary detail following scholarly research by Chasie and Fecitt. The book is split into two parts. Charles Chasie, a renowned writer on Naga affairs gives the cultural background, a historical construct and the Naga experience during and after the battle.



Chasie found that many were 'already old and many were infirm' when interviewers arrived to listen and record the stories of veterans. So this is a timely book to capture memories of the battle and how the Naga rebuilt their lives and villages in the years after the conflict.

Harry Fecitt, a former British Army officer, writes from the military angle, explaining the events and how the Naga participated as soldiers. Fecitt writes that his wish is for the book to be available to all schools and colleges in Nagaland 'so that the memory of what the Naga people endured during World War II and of what Naga heroes and heroines accomplished will never be forgotten'. Chasie and Fecitt have certainly accomplished a book that will ensure that the Naga legacy in the battle will not be forgotten.

The book will fascinate anyone who has an interest in the Battle of Kohima or anthropology. Indeed anyone who has a wider interest in how a people came to be involved in a conflict that caused such devastation, responding with resilience and fortitude. But the book does not shy away from describing the difficulties that the Naga faced afterwards with their own fight to seek independence and their feelings of betrayal by the British.

Perhaps the quote given by Fecitt from General W. J. Slim, Commander of the British 14th Army, who said that 'their active help to us was beyond value or praise' sums up the debt that the British owe to the Naga. Does the book let us hear about the Battle of Kohima from the Naga viewpoint? Yes it does, with great enthusiasm and a broad sweep of narratives that helps us to understand how the Naga responded to the terrible outside threat to their lives. I have no hesitation in thoroughly recommending this very fine book.



# KEOGH TO KOHIMA

The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (2 PWRR), also known as 'The Tigers', have to be singled out for their fundraising endeavours. Last December, 25 serving members of the Corporals' Mess, together with five previous recipients of the Kohima Corporal award cycled from their Keogh Barracks in Surrey, 6092 virtual miles to Kohima.

Beginning at 8 o'clock in the morning, they cycled 200 miles each, non-stop for 24 hours. Their families came along in their numbers in to provide much needed refreshments. With a huge map on the wall, they charted their progress through the night. They raised just over £3,600 in the process!

With this money, KET is delighted to be able to award scholarships to TEN Naga children entering year 8 next year.



Members of the Corporals' Mess  
2 PWRR on their state of the art bikes

Our thanks go, in particular, to Warrant Officer Jon O'Neill whose energy and enthusiasm made this event possible and urged his team on to such enormous success. We are delighted to be able to say that, whilst Jon has moved on now to other roles in the army, he has agreed to become our Military Ambassador with a view to advising us in the future in reaching out to other military regiments whose antecedents played a part in the battle of Kohima.



WO1 Jon O'Neill (right) cycles from Keogh to Kohima

# PRUDENTIAL LONDON-SURREY BIKE RIDE



Charles Barclay on the beach in Dunwich after cycling 120 miles to raise over £2000 for KET

And talking of bicycle rides, Charles Barclay raised over £2,100 cycling 120 miles on behalf of KET in the virtual **Prudential London-Surrey Bike Ride** on 15 August. Like so many events it was both postponed and run individually allowing entrants to make their own route in their own time.

On 15 August 2020, exactly 75 years after VJ Day, Charles cycled 120 miles from London to Dunwich, through the Essex and Suffolk countryside following the route of the Dunwich Dynamo Night Ride, finishing on the beach at Dunwich.

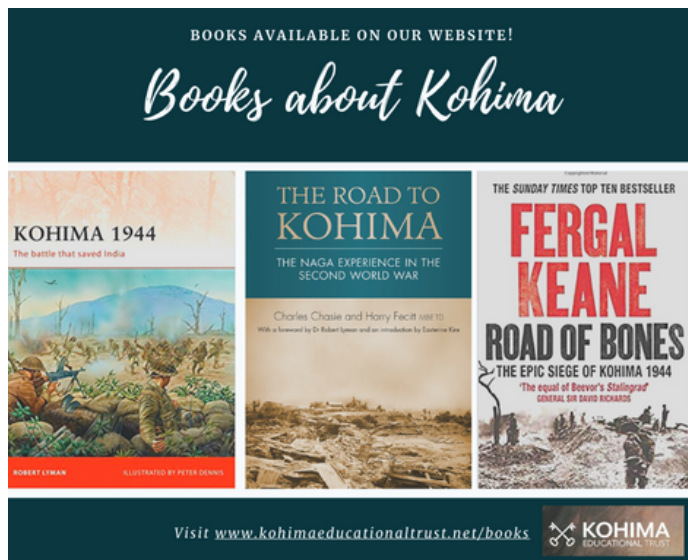
Whilst raising money for KET, Charles was also cycling in memory of his uncle, also called Charles Barclay. He was killed fighting with the Royal Norfolks, alongside Capt John 'Jack' Randle VC (who was killed the very next day). They were positioned very near to where the Norfolk memorial (shown right) stands in Kohima to this day.



Lt Charles Barclay of the Royal Norfolk Regiment



# KET'S ONLINE SHOP



Please do take a look at our [online shop](http://www.kohimaeducationaltrust.net/books)! Not only does it have notable works on Kohima including signed copies of our trustee Dr Robert Lyman's "Kohima 1944" but also jewellery and Christmas cards, all handmade in Naga homes! Every purchase supports the work we do in Nagaland.



## THE KOHIMA MUSEUM

The Kohima Museum, situated in Imphal Barracks in York, was formed from an ad-hoc collection of assorted memorabilia held in 'The Kohima Room' at 2nd Division Headquarters at Imphal barracks in York. It was only opened each year at the Kohima Reunion weekend.

After the 'Kohima Room' was taken into use as the GOC's briefing room, the collection had to be put into the QM's store until Major Robin McDermott, who was the designated 'Kohima Officer' was eventually able to find a home for it in the old Civil Service canteen. The canteen was in building 109! For those who may not be aware, Milestone 109 on the Kohima - Imphal road is where the 2nd British Infantry Division under command of Major General John Grover MC finally ended the Battle for control of the road and ended the siege of Imphal.

Initially the Museum was set up to tell the story of the 2nd Division from the years 1942 - 1946 with the main focus being the Battle of Kohima. In recent years, as the number of 2nd Division veterans faded away, the trustees broadened the scope of the collection to include the wider Burma Campaign. There are now small displays on Chindits and the Royal Airforce as well as some of the other formations which constituted the 14th Army.

The Kohima Museum is formally accredited under the Arts Council of England (ACE), and is the only museum in the whole country to focus entirely on the Burma Campaign. We are also the longest existing of just three museums known globally to have this focus, the other two being in India.

## FUNDRAISING BY OUR SUPPORTERS!



KET is delighted to share news of fundraising efforts by personnel based at RAF Marham in Norfolk. Wg Cdr Jim Furness has supported KET over the last few years, and offered to produce 3D printed models of the new F-35 aircraft which he made into rather beautiful Christmas baubles! These were sold to friends and family over the Christmas holiday season. In total he raised over £400, more than enough to fund a 3-year scholarship in Kohima. We are delighted to confirm that the Furness Scholarship was awarded to Tohuka, a young Sema boy living in a remote village called Pughoboto where he is in year 8 at the New Foundation School. This year Jim is working on a new Christmas decoration based on the design of the Cross Keys which we will make available on our website.



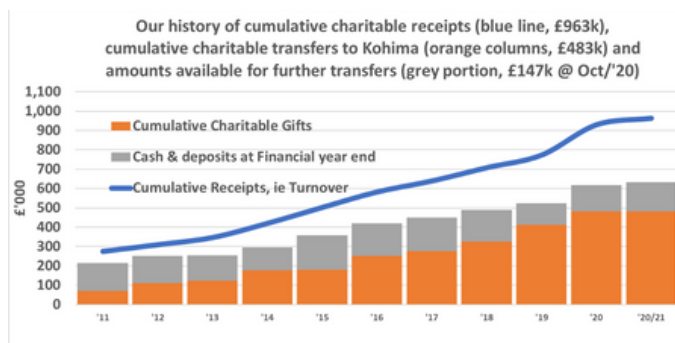
The work being carried out at the museum by the volunteer staff is ongoing as more ways of displaying the artefacts are sought in order to tell the story of the Burma Campaign more effectively. Recent artefacts donated include a Padre's stole donated by the family of the regimental Padre of an Artillery Regiment. We also received a loincloth (unused) which belonged to an ex-POW and a pair of Japanese split toe boots. These are now displayed within the museum together with Japanese swords and Gurkha Kukris

In 2018, the Museum published a small book of contemporary poems. Almost all of the poems are attributed to the men of the 2nd British Infantry Division who fought at Kohima and beyond. The book was edited by the curator, Bob Cook who is also a KET Trustee and by Robin McDermott who was the first curator of the museum and a Museum Trustee. Copies can be purchased from the Museum [kohimamuseum@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kohimamuseum@yahoo.co.uk) or from the KET website [www.kohimaeducationaltrust.net](http://www.kohimaeducationaltrust.net)

Currently the Kohima museum is preparing for all of the 2D collection to be sent off to be digitised. This is a program funded by the [Army Museums Ogilby Trust](http://www.armymuseumsogilbytrust.org) (AMOT). These items will be away for about 3 months and afterwards will be available on a Cloud Platform hosted by AMOT and be accessible for anyone who wishes to conduct a search. The Kohima Museum is joining over 100 other military museums on this platform.

The Museum is only open by appointment which can easily be made by calling the Curator Bob Cook on 07974 672 151 or emailing [kohimamuseum@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kohimamuseum@yahoo.co.uk)

# FINANCIAL



Many of you will recall seeing the chart above before, as it aims to summarise the entire history of our charity's achievements; it is now up to date as at mid October. Since autumn 2019, we have been very fortunate to be beneficiaries of our founder's family legacies, which help account for the blue line showing a marked rise last financial year: at £963,000, our cumulative total donations received is tantalisingly close to the one million pound mark!

The orange column for the current financial year 2020-'21 shows that we have now transferred £483,000 to Kohima; this is likely to top the half million pound mark soon, especially as we currently have £147,000 in our bank accounts (the right hand grey portion), ready to meet our KES colleagues' budget for educational spending in Nagaland this coming year and thereafter.

As ever, it is testament to the generosity of all of you that we are able to report these figures of increasing funds raised and monies transferred to our Naga friends, as a "thank you" for all they did in the battle 76 years ago. All the charity's trustees in turn thank you for all your donations and standing orders which allow us to sustain our growth for the future.

For a more detailed look at our finances please visit our website [www.kohimaeducationaltrust.net](http://www.kohimaeducationaltrust.net) and go to About and Finances where our most recent statutory accounts can be viewed.

## KOHIMA BATTLEFIELD TOURS

Some of you will have been left disappointed this year when your trips were cancelled but we are all hoping that when a vaccine is found for COVID-19, we will be travelling once more.

Indus Experiences [www.indus experiences.co.uk](http://www.indus experiences.co.uk) are planning a trip to Kohima and Imphal next October (2021). An itinerary is available on their website. The curator of the Kohima Museum, Bob Cook, shares his extensive knowledge of the Battle of Kohima and the Forces involved, leading these tours out to Kohima and Imphal. This is generally a 10 - 12 day trip which takes in all of the major battle areas around Kohima.

If you are interested in joining this tour, or for more information, please contact the Museum at [kohimamuseum@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kohimamuseum@yahoo.co.uk) or call 07974 672 151.

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Tel: 07990 887287  
Email: [sylvia@kohimaeducationaltrust.org](mailto:sylvia@kohimaeducationaltrust.org)

## BEATAE MEMORIAE: BLESSED MEMORIES

It is ten years since we shared the moving story of Lance Sergeant Robert Hannay of the 1st Battalion The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, who was killed in action on 14th April 1944 in the first set-piece battle between the Japanese 31st Division and the British 2nd Division as it advanced to relieve the siege of Kohima.

Sergeant Hannay had married in 1938 and when his regiment embarked for India in April 1942 he left his wife Ellen who was working in a munitions factory in Scotland. News of his death in India was devastating for Ellen. Unable to work, and unwilling to face life in the house she had shared with Bob, she returned to live with her mother. Jim Gibson, son of Ellen's brother Joe, then a one-year-old, was told by his mother that he used to try and comfort Ellen in her desolation.



Ellen Hannay and Sergeant Robert Hannay

Some months after Bob's death, Ellen applied for a role in South East Asia with the Women's Voluntary Service - now the Royal Voluntary Service. Her first posting was Calcutta, where she immediately set about arranging a journey to Kohima to see Bob's grave. This was achieved with the help of friends in the Army and brought her great comfort.

It was the first of eight visits in the course of Ellen's long life. Her most difficult visit to Kohima was in 1985, because Nagaland had become a restricted area. She was then seventy years old. In 1989, the Royal British Legion started its annual pilgrimages to Kohima, six of which Ellen joined. She was a regular participant at the annual remembrance service at the Cenotaph and at the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall where, in 1989, wearing a specially-made dress with inserts of Cameron of Erich tartan, she led the first ever parade of war widows. Ellen Hannay never remarried. Her last pilgrimage to Kohima was in the year 2000. She died in April 2009 a few days before her 94th birthday.

It is also now ten years since Ellen's nephew Jim, the toddler who had comforted her in the first months of her bereavement, returned to Kohima, undertaking her final wish, that her ashes should be taken to Kohima and placed next to her husband's grave. Sergeant Hannay's headstone in Kohima war cemetery is inscribed with the words chosen by his widow "Beatae Memoriae: Quis Nos Separabit" (Blessed Memories: Who will separate us?)

The KET policy on Data Protection can be found on the website. For further information about the many KES/KET activities in Nagaland in operation and planned, please visit:

[www.kohimaeducationaltrust.net](http://www.kohimaeducationaltrust.net)  
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[Instagram.com/kohimaeducationaltrust](https://www.instagram.com/kohimaeducationaltrust)

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