

WHEN YOU GO HOME



The newsletter of the Kohima Educational Trust

NOVEMBER 2022 19th EDITION



Above: the Kohima Educational Trust scholars 2022

KET SCHOLARSHIPS 2022

It was a warm and windy day on March 25th 2022 when the Kohima Educational Society were able once again to hold the Trust's Annual Scholarship awards ceremony. After a gap of two years when Covid precautions had prevented this ceremony from taking place, we were thrilled to bring together over 350 students and their families.

For the last two years, our small but dedicated team in Kohima worked hard to reach out to all the students to ensure that they received their scholarship money for each year. Despite this, we know that communication was scant so it was wonderful this year to receive many letters and photos from the students themselves.

This year we awarded 83 new scholarships on top of the existing 272 ongoing scholarships. The presentation ceremony was held at The Heritage in Kohima and attended by over 500 people including students and their families. Also attending was KET Trustee and Kohima Museum Curator Bob Cook who led a group of visitors from the UK, descendants of veterans of the battle, some of whom were able to join Bob on stage to present the scholarships.

The programme started with a prayer by Dr. Kuokehebi Gwirie, advisory council member of Kohima Educational Society, followed by a welcome speech from Pheluophelie Kesiezie, a former chairman of KES. He explained how the scholarship award programme was started by Gordon Graham (Founder of Kohima Educational Trust) who visited Kohima and encouraged the scholars to work hard in their studies to achieve their goals.

One of the KET Scholarship recipients was M.Ethungbeni Ngullie who is just completing his five year scholarship. He spoke on behalf of all the KET Scholarship recipients. He told the assembled audience of the enormous appreciation felt by all students for the generous contributions made to them and continued by saying:

"All of your contribution is allowing us to make our dreams and goals to become a reality. We are all very privileged and humbled to receive this scholarship and even though we have nothing to give in return, you are all in our prayers and hope that these good deeds continue to move forward as a blessing for the deserving students in the future. Thank you Sponsors for your continued support, wishing you great success in life and Kudos! to all of the fellow recipients who are here on this auspicious day to receive a scholarship."

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, over 1000 students have been sponsored over the last 15 years. Our programme includes children from throughout Nagaland and from all tribes. We have had to increase the cost to £375 per scholarship (each scholarship runs for 3 years) which helps cover the cost of entry fees, annual school fees, and uniforms. The students are put forward for this assistance by the local school or church and the money is given directly to the family.

If you would like to know more about this programme please go to our website page on [Scholarships](#)

War | Memory | Gratitude

GORDON GRAHAM PRIZE FOR NAGA LITERATURE 3RD AWARD 2021



Above: the judges, authors and KES members at the Book Exhibition

They say a tree is judged by the fruit it bears. This is true of the Gordon Graham Prize for Naga Literature, an initiative of the Kohima Educational Trust and our sister organisation the Kohima Educational Society (KES) in Nagaland. Despite its nascent beginning the award that invites entries for both fiction and non-fiction works has become a major literary event to which many aspiring Naga writers now look forward.

The Gordon Graham Prize for Naga Literature was instituted "to recognize and reward the Knowledge-keepers and Idea-givers in Naga Society and to encourage and promote reading and writing within the Naga community." It is intended to encourage rational discourse in Naga society and to help encourage the thinking elements to play a more effective role in the wider community and society.

The Kohima Educational Society named the prize after Gordon Graham in gratitude for initiating the Kohima Educational Trust and also for conceiving the Naga Literature Prize before he passed away.

The award was launched in 2018 and has now become quite well known in Nagaland. Many writers of fiction and non-fiction submitted their published work for the competition.

The 3rd GGPNL award ceremony was held at the end of November 2021 after a gap of one year following the COVID-19 pandemic and events to mark the occasion were spread out over the course of a week. There were two Essay Competitions for Naga Youth; a symposium and seminars for the Naga writers, academics and intellectuals along with both formal and informal interactions at the function venues in colleges and universities.

Book readings by Naga authors were followed by interviews with the public and by a book exhibition and sale of Naga authors and publishers.

The judges came from outside of Nagaland and were able to meet on the first day to compare notes and to decide on the winners. Dr Easterine Kire, a Naga international writer along with Professor Abu Naser Syed Ahmed, a three-term (retired) Director of Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development (OKDISCD), a non-Governmental premier research institute in North East India, and Associate Professor Vikas Kumar of Azim Premji University, Bangalore.

Among the prominent participants throughout the week were the Vice Chancellor of the North East Christian University (NECU), Professor Darlando Khathing, who was a key figure in the inauguration.

On the second day, the KES team and judges visited the North East Christian University at Dimapur to meet with the faculty and student body and give lectures. The team was warmly received by the university and the student participation was pronounced, with many questions asked of the speakers.

This was followed by a two-day book fair and a book reading session which was well attended by college and university students. The Morung Express newspaper and a local TV station did a marvellous job featuring GGPNL throughout the event. There was also a Writers-Judges interface session before the prize-giving.

The prize-giving ceremony was held on the final evening and was graced by the presence of Chief Minister of the State, Mr Neiphu Rio. Students from the Mezhür Secondary School, dressed in traditional clothes, presented a folk song for the occasion.

The winning authors received a cash prize of Rs 1,00,000 along with a citation. Mr Rio lauded the KES-KET partnership saying that the initiative has contributed toward keeping alive the appreciation for the Nagas who helped the British during the Battle of Kohima.



Above: the winners Veio Pou and Wangto Chingmak



Above: The Chief Minister of Nagaland presents the non-fiction prize to Wangto Chingmak

The short list of four books in the fiction category and six in the non-fiction category was judged by a panel of three, including Dr. Easterine Kire, the fiction category winner of the inaugural GGPNL in 2019.

In the fiction category the work of Veio Pou, author of "Waiting for the Dust to Settle" was judged the winner and "The Chang Nagas - In memory of our undefeated ancestor" by Wangto Chingmak won in the non-fiction category.

Author Veio Pou, is an assistant professor in Department of English, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, Delhi University. He described his work as the "space between hope and despair". Pou's interests lie in oral tradition, cultural studies, indigenous studies of the Northeast, studies of modernist and post-colonial literature. "Waiting for the Dust to Settle" is his debut fiction novel.

Wangto Chingmak, the winner of the non-fiction entry is a pastor of the Chang Baptist Church. The judges remarked that this book stood out for its insider narration of a subject that has remained largely unknown to the outsider. Additionally, it offers an interesting perspective of a Christian Pastor searching for a connection with his ancestral fate.

The 3rd GGPNL award also hosted an Essay Writing Competition for the first time for Naga school and college students. The students were given an opportunity to interact with Naga women authors Avinuo Kire and Easterine Kire on the importance of Oral Traditions.

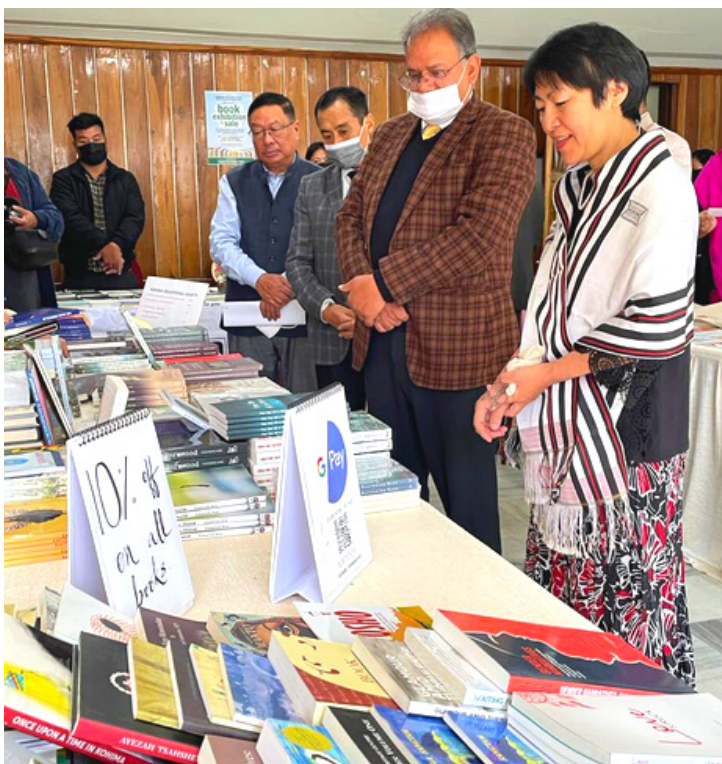
The GGPNL is the first and only prize just for literature in Naga society. The institution of the Prize has been widely welcomed by the community. There has been an increase in the number of entries since its launch and it is particularly gratifying to notice that various bodies and community organizations in different corners of Nagaland are starting to hold their own literary programmes and to recognize writers in their local communities. Local Naga publishers too are growing. One of our earlier judges had written in the Kolkata-based Telegraph newspaper that among writers in North East India region, Naga authors appear to be leading the way in Fiction writing.

From next year the GGPNL event will become a biennial event to enable a wider selection of entries for the judges. The next award will be given out towards the end of 2023 as part of the launch for the 80th anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Kohima in 2024. The GGPNL is keen to expand the number of categories of prizes, and is considering additional categories for short stories and poetry.

In Gordon Graham's words, "Memory is a great gift, which we all share and which too often we take for granted. Like dreams, memories come unbidden. Unlike dreams, they are calls to action. In addition to their basic message about the continuity of life and their evocations of nostalgia or regret, they pose the question: "How can we use the past to benefit the future?"

As Naga society transits from an oral culture to that of the written word, the KET and KES partnership - through student scholarships, the GGPNL award and the mental health workshop programme - shines a light on the way forward.

Charles Chasie, Easterine Kire, Bano Haralu



Above: Easterine Kire (right) at the Book Exhibition



Above: Fiction winner Veio Pou is presented with his prize

A VISIT TO KOHIMA

The Indus Experience tours to the Kohima Battlefields were able to commence once again this year and in March Bob Cook led a group of visitors, many of them descendants of veterans who wanted to visit the place their father, grandfather, great-grandfather and in one case, their uncle had fought and died 6000 miles from home.

On visiting the Kohima War Cemetery they were able to reflect on what had happened here 78 years ago and to pay their respects by laying wreaths and poppies. Using information from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Bob was also able to guide them to the places where their ancestor fell and show them their original place of burial.



David Moakes and Judith Matson (pictured above) were the first of their family to visit Kohima where their uncle Tom Moakes is buried. Lance/Sergeant Thomas Moakes was in the Sherwood Foresters, attached to the Duke of Wellington's, part of 23 Brigade, when he was killed in Nerhema on 8th May 1944.

There are still several Regimental memorials which exist in the locations where they were originally erected. One of these is the 1st Queens' Own Cameron Highlander Memorial which Ian Nivison and his grandson Kai (pictured below) were able to visit to remember Ian's late father, Sgt A P Nivison.



Following Bob's guided tour of the battlefield, the group were able to turn their attention to the Kohima of today. They attended the KET Scholarship ceremony where over 350 young Naga students received a scholarship to assist them with their education.

These scholarships are awarded in honour of the debt of gratitude owed by the men of the 2nd British Infantry Division to the grandparents and great grandparents of those Nagas who supported them during the battle.

The scholarships are often named in memory of a British veteran. Each one of the group was invited on stage to present some of the scholarships themselves.

Ten new scholarships were very generously donated by the group on their return.

It is a perfect example of our motto: War, Memory, Gratitude. It recalls the words of KET founder Gordon Graham who said that "Memory alone is not enough. It is what we do with it that matters."



Above are some of this year's students pictured with members of the tour group.

If you wish to learn more about future trips to Kohima and Imphal please contact either Bob Cook via email: kohimamuseum@yahoo.com

or Indus Experiences via their [website](#)

KOHIMA SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE IN YORK – JULY 2022

The annual service of commemoration was held once again in Dean's Park, York Minster. Over 200 supporters of KET came together for the service followed by lunch in Imphal Barracks. We were blessed once again with a beautiful sunny day and are, as always, grateful to York Minster and 2nd Signal Regiment for making the event possible and the day go so smoothly. It was the first time since the 75th Anniversary service that we were able to enjoy the day without social distancing.



The service was conducted by The Reverend Canon Victoria Johnson. The British Army Band Catterick appeared by kind permission of Major General C J Ghika CBE, General Officer Commanding London District. The Piper was Cpl Alasdair Beaton.



The first reading was Pericles' Funeral Oration read by John Davis – (below left) John's late father, Capt Ronald Davis, was a veteran of the battle, fighting with the Royal Army Service Corps.

The poem "No Tears Were Shed at Kohima" was read by Philippa Harris whose father was Colonel Donald Easten MC, a veteran of the siege of Kohima who fought with the Royal West Kents.

The third reading was from the book of Romans 8:31-39 It was read by KET Trustee Charlotte Carty who is a granddaughter of Lt Col William Felix 'Bruno' Brown, Commanding Officer 1st Assam Regiment who was sadly killed in Burma nine months after the battle.



Laurence Binyon's famous lines were recited as always by WO1 (GSM) Brian Kiernan (below left) The Address was given by The Reverend Canon Victoria Johnson (below centre) and Prayers were read by The Reverend Antony Feltham-White OBE QHC CF Assistant Chaplain General (below right).



The Kohima Epitaph was read by Ms Bano Haralu (below left). Bano is the daughter of Naga Veteran Thepfoorya Haralu who was mentioned in despatches. He is remembered with honour.

It was wonderful to welcome two veterans: Merchant Seaman Raymond Ashby (below centre) and Fusilier Richard Day (below right) who laid the wreaths with The Rt Honourable the Lord Mayor of York, Councillor David Carr (pictured below with both veterans), Mr Stephen White, Chairman Kohima Educational Trust and Lt Col Matthew Jones, CO 2nd Signal Regiment and York Garrison Commander. Our grateful thanks also to the Lady Mayoress Mrs Lynda Carr and to Sheriff of York Suzie Mercer for their support.



The Trust would like to extend our grateful thanks to the 2nd Signals' commanding officer Lt Col Matthew Jones, to GSM Brian Kiernan and to the soldiers of the 2nd Signal Regiment for their unstinting help and to the Chapter of York without whom this service would not be possible.

Our thanks to everyone who makes this event so successful. Your continuing support means a great deal and we look forward to welcoming you next year on Thursday 6th July 2023 at 11am

DR ROBERT LYMAN AT YORK UNIVERSITY

The service in York was preceded by an evening event held at the University, when best-selling author Robert Lyman gave a brilliant presentation on his most recent book *A War of Empires*. In conversation with fellow trustee and Professor Ron Clayton, Rob took us through the reasons why this particular part of the war happened and why the battle of Kohima was so crucial.

The book draws on over 30 years of ground breaking research to re-examine the so-called 'Forgotten War', revealing it to be a ferocious clash of competing visions of empire, which would irrevocably change the future of both Britain and the Indian subcontinent forever. It is a sweeping saga of the longest and possibly most brutal campaign of World War II.

Robert is well-known to all those of you who have been watching our series of webinars and it was a great a pleasure to hear him speak in person. The talk was followed by drinks and canapés and a chance for our audience to mingle and to meet Robert, who kindly signed copies of his book.

A War of Empires and Robert's other books about Kohima are available to purchase from the [KET website shop](#). All the profits go to support our work in Nagaland.



WEBINARS

Building on the success of last year's first programme of five webinars, we have followed up with a further six in 2022. We have had another strong line up of speakers with Charlotte Carty, granddaughter of Colonel William Felix 'Bruno' Brown talking about her grandfather's regiment: The Role of the Assam Regiment in 1944; Rob Lyman gave a fascinating talk on Allies in the Hills: Indian and Burmese hill tribes in the war against Japan and Harry Fecitt a brilliant account of the battle of Sangshak – the First Battle for Kohima.

Most recently we have also heard an excellently researched talk on Sir Charles Pawsey and a most interesting talk on The Role of Armour in the Burma Campaign, featuring the story of Ezra Rhodes in Kohima.

Most excitingly, and still to come on 1st December, we will be holding our first online Christmas Service of Remembrance with Bishop Nigel Stock leading us through readings, prayers and music, and with the historic context given by Dr Robert Lyman. Rob has been spectacular in bringing this series of webinars together and we are enormously grateful to him for all his time, help and advice.



The feedback and reviews that we have received for our webinars have been most gratifying. Here are just a few of the comments:

Many thanks for the most interesting programme as usual, it is something to look forward to and very well presented.

Charlotte was indeed terrific! And Rob (as always) was excellent. It was a most interesting and informative webinar.

Thank you for the excellent programme again, I find them very informative and Rob presents them so well, you put a lot of thought into it.

Thanks again to everyone involved in providing another superb presentation this evening. The time and effort put into these presentations is much appreciated.

This lecture should be compulsory reading for all Cambridge University teaching staff.

Congratulations on another webinar triumph. I learnt so much about the first Kohima battle. Amazing.

I very much enjoyed the Sangshak presentation, which put a human perspective on a brutal battle. Such horrendous conditions and such heroism in the face of massively superior numbers were brought to life by the two narrators – my compliments to them both.

Thank you everyone for taking the time to write, please keep sending us your reviews!

All of our webinars are available to view on our [website Webinars page](#)

If you would like to receive the invitations for the 2023 programme please get in touch via email: sylvia@kohimaeducationaltrust.org

The programme for next year will begin on 19th January when George Wilton will be in discussion with Rob Lyman talking about 23rd Brigade.

This will be followed by a talk on Hill 170 on 23rd March when we will be delighted to welcome back a previous webinar speaker, historian Steve Snelling.

WELCOME TO NEW TRUSTEES

We are delighted to welcome both Mrs Charlotte Carty and Bishop Nigel Stock to the KET Board of Trustees.

Those of you who attended the Kohima Service in York in 2021 will remember Bishop Nigel's moving Address. The [2021 Service](#) is still available to view on our website.

THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF KOHIMA

Plans are underway for 2024 which will be the 80th Anniversary of the battle of Kohima. Here at KET we have started discussing how we might help commemorate this milestone and thinking about possible events to mark this historical event.

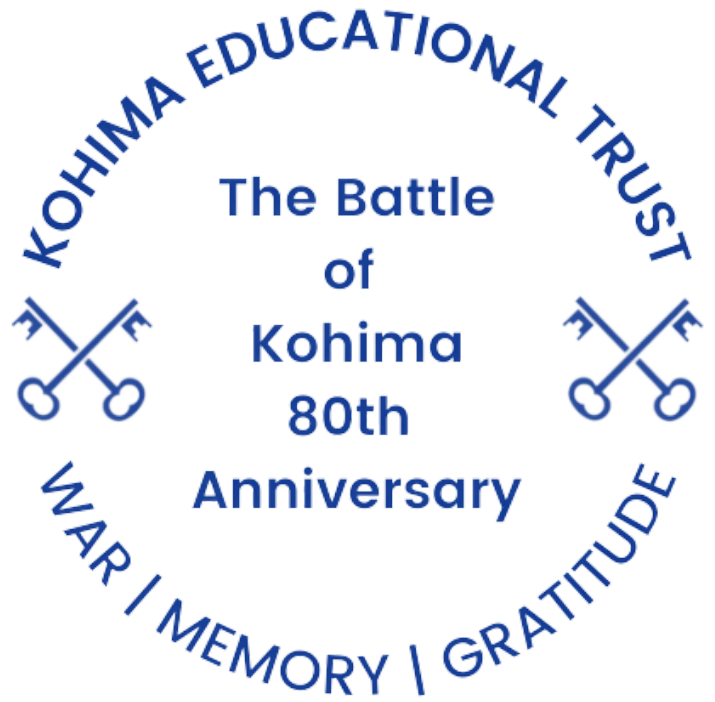
We will be planning a series of lectures, both real time and virtually as well as our annual commemoration service in York in July around which we are planning several other events.

We would love to hear from any regimental association who are thinking along the same lines and we will be delighted to work with you.

We would also love to hear from any schools who would like KET to give a talk about the battle and its significance in the outcome of WW2.

Equally, if there is anyone who has a story that they would like to share for a commemorative edition of the newsletter in 2024, please do get in touch with us.

2024 also coincides with KET's 21st birthday which is our own smaller milestone. It is wonderful to be able to celebrate the growth of something begun by a few veterans all those years ago. I hope they would be proud of what they achieved.



FUNDRAISING

BENENDEN SCHOOL ARTS FESTIVAL

The Trust was delighted to be invited to attend Benenden School Arts Festival. Our attendance had been arranged by the family of one of our Trustees for which we are extremely grateful.

We took the entire shop with us so our stall was filled with all the handmade Naga items of clothing and jewellery which attracted considerable interest. Parents and their children attending the festival were generous enough to support us by purchasing lots of jewellery, and one generous parent donated a new scholarship.

We would like to thank Benenden school for their support and for this opportunity to tell more people about our work in Nagaland. We would also like to thank all our friends and supporters, and in particular Sophie and Bella Barclay for their unstinting support, and to all the girls who helped out on the day - what a fantastic team!

Since the Arts Festival in June, Benenden School have invited us back to talk about our work in Nagaland. It was a pleasure to meet and talk with a group of year 7 and 8 students.



RIDE ESSEX 100



KET was fortunate once again to have the support of three riders who were prepared to cycle 100 miles through the Essex countryside in the London Marathon's event Ride Essex 100. Between them they raised over £3000 for our work in Nagaland which was a terrific achievement. Charles Barclay (above left), brother of one of our Trustees is a regular cyclist in this event for KET. His uncle was killed in Kohima and he is a tireless fundraiser in his uncle's memory.

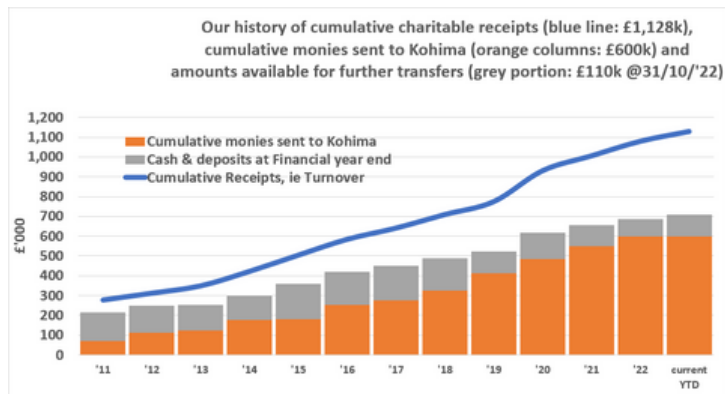
Also riding this year were Staff Sergeants' Jay Davidson and Lewis Hibbins (above right), both from 2nd Signal Regiment in York. Unfortunately, Jay got injured just prior to the race so he completed it on his own at a later date. Our thanks to them all for their commitment and fantastic fundraising.

KET has another three places confirmed in the Ride Essex 100 in 2023. If you would like to have one of these places, please email us: sylvia@kohimaeducationaltrust.org

U3A IN WANTAGE

Another wonderful June afternoon was spent with the Wantage U3A - The University of the Third Age, when KET was invited to give a talk about our work in Nagaland. It was another great opportunity to reach new audiences and we would certainly like to hear from anyone wishing to host a KET presentation. We can travel pretty much anywhere and we do it for free!

FINANCIAL UPDATE



This chart above summarises our financial position at the end of October 2022 and illustrates our achievements over the last 12 years of our 19 year history. Our detailed Statutory Accounts are drawn up to March each year, independently examined and then signed off by the Trustees. Our latest set (to 31/3/22) can be found on our website. If you have any questions at all about our finances, please contact us via the [contact button](#) on our website and our Treasurer will be delighted to respond. Thank you for your support.

SHOP FOR CHRISTMAS!

New Christmas cards are just in and we have lots of lovely Naga bags, shawls and gorgeous jewellery available on our website - please do visit our [online shop!](#)

We also have a good selection of 2nd hand books. A long-time supporter of KET has kindly donated his library of books related to Kohima for the Trust to raise funds to go towards our work in Nagaland. We are enormously grateful for such generosity. We have single copies available of most titles, and our suggested donation of £5 per book (plus P&P) would be gratefully received. The list is available on our website [here](#):

Our [online shop](#) has many of Robert Lyman's books, as well as James Holland's Burma 1944, Fergal Keane's Road of Bones and titles by our Naga friends and authors including winners of the Gordon Graham Prize for Naga Literature.



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THE KOHIMA MUSEUM

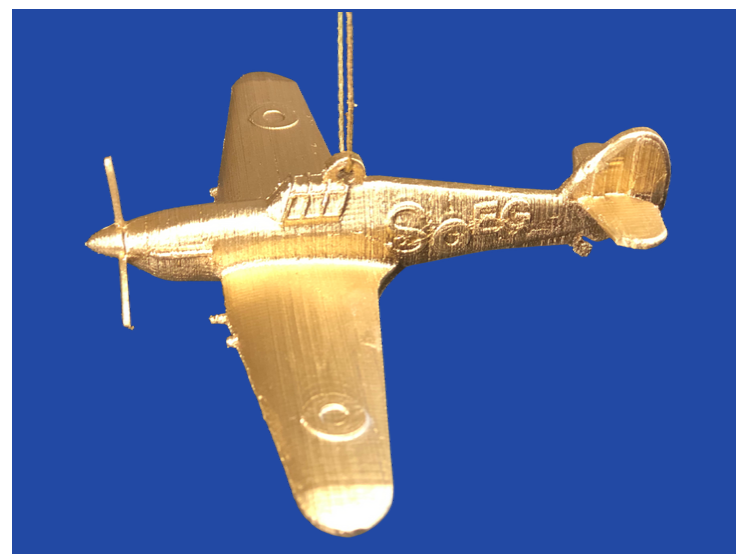
The Second Division Museum & Memorial Trust continues to thrive with new displays continuing to surface. In some cases, these are reconfigured artefacts but we have also introduced some new items which have recently come to light.

The vast majority of the museum collections' 2D items were sent away for digitising and are now able to be seen on the Army Museum Ogilby Trust's platform which is called [The Ogilby Muster \(TOM\)](#). Many of the Army museums in the country have signed up for this and it will provide opportunities for the public to view items which are not normally visible to the museum visitors. The TOM platform is fully searchable and will be of particular interest to researchers. All of our copies of the Divisional newsletter "Keynotes" dating back to March 1943 are available to view.

If you would like to know more about the museum or if you would like to visit us in York, please contact the curator, Bob Cook kohimamuseum@yahoo.co.uk Bob is also on the look-out for early copies of Dekho! to complete the Museum collection. Early copies, numbered 1-50, would be of particular interest.



New for this year! Hawker Hurricane Christmas tree decorations which have been 3D printed especially for KET. Each one bears the code letters EG-S - the personal aircraft of Flight Lieutenant Jimmy Whalen DFC. On 18 April 1944, Whalen was killed while leading a flight of Hurricanes from 34 Squadron RAF on an attack against Japanese troops at the Rifle Range at Kohima. Our thanks to Wg Cdr Jim Furness for his time and effort in producing these items for the Trust.



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
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Designed and edited by Melissa Furness
York Commemoration photos by Olivia Brabbs Photography