

## **April 2013 - Sue Baldwin -Tenby in War Time**

We were to learn that from the declaration of war in 1939 the town of Tenby would feature prominently in the war years. Like many sea resorts along the West Wales coast, it became the ideal training ground in preparation for the coming conflict.

Our speaker referred to the town and the necessary adjustments being made to accommodate the influx of troops, both foreign and British, where their bases and training camps would cover large areas surrounding this popular holiday resort. This was a period of history where many other resorts, particularly coastal, would be equally affected.

Tenby rose to the challenge during this period of duress and met with every requirement that came their way. Air raid shelters were built around town, notably Augustus Place and Tudor Square.

We were informed that the first troops to arrive in Tenby were the 1<sup>st</sup> Belgian Fusiliers Battalion, whose commander was later given the Freedom of Tenby.

During this early period of the war, many other regiments were based around the town, mainly due to the ideal training facilities along the coast and sand dunes mainly the 1<sup>st</sup> Herefords, 3<sup>rd</sup> Monmouthshire Regiment, a Manchester regiment and Royal Fusiliers. One wonders how this small seaside resort cope with such sheer numbers, but it did!

Our speaker gave a brief account of the military activity along the Tenby and Amroth coastline involving a great number of troops, boats and equipment and code named 'Janzen'. this would have been a dress rehearsal for the D-Day landings which we now know became the turning point of the war.

One can only conclude that Tenby played a major role during this difficult period.  
(Doug Havard)