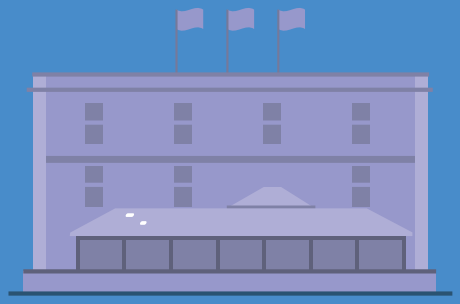

I never thought that military history was something I'd be interested in until I worked here and I realised that it wasn't because I wasn't interested in it, it was because I didn't know very much.

I only discovered after working here that I have relatives in my family that served with the Gloucester's. And once I started to look through all our archival photos, and we've got tens of thousands of photos. I was looking through one day, this most bizarre story, I was flicking through the photos. And I've only got one photo - the whole family have only got one photo of my great granddad. So, I started to flick through the photos. And right there in the central foreground of one of these black and white photos of just a load of Gloucester's, you know, at a training camp. No one was named in it, was my great grandad, staring back at me.

And I got on the phone to my dad straight away and said I just found this photo, I think it might be George, might be my great grandad. And I sent it to him and he said, 'Yeah'. And he just broke down because it's so, you know, this is real. This is about real people and making those connections, because quite often we find that lots of veterans who go away, you know, they serve for their country, they come back. They don't ever talk about that experience because it's too much. So, yeah, this is why it's really important that we all learn what happened.

We understand that this is really important to the heritage of the city and the county and the country. But the context of the military history of this county is understood alongside, you know, Roman Gloucester and Tudor Gloucester and all these really important things in the city that we all know and talk about so much.

We must never, never, ever forget any man that dies in the service of his country. And I mean I'm not just being gung ho or quoting old cliches, but this museum, to me personally, and this is a personal feeling, means the world to me. I'm from the north of England, I'm not even from Gloucester. I came here in 1966 on an army posting from Germany with my family. And right now, I don't want to live anywhere else. And every time I come to the museum, I get a free cappuccino. So why wouldn't I want to come here? Ok Vicki?!

Vicki Hopson - Museum Director
Tommy Clough, Veteran

Soldiers of Gloucester Museum

Historic England

Gloucester History Festival