



**En Avant!**

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## IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO FELL



**1<sup>st</sup> November, 1915  
to  
31<sup>st</sup> January, 1916**

### **November, 1915**

- |                          |                                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 06. Oblin, Arthur John   | 18. Vigot, Cyril Clifford Philip |
| 07. Arnold, Arthur Edwin | 19. Jerrard, Arthur Edward       |
| 08. Mudge, George H      | 20. Poezevara, Joseph Marie      |
| 09. Priaulx, Alfred      | 23. Ruault, Elie JF              |
| 14. Herve, William P     | 26. Mahy, William Blampied       |
| 16. Cummings, Daniel     | 30. Bellec, Yves Marie           |
| 17. Billot, Stanley      | 30. Williams, Arthur William     |
| 17. Eborall, Wilfred     |                                  |

### **December, 1915**

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 02. Kaines, George William             | 09. Morel, Emile Henry        |
| 06. Bréban, Joseph Marie               | 12. Goulding, Wallace Thomas  |
| 07. Le Tissier, Cecil James            | 15. De Caen, Walter Thomas    |
| 07. Pallot, Philip Henry               | 19. De la Mare, Thomas        |
| 08. Jourdan, Pierre Aimable            | 25. De Gruchy, Alfred Nicolle |
| 08. Ozanne, Henry Marquis              | 27. Green, Ernest H           |
| 08. Robinson, Charles Edward           | 31. Ruse, Edward Wallace      |
| 09. Hannaford, Henry Frederick William |                               |

### **January, 1916**

- |                               |                                     |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 01. Colson, Edward            | 21. De Lisle, Richard de Beauvoir   |
| 01. Freeman, Reginald Charles | 21. Leapingwell, Henry Byng         |
| 01. Laurens, Samuel John      | 21. Mascall-Thompson, Cecil         |
| 01. Salmon, Walter John       | 21. Nicolson, William Hurst         |
| 02. Morvan, François          | 21. Oliver, Guy Giffard             |
| 04. Denis, Alfred Jean (John) | 21. Rogers, Henry                   |
| 06. Stevenson, George Hambly  | 22. Simonet, Kenneth William Lee    |
| 07. Billot, Frederick George  | 24. Simon, Frederick Eugene Aimable |
| 07. Luce, Gordon George       | 26. Le Page, George William         |
| 07. Noel, Philip John         | 26. Moylan, Michael                 |
| 13. Myles, Philip Henry       | 26. Thomas, Frederick William       |
| 13. Vibert, Winter            | 28. Godden, Ernest Stanley          |
| 17. Jones, Samuel             | 29. Crockford, Charles Thomas       |
| 20. Watson, Geoffrey          | 30. Le Pennec, Toussaint Philip     |

Hello All

BBC television commentators, on the Remembrance Sunday service coming from London, frequently quote Sir Fabian Ware's observation that, 'If all the dead of the Great War marched, four abreast, down Whitehall, then the tail of the column would pass the Cenotaph three and a half days after the column's head'. Of course, it has never been proven empirically, not least because it would bring the metropolis to a grinding halt! But, what are we remembering when we all nod sagely and imagine, in our mind's eye, the million or so men and women tramping past? The act of Remembrance is undoubtedly important, and the services held at memorials and cenotaphs, whether in large cities and towns or in small villages, give a commemorative focus to those who have assembled. It seems far easier however, for a village to remember its individual casualties by a reading of the names, than for a city seeking to imitate that activity. There must be a numeric threshold when individuals are simply swept up into statistics.

Popping over to Skipton in North Yorkshire to see a small Great War display in its Library about a month ago, I was reminded of the attempts that the Craven District has been making to address the 'individual versus statistic' issue. Their CPGW Project started in 2005/6, just a year or so after the time that our Group did, and after a launch presentation (ably supported by the WI Calendar Girls serving tea and buns!) they have since followed a similar trajectory. Like us with the 1919 Jersey RoH&S, they also had as a starting point, albeit of better quality, a book of remembrance, put together by the editor of the Craven Herald throughout and immediately following the War, the costs being met by a local landowner and JP of that time.

There are many parallels between their work and ours, and I think that it is safe to say that like Craven, we are addressing the 'individual versus statistic' issue with our attempts to capture the names of Channel Islanders on the Rolls of Honour and Service. But we do differ in a number of aspects. The first appears to be that we have the Journal, whereas they do not. The second is that we are more far-ranging in terms of travelling abroad to visit locations with CI connections. Lastly, the third aspect is that in terms of official involvement, publicity and funding, they have been very pro-active in engaging with the people who matter.

The question for members to ponder about over their Christmas pudding is how can the CIGWSG address that third point, and indeed, does it need to? There are some factors that are beyond us, such as the fact that, politically, the two Bailiwicks generally agree to disagree on most matters, whilst access to National Lottery funding is a non-starter given that it does not operate in the CI. But there are still areas that could be addressed within the Group such as a recognisable organisational structure in each Bailiwick. The important aim, however, is to maintain and further improve the Group's presence as the first and only port of call for matters Great War.

### **The Front Cover**

'Over the Top' does seem to be an apt description of the postcard '*En Avant*' used for Journal 59's front cover, certainly to remind us of troops charging forward from their trench lines, but as an observation also on the approach used to inspire the populace to greater effort in prosecuting the War. Sent by Sid at a Base Depot in France in 1915 to Alf Anquetil back in Guernsey, one struggles to see Alf dashing out to the Recruiting Office having found the card on his doormat! But, one hundred years on, the card is also an interesting reflection on current events following the recent murders in Paris.

# The Stocker Dinner

By Jason Cronin,  
Secretary of the RMIJA

The Jersey Field Squadron held a Regimental Dinner on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2015 at Le Quesne Barracks Mount Bingham to commemorate the Militia being mobilised for service in France during the Great War as well as to honour all the Jerseymen and women who served during that conflict.



With the Lieutenant-Governor, General Sir John McColl, KCB, CBE, DSO as the Squadron's guest of honour it proved to be a very enjoyable and informative evening with an outstanding presentation given by Ian Ronayne on the Militiamen who went to fight a century ago. It was nice to meet up with the old and new brave and bold? A big thank you to all who made this a quite exceptional night. The Royal Militia Island of Jersey Association and the Jersey Field Squadron exercised their rights to use the Regimental Silver that is normally on display in the Militia Museum at Elizabeth Castle. The Royal Irish Regiment, today's successor of the Royal Irish Rifles in which the Jersey Overseas Contingent served, was represented by a Major, and whilst they also provided a Piper for the evening. The Band of the Royal Engineers were also in attendance, and played throughout the course of the evening.

As can be seen in the following photographs, the Regimental Colours and Drums were proudly on display with a copy of John Copley's painting 'The Battle of Jersey' hung on the opposite wall. The silver was ranged on the tables. (Editor: I'm not sure that I would have been comfortable being sat with a ram's head eye-balling me while I ate my dinner?)



**The Guests arrive, to be greeted by sentries dressed in Great War khaki**



Finding their seats



Connétable Simon Crowcroft of St Helier enjoying the skirl of the pipes



An elegant looking Secretary of the RMIJA!

## **The Guernsey Guns** **By Simon Hamon**

Standing in a quiet formal garden in Guernsey, as a silent reminder to war, are two German 13.5cm field howitzers. Most people may simply pass them by as they drive or walk past Victoria Tower and Gardens in St Peter Port. Surprisingly these two pieces of artillery were not left over from the German Occupation of the Islands in the 1940s, but had been presented to Guernsey after the Great War.

Even as the Battle of the Somme was raging in France, the question of how the authorities were going to deal with trophies and relics seized from the enemy was being raised. During a debate in parliament on the 31<sup>st</sup> July, 1916, the MP for Newington West, James Gilbert, asked the Secretary of State for War whether it was ‘... the intention of the War Office to exhibit in London any of the captured guns and trophies obtained during the recent advance by London and other regiments; and, if so, can he state when and where such an exhibition will be held’.

This question was followed by a further one from Sir Archibald Williamson, the MP for Elginshire and Nairnshire. Also directing his enquiry at the Secretary of State for War, Williamson asked whether ‘... the distinguished services of Highland regiments [would be recognised] by placing some of the captured German guns in the North of Scotland; and whether he will place one in Cooper Park, Elgin?’

In both cases the advice given was that both MPs should direct their requests to the Army Commander of the District in which their constituencies lay. This system appears to have proved unsatisfactory and before the year was out the War Trophies Committee had been established to investigate the matter further. The Committee was chaired by the Under Secretary of State for War, Ian Stewart Macpherson, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Strathcarron.

Acting upon the recommendation of this Committee it was eventually agreed that a general distribution of captured trophies would be made by the Army Council. The war trophies were divided into two classes. The first were those objects upon ‘... which substantiated claims have been made by the units which [had] captured them’. These were allotted to particular regimental depots, towns and boroughs, according to the wishes expressed by the units.

The second group of trophies consisted of those items which were unclaimed. These were distributed to places recommended by the Lords Lieutenant of the various counties who, in turn, were asked to ‘... pay special regard to war services in submitting their lists’. At the same time, the trophies were not despatched before the relevant public body or museum had assumed responsibility for a trophy’s care and custody.

When the trophies were being allocated, it was stated that the best examples were to be kept for a British National War Museum (later to become the Imperial War Museum), whilst the remaining items would be distributed to the dominion countries. By the 15<sup>th</sup> April, 1920, some 3,595 guns, 15,044 machine-guns, 75,824 small arms and 7,887 assorted other trophies had been distributed under the auspices of the War Trophies Committee.

In Canada, the Dominion Archivist, Sir Arthur Doughty, was named as Controller of War Trophies. Doughty was charged with gathering trophies and shipping them back to Canada. As a consequence of his endeavours, by early 1920, the Canadian government’s official collection consisted of 516 guns, 304 trench mortars, 3,500 light and heavy machine-guns, and forty-four aircraft.

Another Commonwealth recipient of large numbers of trophies was Australia. Australia, however, had opted to follow a different route to the British. In May, 1917, the Australian War Records Section (AWRS) was founded. Initially responsible for the collection, preservation, and classification of all official documents relating to the Australian Imperial Force, the role of the AWRS was later expanded to include photographs, trench and regimental magazines, sketches, personal memoirs, relics, and war trophies. By the end of 1917, the AWRS controlled the administration of all war trophies captured by Australian units.

To facilitate its work, the AWRS established collection depots in France at Bailleul, Boulogne, Péronne, Corbie, and Longeau. From here items were initially despatched to Britain, from where they were then shipped to Australia. A further base was created in Egypt in 1917. Items were to be clearly labelled, contain the name of the unit that had captured the item, the town or area it was from, the time and place the item was found, and the unit's wish for its ultimate disposal. The information was transferred to a history sheet or card for each item.

Each Australian state had its own committee to oversee the final allocations and these organisations had all agreed a system that was made according to the size of a community's population. Under this scheme, towns (other than the capital city) with a population above 10,000 were allocated two artillery pieces and two machine-guns; towns with a population between 3,000 and 10,000 were allocated an artillery piece; towns with a population between 300 and 3,000 were allocated a machine-gun.<sup>2</sup>

No part of the British Empire was ignored, and in 1921 the Channel Island of Guernsey received its share of the Allies' spoils of war. The list of items received included four 13.5cm Kanone 09 artillery pieces, two trench mortars, two anti-tank rifles, two machine-guns, a gas gong, six steel helmets, two sets of body armour, an entrenching tool, six rifles, three bayonets, twelve 'Pistols Illuminating', three carbines, and a field gun of unspecified calibre.

The arrival of the war trophies, however, was unexpected by the Islanders. A temporary home was found for the items at the Town Arsenal in St Peter Port, then the headquarters of the Royal Guernsey Militia and today, the home of the Guernsey Fire and Rescue Service.

In October, 1921, Major FHS Le Mesurier, the Deputy Assistant Adjutant General of the Royal Guernsey Militia, complained to the States of Guernsey Supervisor that the war trophies were taking up valuable space and preventing the Militia from using their own drill hall. The matter was considered at the States Deliberation (being a self-governing Island this is effectively a Parliament meeting) where it was decided to set up a committee to report back on what should be done with these war trophies.

The committee's report was submitted back to the States on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 1922. Amongst their recommendations was the suggestion that the four 13.5cm guns, the two trench mortars and the field gun should be placed on display in the gardens of Victoria Tower. Located on the opposite side of the road to the Arsenal, the gardens already contained two Russian cannons, trophies of the Crimean War. The States Engineer submitted the costing and a plan for how the works were to be carried out which would have seen the guns ringed by railings at a cost of £120. The rifles, machine-guns and other small items were to be distributed among the local schools.



However, the memory of the loss of life during the Great War was still very fresh in the minds of some of the islanders, and opposition to the guns being placed on public display soon became apparent. One letter in *The Star* newspaper, for example, contained the following comments: 'The field guns at the Arsenal, bearing traces of German camouflage and in some places covered with grease, were monstrous pieces of artillery which in all probability were responsible for the deaths of many gallant British soldiers in France and Belgium.'

Similar views were expressed when, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 1922, the States debated the proposals for displaying the guns. Thomas Ozanne, the Peoples' Deputy for the Parishes of St. Sampson and Vale, protested about the artillery pieces, claiming them to be 'murderous trophies of war'. However, he also went on to argue that the smaller weapons should not be given to schools but presented to conscientious objectors to hang on their walls as a reminder of what they '... had not done during the war'. In his speech, Jurat George Kinnersley stated: 'Why shouldn't these guns just sink into the ground, let them sink, put them there and let them sweat.'

Other counsels carried the day. The Parish Rectors of St. Andrew's and Castel favoured sending trophies to the schools as a reminder of the war and the King's representative in Guernsey, the Lieutenant Governor, General Sir John Capper, warned that '... it was by forgetting the lessons of history that this past war came about.' The States decided to adopt the committee's suggestion and instructed that the guns should be placed in the grounds of Victoria Tower, though the sum of £70 was saved by not installing the railings.

After two decades of the guns being on display with no maintenance and in frequently damp conditions, particularly at the western end of the gardens which are normally in shade, the wheels of two guns placed that end of the garden had started to collapse. As children often played on the guns, the potential risk of injury was considered too great and in 1938 the decision was made to call in a local scrap merchant, Mr. Ralph O'Toole, who was asked to dismantle and remove the two western guns.

With the swift advance through France of the German forces and following the withdraw of all military personnel from Guernsey on the 19<sup>th</sup> June, 1940, the States became concerned that the two remaining 13.5cm Kanone 09 guns would be seen by enemy aerial reconnaissance aircraft and be misinterpreted as active artillery. They chose to hide them by simply burying them, and consequently large sloped pits were dug in the centre of the gardens and the guns pushed in to the holes and covered.

Following the Liberation of Guernsey on the 9<sup>th</sup> May, 1945, all of the German guns from the occupation were removed and scrapped or dumped at sea. The two 13.5cm Kanone 09 guns remained buried and all but forgotten for the next thirty-eight years until the author's grandfather, Arthur Oswald Hamon, who was at the time Chairman of the Ancient Monuments Committee, approached States member Roger Berry with the proposal that the guns should be dug up and restored.

This suggestion duly became a subject of the States meeting in November, 1978. The States approved the recovery and granted a budget of £2,000 to excavate and restore them. It was decided to replace both guns in the gardens, one at either end. Work was soon underway, the task being completed in December, 1978.

Exposed to the elements, both artillery pieces were quickly painted with Croda Triple Coat grey paint. This was done not to conform to any military colour scheme but simply this was

because it was the same paint that was used during the maintenance of the cranes in St Peter Port Harbour. The guns still retain that colour scheme today.

Still on display beside Victoria Tower, the artillery pieces in Guernsey are believed to be two of just three 13.5cm Kannon 09 guns, from an original production run of just 190 of the type, that have survived worldwide. As such, with the approaching centenaries they provide the visitor with the opportunity both to examine unusual reminders of the role of artillery in the Great War and to remember the role of the population of Guernsey in that conflict.

The author welcomes any additional information about other examples of the 13.5cm Kannon 09 artillery piece, or the original camouflage scheme that may have been applied to the Guernsey examples.

**References:** HMSO, *Statistics of the Military Effort of the British Empire During the Great War* (HMSO, London, 1922), p.780.

Notes for “AWM262 Trophy History Sheets, 1914-18 War”, quoted on the Australian War Memorial website: [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au).

### The Guns in pictures:



The 13.5cm Kannon 09 gun that is on display at the eastern end of the gardens by Victoria Tower in Arsenal Road, St Peter Port, Guernsey. It was one of four examples of this artillery piece that were sent to the island in 1921. Surviving records reveal that the four guns were: No.56 (carriage No.1320), No.69 (carriage No.23), No.81 (carriage No.143) and No.100 (carriage No.168). The 13.5cm Kanone 09 was a heavy breech-loading field artillery gun that was built by Krupp AG in Essen. Only four were in service at the outbreak of the war, and it was withdrawn from service in 1915 as it was deemed to be too much gun for too little shell, but it was returned to service later in the war when the Allied blockade began to affect German ammunition production.

The Crimean War cannon in the gardens by Victoria Tower (which dominates the background). The shield carries the following wording:

“Presented by Her Majesty’s Government to the Island of Guernsey as a trophy of the Russian War 1856”. The cannon can today be seen on the ramparts of Castle Cornet in St Peter Port. (Carol Toms Collection)





One of the 13.5cm Kannon 09 guns supplied to Guernsey receiving the attentions of the scrap man in 1938. (Author)



One of the guns having been placed in the pit dug in the Victoria Tower gardens prior to being infilled. The two 13.5cm Kannon 09 artillery pieces that were not dismantled would remain hidden feet below the surface throughout the German occupation. (Author)



Guernsey's pair of 13.5cm Kannon 09 guns out in the open together for the first time since the German Occupation of the Channel Islands in 1940. (Author)



Two close-ups of the gun on display at the eastern end of the gardens by Victoria Tower. The barrel on the 13.5cm Kanone 09 gun was 15 feet 6½ inches long, the limit of elevation was 26 degrees and it could be traversed 4 degrees. The maximum ranges were 15,748 yards for percussion (High Explosive) shells and 15,311 yards for timed (shrapnel) shells. The projectile weighed approximately 89lbs.



The gun that is positioned at the eastern end of the gardens. The state of preservation of the two guns in Guernsey is currently under review with proposals being considered regarding their future display. These include erecting shelters over them to protect the guns from the worst of the weather. (HMP)



This is believed to be the only other surviving example of 13.5cm Kannon 09 gun anywhere in the world. Residing at the Botanical Gardens in Wellington, New Zealand, it was restored and placed on public display in 2006. This gun is missing its shield which is believed to have been partially destroyed during the Great War, there being some corresponding shrapnel or fragment damage to the left side of the barrel. (Author)

Editor's Note: This is an adapted version of an article that appeared in St Peter Port's 'Townie' magazine for which thanks goes to Keith Pike as well as the author, Simon Hamon.

### **The War Seals Movement By Nan Truman**

[Reprinted from *The Volunteers*, the Journal of the New Zealand Military Historical Society (Inc), July, 2014, and *The New Zealand Communication Trench*, the newsletter of the Western Front Association New Zealand Branch, October, 2015, with kind permission of the editors and the author.]

In 1915, the War Seal Foundation started in England with the object of erecting hostels and dwellings where rent, living, medical and physical assistance could be offered to disabled servicemen and war widows. The idea was adapted from the American scheme which raised funds for Red Cross. The Disabled Service War Seals were sold for one half penny each to be used to seal envelopes across the back flap. The telephone was yet to

be in universal use and considering the volume of mail sent in Britain it was confidently expected that millions could be raised a year.

These English seals were on sale in Gisborne stationery shops in early April 1915, through the agency of Miss Rosemary Rees, educated in Gisborne but at that time an actress on the London stage. After war broke out she joined the New Zealand War Association, a group formed to care for New Zealand soldiers at New Zealand House. She also acted on behalf of the entertainment committees of all the military hospitals to reserve some seats at every matinee in nearly every London theatre for convalescent soldiers from the Empire – some 300-400 each week.



**Disabled Service 1914-15 War Seal**

The seals were publicised in Gisborne by her sister, Annie Rees, who had been one of the party of 19 teachers who went to South Africa to the Boer War concentration camps. She was admitted to the Bar in 1910 and practised law until her father's death. By 1915 she was lady principal of the Cook County College for girls in Gisborne.

Through the local papers she pushed a goal of raising a total of £400 to finance a dedicated 'Anzac Flat' in Fulham, where a mansion of 48 self-contained dwellings was being built. By August, 1915 she was able to forward a first draft of £100 to London.

However, midway through August, 1915, local councils received a circular from the Auckland Provincial Patriotic War Relief Association enclosing a supply of Provincial War Seals. The Association argued that to ensure equal treatment for all, it was essential to have only one central fund for all the province. The Chairman of Waikohu County (Poverty Bay) commented that he thought '... that this district was doing and intended to do all it could afford for the relief of its own wounded, and that their claims should be met before help was given outside'.



**Auckland Provincial Wounded Fund War Seal**

The provincial seal is notable for the plane flying into the clouds (a similar seal from Greymouth and District has no plane). There are at least three varieties of this particular seal which indicates high sale turnovers.

By early September 1915, the Gisborne Citizens Defence Committee was advising the Auckland Patriotic Committee that War Seals were being issued locally. These were sponsored by a local businessman, TJ Adair and stationers and county store keepers were acting as agents, with no commission. The design represented the Dardanelles landing.

Fifty four thousand seals, distributed from Te Araroa to Wairoa went on sale on Saturday, 18 September 1915. By the following Wednesday several telegrams had been received requesting further stock. The first month saw £63/8/9 banked, representing a daily average of 1,015 seals sold, with a number of proceeds still to be collected. It was estimated that about 160,000 letters a



### Greymouth and District War Seal

month passed through the Gisborne Post Office, making it potentially possible to raise £360 per month.

On Boxing Day 1915, the Tokomaru Bay Athletic Club (north of Gisborne) held a sporting event at which war seals of their own design were sold. The proceeds from the event plus the seals were £90/10/0. The 2002, *Cinderella's Catalogue* identified the depicted vessel as a hospital ship, and it is now known that the Gisborne Citizens Defence Committee had accepted donations for the *Maheno*, a hospital ship to which a Tolaga Bay minister had been nominated as Chaplain, but the Tokomaru Bay contribution was for wounded soldiers. Meanwhile sales of the English War Seal languished in Gisborne, crowded out by other urgent calls for money, but the originator of the scheme, a music hall proprietor named Sir Oswald Stoll, intrigued by the offer of assistance from so far away, took an interest in the New Zealanders in England. He invited 400 wounded New Zealanders to the London Opera House to see the popular revue *Look Who's Here*, followed by afternoon tea at the newly-opened New Zealand hostel in Russell Square. Author's Note: Sir Oswald Stoll was born in 1866 in Australia and he helped to set up the inaugural Royal Variety Performance in 1912. He died in 1942.



**Tokomaru Bay Sports, New Zealand Wounded Soldiers Fund War Seal (Pictured Left)**





In May, 1920, Annie Rees wrote to the *Poverty Bay Herald* asking if readers would help raise the balance of the hoped for £400, as receipts from the sale of the seals had fallen short. The total remitted to England was £265 which meant over 127,000 sold, a not inconsiderable number. Whether any further sums were raised by direct subscription and whether the community at Fulham fulfilled the War Seal Foundation's ambition are questions for further research. The War Seal Foundation is still in operation, 100 years on.

**Sources:** The Gisborne Times and the Poverty Bay Herald

### **Poverty Bay Wounded Soldiers War Seal (Pictured Left)**

### **A Land fit for Heroes?**

It was somewhat of a coincidence that when I had first read the previous article by Nan Truman I had watched the two-part special of the 'DIY SOS' programme on BBC television that dealt with the refurbishment of a number of dilapidated terraced houses in Manchester, and that these were to be used for ex-servicemen who had returned from Afghanistan or Iraq, physically injured or mentally scarred. For those group members who are not familiar, inhabitants who are having difficulties and who may need their housing improved are selected, and over a period of a few days, hordes of building tradesmen, decorators, landscape gardeners and the like, descend upon the property to give it a makeover. And all seemingly free for the inhabitants.

In many respects, the BBC programme, with the royal patronage of the Princes William and Harry was only mirroring Annie Rees was only seeking to do with her 'Anzac Flat' (and if someone can find me one in Fulham today at £400, give me a call!)



In her article, Nan refers to Sir Oswald Stoll. She and members may be interested to know that the charity ([www.stoll.org.uk](http://www.stoll.org.uk)) that he founded remains very active in London today, and has a number of properties, the main one being a block of flats on the Fulham Road, next door to Chelsea's Stamford Bridge football stadium, with quite a magnificent facade as be seen in the photographs above and overleaf. The Memorial Gate on the left lists the various sea and land battles such as Dogger Bank, Falkland Islands, Somme and Messines.

But, it is interesting to note in the close up view below, the diamond square design that was also used on the 'Disabled Service 1914-15' War Seal highlight by Nan!

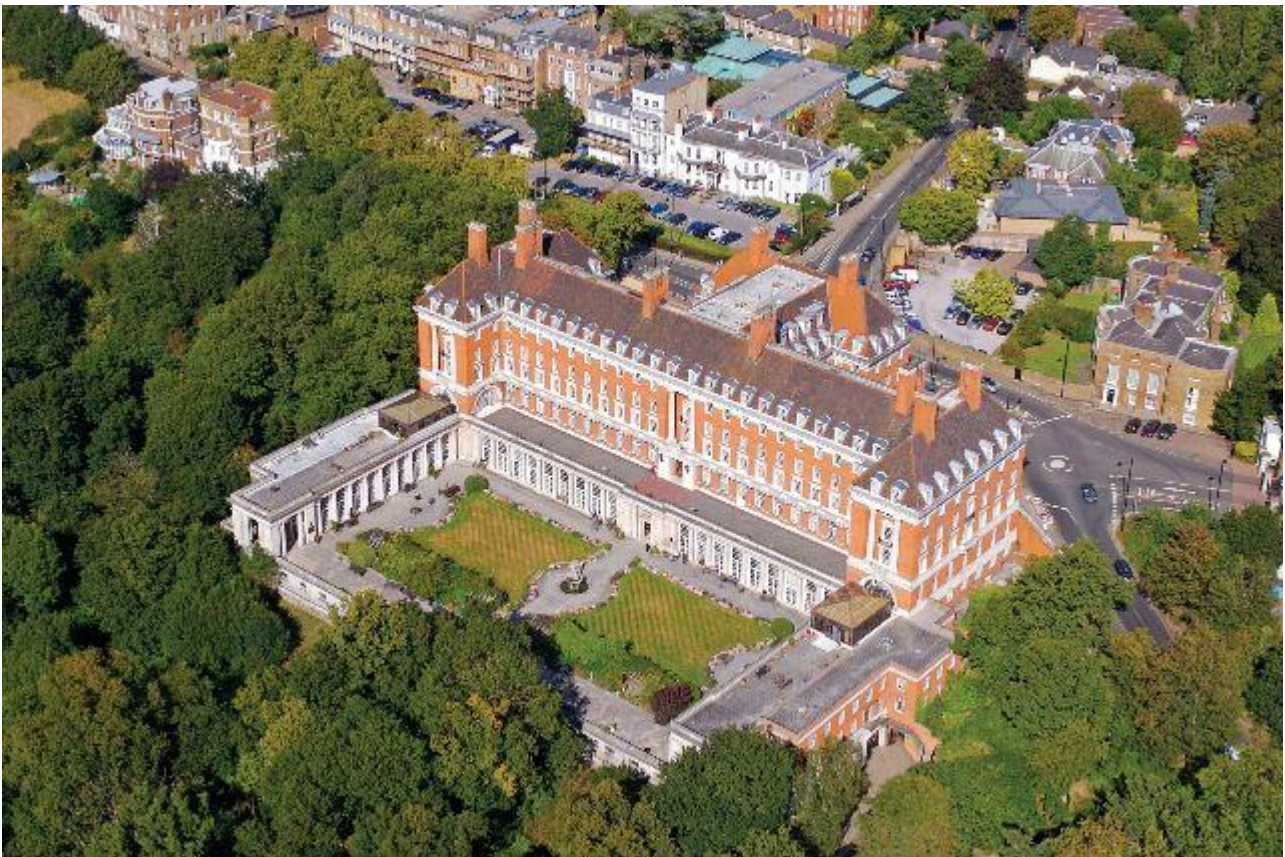


Of course, Sir Oswald's efforts were not unique, and they would be followed in 1916, by the Red Cross purchase of the former Star and Garter Hotel, on Richmond Hill in Surrey with its marvellous views of the Thames, this resulting from HM Queen Mary's concern for the disabled young servicemen returning.



The Star and Garter Hotel very quickly changed its name from 'Hotel' to 'Home' and was also soon admitting patients as the photograph of the Open Ward taken in 1916 above left shows. Later on, out on the terraces others would be learning how to manoeuvre their somewhat unwieldy wheel chairs before taking to the streets of London. After the War the

Home was rebuilt to suit the disabled soldiers' special needs. Located as it is in such a prime spot the new building was, and remains today, an impressive structure as can be seen below. However, the Royal Star and Garter Home saw fit, in 2013, to sell the building, for £50M, to a property dweller for private apartments, given that the building was no longer suitable. Now, a typical two bedroom apartment is on the market at £2.9M!



The patients from Richmond were transferred to a new purpose built Home built at nearby Surbiton, another is in place in Solihull in the West Midlands, while a further one is being built in High Wycombe.



Away from the capital a different approach was adopted in the City of Lancaster, namely the Westfield War Memorial Village. The Village had come about as a result of an idea by noted landscape architect Thomas H Mawson (pictured left), who had lost his third son, James Radcliffe, a Private in the 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment in April, 1915. The idea had been set out in his book 'An Imperial Obligation', and it was that industrial and economically self-supporting villages should be built for disabled ex-soldiers and their families. The idea resulted in Westfield and it enjoyed the support of local dignitaries, as well as Sir Douglas Haig, who wrote the Introduction to Mawson's Book. Over the next few years a number of houses would be built, but unsurprisingly the demand would be greater than the quantity available.

The Village was formally opened in 1924, Earl Haig (as he now was) doing the honours accompanied by Lord Derby (pictured below left). Two years later the War Memorial was unveiled (below right).



**Westfield War Memorial Village and its War Memorial Today**

The houses all carry names familiar to us, Ypres, Somme, Messines and so forth, while the Village has progressively expanded, in line with subsequent conflicts and with the names of more recent battles such as Arnhem introduced. Apart from the houses, a hostel for single men was provided, along with a workshop to train the disabled, a community centre and a bowling green.

Mawson's central theme in 'An Imperial Obligation' that each town had its own Westfield was promoted nationally. However, the government of the day thought otherwise and took the view that returning servicemen, disabled or not, should be reintegrated into the existing communities as opposed to 'Westfield Village lookalikes' popping up all over the country. But, down the years the charities set up to run Westfield, Stoll, the Royal Star and Garter, and the many other similar facilities throughout Britain and its former Empire, have carried out their task magnificently in caring for the country's ex-servicemen, and it is a sad fact of life that there will be a continuing need for them to do so. Meanwhile, returning briefly to the BBC's 'DIY SOS' project, it is very much in keeping with 'An Imperial Obligation', but clearly any long term role at maintaining the houses falls outside of the Corporation's Royal Charter. The modified houses are to be handed over to another charity, Haig Housing, who are also refurbishing the remainder of the adjacent terraced homes.

## CWGC Non-Commemorations

Another small success for the Group in that the CWGC has agreed that Albert Handford be commemorated. A headstone will undoubtedly be provided to mark his grave in the New Mont-à-l'Abbé Cemetery in due course.

Meanwhile, a further candidate for commemoration has been identified, namely Edwin W Beckford who was discharged from the RAF in May, 1920 suffering from 'Heart Trouble' and who died the following May from TB. The 'Heart Trouble' definition is a little broad, but medical advice from a doctor friend has previously suggested that a condition such as tachycardia (an abnormally high heart rate) can be a symptom of TB.

### Accepted

Norcott, Gerald \*  
Dustan, John  
Cudlipp, Herbert  
Blanchet, Jean  
Warne, Alfred  
Bailey, Alwyn C  
Leopold, Archibald  
Cheney, Walter A  
Le Morzédec, Henri  
Mutton, Harold C \*  
Poingdestre, Alfred  
Jouanne, Auguste F  
Syvret, Edward H  
Lihou, Joseph T  
Le Breton, Wilfred J  
Whittle, Thomas J D'A  
Orange, Walter  
Ellis, John  
Marquis, Jack H \*  
Lander, Charles HR \*  
Asser, Verney – Non-CI  
Burton, Garnet C  
Helman, John W  
Le Noury, Walter  
Logan, Lionel H  
Ounan, Thomas P  
Turner, William A  
Godfray, Edwin de V  
Rundle, Cubitt S  
Vautier, Alfred P \*  
**Handford, Albert H**

### Being Progressed

Breban, John  
Quinquenel, John (Jean)  
Lindsey, Samuel WT  
Le Messurier, Ira

### Pending

Owen, Guy  
De Ste Croix, Harold P  
Tite, Winter JS  
Troy, Edward J

### TBA

Touzel, Walter H  
Ferrer, Armand  
Anderson, Frank B

### Not for Submission

Surguy, Sidney  
Pirouet, Charles A  
Syborn, George T  
Le Cocq, Clarence E  
De Caen, Raymond  
Malzard, Snowdon  
Mourant, Sydney A  
Baudains dit la Gerche, PG

### With the CWGC

Marquand, Clarence D  
De Gruchy, Alfred  
Anstee, Laurence WL  
Ruff, William C  
**Beckford, Edwin W**

### Rejected by CWGC

Vibert, John E  
Adams, Frank H

\* With assistance from  
the 'In from the Cold'  
Project Team

## Poppies on Street Signs By Elizabeth Morey

Back in April of this year, the Napier City Council, the Napier Returned Servicemen's Association and invited guests unveiled new street signs in Onekawa with the poppy symbol on them (see picture overleaf). This was part of a nationwide Places of Remembrance project of the New Zealand Poppy Places Trust. The Trust, launched in 2014, is encouraging people to share what they know about the places and events in New Zealand military history that relate to street names, memorials and other local sites.

Havelock North's Selwyn Road and Russell Street in Hastings also have a new street sign. Selwyn Road was named after Major Selwyn Chambers who was killed in action on Gallipoli on the 7<sup>th</sup> August, 1915, aged 28 years. Russell Street was named after Major-General Sir Andrew Hamilton Russell, who had commanded the New Zealand Division in the Great War. It is understood that Timaru District Council have also added a poppy street sign to at least one street, namely Memorial Avenue.



**(Editor's Note:** Thanks to Elizabeth and to Heather Stonestreet for her set of photographs of which I have taken the one above. The initial thought is whether the principle could be applied in the Islands, and indeed it has been to a number of private residences in the past, the Amourette's Vimy Cottage in Jersey readily springing to mind, along with the naming of a Crescent after Captain Ernest FV Briard in St Brelade a year ago. In similar fashion the TA Centre on Mount Bingham is named after Colonel Ferdinand Le Quesne who, though he won his VC in 1889, did serve throughout the Great War. Is it difficult, or unwelcome however, in seeing it applied to a new development? A Guillemont Road perhaps or the Frezenberg Financial Centre?)

### Unknown Islanders

The list of 27 Unknown Islanders buried in the cemeteries remains as shown below:

#### Guernseymen:

Outtersteene Cemetery	II.E.32 IV.A.53 IV.E.34	II.H.53 IV.E.28	II.H.60 IV.E.30	IV.A.44 IV.E.31	IV.A.50 IV.E.32
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Trois Arbres	II.K.11 II.L.5 II.O.25	II.K.26 II.M.26 II.O.27	II.K.27 II.M.31	II.L.2 II.M.35	II.L.4 II.O.24
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#### Jerseymen:

Bazentin-Le-Petit	A.3	Poelcapelle	XXII.D.20
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Cerisy-Gailly French	II.A.6	Outtersteene Cemetery	II.H.59
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If you are visiting a cemetery and you spot an Unknown Islander, do please advise of the cemetery and grave details.

## Internment

One aspect of the Great War that can be forgotten about is the subject of internment, and as a timely reminder that it existed, group member Jason Cronin is to be thanked for providing a number of scanned images of postcards showing various views of Holland which would remain neutral throughout the period of the Great War (even though it was thought that there were strong pro-German sympathies amongst the Dutch elite). Spoilt for choice, the postcard below shows Wagenstraat in Den Haag (The Hague), and my first reaction was to think that it looked like St Helier's King Street in the 1950s!



But, the important detail is on the reverse, that shows its recipient to be a Miss Sylvia Collins living in Roseville Street, and that the sender was her father William Alfred, a Leading Seaman in the Royal Fleet Reserve (RFR) with the service number B/698.







*Scheveningen. Hotel des Galeries*

The Hotel at Scheveningen is a rather strange location to find internees sitting down for dinner as can be seen in the photograph on page 25, surprisingly so since the men of the Naval Brigade were first taken to Groningen which, being a camp having wooden huts, became known as HMS Timbertown! Conditions for the internees were comparable to other forms of incarceration, with the need for hobbies, education and sports and games to occupy the long and tedious hours. But, in the later stages of the War, men were able to take 4-8 weeks leave at home, subject to parole and their agreement to return!



## Where Was I?

Looking through some old photographs on the PC, these two emerged, originally coming from the collection of a contact in South Africa who has Channel Island links.



Is it somewhere in France, in one of the camps at Etaples possibly, or on Salisbury Plain? Wherever it is, there are no prizes for coming up with the correct answer which will be published in the next Journal.

## Philatelic Matters

As was mentioned in Journal 58, the UK Post Office did release an 'Animals in the Great War' issue back in September, and the issue was indeed a commemorative sheet of adhesive animal pictures with stamps attached rather than a newly designed issue. Also mentioned was Guernsey's issue released on Armistice Day and shown overleaf, and as with last year's issue, the connection to Guernsey has been maintained!



## Just like Clutterbuck



It was four years ago that I visited Haucourt Communal Cemetery, near Cambrai, to photograph CSM William Sharp's headstone. Although Scottish born, he was on the JRoH having married a Jersey lady by the name of Lydia Maud Jolin. Having served with the King's Own Royal Lancaster's 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion in Jersey as part of the Island's garrison, in 1914 he was now with the KO's 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion.

Given that the Cemetery had a rather small British presence, I took some other shots, one of them being a Captain Henry Clutterbuck's headstone shown left, with the aim of seeing whether he had also served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion (he had not). Then these photographs were totally forgotten about. But then last year, I discovered the poem 'Just like Clutterbuck' by Ricardo (Originally in 'John Bull' 19<sup>th</sup> September, 1914 issue), and then a few days ago whilst deleting files, I rediscovered the photograph, prompting a look at the poem's background.

Looking at the King's Own Royal Lancaster Museum's account of the action with the poem, while allowing for a fair sprinkling of poetic license in the latter, it appeared that a number of Germans were waiting at Haucourt church and were dressed in French uniforms. As part of their *ruse de guerre*, they were singing 'Rule Britannia' and calling out in English. That they were German was not appreciated by the British soldiers until it was almost too late in the descending gloom. However, when the true situation was realised, the order 'Fixed Bayonets' was promptly given. During the subsequent bloody and vicious skirmish, Captain Clutterbuck fell, as did four other King's Own soldiers, one of them being William Sharp who, it is probably safe to say was the Captain's Company Sergeant Major. He may have actually given the order!



**Henry Clutterbuck.**

It was at Mons; the breathless fight  
Ran to a second day,  
After a storm of shell by night,  
A fresh and furious fray;  
There, in the hot, unpitied sun,  
The Germans gathered, four to one;  
Said our Captain, "Duty must be done!"  
That was just like Clutterbuck.

A ringing cheer in exultant notes  
And fine North Country "burrs,"  
Swells from the lusty, dusty throats  
Of the King's Own Lancasters;  
Sheer up the hill each man-jack speeds,  
Nobody falters save he who bleeds,  
Racing hard—but the Captain leads,  
And that's just like Clutterbuck!

He summoned up his company,  
And keenly scanned each face;  
"The foe are there," said he, "and we  
Must shift them from the place.  
Fix bay'nets, boys! We'll let them feel  
Just what it's like to taste cold steel!"  
His smile he tried hard to conceal,  
Which was just like Clutterbuck.

Fiercer the deadly fight became,  
Hot as the mouth of hell;  
The air around was a sheet of flame,  
And many a comrade fell.  
Up stood the Captain as shrapnel burst  
Over the men, who at it cursed;  
In the charge he meant to be the first—  
That was just like Clutterbuck.

Just a glance at the foe he threw,  
On the hillside looming large,  
Another glance at the lads he knew—  
Out rapped the one word, "Charge!"  
He didn't look, when he'd said his say,  
To see if his men sprang to obey.  
But he rushed right on, and led the way!  
It was just like Clutterbuck.

Never a moment now for talk,  
Now is the time to do;  
Into the Germans they fairly walk—  
Lancashire lads all through!  
Four to one! And a shirker might  
Think it no shame to take to flight,  
But, the Captain thought the odds about right—  
Which was just like Clutterbuck.

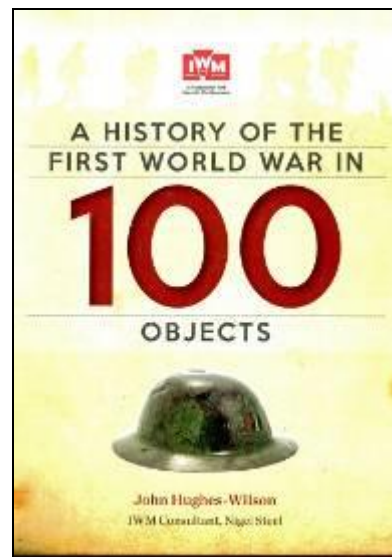
There in the thick of all the din,  
Bang in the front was he,  
Like a lion loose, and wiring in—  
Leading to victory!  
But, when the fight was just on won,  
King Death beckoned his bravest son,  
His time had come—but duty was done—  
That was just like Clutterbuck.

Happy the land with such tales to tell!  
It can be conquered never!  
Happy the heroes who, like him, fell—  
For they shall live forever!  
When British heroes, in British ways,  
Achieve great deeds in coming days,  
These be the forms of your proudest praise—  
"It was just like Clutterbuck."

### Book Reviews

**A History of the First World War  
in 100 Objects  
Compiled by John Hughes-Wilson  
(Cassell Illustrated Books)  
Review by Peter Tabb**

Curiously enough this was a book that, for many months, I had resisted buying. Not because that it lacked provenance (it was published in association with the Imperial War Museum) and not because it was £30 (£27 after my IWM discount) but because I thought it was a bit of a gimmick, as though the compiler and publishers were climbing upon a bandwagon that was likely to roll on for the centennial four years of the Great War.



In fact I had already bought (and recently reviewed) Paul Atterbury's *The Antiques Roadshow World War One in 100 Family Treasures*, being attracted in that instance more to the author, several of whose works are already in my library, than the work itself. What's more, it seemed to me that a hundred family treasures were likely to be more interesting and much more personal than a hundred objects.

This review will not be a case of 'how wrong I was' because the concept that a conflict as vast and as devastating as the Great War could be encapsulated into a hundred objects is much more difficult to contemplate than 100 hundred family treasures and inevitably, by the

end of the book – another 400 plus pager – I was left with a feeling that much had of necessity been left out, and that the compiler's choice of 100 artefacts (supported by IWM consultant Nigel Steel) and mine could well have been different.

Notwithstanding, *A History of the First World War in 100 Objects* is a fascinating anthology with the objects enhanced by pages and photographs of the grim history of that great war. The compilers' intent was to revisit 1914 to 1918 to tell the story through 100 key events, developments and themes. Each one is crystallized through a particular object or artefact, mostly drawn from the IWM's collections.

The pages reveal unique icons of the Great War – the assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand's bloodstained tunic, Lawrence of Arabia's SMLE rifle, the secret diary of executed nurse Edith Cavell and, inevitably, cartoonist Alfred Leete's poster of Lord Kitchener beckoning to the menfolk of Britain that their country needed them.

Each object or artefact has at least a page to itself and on the page dedicated to the Kitchener poster we learn that the original wasn't actually a poster at all but Leete's front cover of the 5<sup>th</sup> September, 1914 edition of the magazine *London Opinion*. There is also a very pertinent quote from Margot Asquith that 'If Kitchener was not a great man, he was, at least, a great poster'.

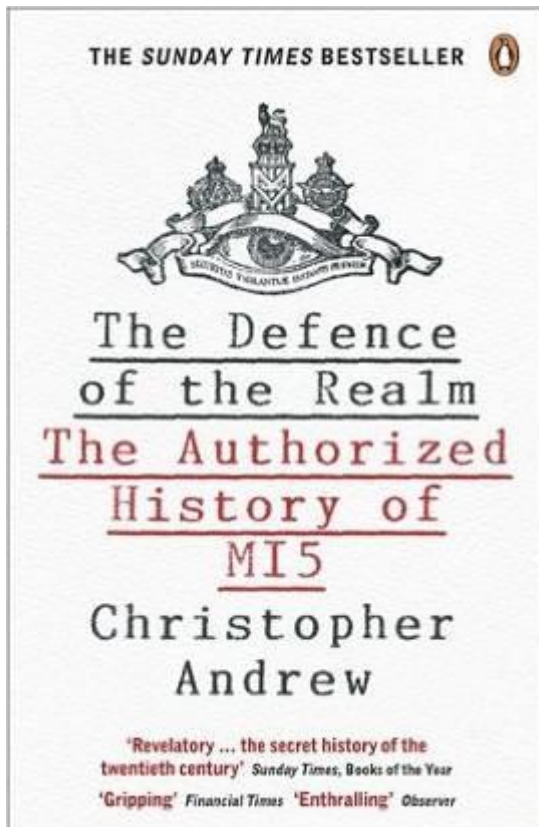
One of the most compelling objects is the Brodie-pattern steel helmet, battle-scarred and worn belonging to Private William Short of the 8<sup>th</sup> Yorkshires at the Battle of the Somme. The broad-brimmed Brodie-pattern helmet (featured on the book's cover) had been introduced in late 1915 and Private Short was wearing his when he went into battle on the 6<sup>th</sup> August against a strong German position known as Munster Alley. Private Short was one of the battalion's expert 'bombers' and he threw his grenades with deadly effect despite being severely wounded and continued throwing until he succumbed to his wounds. A month later Private Short was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

There are items as diverse as a French phrase book – an indispensable pocket guide showing the correct use of idioms, colloquial expressions and apt proverbs – to the Oberursel UR2 rotary engine from the Red Baron, *Freiherr* Manfred von Richtofen's Fokker DR1 Triplane, a General Haig Toby Jug and a Mark V tank, 350 of which combined in the largest tank attack of the Great War on the 8<sup>th</sup> August, 1918, east of Amiens. .

Perhaps one of the most curious objects is a gun improvised by the crew of the German destroyer V125 to shoot seagulls. V125 was one of the 74 German warships interned in Scapa Flow after the surrender of Germany's High Seas Fleet. Although technically not prisoners the crews of the ships (progressively reduced from 20,000 men to just 4,400) were confined to their ships on meagre rations and used the device to supplement their diet. It comprised a compressed spring inside a metal tube which fired a sharp solid bolt attached to a line that could be hauled in, hopefully with a seagull pinned to the end of it.

Fittingly, the 100<sup>th</sup> 'object' are the plans drawn by Sir Edwin Lutyens for the Cenotaph in Whitehall although, given a very recent controversy, a quotation from Prime Minister Herbert Asquith right at the start of the book is very apt today. 'The Army will hear nothing of politics from me, and in return I expect to hear nothing of politics from the Army'.

Finally, the book is dedicated to the memory of Professor and Brigadier Richard Holmes CBE TD, scholar, gentleman and soldier, patron and founder of the Guild of Battlefield Guides. And a very fitting memorial it is too.



**The Defence of the Realm  
By Christopher Andrew  
(Penguin Books £14.99)**

I had been planning a slightly different, if more humorous, introduction to this review of this book, but given the recent murders of 130 innocents in Paris, it somehow demanded a more somber view to be taken. There are many parallels between the roles to be undertaken today by MI5 and those that evolved during the Great War. Technology has evolved, but the first principle remains, 'Discover what the bad guys are looking for or intend to do, and stop them before they find out or they do it!' Easily said, but first a confession to make. This book ranges over a century commencing in 1909, and at 1044 pages of text, explanatory notes and indexes, it is a hefty read, not all of which is Great War related. Indeed, the page count for our period is around 120-130 discounting ancillary material. So the review is confined to MI5's first ten years of history and I will read the remaining 900 pages some other time!

The author is a Professor at Cambridge University, with a particular interest in international relations and intelligence services, who was invited to write this History by the then head of MI5 some 12-15 years ago. He was granted free access to files and other material and was able to express his views freely. Of course, material that may be sensitive to current operations or to pose risks to operatives, past and present, is excluded.

The inception of MI5, in 1909, resulted from a decision by the Committee for Imperial Defence to deal with foreign espionage in Britain, and this saw the establishment of a single branch, within Whitehall, to handle the problem. However, the branch, which also undertook spying, 'grewed, like Topsy' and in due course, was split in half, with the spies heading off to MI6, the Secret Intelligence Service, and the counter espionage staff remaining with MI5, the Security Services. Unsurprisingly there was an element of personality in this separation. (**Note:** MI5 has been used throughout this Review for simplicity, although in its early days other acronyms were used)

As to the dastardly foreigners spying on the British, these were considered to be the Germans, whereas in fact, they had not embarked on gathering military intelligence, at least not in 1909. There had been some intelligence gathering on RN capabilities, but that was low key, and seemingly being carried out with little German Admiralty involvement. It does seem that, in the years running up to 1909, the 'German menace' was the invention of writers like William Le Queux, while there seemed to be a need for 'doing something' to justify the budgets, given inter-departmental rivalries. Several 'plots' were reputedly foiled but these had sprung from fertile imaginations. However, 1914 did see major effort by Germany in gaining military intelligence, but this was a brief peak.

How does one catch a spy? Starting with a clean sheet of paper, the first Director Vernon Kell wrote to, and met with, the Chief Constables throughout Britain asking them to identify German (and Austro-Hungarian) nationals who had come to the notice of the various Constabularies, and sometime later, with the 1911 Censuses to hand, the list of names was added too. Thanks to a small army of well-educated young ladies, a sophisticated

card index system was developed and maintained overtime, and by the spring of 1917, there were 250,000 cards and a further 27,000 files for those who were of 'special interest'.

Those under observation were categorised with three codes, the first being their allegiance and, for example, 'ES' stood for Enemy Subjects. Then, what might be loosely described as a 'loyalty' code (AA, A AB, BA, B, BB) followed with the 'BB' standing for 'Bad Boche' whilst 'AA' stood for 'Absolutely Anglicised'! Finally the Special Branch Black List code (from A to K) was used, effectively summarising the individual's activities. As an example, 'I' stood for 'Instigator' be it of hostile, seditious, pacifist or dangerous propaganda. Kell's liaison with the Chief Constables had been important in ensuring that better targeting of suspects could be achieved via police and Special Branch.

The author notes the importance of other measures brought out by legislation such as the Defence of the Realm Act. Censorship was one vital tool, and the mail to neutral countries was subjected to particular scrutiny where certain addresses were known to be 'post boxes' for German intelligence. The Royal Mail's Mount Pleasant Sorting Office in NW London became 'home' to 1350 Censors. Cable intercepts also receive attention. Port Controls were established so that those landing in or departing from Britain were questioned before carrying on with their journeys, one notable catch being Mata Hari.

With a seeming decline and lack of success in German efforts (although they still continued to try however), there were other roles that came to the fore, counter-subversion and counter-terrorism. From around 1916, Bolshevism, Communism, Irish Republicanism, Indian Nationalism and Muslim jihadists were all on MI5's agenda, some of these being funded by Germany who saw that fomenting revolutions within the British Empire was no bad thing.

Probably the foremost name amongst those caught in these activities was Sir Roger Casement who was considered by MI5 interrogators to be a traitor. Although his case only merits a few pages, it is difficult to disagree and, given the law as it stood, capital punishment was the correct sentence. More sympathy was afforded to Carl Lody, a reservist German Naval officer sent to report on RN ship losses and damage. Although executed also, he was regarded by the British as a patriot, even though his grave in the East London Cemetery is, today, reputedly concealed by a waste bin! Others were caught, yet not all were executed although ten were, and little thought was applied to developing a 'Double Cross' system whereby 'turned' agents fed rubbish back to their German masters as was practiced in WW2.

As has already been mentioned, this book has been reviewed from the aspect of the Great War only, and in some respects this approach may be slightly wrong in that one might miss the connections between what had happened a century ago, and what goes on today. In percentage terms, counter-espionage enjoyed just 3.5% of MI5's budget back in 2007 for example, demonstrating the shift in effort to the more irksome role of counter-terrorism. So, it is back to page 1! Surprisingly for a Professor, the book is written for the everyday reader and not the highbrow intellectual. Even with another 900 pages to go from my point of view, the book is one that should at least be read, to understand how MI5 has evolved, and to see why it should continue to exist, even though one or two current UK politicians are only too happy to sign up to the call for it to be disbanded!



## The Official Somme 2016 Commemoration Ballot

The UK Department of Culture and Sport website closed its Somme ballot on the 18<sup>th</sup> November. One or two members have applied, and it is to be hoped that, (a) They are successful, and (b) They provide an article for the August 2016 Journal.

### Jersey Library Local History Fayre

Jersey Library in Halkett Place will be holding a Local History Fayre on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of January next, and the CIGWSG has been invited to participate (see the letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> November to myself on page 53 which should be explanatory). It would be a great help if as many as possible Group members in Jersey could help during either or both of those days. We are also currently looking for someone who will lead and coordinate our efforts with Julie O'Grady and Helen Barette. At this stage, please Email me if you are willing to help. It is appreciated that it is about two months away, but it helps the planning. Besides, Easter Eggs will be on the supermarket shelves on Boxing Day.

### The Jersey Archive

Many of us will have missed out on the recent talk on the Military in the 'What's your Street's Story' series that was held at the Archive on the 21<sup>st</sup> November. To help plug that gap, Stuart Nicolle has very kindly supplied the Group with a copy of the transcript and it is planned that this will be added to our website in about a week following this Journal's issue.

Now, for the fifth year in a row, Jersey Heritage, will be holding the next 'What's your Street's Story' series of Saturday morning talks at the Archive between 10.00 and 13.00 on the dates shown below:

16 <sup>th</sup> January	– Stories from Archives Opened in 2016
20 <sup>th</sup> February	– Tours of the Archive
19 <sup>th</sup> March	– Millbrook
16 <sup>th</sup> April	– Stopford Road
21 <sup>st</sup> May	– Sion
18 <sup>th</sup> June	– Great Union Road and Aquila Road
16 <sup>th</sup> July	– St Peter's Village
20 <sup>th</sup> August	– La Motte Street
17 <sup>th</sup> September	– Gloucester Street
15 <sup>th</sup> October	– The Weighbridge
19 <sup>th</sup> November	– Longueville
17 <sup>th</sup> December	– La Rocque

You will be able to add any or all of the dates directly to your Tablet, Laptop or PC, by visiting the following link:

<http://www.jerseyheritage.org/whats-on/what-s-your-street-s-story->

If you wish to attend, please book by ringing 01534 833300, or emailing:

[archives@jerseyheritage.org](mailto:archives@jerseyheritage.org)

## **Obituary - Air Marshal Peter Walker, CB, CBE**

### **By Liz Walton**

Guernsey lost a very popular Lieutenant Governor with the sudden death of Air Marshal Peter Walker on the 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 at the age of 65. Air Marshal Walker and his wife Lynda were familiar figures at Island events since they came to Guernsey in April, 2011.

Born in 1949, Peter Brett Walker had a distinguished career in the Royal Air Force before taking up his post as Lieutenant Governor of the Bailiwick of Guernsey. He joined the RAF as a flight cadet at RAF College Cranwell in 1969, and gained an external BA in Politics, Law and Sociology from Durham University. He served as a fighter pilot first with 29 Squadron, flying Phantoms from Coningsby in Lincolnshire before becoming an instructor on Phantoms. He then qualified as a fighter weapons instructor before heading for Germany as the weapons leader on 92 Squadron.

After serving in the Ministry of Defence he converted to piloting the Tornado F3 fighter. He then took command of 111 Squadron based at Leuchars in Scotland. Then in May, 1993 he went to the Falklands to command the large RAF airfield at Mount Pleasant. For his services there he was awarded the CBE. On his return to the UK he worked in the operations division of the MoD before spending two years at the air headquarters of the Central Region of NATO. He returned to the MoD in 1999 as the director of operational capability. Then in 2001 he was promoted to Air Vice-Marshal and appointed Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Operations). The attack on the World Trade Centre in September, 2001 happened during this period and there were escalating problems in Afghanistan and Iraq, so his was a very demanding role. Then in 2002 he was appointed Assistant Chief of Staff at NATO's Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe in Belgium. He was appointed CB in 2005. His final post in a long and distinguished career was as director of NATO's Joint Warfare Centre in Norway.

He retired from the RAF in 2007 and spent the next few years involved with local issues in north Devon and doing voluntary work for RAF and civilian charities before taking up his appointment as Lieutenant Governor of the Bailiwick of Guernsey in 2011. His appointment was the first where the Guernsey authorities were involved in the selection process and he proved to be an excellent choice. While in office he developed a reputation as a much respected adviser, and the Ministry of Justice in London, which maintains the constitutional relationship with Crown Dependencies including Guernsey, said its officials relied on his advice and his understanding of the workings of government.

He and Lynda became involved in many aspects of island life. He was patron of several charities including one very dear to his heart, Channel Islands Air Search which operates a search and rescue aircraft over the islands and surrounding waters. Others were as wide ranging as the National Trust of Guernsey, the GSPCA, the Guernsey Football Association, the Guernsey Eisteddfod and the Guernsey Sailing Trust. He opened Government House and its gardens for many charitable events and he and Lynda were familiar figures in the crowd at the agricultural shows, Viaer Marchi and Liberation Day celebrations. They also took part in charity walks and the annual Big Soup Kitchen. He visited many businesses, schools, hospitals and residential and nursing homes, always stopping for a chat and a joke with people rather than staying with the official party. His natural warmth and friendliness were obvious as was his interest in local customs, events and history. He was also patron of the trust responsible for the Allied Airmen's Memorial which was unveiled a few days after he died. Another event that took place shortly after his death was the Air Display marking the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Britain and it was decided that it would be dedicated to his memory.

Air Marshal Walker showed a keen interest in the work of our Group, often referring to information contained in the website for speeches given at events such as the opening of the new RGLI Museum in Castle Cornet, services commemorating the outbreak of the Great War and the departure of the Irish contingents, the unveiling of the St Peter Port Memorial, and the re-badging of the RGLI. The information in his speeches was always detailed and correct and his questions showed a wide knowledge of and interest in Channel Islands history of that period. He also supported the work of the Guernsey Military History Company and took an interest in events that they were involved in, chatting and joking with 'the troops' once the formal part of the event was over.

On the evening before he passed away, he and his wife had been at the Specsavers 'Reach for a Star' event at Beau Sejour Leisure Centre where he had appeared happy and in good health. Sadly he died at home of a heart attack in the early hours of the following morning. Following his death flags were flown at half mast around the Islands and Books of Condolence were available at several venues. A service of Thanksgiving and Farewell was held at the Town Church and relayed to a marquee in Market Square as there wasn't enough room in the church for the people who wished to attend. Hundreds more lined the route of the procession to the airport from where he was repatriated to the UK. The funeral was held a few days later in London. He will be sadly missed for his personal warmth, natural friendliness and lively interest in local life as well as the way he carried out more formal duties.

**Editor's Note:** To the best of my knowledge, I cannot recall another Lieutenant-Governor passing away whilst in office. As Liz properly recounts in her excellent Obituary, he showed considerable interest in many aspects of Guernsey life, and indeed in some of our Group's work. Cynics may say that this goes with the territory, but it is nonetheless welcoming for one's work to be referred to by someone who is, after all, the sovereign's representative in the Bailiwick, whether that be Guernsey or Jersey. Certainly his two fellow Lieutenant-Governors in Jersey, first Lieutenant-General Sir Andrew Ridgway, and more recently General Sir John McColl, have been equally supportive of the Group's work.



**Attending Remembrance Day  
2014**



**Meeting Keith Pike, the driving force behind the replacement St Peter Port Great War Shrine**



**Admiring Liz Walton's 1500 Guernsey Poppy Display at Hirzel House**



**Privates on Parade (Well almost!)  
The late Lieutenant-Governor armed and fallen in with the**

## **Guernsey Military History Company commanded by Russell Doherty**

### **The Yorkshire Regiments**

In the last Journal reference was made to the various Irish Regiments, the demise of some in the British Army's Order of Battle (ORBAT) following partition, and the 'new' Royal Irish Regiment resulting from amalgamations that have taken place between 1881 (in reality since 1921) and 2007. The 'old' Yorkshire Regiments, listed below, that took to the field of battle in 1914 have similarly endured the amalgamation and disbandment process as shown:

#### To form the 'new' Yorkshire Regiment:

- Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire Regiment)
- East Yorkshire Regiment
- Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire Regiment)
- Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)

#### To join The Rifles:

- King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (South Yorkshire)

#### To suspended animation then total disbandment in 1968:

- York and Lancaster Regiment

For many men in these regiments, amalgamation and disbandment was often hard to accept, given that the regiment was their only 'home'. The building of new allegiances and even the simple (?) creation of the 'new' regiment's badge is fraught with difficulty. In the latter case, just trying to encapsulate the proud traditions and symbols of first-rate 'old' regiments is no easy task.

Along with the 'Duke of Boots' and its West Riding affiliation, the East Yorkshire Regiment was affiliated to the East Riding of Yorkshire.

### **A New Parish War Memorial in Jersey**

One only needs to look at the Group's website to note that, of the twelve Island parishes, St Helier does not have its own, this being last mentioned in Journal 58 by Ian Ronayne. Further progress in resolving that has been made, with the launch, back in August, of a competition for Island architects, designers, sculptors and artists to come up with a design proposal that will incorporate the names of St Helier men who died in the Great War, the list having been created by Ian, and later of those who died in WW2. The competition will close on the 1<sup>st</sup> December.

The next stages of the project, intended to meet a November, 2018 commemoration date, are as follows:

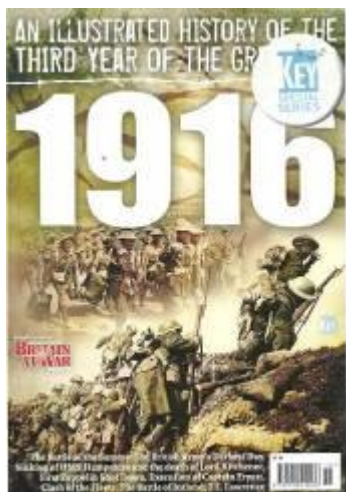
- December, 2015 - Review of all design proposals and creation of a shortlist
- January, 2016 - Interview of shortlisted candidates
- February, 2016 - Public exhibition (in the Town Hall?)
- March, 2016 - The winner is announced

Hopefully the next Journal can carry photographs of the shortlisted designs from the public exhibition.

### **In the Media - Around the Press and Television**

Where better to start this time than with the JEP and an item about Lady Lucy French, great-granddaughter of Sir John French (later the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Ypres), her work in helping to set up 'Never Such Innocence', a national Poetry and Art Competition for 9-16 year olds, and her hope that modern historians will take more kindly to her forebear than hitherto. That such a competition has an important place in children's education is undisputed, but its existence is a complete surprise and, as far can be seen, has not been involved with major groups whose interests lie in the Great War. This seems true of the Western Front Association, and to a few members of my WFA Branch who have been involved in our own similar schools competition from its inception 8 or 9 years ago. As to Sir John, there is the 2004 book, 'The Little Field-Marshal', by the late Richard Holmes that seems to be the benchmark biography. One can read that Sir John's forte was as a cavalry commander, and tactically, he excelled in that role during the South African War. Where one considers his strategic role as head of the BEF however, it is suggested that his shortcomings resulted from avoiding attendance at Staff College, and in some ways was far more unprepared than his subordinates when War broke out. Methinks that Lady Lucy has a difficult job in this area!

It was also good to read in the JEP that a former teacher at Hautlieu School, Cyd Le Bail, had been successful in getting the name of his French born uncle, Alexandre Le Bail, added to the Trévou-Tréguignec memorial in Brittany. It would be a mammoth task for someone to visit Breton memorials to check for completeness, so corrections must come from individual family research such as that undertaken by Cyd. While on the subject of memorials, the Australian High Commissioner to the UK was also in Jersey recently, and while there, laid a wreath at the Cenotaph to remember the Jersey-Australians.



The final JEP input is the item that was written by the present Lieutenant-Governor and published on the eve of Remembrance Sunday. Without wishing to appear too sycophantic, it is a pertinent article that both connects and reflects on the Great War, the difficult homecoming experienced by those who served, the role of the Royal British Legion along with fellow service charities, and the continuing need for military preparedness.

Pictured left meanwhile, is the latest magazine in the series by Key Publishing that looks at each year of the War. It consists of a wide and well-illustrated range of one and two page articles and is good value at £5.99.

Turning to the national newspapers, articles appear from time to time that can make you wonder what Great War artefacts and relics still exist today, tucked away in attics or in old farm buildings (whenever I visit Murvax to see my brother, I wonder which barn contains Frank Luke's SPAD XIII!). So it was interesting to read of a country house in Yorkshire from which little had been thrown away for 300 years. It had been a hospital during the Great War, and amongst the clutter, there was a bloodstained blanket from that period! A more poignant item was an officer's valise, which had not been opened in over 90 years,

and was to be auctioned. The officer, a Second Lieutenant Charles Bodman in the Durham LI, was killed in August, 1918 and his remains were never found. His kit was returned, and his mother, believing that he would walk in one day, never opened the valise.

'Yours for £150,000 Sir!' Tucked away amongst a collection of some 250 Massey-Ferguson and Fordson tractors of varying ages put up for auction in Norfolk recently, there was to be found a USA built Holt 75 tractor pictured below right, one of a batch purchased by the Imperial government for the purpose of towing howitzers around the battlefield.



As far as is known, the tractor which was up for sale did not actually go to France having arrived just a few weeks before the Armistice, and it had either been used on anti-aircraft work in Kent, or placed in storage. 'Now Sir, will it fit on your drive?'

Commentators often state that no British family was left untouched by the Great War Casualty Lists, and that is no less true for the Royal Family and the late Queen Mother who, along with losing two cousins in 1914 and 1917, lost her brother Captain Fergus Bowes-Lyon, the Queen's uncle, at the Battle of Loos in September, 1915. For years he had been commemorated on the Loos Memorial. Like many, the Royal Family has sought to identify where Captain Bowes-Lyon was buried, and newspaper reports note that their search was now over and it had been established that he had been buried in a mass grave in Quarry Cemetery at Vermelles. The debate about Rudyard Kipling's 'My Boy Jack' continues, the CWGC has reaffirmed their assessment that he is buried in St Mary's ADS Cemetery, whilst the Holts (Major and Mrs) are still saying otherwise.

A recent if somewhat curious headline, 'Gender gap of the Great War is finally erased' recently appeared in one newspaper. With the high number of casualties, there were not enough men to go around, and even though there was a baby boom in 1920, the 'normal' gap was added to by the 'Great War' gap. It ranks alongside the fact that in the last year or two, the UK's Chancellor of the Exchequer has also eliminated that part of the National Debt which was attributable to the War.

Finally, there has been, in a number of newspapers, a politicisation of Remembrance Sunday and poppy wearing, coupled with the considerable scrutiny being 'enjoyed' by the new Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition. Looking at these matter from the outside, it does detract from the aim of Remembrance, and whether one chooses to wear a poppy all-year round is irrelevant. Does Remembrance of the Great War need to be confined to one day only?

## Ronayne Writes

**The Stocker Dinner:** In November, I had the pleasure of being the guest speaker at the inaugural 'Stocker Dinner' held in commemoration of Major Walter Stocker and the 326 volunteers who had formed the Jersey Company.

The event was organised by the Jersey Field Squadron, the Army Reserve unit of Royal Engineers raised in the Island. They took on the Jersey Militia identity some years back, and were holding the dinner to honour their First World War forebears. It was an excellent evening, with my speech coming very early on, which meant that for the most part I could enjoy an excellent regimental dinner held in the TA Centre gym, suitably bedecked with drapes and flags. They had invited over members of the present day 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment, recalling the Royal Irish Rifles that the Jersey Company had fought with. An Irish piper entertained along with a military band. It was all very atmospheric. The Lieutenant Governor was in attendance along with the Deputy Bailiff and Constable of St Helier, so really good patronage.

It looks like becoming an annual event, there was a real interest in the history of the Jersey Company, with many of those attending knowing little about them before my speech. The Lieutenant Governor went as far as to mention my book in his Remembrance Day message. Personally, I was very pleased to see the volunteers remembered 100 years on.

I am sure that 'Ours' would have been suitably pleased with the recognition.

**WW1 School Tours:** Despite only having recently returned from the last one (or so it seems), preparations are well under way for next year's School Tour to the WW1 battlefields. The plan is to go from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, with roughly the same itinerary as this year. All eleven secondary schools again, four pupils and one teacher from each.

**WW1 Memorial:** Frank Falle is busily engaged in getting a monument erected to all Jersey people who left the Island to serve during the Great War, with a special focus on the Jersey Company who departed in March, 1915. It will be on Weighbridge Square, formed from a 'Jersey arch' in Granite with inscribed words, and including a separate information panel. I have been doing my little bit helping out with the words.

I understand that the plan is to unveil it next year, possibly in the presence of a special visitor to the Island (**Editor:** Me?). The Bailiff's Office is fully engaged and supporting the effort.

**Jersey Memorial at Guillemont:** I understand that plans are well advanced to erect a monument near the village of Guillemont commemorating Jerseymen who fought in the war including the Jersey Company who served (and died) in that Somme village during September, 1916. The plan is to unveil it 100 years on.

**Later conflicts:** Not of our era I know, but I was recently involved in the placement of a plaque to those Jerseymen who served in the 'Forgotten Army' during WW2. It was organised by the indefatigable Jean McLaughlin whose father served in Burma. A really nice ceremony, in which I gave a speech on their story, which was well attended by the great and good. Subsequently, I talked again on that subject at a Remembrance Day service at Georgetown Methodist Church. It must have surprised a few attendees, who asked, 'Aren't you that First World War man?' A man of many parts, I assured them, who can talk on any subject providing the pay is good or that there are enough tea and biscuits!



## Faces Remembered



The above picture is of Charles Chandler, born in Guernsey in 1855, along with his family. Charles served with the East Yorkshire Regiment between 1873 and 1889, when he transferred to the Royal Guernsey Militia with which he served another ten years. From what can be seen from his service, his 25 years of service was spent in England, Ireland and Guernsey. He married Ann Doyle in Tipperary in June, 1879, and would have six children, the eldest, a daughter sadly dying just two days after her birth in June, 1880.

The family picture on the previous page shows the four boys from the left as Henry (Harry) b.1886, William Charles b.1883, John b.1885, and Frederick b.1888. Mary, their sister was the youngest having been born in Guernsey in 1890.

All four boys were born in Beverley since Charles was stationed there between February, 1882 and September, 1889 at the Regimental Depot which was in the long since demolished Victoria Barracks at Beverley and pictured right.



The family picture seems to indicate that of the four, only three served. However, after John had died of wounds in July, 1915, the Guernsey Press noted his death and that 'Mr Chandler has three other sons serving in the Army...' Not long before John died, Mary would marry Second Lieutenant Thomas Hutton who had been commissioned into the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment), having been a Sergeant in the Yorkshire Regiment, and he had probably served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion in Guernsey.

An anecdotal source indicates that one son died of his injuries in 1920, but which one? The same source states that Henry served for 22 years, while Frederick worked on farms all his life, thus we are left with William, the one not in uniform, who died? Further information is needed to confirm this, for if William did die in 1920 from wounds, his case should be brought to the CWGC's notice. Can anyone advise?



The chap on the left looks too young to have served, and it is very likely that he was when he enlisted in October, 1915, assuming that he was the **Sydney John Renouf** born in 1898.

Sydney joined the Middlesex Regiment, was given the regimental number of G/19672, and initially served with the regiment's 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion, that formed part of 40<sup>th</sup> Division, and which had served in France from June, 1916. The Division is interesting in that it was regarded as a 'Bantam' Division, although in reality, only about half of its Battalions had men who were classified as 'Bantams' due to their lack of height and physique. The Division would take part in the Battle of the Ancre in the autumn of 1916, and be involved in the advance following up the German Retreat to the Hindenburg Line in late spring of the following year. It is uncertain as to when Sydney went to France with the Battalion, as he could have been held back due to his age.

Whatever the date that he reached France, he would take part in the Battle of Cambrai, where the 40<sup>th</sup> Division capture Bourlon Wood after some particularly bitter fighting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 1917.

The 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1918 would see the Germans launch Operation Michael, and the British would soon be pushed back, in some cases from inadequately prepared positions. For his actions in maintaining communications between his Battalion's HQ and the Brigade HQ on the following day near Bullecourt, along with bringing in a couple of wounded men under heavy shell fire, Sydney would be deservedly awarded (see LG 30830) the Military Medal. A few weeks later the next German attack, Operation Georgette, would take place, and the wearied 40<sup>th</sup> Division would be engaged in the Battle of the Lys, and after which, having been withdrawn the line and suffering heavy casualties, the Division would be reduced in size to a training cadre. At some time between the beginning of May and the end of June, 1918, Sydney would be transferred to the Middlesex Regiment's 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion which was in the 8<sup>th</sup> Division, seeing out the War with the capture of Douai.

Returning to Jersey, having also received a Divisional Parchment recognising his gallantry on another occasion, Sydney John Renouf would be honoured by the Parish of St Helier who presented him with a watch to acknowledge his heroic deeds. (A photograph of his watch can be seen on his website page, courtesy Jason Cronin).

We have another 'Can anyone advise?' case to consider, with the accompanying photograph again courtesy Jason Cronin.

Our man is **Algernon Wiseman Davis**, who enlisted with the 13<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion of the AIF in September, 1914 having been born at Tingha NSW in 1895. He had been a clerk in civilian life and this qualified him to become the Battalion's Orderly Room Sergeant. He would be commissioned in January, 1916, and later rise to the rank of Major, being awarded the Military Cross and the Croix de Guerre.

The photograph was possibly taken in Alexandria, although this is not confirmed, but the message on the reverse was written there whilst he was having three weeks of much needed rest and recuperation from Gallipoli, having suffered 'Shell Shock'. The recipient was someone called 'Birdie' whilst there is a mention of Lydia (a hard case!)

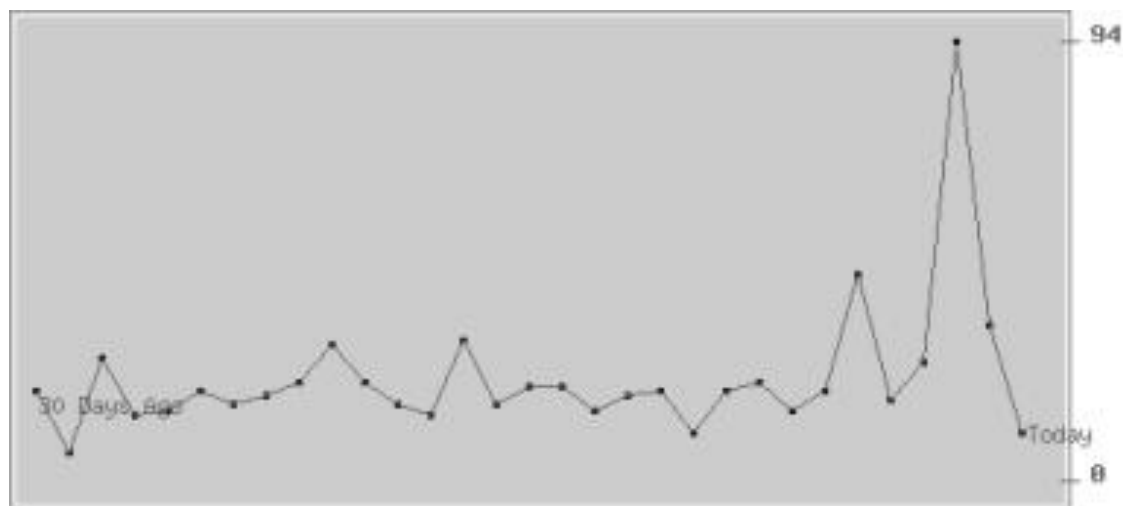


When and how did the photograph get to Jersey? Jason collects postcards, and it may have been passed on through other collectors who had acquired it elsewhere than in the Island. Did 'Birdie' and Lydia come from Jersey and were they related? Again, a 'don't know'. However, contact has been made with a lady in Australia. She is descended from Algernon's Irish grandfather, John Martin Davis, who came to Australia, c.1824, as a 15 year old convict, and who would later marry Sarah Wiseman, daughter of another convict who had been on the same convict ship! Regrettably, the contact has not been able to identify any Jersey connection, while 'Birdie' and Lydia do not feature in the Davis family tree either! It is a long shot, but can anyone advise?

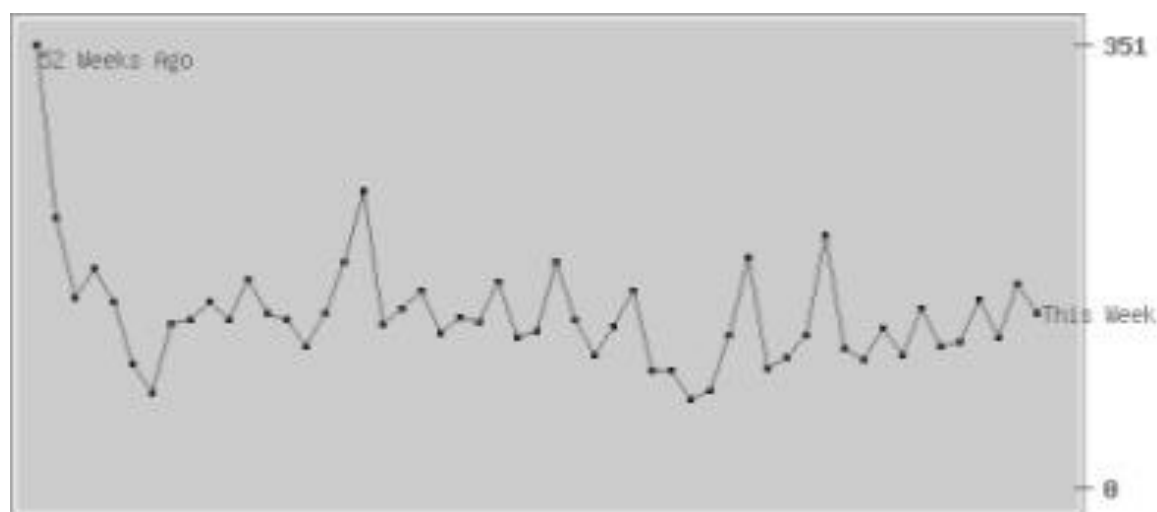
## Website Workings By Roger Frisby

The total number of website visits has now reached 55,470, an additional 1,759 visits since August, when the last Journal was published.

### Recent Website Visits



The Past Month



The Past Year

With regards to the respective Rolls of Honour and Service, the statistics for changes to our numbers since mid-May are as follows:

- Guernsey Roll of Honour – 1472 names (unchanged)
- Guernsey Roll of Service – 6503 names (up by 280)
- Jersey Roll of Honour – 1659 names (up by 1)
- Jersey Roll of Service – 7548 names up by 48)

Website and Facebook contacts continue to supply us with corrections, additions and photographs. For example, we recently received two headstone pictures from New Zealand via Facebook.

## Searching Service Records By Roger Frisby

As you will have read, the number of entries in our Guernsey Roll of Service has increased considerably. This is largely because we now have easier access to RAF, Royal Navy and Mercantile Marine records via the Find-My-Past website. Prior to this, the only economical way to read these was by visiting the reading room at the National Archives of Kew. Mark Bougourd alerted me to the online RAF records and I then discovered the other data sets. All of these records allow searching by place of birth. This is very useful although it will not show children of Channel Islanders born elsewhere nor those of CI residents unless locally born.

The RAF records display previous army/navy units plus the units where they have served, along with rank, full name, date and place of birth.

The Royal Navy Seamen 1899-1919 set is perhaps the most comprehensive with the name, date and place of birth, full service history and qualifications, enlistment and discharge dates including the dreadful 'DD' (Discharged Dead) notation being given.

The Merchant Navy Seamen records are more difficult to use. They show very little apart from name and place of birth. Sometimes a photograph is included but not service areas, ships or dates (with some exceptions). Most seamen served long before or after the Great War so including most men in our RoS is impossible without supporting evidence. Sometimes we have this from wartime press lists or newspaper articles and these records can then confirm our entry. Searching the British Merchant Navy First World War medal cards by name or place of birth can also confirm war service and eligibility.

Most of these records are photographic copies of the originals and some can be difficult to read but transcripts of the salient details are also available. The latter are by no means perfect. I discovered an unrecorded man by his place of birth being given as **SARK**. However, Census returns could not confirm this. I noticed that he had served in the Canadian army, traced his Canadian attestation record only to find that his place of birth was actually **SASK** (Saskatchewan)!!

Most of the records mentioned were hand written and can frequently be hard to decipher, so be warned!

### Breton Matriculation Records

French Army Matriculation records for the Côtes de Nord (St Brieuc, Dinan and Guingamp) and the Ille-et-Vilaine (Rennes, St Malo and Vitré) departments from about 1869 to 1921 can be found via the following links:

<http://archives.ille-et-vilaine.fr/en/article/les-registres-matricules-militaires>

<http://sallevirtuelle.cotesdarmor.fr/RM/rmx/commune.aspx>

<http://archives.cotesdarmor.fr/>

They are a gold mine of information and will include many of the men who left the Islands to serve with the French Army, and it is as if one was reading the old Jersey phone directories! You have to find the man's surname in the Table for the recruiting town (e.g. St Brieuc) and year that you want first to get the matriculation number, and then swop over to

the Register although, because some men have more than one sheet, it can be a bit of trial and error to bracket in on the individual that who is wanted. It is a far more complicated process than trying to work via Ancestry for British Army service papers, but one presumes that, at least, all records are there.

### **A Little Light Reading?**

One cannot touch on Jersey's Great War without reference to its population, whether numerically or in terms of national mixes. Members may be interested in the following two forthcoming books:

- Jersey's Population – A History by Mark Boleat
- French Emigration to Jersey 1850-1950 by Michel Monteil

Reputedly, both are to be sold by the Société Jersiaise, but as yet, neither title appears on the Société's current listing of books on its website, so it is not known what the prices are. Mark's name is better known as being the Chairman of the Jersey Development Company, whilst M. Monteil's work was a study written some 10 years ago at the University of Provence, and which has only just been translated.

There might also be some interest in reading 'For King and Another Country: Indian Soldiers on the Western Front 1914-18' by Shrabani Basu. It was published at the beginning of November, and is priced at £25 or less on Amazon. It is not to be mistaken with another book, with the same title by Graham Russell, that looks at an Indian WW2 fighter pilot.

### **Battle Song by Gerardy (From the 1919 book, Australia in Palestine)**

Silver and white are the planes a-flight, and the guns are manifold,  
And hour and hour we gain that power which the Lords of war extolled  
When the wrath-fires flared, and the blades were bared, in the first red tide that  
flowed.

We've quelled the fears of the darkest years, and the vistas of remorse  
Grow less and less in the wilderness where the south wind gathers force.  
And a golden scope in the sun of hope rolls north of the Anzac Horse.

When shrapnel breaks and the skyline quakes in the tempest loud and long.  
We'll gallop our files through the shell-torn aisles of a sadly shaken throng.  
And the fire of hell will grandly swell to a martial storm of song.

Swift as the tide then we shall ride for the goal that burns ahead  
When night rolls round we'll slumber sound where God's sweet light is shed.  
And the silver eyes of the cloudless skies will watch o'er the valiant dead.

Attending a book fair in a nearby village recently, I spotted the book 'Australia in Palestine', dedicated to the Australian Light Horse, which was a collector's item and in very good condition. Sadly the book's price was beyond my budget at £50, but that did not stop me taking note of the above poem's existence! Reading it, one's imagination can soon visualise the Light Horse cantering towards Beersheba.

## Billy Doos Notes from France

If it's September, then it must be Verdun and a return to our *gîte* at Charny-sur-Meuse (Note the sense of ownership after four years)! As ever, our travel via Eurotunnel fortunately went unhindered by illegal immigrants, strikers, and the like. Indeed, the outward bound 'check-in to chuff-chuff' time was about 25 minutes, and that included two border control checks and an explosives inspection.

On this trip I was mindful that next year will see the centenary of the German attack on the 21<sup>st</sup> February, 1916 and the bloodbath that ensued up until December of that year. The **Memorial at Douaumont** still has the appearance of a building site, and remains closed. But the work now appears directed towards the access to and the provision of car parking. The project seems to be on track. As to the major French commemorative event, scheduled for the 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2016, little has been publicly circulated in terms of the arrangements, and indeed, our hosts at Charny were even unaware of that date! Looking at the area around Douaumont, it is to be anticipated that the logistical and security arrangements will be quite demanding.



### The Memorial to the Arme du Train on the Voie Sacrée, just to the north of Moulin Brûlé

(The Arme du Train was the French Army's transport corps that originally used horse drawn carts in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, but with advancing technology, would also use motor vehicles and trains. The French *poilus*, going up to the line, would dismount at Moulin Brûlé and march 8-10 miles up to the front).

Battlefield tourist numbers remain considerable even in late September and early October, a mixture of visitors from other parts of Europe in addition to the French. But there are also buses full of schoolchildren and others on educational as opposed to sightseeing trips with the Ossuary and Fort Douaumont proving particularly popular. On one occasion we passed a group of German officers, drawn from the three services, emerging from the *Tranchées des Baïonnettes*. But it does seem a curious fact that the cemetery at Douaumont (and elsewhere at other French for that matter) appears to have few people wandering around to read the names on the grave markers. By comparison, larger British cemeteries such as Tyne Cot and Etaples generally appear to have a greater volume of visitors at any one time. Is it that the British headstones provide a more comprehensive amount of information about each person where it is able to?

A couple of photographic sorties were on the agenda. That for Caporal Victor Sabot took us to the village of Marbotte which is in the **St Mihiel Salient**. The Salient was held for most of the War by the Germans, but in September, 1918 was quickly overrun and captured by the Allies with a force of 550,000 Americans and 110,000 French coupled with lesser support from Italy and Britain, the latter furnishing an RAF bomber squadron.

Against that force, the Germans had ranged some 50,000 men, but they had started a withdrawal the day previous to the initial attack.

Given that we went there at the beginning of October, the Salient's area was unsurprisingly quiet and devoid of British cars save for ours. So it was difficult to gauge its popularity as an area to tour at busier times. It was our first time, and save for Caporal Sabot, little pre-preparation had been carried out. For any future visit a little more time spent route-planning is needed. The furthest that we travelled was up to the Butte de Montsec to see the American Memorial atop.



The view across the Plain to the east is impressive whilst the actual memorial is far less ostentatious than other memorials such as that at Coleville-sur-Mer. I was particularly impressed by the bronze relief map in the centre and the smaller circular panels showing US Army progress.





Of course we had to have lunch out, and for anybody having Breton withdrawal pains, there is a nice little Breton crêperie to try out, Le Pont Aven, at 8, Place des Alliés in St Mihiel itself, although there are no Gauguins on view!

A visit much closer to our temporary 'home' was made to the **Ouvrage de la Falouse**. In terms of its location, it seems to be tucked out of sight two to three miles south of the centre of Verdun on the D301, and probably best accessed from near the CORA hypermarket. My dictionary offers little help in translating 'ouvrage' for this use, so it is probably best interpreted as meaning a 'mini-fort' as opposed to the 'maxi-fort' that are Forts Douaumont and Vaux, where we see the use of both types which were built around Verdun following the Franco-Prussian War.



But, the Ouvrage de la Falouse, equipped with a 75mm field gun and two machine guns, is probably unique amongst that ring of forts in that, because it was tucked in the lee of Verdun, it was never targeted by the Germans, and so structurally, it is the most complete fort of all. It is now in the hands of an amateur military history society who have created a museum, populated by some 30+ life-sized mannequins, that depicts the everyday life that would have been experienced by the Ouvrage's garrison during the Great War.

The various rooms provide different scenes, such as officers' and other ranks sleeping quarters, a kitchen, store rooms, the CO's Office, and a Communications Centre, complete with (to the memsahib's chagrin), stuffed pigeons. The mannequins, in various states of dress/undress, show men going around their daily chores or just relaxing between periods of duty.



The Communications Centre (Above)  
Busy in the Kitchen (Below)



Inside the Ouvrage de la Falouse



Climbing up to the Observation Turret  
(Above)

The outer structure and some of the inside walls are showing the ravages of age, but overall, it is a fascinating place to visit, the mannequins are realistic, while there has been quite a bit of good effort and thought put in to the displays given that it relies on unpaid volunteers. Further details can be found on opening hours and admission prices on its website [www.ouvragedelafalouse.fr](http://www.ouvragedelafalouse.fr).

Our final activity worthy of note was, when mid-way through our stay, to visit a **Militaria Fair** being held in a cavernous sports hall near Verdun's citadel. The range of items that are on sale is not confined to the Great War, more recent conflicts being better represented, with a high proportion of German and US uniforms and equipment up for sale. What was surprising, however, was the number of firearms seemingly seeking new owners, including a German MG42 pattern machine gun from WW2. Whether it, or the other firearms being displayed, had been effectively de-commissioned, I could not say, but I suspect not in a few cases, and probably not in the 'under the counter' inventory!

There was little in the way of British equipment, a range of cap and epaulette badges being the only items of note. Similarly, there was not much of note in terms of books and magazines which had drawn me there, hoping to pick up on back numbers of the *Tranchées* magazine that I am missing (A problem being avoided for the future by taking out a subscription). If there any members interested in collecting or just looking at militaria, there are numerous websites in the UK, France, and elsewhere that appear if the search term 'Militaria Bourse (or Fair)' is used. Finally, we've booked the *gîte* for next September!



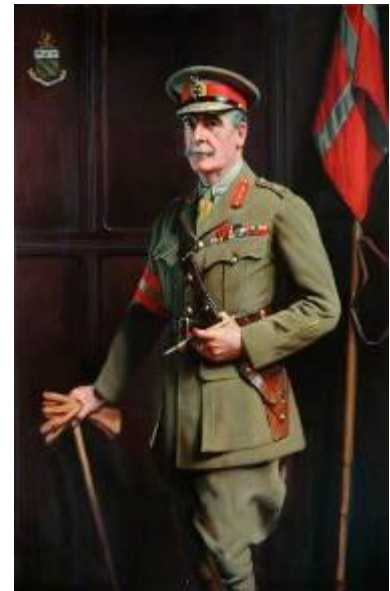
**Guns for Sale!**

### **Green Howards Museum**

A year ago I was looking to visit the Green Howards Museum at Richmond in N Yorkshire, during the winter months. Whatever the reason, I did not, and was later glad not to have made the trip across the moors and dales! It was closed to the public until this May due to a major refurbishment that rang the tills at £1.7M, just over half of which came from Lottery funding. There has clearly been an improvement in that the space in the building, which is a former church, has been better utilized while the galleries are better lit. It should be pointed out that accessibility has also improved with lifts.

With a regimental history of over 300 years, any museum has to balance the various chapters as well as its antecedents, so in this case, the Green Howard's Great War contribution is no more or less prominent amongst the displays, yet there is still plenty to see. Although he was not on duty when we visited, there is a chap who normally mans the research room and helps visitors with their queries into Uncle Albert's time with the regiment. Given the Army amalgamations of 2006/2007 there was a noticeable inclusion of the 'new' regiment in the displays and items in the souvenir shop.

One large room is given over to an impressive regimental silver display and is set out for meetings, some I suspect by the local council. Overlooking them is a portrait of General Edward Bulfin, Colonel of the Regiment between 1914 and 1939, and painted by Jersey's John St Helier Lander.



If there is one gripe, a few of the displays make great play that the Green Howards have always been full of Yorkshireman, and that there is no recognition that there has also been 'foreigners' in their midst. The regiment would have had men from wherever they could recruit, especially where numbers were more important than pedigree.

But, whether you have a Yorkshire connection or not (Airedale terriers don't qualify), if you are in the vicinity of Richmond and you have a few hours to spare, do pop in and visit the Museum if you can, and while it does not have a café, there are some nearby, and I would recommend the Cross View Tea Rooms and Restaurant ([www.crossviewtearooms.co.uk](http://www.crossviewtearooms.co.uk)) for a lunch or something lighter, and it is only about 20-30 yards from the Museum.

### **Poppies and Cornflowers**

Liz Walton's field of poppies and cornflowers (shown below) has been growing and at the last count she had amassed about 1300 of the 1500 target. Displayed at various shows and sites, the collection will be on display in St Peter Port's Town Church for just a few more days.



Her field reminds me that there had been great fanfare back in 2014 about planting poppy seeds in almost every spare space in the Islands. Did they take?

### **Out and About**

**Looking Back:** My recent trip to Verdun, covered in Billy Doos.

**Looking Forward:** Nothing reported for the next few months.

## Odds and Ends

**Administrative Matters:** As ever, it would be of help if changes to Members' E-mail addresses are notified as they occur. This will enable me to keep the distribution lists up to date and for members to receive prompts on particular matters. I am currently receiving 'rejection' or 'no contact' messages from the following partial E-Mail addresses:

**Facebook:** It has been suggested that the Group looks to making use of Facebook to reach a wider audience for our work and to get more two way dialogue going. The suggestion is being discussed, but there is a need for some of us (me especially!) to better understand the mechanics of using it. More to follow in due course.

**Help Still Sought:** We're still trying to piece together an idea of the British Army's organisation in the Channel Islands during the Great War. We know, for example that after the respective Military Service Acts that home defence fell on the 2<sup>nd</sup> (Reserve) Battalion, RGLI and the RJGB, while 109 and 110 Companies, RGA were formed. But any data as to the command structure under the two Lieutenant-Governors would be of interest. If you can help, please contact Mark Bougourd.

**Guernsey Volunteer(s) Still Needed:** We have four men buried in Guernsey at Candie, Foulon and St John's whose graves need finding and photographing. If you are able to help, please contact Roger Frisby who will send you details.

**Chester Cecil Church and Fromelles:** No further progress.

**More Victoriana:** Articles planned for Captain Robert Faulknor and Lieutenant Ruskin Richardson have had to be carried over until the next Journal.

**Edward de Faye and Gauche Wood:** The proposal to search Gauche Wood for the remains of Edward de Faye and his driver, Albert Voice, has been high on the agenda, but was at last submitted to the States of Jersey in early November. The proposal is now under consideration.

**Jersey's Militia Pay Lists, 1914-1917:** This work is still stalled.

**Journal to Website Transfers:** There are a lot of articles appearing in past Journals that could also feature on the website with a limited amount of editing. A repeat call for authors to give thought to see what might feature on our site and supply fresh copy?

**Headstones:** Liz Walton spent a few hours recently, trying to clean up AB John Helman's civilian headstone. If you're in a local cemetery where you know that Great War dead are buried there, can you give the headstone a quick examination, and if needed, highlight those that may be in poor condition.

## Enfin

I reiterate my thanks to those who contributed to this Journal for their inputs, both large and small. Indeed, for all who have contributed throughout 2015.

Looking back through some of the year's accounts, it strikes me that there has been a lot of varied activity that has involved a number of members, the Jersey Schools Battlefield Tour and the Stocker Dinner for example, and the Guernsey ACF Re-Badging Ceremony and the Service for the First Guernsey Service Contingent. Others, because they no longer

live in the Channel Islands, are attending events and engaging in activities on their doorsteps. I for one would just like to curl up in a ball and just hibernate, but there is still much catch-up work that can be done during these dark nights.

Looking ahead to 2016, there are Verdun, Kut, Jutland, the Somme, Fromelles, Guillemont and Ginchy amongst the anniversaries to feature, and some of our paths will undoubtedly cross on the old battlefields. For my part, I do hope that many of you will continue to feed me with news, articles, photographs, information and even the occasional gossip (non-attributable).

Kind Regards  
Barrie H Bertram  
29<sup>th</sup> November, 2015

### **Journal Issue Dates For 2016**

The four Journals for 2016 are currently planned to be published on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February, May, August and November respectively, or very shortly after those dates. As ever, I shall be looking for your articles by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month, and will send out a reminder about 2-3 weeks beforehand.

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16<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Great War Study Group

Dear Mr Bertram,

**Local History Fayre**

The Jersey Library is arranging a Local History Fayre on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2016. We are looking to promote local special interest groups and new books with local content. We envisage talks taking place throughout the day in our first floor meeting room as well as having tables around the library which could be manned or used for static displays for participating organisations.

We would be delighted if the Great War Study Group would be able to attend to promote your organisation alongside other local interest groups. Our opening hours are 9-5.30 Friday and 9-4 Saturday.

Please could you let us know if you would be interested in taking part on one or both days and we will arrange to meet to discuss your specific requirements.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely

Helen Barette and Julie O'Grady  
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