

CHANNEL ISLANDS GREAT WAR STUDY GROUP



**Off To Ireland – While France Awaits!
(A draft of Guernsey volunteers – 4th September, 1915)**

JOURNAL 21 AUGUST 2008

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Hello All

A few E-Mail exchanges that I've received since the last Journal have reminded me somewhat of the analogy that likens an organisation to a swan. It is something along the lines that what is seen on the surface is serene and glides along, while below the water, the webbed feet are paddling furiously to keep the whole lot moving! Sadly, I don't regard myself in that light being one of the "All paddle, no glide" variety, yet I am pleased to point to some successful "paddling" that is in hand.

The first is in the website, where Roger Frisby toils away at the material that various people supply, as he refers to in the Website Workings piece below. The site's content is steadily growing, while he is looking ahead to changes, particularly in the Rolls of Service, that are designed to enable further material to be more easily added as the site continues to be developed.

Secondly, many will have seen Peter Tabb's outline proposals for commemorating the 90th Anniversary of the Great War's end and which are summarised later on. They are an excellent collection of ideas, and for those Jersey based members at least, ones that Peter will surely appreciate some physical presence in support. Hopefully, some money will also be made available by sponsors.

It's easy for me to be wishful in my "chateau" so far back from the Island's "front lines", but a successful combination of Peter and Roger's efforts might trigger a wider interest in the Great War in Jersey than has appeared hitherto. Hopefully any prior interest has been dormant rather than dead.

Moving on to the articles in this Journal, we welcome back Paul Ronayne from his paternal leave with a contribution on Sergeant Charles Laugeard, DCM. Liz Walton looks at a VC holder, George Edward Nurse, while Roger Frisby and I recount our respective rambles to collect more photographs in support of the website. Mark Bougourd has produced a further piece following medal research, this being on Cpl Archibald Le Lerre, while with Paul Balshaw's help, has turned up other interesting material. Not to be outdone, Ian Ronayne has been burrowing in the bowels of St Helier's Parish Hall to turn up some long-forgotten photographs. Peter Tabb, as well as looking to re-open the Western Front in Jersey, has contributed a couple of Book Reviews, and off course, there are the usual Odds and Ends! To all contributors, my thanks as ever for making my editorial task easy!

This Issue's Cover

Thanks to Paul Balshaw and Mark Bougourd for supplying this month's photograph showing Guernseymen heading off to join the 3rd Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment in Dublin on 4th September, 1915. Mark writes:

The message on the postcard states "Departure of Draft, 3rd Royal Irish 4/9/15" and this was initially confusing as I read this to be the 3rd Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment, which did not make sense, but indeed it is as Diex Aix makes clear in Chapter 2, page 4, and which I've summarised as follows:

- *1st Contingent formed in March 1915 as D Coy, 6th Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment under the command of Major GW Le Page.*

- *1st Draft joined in April 1915 consisting of 39 men under the command of 2Lt MHC Slaytor, this draft bringing the Company up to strength.*
- *2nd Draft of 31 other ranks went to the Regiment's 3rd Battalion at Inchicore Barracks, Dublin. They were to be trained and to form a pool of reinforcements for D Company as wastage occurred.*
- *3rd Draft of 22 men to Dublin under the command of Lt CJ Fulton*
- *4th Draft of 53 men under the command of Lt F de L'isle Carey*
- *5th (and Final) Draft of 53 men under the command of 2Lt Barry C Jones.*

To work out which draft this photo is from we will first need to either work out the dates of each draft. I suspect that it may be the 4th or 5th Draft due to the late embarkation date of 4th September, 1915 and that there are about fifty men in uniform in the photograph. Note that in addition there are a couple of ladies in the photograph also.

D Coy, 6th Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment went England in August, 1915 to undertake Divisional training, and to France and Flanders some three months after the picture was take, on 17th December, 1915.

Mark is researching this further and hopefully, should identify the correct Draft for us.

Postscripts

Faces Remembered! - Dr Gerhard Günzel and Soldiers Three! (Journal 20): A letter that I received from Don Somerville included a couple of suggestions. With respect to the numbers 5 and 63 shown in Dr Günzel's photograph Don feels sure that this was simply a numbering system applied by Albert Smith, the photographer. Certainly the group photograph of three POW (including Dr Günzel) on the website is also numbered, but in that case, it seems to have been marked on the negative.

With Soldiers Three, Don suggests that the chevrons on the right hand may be stripes for service overseas, and was good enough to provide an illustration from a book. However, the thought was that those stripes were much smaller than the ones in the photograph which were "standard" chevron size. Can anyone confirm?

Sergeant Charles Isidore Laugeard, DCM By Paul Ronayne

For the past couple of months I've been working at our Police Station installing a new telephone system and could not fail to notice a plaque on the wall in the reception dedicated to the memory of two policemen who had died during the Great War. So it was of great interest to visit the grave of one of the men remembered on our reason visit to France and Belgium. The man in question was one Charles Isidore Laugeard.

Charles had volunteered for the Jersey Overseas Contingent in October, 1914 and left for training in Ireland in March, 1915 with the 200 or so other volunteers who would join the 7th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles becoming D Company. He had been a

policeman before joining the Jersey Overseas Contingent and according to the CWGC Debt of Honour Register, had been married to Lillian Esther of Yarborough House, Stopford Road, St Helier. In fact, he had married the widow of a former colleague from his police days, a one PC Mason, shortly before he died in 1918. Charles was said to have been a very popular man.



Charles Isidore Laugeard

The late Sergt. Chas. I. Laugeard, D.C.M., a report of whose death in action we chronicled a few days ago, was, it appears, killed in France on October 2nd, news to this effect being received by the widow yesterday.

Much sympathy is felt for the widow, whose first husband, Gunner Mason, was killed in action a couple of years ago, and who, like Sergt. Laugeard, was a former and valued member of the St. Helier's Police Force.

The Evening Post article reporting Charles' death in October 1918



**Queen Mary Hospital in Whalley
A Band Concert for Staff and Wounded Men**

In late 1915 the 7th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles left for France and by that time Charles had been promoted to Lance Corporal and would see much action in the Loos sector for the next couple of months. In April, 1916 he was again promoted, this time to Corporal, while on the 27th July, 1916 he was awarded a parchment certificate for bravery, and then in September, 1916 he was promoted once again to Sergeant. In the same month Charles took part in the fighting around Guillemont and

Ginchy in the Battle of the Somme. Here he was wounded during the ferocious fighting on the 6th September, 1916, and after leaving France recuperated firstly at the Queen Mary Hospital in Whalley, Lancashire then in Jersey on home leave. In January, 1917 Charles was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) for bravery shown during the Battle of the Somme.



The Memorial Plaque in Jersey's Police Headquarters



Charles Laugeard's Grave at Duhallows ADS Cemetery

After recovering from his wounds Charles had become a bombing instructor but in October, 1917 had been wounded once again when a hand grenade had exploded

prematurely injuring at least one of his hands. He recovered once more and by the middle of 1918 had rejoined the remnants of the Jersey Overseas Contingent now fighting with the 2nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. As the war drew to a close fate had one last surprise in store for Charles: he was killed in action in Belgium on 2nd October, 1918, six weeks before the Germans signed the Armistice.

Spare a thought for his new wife who had by now lost two husbands to the war. Ironically her first husband, PC Mason is the other name on the plaque in the Police Station. Another poignant story connected with the Great War, like so many others. As you can see from the plaque Gunner Walter Gaudin Mason was killed in action on the 7th May, 1917 while serving in the 120th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery. He is buried in the Bailleul Road East Cemetery, St Laurent-Blangy, France.



Charles Isidore Laugeard is buried in Duhallows ADS Cemetery by Ypres in Belgium, and was remembered by Ian, Ned and myself in May 2008.

Editor's Note: We have "visited" Queen Mary's Hospital at Whalley before in Journal 3 (August 2005). From the section of the Ordnance Survey map adjacent, one can easily see where the band concert, shown above, took place, while the cemetery, where Corporal (or Sapper?) Philip Carrel (Carroll?), is buried is at the top of the map section.

Faces Remembered! – The Jersey Contingent

Keeping it in the family, along with Paul's article above, Ian Ronayne has found some old faces for us to remember, and all I can say is what faces!

In his research Ian has discovered that Jersey's Parish of St Helier had opened a scrap book during the Great War to commemorate those men who were seen to have performed acts of gallantry. When they returned on leave having received a decoration such as the DCM or the Military Medal (MM), the Parish would hold a reception for them and would present a commemorative scroll and a watch. The scrapbook contains press reports of the receptions, accompanied by the photographs of the guests of honour, the men who had won the medals. Ian estimates that there were more than 100 photographs, but because of his work on his Jersey Contingent book Ian, has just photographed some fourteen, of which four are reproduced overleaf thanks to Roger Frisby "squaring" them up. Another photograph is that of Charles Laugeard.

The first picture is of the most senior, Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) Jack Le Breton. He stayed with the Royal Irish Rifles throughout his wartime service, and the picture clearly shows that Regiment's cap badge. On his left breast can be made out two medal ribbons, one the DCM the other, the French Médaille Militaire most probably. Though it is indistinct in the image shown below, I use Picassa2 imaging software and "zooming in", can discern the half-moon "JERSEY" shoulder title on his right epaulette.

The next three men all transferred to the 2nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment.

The first of these is Company Sergeant Major (CSM) Helier William Bree, and he is wearing the MM and the 1915 Star. There is also a third ribbon, and this may be Croix de Guerre as cited in the original Roll of Service. On his right sleeve is the flash for the 29th Division, to which the 2nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment belonged.

He is followed Lance Corporal Harold Battam, and he is also wearing the MM and the 1915 Star. As with Helier Bree, by the time this picture was taken, Harold Battam had also joined the Hampshire Regiment, and is also wearing the 29th Division's shoulder flash. However, Mark Bougourd kindly pointed out an emblem on the flash itself which was a Divisional Parchment Gallantry award, that I understand was made where a man did not get a Mention in Despatches. Hopefully, he will produce an article on the topic for a future Journal. Finally, he suggests that Harold may also be wearing two service stripes on his right cuff.



29th Division Parchment Gallantry award

The final photograph is that of CSM Christian H D'Authreau, although at the time the photograph was taken, he was still a Sergeant. No medal ribbons appear to be worn, while there is a Lewis Gunner's badge above his Sergeant's chevrons. Mark Bougourd informs me that this shows that he was a Lewis Gunner Instructor. The half-moon "JERSEY" shoulder title is visible, but there appears to be another badge above it, and I am wondering whether this is a Jersey Militia badge? This thought is prompted by the nature of the buttons, because Helier Bree and Harold Battam, both now clearly Hampshire Regiment men from their cap-badges, have different buttons to Jack Le Breton, and from Christian D'Authreau, suggesting a much earlier photograph.



**RSM Jack Le Breton DCM
CSM Christian D'Aauthreau MM**

**CSM Helier Bree MM
Lcpl Harold Battam MM**

Corporal Archibald Ferdinand Le Lerre
2nd Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment and Merchant Navy

This is the story of Archibald Ferdinand Le Lerre as explored through the discovery of his Great War campaign medal group. Archibald was born in the year 1891 at St. Martins Guernsey this is shown on his Mercantile Marine medal card. Archibald came to enlist firstly in the Regular Army as a Soldier and later served in the Merchant Navy as a Merchant Seaman. Thus Archibald earned what is known in 'medallic' terms as Great War Combination group of four medals.

However, Archibald was not destined to earn the converted 1914 "Mons" Star, for his earlier War services as this was only awarded for action in the theatre of war "France and Flanders" and not for action in any other theatres of war such as India or Mesopotamia.

As can be seen, below, on Archibald's Medal Index Card the issue of the 1914-15 Star.

| Name. | Corps. | Rank. | Regtl. No. |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| LE LERRE. | 2 ^d Dorset R. | Pte. | 9139. |
| <i>Archibald</i> | | | |
| Medal. | Roll. | Page. | Remarks. |
| VICTORY | C/2/101 B/8 | 521 | Dis. 25-4-16. |
| BRITISH | -do- | -do- | |
| 15 STAR | C/2/2/13 ³ | 211. | |
| <i>8. War Badge list 6/364.</i> | | | |
| Theatre of War first served in | <i>5th Asiatic</i> | | |
| Date of entry therein | <i>6-11-14.</i> | | |

K. 1380.

Archibald first enlisted as a Private in the 2nd Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment on 1st May, 1911. He is thus known in the trade as a career soldier, and like today's modern career soldiers fought in fierce bloody battles against the enemy in far away deserts.

At the outbreak of the Great War the 2nd Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment was stationed in Poona, India as part of the 16th Indian (Poona) Brigade, 6th Poona Division. The Divisional Commander was Lieutenant Sir Arthur Barrett, who would be replaced by Major-General Charles Vere Ferrers Townshend CB, DSO on 22nd April 1915.

Cap badge of the Dorsetshire Regiment (Right)



The Divisional and Brigade Structures are shown below:

- 6th Poona Division
 - 16th (Poona) Brigade
 - 2nd Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment
 - 117th Mahrattas
 - 104th Wellesley's Rifles [joined October, 1914 from Mhow]
 - 66th Punjabis [joined October, 1915]
 - 48th Pioneers [left September, 1914]
 - 2nd Battalion, Cameron Highlanders [left September, 1914]
 - 29th Lancers [left September, 1914, to 1st Indian Cavalry Divn.]
 - 105th Mahrattas [left October, 1914]
 - 20th Infantry (Brownlow's Punjabis) [left October, 1915]
 - 17th (Ahmednagar) Brigade
 - 1st Battalion, Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry
 - 103rd Mahratta Light Infantry
 - 119th Infantry (The Mooltan Regiment)
 - 22nd Punjabis [joined October, 1914 from 8th (Lucknow) Divn.]
 - 33rd Light Cavalry [left October, 1914]
 - 130th Baluchis [left October, 1914]
 - 18th (Belgaum) Brigade
 - 2nd Battalion, Norfolk Regiment
 - 110th Mahratta Light Infantry
 - 120th Rajputana Infantry
 - 7th Duke of Connaught's Own Rajputs [joined October 1914 from Mhow]
 - 81st Pioneers [left October 1914]
 - Bombay Brigade [left October, 1914]
 - 1st Battalion, Sherwood Foresters
 - 2nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment
 - 2nd Infantry
 - 95th Infantry
 - Artillery
 - Engineers
 - Pioneers
 - Transport
 - Medical

Private Archibald Le Lerre arrived in Mesopotamia (Modern day Iraq) with his Battalion on 6th November, 1914. The 2nd Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment which landed in the Persian Gulf by the Old Fort at Fao, were part of a 600 strong force that included Royal Marines with whom they would fight alongside to capture the Fort, and would be part of the ensuing force for the campaign in Mesopotamia and part of the Indian Expeditionary Force "D". During this early part of the campaign and one of many was the capture of Basra which took place between 5th and 21st November, 1914.

During Archibald's service while the 2nd Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment were part the 6th Poona Division, he would have been involved in many of the following actions against the Turkish Army who were Commanded by Nur-Ed-Din:

| <u>Actions in Mesopotamia</u> | <u>Timeline</u> |
|--|---|
| Landing at Fao Fort | 6 th November. 1914 |
| Action of Saihan | 15 th November, 1914 |
| Action of Sahil | 17 th November, 1914 |
| Occupation of Basra | 22 nd November, 1914 |
| 1 st Action near Qurna | 4 th to 8 th December, 1914 |
| Occupation of Qurna | 9 th December, 1914 |
| Battle of Shaiba | 12 th to 14 th April, 1915 |
| 2 nd Action of Qurna | 31 st May, 1915 |
| Occupation of Amara | 3 rd June, 1915 |
| 1 st Battle of Kut-al-Amara | 28 th September, 1915 |
| Battle of Ctesiphon | 22 nd to 24 th November, 1915 |
| Action of Umm at Tubul | 1 st December, 1915. |

Archibald was however discharged from the Regular Army on 25th April, 1916 as the result of sickness contracted on active service. He was thus fortunate enough to no longer have been serving with the 2nd Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment when finally it was forced to surrender as part of the entire 6th (Poona) Division that surrendered "en masse" after the siege at Kut-Al-Amara some four days later on 29th April, 1916.

During the long siege at Kut-Al-Amara, a composite battalion, composed of returned wounded and other details from the 2nd Battalion, Dorsetshire and 2nd Battalion, Norfolk Regiments, was formed at El Orah. It was nicknamed the "Norsets" and was attached to 21st Indian Brigade, 7th Indian Division. It was broken up later on 21st July, 1916 and the 2nd Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment was again re-established. It is still to be determined whether Archibald was part of this unique unit, the Norset's.

The 6th (Poona) Division, including the 2nd Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment, surrendered after a five long month siege at Kut-al-Amara. During this siege, sickness increased to epidemic proportions, especially scurvy and beri-beri, colic and dysentery. Once in captivity the men were cruelly treated by the Turks, mostly through wilful neglect but with many cases of beatings, executions and other crimes. Of the 2,592 Other Ranks of the 6th (Poona) Division who were British, more than 1,700 died in captivity. Of the 9,300 Indian troops, at least 2,500 died.

At some point after leaving Mesopotamia, Archibald was promoted to Corporal before he was invalided out of the Regular Army as can be noted from the roll of individuals entitled to the War Badge. Archibald was finally discharged from the Regular Army due to sickness and was thus issued the Silver War Badge No. 41449. Little is known about Archibald's service after he left the Army except that he would continue serving during the Great War with the Merchant Navy and at the end of the war qualified for the Mercantile Marine War Medal in addition to the Great War 1914-15 Star trio thus completing his war medal entitlement. His home address at that time was recorded as No. 2 Bungalow, Cobo, Guernsey. On 22nd June, 1925 he was issued the British War Medal ribbon and later on 17th July, 1925 he was issued the Mercantile Marine War Medal ribbon, it was noted that the British War Medal was verified as being issued by the Army.

Archibald's group of medals for his Great War Service are shown below:



The Medals are shown above in the correct order of wear from right to left, 1914-15 Star, BWM, VM, MMWM.

Campaign Medal

1914 -15 STAR
 BRITISH WAR MEDAL
 VICTORY MEDAL
 MERCANTILE MARINE WAR MEDAL
 DISCHARGE BADGE (Not shown)

Impressed naming details

9139 PTE. A. LE LERRE DORSET. R.
 9139 PTE. A LE LERRE. DORSET. R.
 9139 PTE. A LE LERRE. DORSET. R.
 ARCHIBALD F. LE LERRE
 No. 41449

The naming can be seen on the reverse of the 1914-15 Star left of picture below:



The inscription on the reverse of the British Mercantile Marine War medal below the ship is as follows:

FOR WAR SERVICE
MERCANTILE MARINE
1914-1918

It is additionally inscribed around the rim in the normal style of First name Initials and Surname

ARCHIBALD F. LE LERRE



Archibald was one of only five men with the surname Le Lerre who served and earned campaign medals during the Great War and the only one to earn the Mercantile Marine war medal in addition to the WW1 Trio, the other four being:

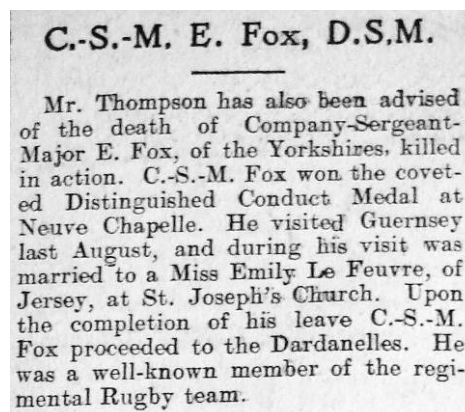
- 39298 Private Louis August Peter Le Lerre Hampshire Regiment
- 40688 Private Frank Le Lerre Hampshire Regiment
- 39374 Private Eugene L Le Lerre Hampshire Regiment
- 324603 Sapper Arthur Le Lerre (245 Army Troop) Royal Engineers

Research references and websites:

| | |
|--|---|
| The Long, Long Trail website | http://www.1914-1918.net |
| The National Archives Medal Index Cards | WO 372/11 |
| The Roll of the Silver War Badge No. C/364 | WO 329/3017 |
| Board of Trade Service Records | BT 351/352 |
| Ancestry Website | http://www.ancestry.co.uk |
| WFA Medal Index Card | |
| London Gazette | http://www.gazettes-online.co.uk |
| (Supplements - Mesopotamia Despatches) | |
| No. 29536 4 th April 1916 | |
| No. 29576 9 th May 1916 | |
| No. 29782 10 th October 1916 | |
| No. 30593 22 nd March 1918 (Amendment to No. 29536) | |

Foxed!

Sometimes the press of the day managed to get it wrong as some of us have found recently. The accompanying item was in the Guernsey Weekly Press back in September 1915, and because of the report, CSM Fox was seen as a candidate to be included in Jersey's Roll of Honour at least, if not in Guernsey's. But, who was he? Initial research suggested that he was not listed in either the CWGC Register or the SDGW database, and with a DCM (not the DSM as per the headline), unlikely to have been omitted.



The first clue had to be his Regiment, the Yorkshires, whose 2nd Battalion was the garrison Battalion at the outbreak of war. From that we could identify likely candidates in the Medal Roll and came up with two cards for a 7144 Sergeant Ernest Fox and a WO2 E Fox with the same number. So, it appears that we had our man, but a curious fact emerged in that the Sergeant's card also showed that he was a Second Lieutenant! The reaction was that the timescales for getting to the Dardanelles as a CSM, getting commissioned, having trained as an officer and then subsequently getting killed, were insufficient.

Mark Bougourd established that the 1914 Star was awarded to him as a Sergeant, his rank at entry into theatre of war on 8th October, 1914, a date consistent with the Battalion's entry in the regimental history where is listed as a Sergeant in C Company. He applied for the 1914 star on the 26th November, 1917 being still alive then and a Second Lieutenant. He then received the BWM and Victory Medal with Mentioned in Despatches Emblems with rank of Second Lieutenant in the 7th Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment, his rank on leaving a theatre of war for the last time in WW1. His DCM was awarded while serving with the 2nd Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment for actions on 23rd June, 1915, as a Sergeant. But, he received a bar to the DCM awarded with the 6th Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment, for actions on 14th November, 1916, as a CSM!

Cross-checking our information with that of the Green Howards Museum in Richmond, North Yorkshire we were advised that:

"Lieutenant Ernest Vivian Fox MC DCM of the Green Howards, according to our records was not KIA during WW1. He received his commission in December, 1916, received his MC in 1916 and went on to serve with the 1st Battalion, Nigeria Regiment from October 1918 to November 1919. So providing we have the same Ernest Fox (and there is no other Fox in the Green Howards with so many medals) then I think the newspaper had got it wrong."

So, paraphrasing Mark Twain, 'The report of Fox's death was an exaggeration!'

Clearly it is unlikely that we can learn how it happened today, but if the former Emily Le Feuvre was given the news of his 'death', it must have shocked her, not least because it appeared in print. The 6th Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment did not get to the Dardanelles until 6th August, 1915 when they disembarked at Suvla Bay. One must presume that after the withdrawal from the Gallipoli Peninsula that they were moved onto Salonika where Ernest won the Bar to his DCM in 1916.

Having looked at the interval between a man's death and when it appeared in the local paper and then The Times, it would appear that, for the latter paper, some 4-5 weeks preparing the list, following the confirmation of the casualty's details and notification of Next of Kin which would have already taken place. Very few mistakes were made however, but then most of the casualties, proportionally, were just across the water in France and Flanders. Communication from Suvla Bay was bound to be more long-winded with information flowing back via Mudros to Egypt, before being transmitted onto London, and in this case, one presumes onto the civilian authorities in Guernsey who would have to take it at face value.

So, Ernest Fox became a much decorated officer and was clearly alive undoubtedly much to the delight of his wife Emily who would have quickly taken off her widow's weeds! Meanwhile, his name will be added to Jersey's Roll of Service.

Wanderings in the West Country By Roger Frisby



A recent foray into the West Country has added several new photographs to our Rolls of Honour. First stop was at Stratford-sub-Castle in Wiltshire. A more beautiful resting place is difficult to imagine for Jerseyman Wilford Vautier Renouf. Just 18 years old, he died in nearby Salisbury Hospital in 1917.

My next stop was Melcombe Regis, Weymouth, where 17 year old Private Alfred Binns rests. The son of Alfred and Mary J Binns of St. Martin's, Guernsey, he also died in 1917.

Finding headstones in non-CWGC cemeteries is often nigh impossible, without help, as I've found to my cost on many occasions. Weymouth and Portland Council had kindly supplied me with a cemetery map for a previous visit and this enabled a quick result this time.

On then to Falmouth and CSM Charles Henry Chaytor. In spite of help, willingly given, by a delightful cemetery gardener, his grave could not be found. Unfortunately the sexton wasn't available and so this search will have to be resumed on another occasion. Advance help from the cemetery authorities will be asked for!



Boy Walter Sparkes

(Courtesy of the
Guernsey Press &
Priaulx Library)



The youngest entry in our Rolls of Honour is Boy 2nd Class Walter Richard Sparkes, RN. Under training on HMS Impregnable at Plymouth, he was only 15 years old when he died from tuberculosis. Impregnable was an old 121 gun ship of 1860. Conditions onboard must have been appalling as the number of graves of her trainees, at Falmouth, testifies. Walter's grave, at Plymouth (Western Mill) Cemetery, has been tended within the past few months.

When I visited the Plymouth Naval Memorial last year it was impossible to photograph, being surrounded by scaffolding. However, with help from the workmen, all seventeen C.I. names were photographed. This time I was able to photograph the memorial itself.

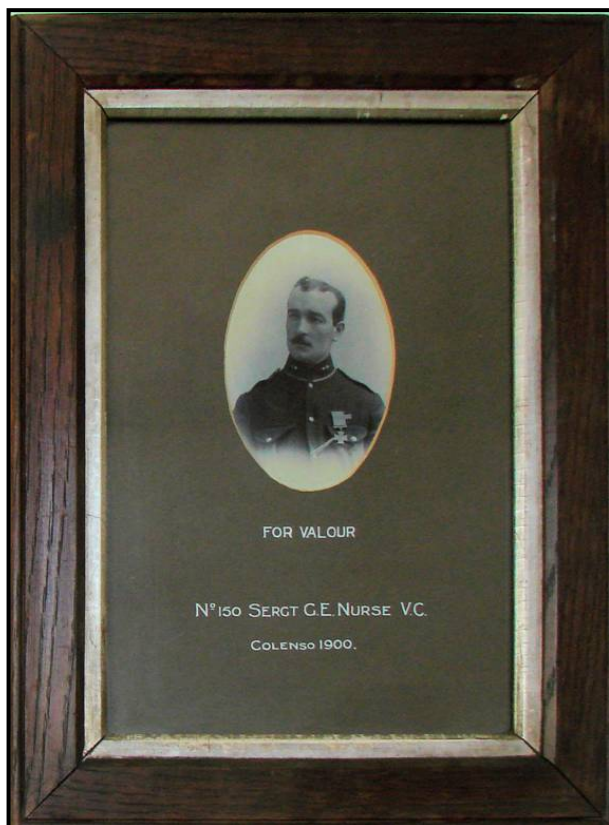
Private Stanley George Bailey rests at Plymouth (Efford Road) Cemetery. Unfortunately this was missed and also awaits a return visit.

Lastly, Penzance is just about as far west as you can go and this is where Merchant Seaman 2nd Engineer George McGoverin is remembered. George was onboard the SS Kingsley when she was torpedoed in January, 1918.



He was another difficult one to find. Two visits were needed before running into the cemetery manager who had called in to collect something from the site office. He was immediately able to identify the plot being some distance from other Kingsley victims. Although recognised by the CWGC, his headstone was a personal design erected by his sister, Mary Anne.

George Edward Nurse VC By Liz Walton



George Edward Nurse was born on 14th April, 1873 at Enniskillin in Co. Fermanagh in Ireland, son of Charles Nurse of Middlesex and his wife Jane (née Benson) also of Middlesex. The family moved to Guernsey when George was 4 months old and at the time of the 1881 census, were living at Cobo Hotel, where Charles, age 40, was the hotel keeper with his (presumably second) wife Jessie age 22. His sons, Alfred, age 14 and born in Bermuda, and 8 year old George are described as scholars.

The Hotel stood at the junction of La Banquette and La Neuve Route on the coast road at Cobo until it was destroyed by the Germans during the Occupation. Charles Nurse had been in the Army before taking over the hotel in 1879 from a Mr Chick, and had been stationed in Guernsey at some stage.

In 1891 Charles Nurse was still running the Cobo Hotel and George, age 18, was also still living there but by this time he was apprenticed as a blacksmith with Mr HR Hansford of Havilland Street, St Peter Port, and had two younger sisters, Emily age 4 and Edith age 2, both born in Guernsey, but there is no mention of Mrs Nurse.

According to most of the biographies George received his education at the Chamberlain Academy in Valnord Hill, St Peter Port. However Girard (1990)¹ notes that Nurse was one of the first pupils at the Intermediate School when it opened at Granville House in Mount Durand in 1883. This is supported by a newspaper article² about a visit that Nurse made to the Island in 1901 when he was met by his former headmaster, Mr William Sharp, of the Intermediate School. The Intermediate School eventually became the Grammar School and a framed photograph of Nurse (left) is currently on the wall of the cafeteria at the new Grammar School in Les Varendes.

British Army WW1 Pension records³ show that 88315 Gunner George Edward Nurse, age 18, signed up for 7 years Active Service plus 5 years in Reserve with the Royal Artillery at Woolwich on 11th January, 1892, which is why he does not feature in the 1901 CI census. His family, consisting at this stage of George and Jessie Nurse and their two daughters, Emily (14) and Edith (12) were still living at the Cobo Hotel, where Charles Nurse remained until his death in 1915. George described himself as a farrier and stated that he had previously served in the Guernsey Militia.

George Nurse had a successful career in the Army from the outset, being promoted whilst serving in England and Ireland to Acting Bombardier in 1894, Bombardier in 1895, and Corporal in 1897 when his unit was posted to South Africa. He gained third, second and first class education certificates, passed a Carriage Smith course, and the professional course for sergeants, plus some type of school master's course at Woolwich in 1896 (the entry on his record is illegible). He was posted to the Reserve at Durrant Discharge Depot in 1899, after which he returned to Guernsey

for a brief period. Then on 7th October of that same year he was "recalled to Army Service under special orders". He had served his original 7 years by this time so it can be assumed that he was recalled from the Reserve because of the escalating fighting in South Africa, as the Boer War broke out on 12th October, 1899.



He sailed to Natal from England on the SS Dunottar, and remained in South Africa throughout the Boer campaign. He was 26 years old, and a corporal in the 66th Battery, Royal Field Artillery, when the following deed took place for which he was awarded the VC, Gazetted on 2nd February, 1900:

"At the Battle of Colenso, South Africa, on 15th December, 1899, when the detachments who had been serving the guns had either been killed, wounded or had been driven

¹ Girard, P. (1990) *More of Peter Girard's Guernsey*, The Guernsey Press Company Ltd.

² *Guernsey Evening Press*, 7 February 1901

³ *Soldiers' Documents from Pension Claims, First World War (Microfilm Copies)*; (The National Archives Microfilm Publication WO364); Records created or inherited by the War Office, Armed Forces, Judge Advocate General, and related bodies; The National Archives of the UK (TNA), Kew, Surrey, England.

away from their guns by enemy infantry fire, Corporal Nurse and several others tried to save the guns of the 14th and 66th Batteries. The intervening space between the guns and where some of the horses and drivers, who were still alive, were sheltering, a distance of 500 yards, was swept by rifle and shell fire. Corporal Nurse, along with three officers, Captain WN Congreve of the Rifle Brigade, Lieutenant FHS Roberts, who fell wounded, and Captain HN Schofield helped to harness a team to a limber and then line up a gun. Corporal Nurse, alone, managed to limber up a second gun.⁴

He received a gunshot wound to the right hand during this incident but it caused no major problems and he was back in active service almost immediately. He described the incident thus:

"The bullets were pattering around us like hail. One went through my haversack, piercing a hand-glass and a piece of bread I had in it, hit my revolver pouch and splintered one of the fingers of my right hand in two places."

This cigarette card (above) shows that he was a popular hero of the time. Coincidentally 86208 Corporal Alfred Clark of Guernsey received a DSO in the same action, having been wounded whilst taking part.

Nurse continued with his military career, his Medal Index Card showing that he won the Queen's Medal with Clasps for the Cape Colony, Impala Heights, the Relief of Ladysmith, Transvaal and Orange Free State. He suffered a gunshot wound to the right knee on 15th May, 1900 but again suffered no ill effects and was straight back into active service. Then on 10th October, 1900 when 66th Battery was being transported by rail the train jumped the lines while crossing the Kaaf River, resulting in three men being killed, while many more were injured. Nurse received fractures to the ribs and chest and was invalided back to the UK early in 1901 where he was admitted to Netley Hospital in Southampton. He was also promoted to Sergeant with 131st Battery at this stage, having been recommended for promotion six months earlier, after Colenso.

He returned to England on 2nd January, 1901 and the *Guernsey Evening Press* of 7th February, 1901 shows that he visited Guernsey on his release from hospital. He came in on the SS Gazelle from Weymouth and was met at the White Rock by his former headmaster and employer, plus a contingent of his old school friends. These young men took the horses out from the carriage shafts and pulled the carriage as far as the Weighbridge, before re-harnessing the horses that took him up St Julian's Avenue to the Cobo Hotel. At this time the family also owned a cottage in the Route des Carterets, Castel, which Charles Nurse renamed Colenso after George gained his VC.

Though his Army career was a great success his personal life appears to have been more complicated. The 1901 England census taken on 31st March of that year shows George Edward Nurse, VC aged 27, based at Southill Barracks, Chatham, Kent. When George visited Guernsey in February, 1901⁵ he was said to be accompanied by his wife and little daughter, neither of whom was named. They were said to have stayed behind in London when he went to South Africa. His Army Pension records list a daughter, Christina, born on 19th January, 1896 in Limerick.

⁴ *The London Gazette*, 26 January 1900.

⁵ *Guernsey Evening Press*, 7 February 1901

The 1901 census also has 28 year old Kate Nurse, a married woman born in Ireland, living at 36 Adair Row in North Kensington, London with her 5 year old daughter Christina. Army records have his next of kin listed first as his father, Charles Nurse, at the Cobo Hotel in Guernsey, then as his wife Kathleen in Co. Cork in Ireland. This is crossed out and replaced with “wife Kathleen, with husband”.

They also record that he had married Kathleen Miller (who declared herself a spinster) on 26th April, 1895 in Plymouth, only to have that marriage “rendered null and void the woman having a legal husband living at time of marriage”⁶ in 1902. Examination of the England and Wales Marriage Index for April to June, 1895 shows that Kathleen Miller married Alfred Charles Nurse, not George Nurse in Plymouth in April, 1895. The 1901 census shows Alfred Nurse, aged 33, and born in Bermuda, a Royal Navy Chief Engine Room Artificer and his wife Kate, aged 32, who was born in Devon, living in Devonport. Thus the name, age and place of birth indicate that it was George’s brother Alfred who married Kathleen (Kate) Miller in 1895.

But Army Marriage records also show that on 24th October, 1904, George Edward Nurse, a bachelor, son of Charles Nurse, hotel owner, married Kathleen Sweeney at the Church of Our Lady of the Holy Souls in Kensington, London⁷. His Army pension records show that on 25th October, 1908 he married Kathleen Meagher in Waterford, by whom he had a son, Charles Patrick Colenso Nurse, born 26th June, 1909 in Kilkenny in Ireland. This is listed as his second marriage. A later version of his military history sheet does not include the earlier marriage(s) or his daughter, and the original page mentions a continuation sheet which appears to be missing from the records. The fact that all of these women were called Kathleen leads to some confusion and assumptions in the literature that there was only one Mrs Kathleen Nurse, as is shown by this extract from an unnamed source, which appears to form the basis of Girard’s article on Nurse:⁸

“It is intriguing that the entry in the relevant Army Register Book of Births, Baptisms and Marriages refers to the baby (i.e. Charles Patrick Colenso) as the child of the marriage of 88315 Battery Sergeant Major G. Nurse, VC and Kathleen Meagher, and not Kathleen Sweeney as one sees on the marriage certificate.”

Charles, known as Colenso, died in Bath in February, 1996.

Meanwhile George Nurse completed his twelve years with the Colours on 20th March, 1902, in the 131st Battery RFA, and was re-engaged to complete 21 years almost immediately, having been examined and found medically fit. He was promoted to Battery Sergeant Major on 4th April, 1908. He was also awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct medal with a gratuity of £10 p.a. on 25th October, 1910. On 22nd May, 1912 at Woolwich he was “Permitted to continue in service beyond 21 years”. He was then discharged on “termination of Battery” on 5th January, 1914, having completed 22 years of continuous service.

When war broke out in August, 1914, the name of “Nurse, GE, Battery Sergeant Major, VC, RFA” appears in the list of “Guernsey’s Fighting Men” in the *Weekly Press* of Saturday 14th October, 1914, indicating that he was one of the first local

⁶ Army Pension Record,

⁷ Ref 1a393, Marriages registered in October, November and December 1904, England and Wales Marriage Index, 1837-1983.

⁸ Girard, P. (1990) *More of Peter Girard’s Guernsey*, The Guernsey Press Company Ltd

men to volunteer, despite being 41 years old at the time. The *Gazette de Guernesey* of 6th October, 1915 carries a picture of a mature looking George Nurse and notes that:

“...le sergent-major Nurse VC vient d’être nommé lieutenant en 2nd dans l’artillerie à cheval d’artillerie de campagne à dater du 15 Septembre”. The article also describes Nurse as a “Guernésiais”.



The ‘*Times*’ of 23rd September, 1915 also notes that “The *London Gazette* announces the appointment as Temporary Second Lieutenant of George Edward Nurse, VC”. His Medal Index card shows him as having joined the Royal Field and Horse Artillery with the regimental number of 89713. It also shows his promotion to Lieutenant in the RFA. This is confirmed in the Supplement to the *London Gazette* of 21st June, 1921, which has him listed under Royal Regiment of Artillery as temporary Lieutenant from 14th November, 1919, to retain the rank of Lieutenant. According to Girard (1990)⁹ he was posted to America at some stage, possibly as an Army Instructor, and an unnamed source notes that he brought back a dog called Mississippi!¹⁰ He remained in the Army until his retirement in April, 1919. His war service gained him the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory medal. These were forwarded in 1920 to his contact address which is given as 46 Sutherland Street, Edge Hill, Liverpool. There is no mention of him returning to the Island after this date, and the family hotel and cottage were both sold in the early 1920s after the death of Mrs Jane Nurse.

After the war George Nurse VC did not immediately sink into obscurity. His name featured in the reports of proceedings at Chichester Sessions for 12th July, 1921, where Edward Gordon, Case No. 72 (Vol. VI.), was sentenced as Albert Smith, to 3 years in prison for false pretences. The charge against him stated that:

“As Regimental Sergeant-Major Smith, VC, etc., (he) called on clergymen, War Pensions’ Committees, etc., produced a savings bank withdrawal form filled in for £25, stated he was in urgent need and borrowed money which he promised to repay on receipt of the warrant from the post office. Thirty-four cases, in various parts of the country, were taken into consideration when sentence was passed. (He) has used the following names: Sergt.-major Nurse, VC, Forbes, Brown, Fisher, Bunce, Howard and Maton.”

On a happier note his bravery also continued to be recognised for some years. For example a report of an Afternoon Party held at Buckingham Palace on 26th June, 1920 for the recipients of the Victoria Cross, on His Majesty, King George V’s invitation notes that the recipients, including George Nurse, assembled at Wellington Barracks, and marched to the Garden of the Palace via Birdcage Walk, Horse

⁹ Girard, P. (1990) *More of Peter Girard’s Guernsey*, The Guernsey Press Company Ltd

¹⁰ Document of unknown origin given to me by Sylvia Brouard, Gold Accredited Guide with Walk Guernsey.

Guards Parade and The Mall preceded by the Band of the Welsh Guards. The King inspected the VC Recipients, who afterwards filed past His Majesty, before being presented to the King and Queen. In 1929, Nurse was invited to attend a VC Reunion Dinner at the Royal Gallery in the House of Lords, where he was seated at table 4, seat 109¹¹.



Nurse seems to have stayed on in Liverpool, moving to Crosfield Road, Kensington, and “for some years after the war” was on the office cleaning staff at the Liverpool Custom House¹². George Edward Nurse VC passed away in Broadgreen Hospital, Liverpool at the age of 72 on 25th November, 1945. He had survived the Boer War and two World Wars. He is buried at Allerton Cemetery in Liverpool in Church of England Section 2-G, Grave 608. A 1963 newspaper report of a wreath-laying ceremony at his grave on Colenso Day by 159 (Colenso) Battery, RA, noted that there was a “simple grave which has no headstone to mark it”. A CWGC-style headstone was erected over his grave in 1989, although it is not a war grave and thus is not recognized by the CWGC.

The medal entitlement of 2nd Lieutenant George NURSE, 159 (Colenso) Battery, Royal Field Artillery, is listed below, and, today these medals can be seen in the Royal Artillery Museum at Woolwich Arsenal in London:

- Victoria Cross
- Queen's South Africa Medal(1899-1902) with six clasps:
 - Cape Colony
 - Tugela Heights
 - Orange Free State
 - Relief of Ladysmith
 - Transvaal
 - South Africa 1901
- 1914-1915 Star
- British War Medal (1914-20)
- Victory Medal (1914-1919)
- King George V Coronation Medal (1911)
- King George VI Coronation Medal (1937)
- Army Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

‘Watering Holes’ in the Salient

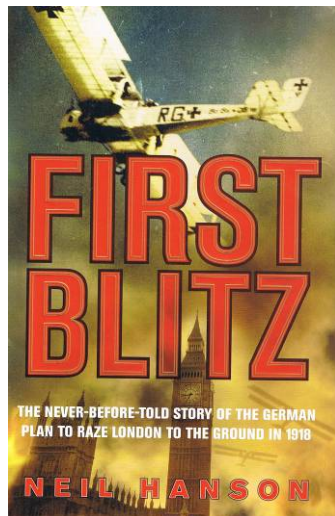
A very pleasurable habit seems to have suddenly developed in Poperinghe and Ypres when buying hot drinks such as coffee or chocolate, in that a small tumbler of Advokaat is served along with drink and biscuits. It was all very invigorating!!! However, eating out was somewhat different in those two towns. The quality at the

¹¹ <http://www.victoriacross.org.uk/hhtables.htm>

¹² *Liverpool Post*, 27 November 1945.

“Den Anker” in Ypres has dropped off appreciably, however all is not lost as the “Hotel Belfort” in “Pop” remains an excellent place to eat.

Book Reviews



FIRST BLITZ

By Neil Hanson (Doubleday) - £17.99

Reviewed by Peter Tabb

This book advertises itself as “The never-before-told story of the German plan to raze London to the ground in 1918” and I, who have always been interested in Zeppelins and having a fragment of one before me as I write, thought that this was going to be a book about the Zeppelin raids on Great Britain during the Great War – raids that were largely ineffective in bringing the country to its knees because of the fragility of the craft carrying them out.

Notwithstanding, London had been subjected to Zeppelin raids from early in 1915 and although the bombs were relatively lightweight they did cause both death and destruction with, initially, nothing to stop them. Their ability to fly well above the ceiling of the contemporary crop of second-rate fighters sent out against them (the first-rate fighters were jealously retained for service on the Western Front) and although their crews often suffered from frostbite and oxygen deprivation, the bombs they dropped, high explosive and incendiary, certainly caused terror amongst the population of London and the coastal towns of Kent and Essex.

However by 1916, fighter aircraft armed with explosive bullets were able to close the Zeppelins and despite being well armed with defensive machine guns, their hydrogen-filled gasbags were extremely vulnerable and Zeppelins crashing in flames rarely yielded any survivors. However that same year the fight was taken up by Gotha bombers. In less than four years the England Squadron of the *Luftstreitkräfte* (Combat Air Force) had progressed from crude canvas and wire light aircraft to four-engined giants as big as anything that flew in World War II and over the course of 1917 this force threatened to engulf London in firestorms – a portent of the London Blitz and the Battle of Britain a little over 20 years later. The first true blitz took place over eight nights in 1917 but it was the second wave in the summer of 1918, following the development of the Elektron incendiary bomb that came within an ace of obliterating London.

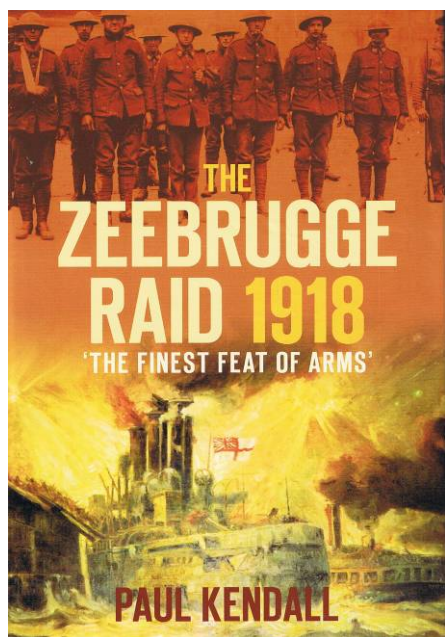
In the best traditions of a contemporary thriller Neil Hanson explains how the margin of survival of the world’s greatest capital city and its total destruction came down to less than one hour. At that stage of the war it was the fear of massive reprisals that caused the Germans to keep the *Luftstreitkräfte* on the ground.

It is almost bizarre that it was the German Air Force that conceived both the tactics and weapons to lay waste whole cities by firestorm that would, a quarter of a century later, find itself unable to prevent those same firestorms laying waste its own cities.

Neil Hanson has written a gripping and compelling story of what is often a neglected aspect of ‘total’ war. His writing style is that of a thriller and while I find most books about the Great War compulsive reading, this was one I really didn’t want to put

down. His proposition is that the events and decisions taken during the air war were as important as anything that happened on the Western Front and by the end of the book I agreed with him and thoroughly relished the process.

Although, in Winston Churchill's words, only Admiral Jellicoe could 'lose the war in an afternoon', Neil Hanson demonstrates how, in a week, the Germans could have destroyed London and thereby altered the course of the whole conflict and with that the history of the 20th century itself.



THE ZEEBRUGGE RAID 1918
By Paul Kendall (Spellmount) - £25.00
Reviewed by Peter Tabb

I wanted to enjoy this book and, on balance, I did but because I read it after *First Blitz*, I found myself being vaguely disappointed page after page. It was not the content – the raid is documented almost minute by minute and the third of the book that is devoted to the specific experiences of individual participants makes fascinating reading – but rather author Paul Kendall's bland style which, at times for me, rendered even the most compelling action almost boring. Which is a pity, because the book's subtitle 'the finest feat of arms' describes an action that thoroughly deserves the sobriquet just as the raid on St Nazaire in March, 1942 need not blush when dubbed 'the greatest raid of all'.

Curiously, although its content could hardly be more different, *The Zeebrugge Raid* and *First Blitz* both deal with elements which could have won the war for the Germans – without going anywhere near the Western Front.

The submarines of the Imperial German Navy based in the historic and picturesque town of Bruges in Belgium were responsible for sinking a third of all Allied shipping in the Great War. In early 1918 there was a danger that the unrestricted submarine campaign would starve Britain into submission. The book explores the role of the German Flanders Flotilla based at Bruges and the submarines that passed through the canal entrance at the port of Zeebrugge to attack Allied shipping. General Haig's plan to break out from the Ypres Salient to capture Bruges and the German naval base was thwarted in the appalling quagmire at Passchendaele in November 1917. The only way therefore to stop the submarines was to block the entrance to the canal at Zeebrugge and it fell to the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines Light Infantry to fulfil that task.

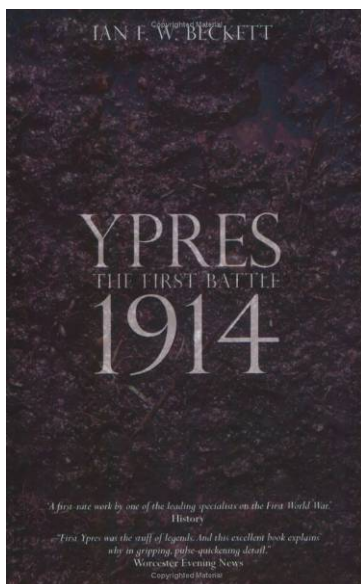
The planners of the great raid on St Nazaire in 1942 learned much from the raid on Zeebrugge and adopted a similar approach towards assaulting a heavily defended port installation. Where, in 1942, there was an old, much-modified-for-the-task destroyer, HMS Campbeltown, an MTB and a fleet of motor launches, in 1918 there was an old, much-modified-for-the-task cruiser, HMS Vindictive, three even older cruisers as blockships, two Mersey ferries and a fleet of coastal launches. Even the scenario was almost the same:

- Land Marines/commandos from Vindictive/Campbeltown
- Disable the harbour defences so that the block-ships can be sunk in position/so that Campbeltown can ram the Normandie dock gate
- Withdraw the forces by motor/coastal launches.
- When both raids are complete and deemed to be successful, award the leaders the VC and everyone else a medal of some ilk.

In fact the Zeebrugge raid, deemed to be as near as damn it a suicide mission, led to eight VCs being awarded, the greatest number in one action since the Battle of Rorke's Drift in the Zulu War.

The Zeebrugge raid was typical British derring-do, a concept so off the wall that the enemy would not believe what the raiders were up to even when the shells were bursting all round. Unfortunately although successful in that the block-ships were sunk in the mouth of the canal, the furious response of the port's defenders was such that they could not be sunk in the precise positions blocking the canal entrance required and the submarines were able to work their way round the obstacles within a matter of days. Similarly it was thought that the Germans would never believe a task force would sail into the heavily defended Loire estuary (St Nazaire was also a U-boat base) to destroy the gates of the only repair dock that could cope with vessels the size of *Bismarck* or *Tirpitz*. But they did.

This book, released on the 90th anniversary of the raid, deserves to be read but perhaps it is the smaller than usual print, perhaps it is the rather pedantic and even pedestrian style of the author who spent six years researching it, perhaps it was that the book I had read before this one had been so "unputdownable", that led to my vague disappointment. Hopefully it's the last since there has never been such a complete history of the raid which Winston Churchill called 'the finest feat of arms in the Great War'.



Ypres, The First Battle, 1914
By Ian FW Beckett (Pearson Longman £9.99)
Review By Barrie Bertram

Mention Ypres and there is a tendency to leap straight to 1917 and the Third Battle with Messines, Pilckem Ridge, Langemark and Passchendaele taking centre stage. If we talk of 1914, then it is the "race to the sea". This book, first out as hardback in 2004, but now in paperback, sets out to remind us of the fighting that sorely tested the BEF in October and November 1914, a situation suitably captured in a quote from a Major-General ES Bulfin that "We were only clinging to the ground by our eyelids"! One might also consider that the reference to a "race to the sea" was also incorrect in that the Germans wanted to wheel west and then south while we hoped to go east towards Antwerp and then south!

Ian Beckett looks at the years before the war and the agreement that Britain would field the BEF alongside the French Army, an event discussed as early as 1905, but one that only started to see detailed planning in 1910 by Sir Henry Wilson, then a Brigadier and Director of Military Operations. Between the French and the British, it

had been assumed that if the Germans had come through Belgium, they would have done so further south. After Mons and the Marne, Sir John French sought to move the BEF northwards so that the length of his supply lines were reduced, and also to provide support to the British who had landed at Antwerp, Ostend and Zebbrugge. There was sound military logic in this, yet Joffre was mistrustful of the British being next to the coast without the French in between, a situation not helped when Lille had been lost due to French troops not arriving in time, in part due to trains already transporting the BEF northwards.

Britain was the junior partner to the French, and with some reservation Sir John French did agree to move the BEF forwards as part of a move to break through northern Belgium before turning the German's right flank. However, this was in the face of intelligence reports that there was a German build-up underway to achieve a settlement in the west before attention turned to Russia. To the north, the Germans would attack the Belgians at the Yser on 18th October, while the following day, the British were to press forward spread out on a front of some 25 miles, yet still retaining their left flank in contact with the Belgian troops. Of course the Germans were heading the other way, and in sizeable numbers, with a numerical advantage of between 3:1 and 4:1. Sir John French did not appreciate the intelligence reports that he was receiving, preferring to tell his staff to stop finding any more Germans! In fact, he did not sufficiently use the intelligence that was being received from the RFC, from POWs, and from wireless intercepts when the Germans had been transmitting "in clear".

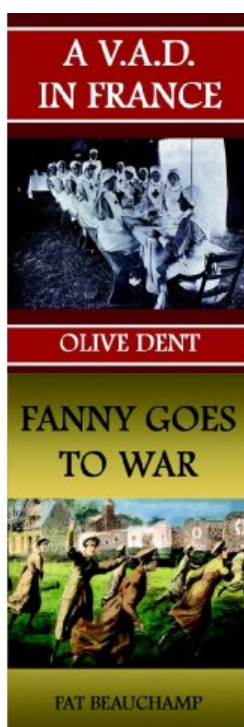
With contact made, the British units could do little more than dig in and keep up a heavy rate of fire with the Germans pressing forward and experiencing heavy casualties as a result. Over the next month, the battle was a heavy slogging match with the Germans throwing punches at various points in the line pushing the British back. Again and again, the generals on the ground and, it must be said that this included Haig, were to assemble scratch units from the remnants of other units and send them to plug gaps in the British line. For the British, First Ypres can be described as a series of unit battles, there was no strategy, save to hold or retake a particular position, one of the more notable being the Worcesters' recapture of Gheluvelt at the point of the bayonet. Setting off at the double with some 350 men initially, would rout more than 1200 Bavarian troops, who had been more intent on looting, while relieving several British companies holding a defensive position in that village.

By mid-November, the German High Command had recognised that a breakthrough was no longer possible and they had taken heavy casualties, a portent of those at Passchendaele. If they had, so too did the British, with Haig's I Corps for example, being short of 90% of its Officers and 83% of its Other Ranks! Unsurprisingly, Haig would be critical of the French, saying "...ever since we landed in France they seem ready to drain the last drop of blood out of the British force". Yet, coupled with the Belgians flooding the land around the Yser to north of Ypres, the BEF's actions surely saved France from being lost in 1914. We might consider that in the light of the comparative ease of advance that the Germans enjoyed a quarter-century later!

Ian Beckett's book does convey the overall battle very well, and if one is broadly familiar with the area, it is easy to picture in one's mind the battle raging. However, it does merit a number of criticisms. The first is that he seeks to balance the respective roles of the French and the Belgians, alongside that of the British. Equally, they also

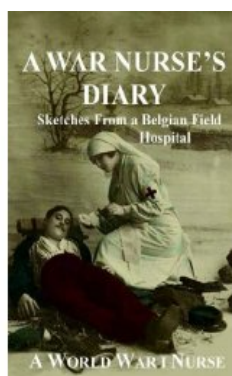
experienced hard fighting, yet this does not come through sufficiently clearly, and in that sense, the book and its maps are largely anglo-centric. In a similar vein, I would have liked to have seen a greater depth of information regarding the Germans. The detail in terms of respective orders of battle and anecdotal material is much greater for the British. Lastly, as to anecdotal material itself, Beckett makes ready use of the well-worn clichés with Sir John French being a womaniser, Haig as dull, dour and jealous of Smith-Dorrien, while we are regaled with the information that this officer was known as ‘Curly’ or that one as ‘Uncle’. No German nicknames except Boche!

Overall, the book is book seems well researched, and it certainly helped me to gain a better understanding of the events of 1914 and how the Salient developed. It is a better than average book, and setting aside the criticisms, it is one that does justice to the men of the BEF yet avoids the cliché of “a contemptible little army”!



Four of a Kind!

A VAD In France – Olive Dent
Fanny Goes To War – Pat Beauchamp
A War Nurse’s Diary – A WW1 Nurse
Nurse At The Trenches – Agnes Warner
(All Diggory Press)
RRP Range £5.99 - £8.99
By Barrie Bertram



The Diggory Press is one that I had not heard of before acquiring these books for my wife, but I suspect that they were set up to publish books, such as the above titles, which were out of copyright, achieving this by scanning, re-editing and then printing. Evidence for this is can be seen with an excess of typos in one or two.

Having read the books one straight after the other, one runs the risk of saying that they are “much of a much-ness”, since many of the events and circumstances are similar in all four books. Zeppelin bombings, references to Taube aircraft, the treatment of the injured and the dying, hospital trains and ships, the list goes on. But overall, there are many different experiences still to be described as these four nurses were treating men of the various nationalities, Belgian, French, British and so forth. One can also readily note that these young ladies were several rungs up the social ladder, but they were more than prepared to “do their bit”, and were not afraid to “rough it” in leaky bell-tents during the winter months, nor were they unwilling to do the most menial chores such as “spud-bashing”!

The books were originally published in 1917 (Dent and Warner), 1918 (WW1 Nurse) and 1919 (Beauchamp) so there is a considerable element of censorship in the texts, so we know that a “train sister” on 2nd July 1916, loaded at 8 am, arrived E____ at 2 am, and back to G____ by midnight. Analysis has not been carried out on where E and G were, nor has there been of the other places identified by a single letter. In some cases, though it would be possible to work it out from a description, with an old SNCF map to hand. In other instances, we know that “At Wimereux, we climbed up to the cemetery...” and other locations such as Dunkirk, Etaples, Calais, Furnes, La Panne and Rouen are quite safely mentioned.

Taking the books together, one can only be impressed with the great fortitude and spirit shown by these ladies in treating the wounded of whatever nationality, showing great humanity, and in some cases, doing so out of their own pockets. We are reminded that some of them gave their lives through bombing, disease or accidents, as in Olive Dent’s book where she briefly describes a VAD’s funeral. Collectively, the books have opened my eyes to a vital element of Britain’s Great War effort that seems to be less well publicised than it could be.

The books are available from Amazon, but the Diggory Press margins are probably too narrow to offer massive discounts on the RRP above.

Navigating Nord Pas De Calais By Barrie Bertram

For a change, my summer trip this year became a three week sojourn in the area a few miles to the south of Calais and which provided the base as opportunities arose to take a number of photographs of Channel Island headstones that could be added to our website.

In that task, I tried (at long last) to apply a bit of discipline, by closing the gaps in our ‘library’ on a ‘per map’ basis, using the CWGC’s “Cemeteries & Memorials in Belgium & Northern France” Michelin road atlas derived handbook as the starting point. This I supplemented by also visiting the necessary cemeteries that lie to the north of the E40 from Calais up to Zebrugge. Of the 61 separate maps, I have completed 5 (Maps 1, 2, 3, 9 and 10) while I’ll need to look at some maps to discount those which have WW2 cemeteries only. Day trips to the Somme and the Salient also saw some other men being photographed.

There is always a remarkable variety to these cemeteries and memorials, and I never cease to wonder at the stories behind the names, John McCrae and Frederick Norway at Wimereux (See Journal 9, August 2006) for example, though neither were Islanders. Longuenesse has a section where some CWGC staff are buried, clearly done in recognition of their work in tending those beautiful cemeteries.

Boulogne East is similar to Wimereux in that the headstones are laid flat. However, here the Officers were given separate graves while it would seem that the Other Ranks were buried three to a grave. It is in an area that appears to attract unwanted visitors, and so the British Cemetery is closed at around 6 p.m. Meanwhile, at Terlincthun, the men who lay at rest there do so under the gazing eyes of one Napoleon Bonaparte who is perched atop of the Grande Colonne de la Grande Armée facing sea-wards towards the English coast.

In his account of visiting the West Country, Roger refers to 15 years old William Sparkes, while there has been debate as to the youngest boy to die on the Western Front, 14 year old John Condon at Poelcapelle being the recognised youngest. Yet at Les Baraques, I was still surprised to see a headstone for a 7 year old Joseph Leng who drowned at Audricq on 2nd October, 1919, his parents being Sapper and Mrs J Leng from New Shildon in Durham. Shildon was a railway workshop town, and one may assume that Joseph's father was with the RE's Inland Water and Railway Transport branch. However, why was Joseph in France? A holiday perhaps or the family was living there while the father was busy on the work that was under way to return troops to the UK and help clean up post-war France.

Visiting some cemeteries was not without incident. To find Malo-Les-Bains, and Louis Baudet, had me driving around and around that Dunkirk suburb for the best part of an hour before stopping to ask a French road cleaner the way. A few "À Gauches and À Droits" and I was there in no time. Not well signposted. Dunkirk Town Cemetery was just as challenging, as it has two CWGC sections about 800 yards apart, and for Reginald Fosse, the CWGC had the wrong grave reference. Crossing the civilian part several times is spooky enough during the day with those large family vaults, so much so, that you will not find me going there at night! However, a request to the CWGC to correct their cemetery data on Reginald has been submitted, as did a letter to their Director-General after my visit to Etaples. I was somewhat concerned to see, at the entrance, the European Union flag flying alongside the Union Flag and the French tricolour. For your information, the response is that flags are not normally flown since there is not one that represents the Commonwealth, and if there is a special ceremony, only the CWGC members' flags are flown along with that of the host country.

The CWGC has a considerable task in maintaining the cemeteries and memorials to a high standard, especially when some of them like the First DCLI and Hedge Row Trench cemeteries, the latter where Guernseyman Wilfred Burton is known to be buried, are in the back of beyond. Even so, it was a little disappointing to see that the grass at Bleue Maison, where Jerseyman Thomas Mourant is buried, was well overdue cutting, while from the (very) amateur cameraman's viewpoint those badly eroded headstones cannot be replaced soon enough, especially as I had hoped that I could have got some good shots of the headstones for the Knott brothers at Ypres Reservoir to support a possible linking piece on their father, Sir James Knott's gift of the tower at St George's Church in Ypres. Sir James was for a time the Seigneur at Samares Manor in Jersey. Ah well, there is always next year!

Website Workings By Roger Frisby

More personal information and photographs have been added to the Jersey Roll of Honour, including the many photographs resulting from Barrie's recent visit to France and Belgium. Mike and Rosemarie Thomas' researched details have been attached to men remembered in the cemeteries commencing A to G and I await the next batch from them. Ian Ronayne's Roll of Honour research is also being incorporated.

The Jersey Roll of Service is being developed to make it easier to use and to provide space for extra information. At present, it consists of 24 spreadsheets and 24 search pages (Editor: A throwback to structuring their compilation and release).

These are being consolidated and extra search terms added. It will also give the opportunity of add linked personal pages as it done within the two Rolls of Honour. As I type this is already working but not yet linked to the web site. I'm not yet happy with the search speed nor the format in which it displays.

Once this is rolled out, plans are in hand to produce a Guernsey Roll of Service in similar format. Unfortunately, no official Roll of Service was produced in Guernsey. Eddie Parks produced the largest with "Diex Aïx", and this will form the core, but much work will be needed before a really comprehensive Roll is available. It will be a mammoth task and all volunteers are welcome!

You may have noticed that, for the past few months, the web site homepage has sported a spanking new hit counter. To keeps costs down, our counters are hosted by Third Party providers. The previous one suddenly stopped working and, despite efforts, couldn't be resuscitated! A new provided was found and they also supply us with basic usage statistics in graphical and tabular form. An example is shown:

Weekly History

| Week | Dates | Hits |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------|
| This Week | 08/03/08 - 08/04/08 | 17 |
| Last Week | 07/27/08 - 08/02/08 | 126 |
| 2 Weeks Ago | 07/20/08 - 07/26/08 | 157 |
| 3 Weeks Ago | 07/13/08 - 07/19/08 | 130 |
| 4 Weeks Ago | 07/06/08 - 07/12/08 | 122 |
| 5 Weeks Ago | 06/29/08 - 07/05/08 | 81 |
| 6 Weeks Ago | 06/22/08 - 06/28/08 | 37 |
| 7 Weeks Ago | 06/15/08 - 06/21/08 | 71 |
| 8 Weeks Ago | 06/08/08 - 06/14/08 | 113 |
| 9 Weeks Ago | 06/01/08 - 06/07/08 | 165 |
| 10 Weeks Ago | 05/25/08 - 05/31/08 | 112 |
| 11 Weeks Ago | 05/18/08 - 05/24/08 | 85 |

To The People of Guernsey

Liz Walton, Paul Balshaw and Mark Bougourd have combined to provide the accompanying material which goes some way to highlight concerns felt by the States of Guernsey in being able to feed the Island's population. Clearly the ability of the Royal Navy to defeat the German U-Boat menace was of importance, but the Channel Islands would, in any case, occasionally be without any shipping for days when there was a "push" on in France and Flanders and additional shipping had been requisitioned.

However, it must be said the quantities laid down for Meat, Bread or Flour, and Sugar appear to be quite ample, and are probably at a much higher level to the rationed amounts that were experienced in the UK during the Second World War.

The meat would have been supplemented fish and shellfish, and I assume that these would have been readily available from local fishermen, while vegetables and fruit would be grown in abundance. However, there appears to have been a pressure to grow more food, and Liz informs us that the Ladies College had its grounds turned over to allotments as a forerunner to the "Dig For Victory" Second World War campaign. It would be interesting to hear other views on this as to the adequacy or otherwise, and whether we can draw comparisons with today's diets. Incidentally, Julius Bishop below, was apparently a 61 year old Barrister/Solicitor.



To the People of Guernsey.

The Control of Food Supplies Committee consider that the time has come to appeal to their Fellow Islanders for a united and self-sacrificing effort to prevent waste of food and to restrict the consumption of Meat, Bread, Flour and Sugar within the limits laid down by Lord Devonport, i.e., Meat $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., Bread 4 lbs. or Flour 3 lbs. and Sugar $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. per head per week. Where possible these allowances should be restricted within narrower limits.

Economy of Bread and Flour is by far the most important. Bread is the staple food of the people. Extravagance or waste in the use of Flour, e.g. by indulgence in cakes, pastry, etc., must inevitably lead to scarcity, which will affect the poor far more severely than the well-to-do.

In placing the situation frankly before the people of Guernsey, the Committee think it well to say there is no threat of Famine and no occasion for Panic. There will be a sufficiency for all if good management and self-restraint are practised by all. But these are rendered imperatively necessary.

- (1) By the fact that last year's harvests were short almost all the world over.
- (2) By the increasing shortage in the ships required to bring our food to us.

The menace of the German U Boats is also a great factor. The Royal Navy will deal with the U Boats. The other factors must be dealt with in another way, and to that end the Committee make their appeal to the whole population.

All are asked to practise self-restraint, to put up with the inconvenience which must result from the temporary interruption of habits and tastes and to identify themselves to some slight extent with the heroic sacrifices being made by the men who are winning the war for us, and ensure that those sacrifices shall not be made in vain.

To the Women of Guernsey, the Committee make a special appeal. This is a Woman's question. The House-wives of Guernsey are asked each to regard herself as mobilized in the service of the Empire. Hundreds of thousands of women have left their homes to engage in various forms of National Service. What they have done and are doing will be remembered to the honour of women for ever.

“ They also serve, who only stand and wait.”

The Committee appeal for a National Service which the house-wives of Guernsey can do at the cupboard and in the kitchen, a service which is as honourable and as effective as any done by women anywhere.

The Committee are confident that their appeal will not be made in vain. The sole alternative to Voluntary Rationing is, of course, Compulsory Rationing, with its attendant waste of time, and energy, friction, hardship, and even injustice. So deplorable a contingency is not to be anticipated.

Among the most splendid traditions of this ancient Island-State, are those of hardships and privations cheerfully borne by Guernseymen for their country's sake, from the great war of a century ago to the far-off days of the Norman Conquest. These traditions tell how,

“ Not once or twice in our rough Island-story
The path of duty was the way of glory.”

Guernsey is not degenerate, whatever the German may vainly think. The people of Guernsey have not lost the courage and self-control, the will to endure and overcome, which distinguished their ancestors and made them great. In trusting to that fine hereditary spirit the Committee will not be disappointed.

JULIUS BISHOP,
President,
Control of Food Supplies Committee.

States Office,
Guernsey,
2nd May, 1917.

The Committee would be glad if Clergymen and Ministers of Religion would make some reference to this appeal in their Churches. Copies for distribution may be obtained at the States Office.

And yet! Liz' contribution is the accompanying newspaper photograph (assumed the Guernsey Weekly Press) of the Communal Kitchen Committee, presided over by the Bailiff's wife Mrs (later Lady) EC Ozanne. It implies that there must have been a demand for the Kitchen, and leads to the question of whether the less well off could afford to purchase the quantities of Meat, Bread etc highlighted in the notice, and if not, were dependent upon Mrs Ozanne and her ladies. Liz' Cost of Living article on the web does indicate a doubling of foodstuff prices between 1914 and 1918.

COMMUNAL KITCHEN COMMITTEE.



Left to right: Mrs. W. J. Le Page, Mrs. J. Vessey, Mrs. W. R. French, Mrs. E. V. Gibson, Mrs. J. Vivian Thomas, Mrs. E. C. Ozanne (President), Miss Violet Carey, Mrs. S. Cooper, Miss Clothier, Miss Christine Ozanne.

In Jersey, it appears that a measure of commodity price control was maintained by the Island's Defence Committee who also kept a reserve stock of flour. However, with the exception of sugar, Jersey did not introduce rationing.

This is an exceptionally important area of the Islands' wartime histories that should merit further examination, especially as, in Jersey's case, I understand from Ian Ronayne that the Defence Committee files may now be available for study at the Jersey Archive.

Jersey and the Armistice's 90th Anniversary

Many members will have received a copy of an outline of proposed events to take place during the first fortnight of November, to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Armistice in Jersey. Put together by Peter Tabb and a fellow local historian by the name of Howard Baker, I have included a condensed version of what is proposed below:

The Trench: An authentic recreation of a Great War front line fire trench up to 100 feet long (in a series of zigzags to cover an area approx. 60' X 20') and featuring sandbags, barbed wire, duckboards and corrugated iron.

Great War Trails: Conducted walks or 'signposted' routes featuring Great War sites, e.g. Cenotaph, South Hill Battery, Howard Davis Park, Howard Davis Hall at Victoria College, Harbour, POW Camp, Railway Walk, Parish War Memorials, individual memorials in public cemeteries. Establishment of plaques and interpretation signage at sites.

The Play: The Jersey Green Room Club is staging “The Accrington Pals” by Peter Whelan (producer Jill O’Neill) at the Jersey Arts Centre from 5 to 8 November. Ideally therefore this event should be promoted as a significant element of the commemoration of the end of the Great War. There is also the potential for student/youth groups to stage other WWI dramas, e.g. “Journey’s End”, “Not About Heroes” and “Regeneration” either at a venue or on a road-show basis during Remembrance Week.

Functions: Event on Remembrance Sunday at Town Hall featuring, e.g. an excerpt of one of the WW1 plays, community singing of WW1 songs, poetry readings, display of WW1 personal artefacts and memorabilia from Jersey Heritage Trust and Jersey Archive, relatives of members of Overseas Contingent invited. Memories of parishioners exhibited at Parish Halls throughout Remembrance week with valuation of medals, memorabilia, trench art, artefacts, etc. by visiting expert(s)

Publications: A couple of publications are proposed to be available during the period, namely:

- *Jersey Evening Post* Commemorative Supplement
- Special publication – Jersey and the Great War (see sample of similar publication produced in Guernsey at the commemoration of the Battle of Cambrai in 1917 in 2007)

Exhibitions: The Jersey Library has expressed an interest in staging an exhibition of Great War literature, artefacts, etc. during and possibly beyond Remembrance Week. To be discussed.

Potential Merchandising: A possibility that the following could be produced all though this is also in the ‘To be discussed’ category:

- Jersey Pottery Commemorative Poppy plates
- La Mare Wine Estate (Special 2008 Commemorative Vintage)

Poppy Appeal: The Poppy Appeal could receive a percentage of any income generated by any of the foregoing activities. To be discussed.

Web Sites: There are several opportunities to promote the concept via the web, e.g. the Great War CI Study Group, the Jersey Tourism website, Jersey Heritage website, etc. To be discussed.

Subsequently Peter has followed the initial ideas above with the following (albeit slightly tailored) report:

Things are progressing. We believe we have a site for the trench at the Living Legend. We have the agreement of the Jersey Field Squadron to dig it some time in September and to oversee its furnishing. The Library is staging an exhibition around WWI works, books, poetry, etc. Other bits and pieces are falling into place although we have yet to find a sponsor for the whole event.

We would like to see the CI Great War Study Group (or as many members as practical) playing some part in the events, Ian, Ned and I are already giving talks hosted by the Jersey Heritage Trust and I would be grateful if you could distribute this to the membership since I haven’t got that set up yet.

As you will have seen on the discussion document I have been working with a colleague Howard Baker. Howard is an OV and also a local historian and researcher. Most of the concepts in the discussion document have been his ideas or joint ideas stemming from several brainstorming sessions between us.

I would be grateful if you could circulate the members seeking the following:

Whether any members have special skills that might be available in the run-up to 11th November, including:

- *Administration/Co-ordination/promotional/secretarial*
- *Knowledge of trench design/construction*
- *Knowledge of sources for uniforms, weaponry, property, militaria, etc*
- *Awareness of bodies/organisations who might be interested in sponsoring or how to get sponsorship*
- *Availability for talks/workshops/as trench guides*
- *Availability to man CI Great War Study Group desks at Library/Archive Centre, etc.*
- *Availability of hard copy material*

To reiterate some recent E-Mails, Peter would greatly welcome any help in pulling this together, and will welcome your telephone call.

In conjunction with this, you might have noted a letter in yesterday's (11th August) Jersey Evening Post from a Mr Colin Griffith who wrote in with the excellent suggestion that the former Jersey College For Girls building be offered for use as a "military hospital or rest and recuperation facility". Do give it some thought as Armistice Day nears, and if you can support the idea, do air your views publicly.

The WFA Lecture Circuit

I attended another interesting pair of talks last month and this one at my local WFA Branch, and both given by ladies.

July's talk was about off-duty entertainment in Salonika, and focussed on the theatricals put on by the various formations and units in that theatre of war. This was well before the days of ENSA, when talent had to be found from the troops and it was interesting to note the skills at improvisation in erecting theatres, lighting and costumes. Some of the men who dressed as "young gels" were also a little too successful, collecting admirers as they toured from unit to unit! Came the time for questions following the meeting I did struggle to get an answer as to the nature of, shall we say, the less than salubrious forms of entertainment in Salonika itself! This was of course due to my interest in understanding Coutart de Butt Taylor's reference to a "house of ill fame"!

The talk this month was on Gallipoli, and in an hour or so, the lady galloped (forgive the wordplay) through the events there of 1915, I came away with a far better understanding than I had ever had previously. Her accompanying pictures conveyed a sense of the difficulties offered by the terrain which, in many cases, was far more hostile than "Johnny Turk". Recalling Gary Godel's account of his visit to Gallipoli (Journal 9, August 2006) in May 2006 with Holt's Tours, since the talk I have started to give thought of doing likewise in 2009!

Membership News

All quiet with nothing to report.

Out and About

Ned Malet de Carteret is visiting the NW of England over the weekend of 15th to 19th August, and particular Southport and Liverpool. The Saturday sees him on what can best be described as an "Ackroyd Pilgrimage" since Harold was born in Southport. On Sunday the Memorial to "double VC" winner Noel Chavasse is being unveiled in Liverpool. With his light touch of humour, he informed me that he is to attend Mass in the Wigwam. It took me about 10 seconds to work out that he meant the Mersey Funnel!

Roger Frisby is in Brittany for the period 13th to 23rd August, in the St Malo and St Brieuc areas. Though not focussed on Great War topics, we might find that he has collected photographs of various village memorials with readily recognisable names that are widely seen in the CI.

I'm off to Normandy on 3rd October, so that means the next Journal will come out later, see below. There may be some possible scope for taking some headstone pictures.

Odds and Ends

Administration: Please keep me informed if you have changed your E-Mail address and other contact details.

Philately Matters: As mentioned in the last Journal, the British Post Office will be putting out a stamp to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Armistice in November. It is illustrated below:



Unfortunately, as with the previous issues in 2006 and 2007, it will only appear as part of the miniature sheet above and what is known as a generic sheet. It will not appear over the counter as an “everyday use” stamp.

However, my latest Isle of Man Philatelic Bulletin appeared at the beginning of this month, and their Postal Authority will be issuing a set of six stamps plus a miniature sheet on 1st October. I quote from their Bulletin:

The End of WW1 – The 90th Anniversary

Our set of stamps and miniature sheet commemorate this important historical landmark. It may be a little-known fact that a greater number of service personnel were gleaned from the Isle of Man to serve in the war than anywhere else in Britain when calculated by ‘per head of population’. Of 8000 Manx personnel who took part in the conflict, 1200 did not return.

It remains a shame that neither the Jersey nor the Guernsey Postal Authorities can do likewise!

The Coutances Colloque: I am still working towards giving a 30 minute presentation on the CI and the GW at Coutances over the weekend 8th and 9th November. I’m slightly behind in assembling the “English” version but hope to commence translating it into French in the next fortnight.

The Jersey Contingent Book: Ian Ronayne is still “heads down” on getting the book together for publishing, and reporting that he is about two months behind. He is also awaiting news as to whether Pen and Sword Books will show any interest in publishing it.

Temps Passé 1: In the last Journal I mentioned a “100 Years Ago” piece in the JEP about a Mr GM Ahier dying in New Zealand in 1933, and having lost two sons to the Great War. Elizabeth Morey’s contact turned up some excellent information, not only on the Ahiers, but also on some useful NZ data sources. Since then, Elizabeth’s contact has turned up the accompanying photograph of Walter Roland (“Dick”) Ahier. Another face that can be remembered.

Temps Passé 2: Another “100 Years Ago” piece on 1st July, mentioned a Roland S Ross hospitalised after falling into a ship’s hold. Roland is one of our Jersey RoH “Under Investigations”, and it has since turned out, after enquiries in Canada, that he may not have served having apparently been rejected for military service in 1914, because he was “too near sighted”! If these facts are correct it is a bit of a problem as his name is on the Grouville War Memorial!



Enfin

In closing this Journal, I'd just like to reiterate my thanks to the contributors and hope that everyone finds something that is of interest. Even if you think that you haven't the detail to support three or four pages, just a few lines might lead to additional data turning up from fellow Group members.

So do please keep material coming in for articles, no matter what size.

Regards
Barrie H Bertram
12th August, 2008

Journal Issue Dates For 2008

I'm in France between the 3rd and 19th October, and I am likely to find it hard to get the Journal sorted immediately before my departure. So, I've slipped the dates so that I produce it in the week of my return. Of course, that does not mean you cannot send material well before, and I shall be doing some preparatory work beforehand.

| Issue | Month | Articles To BB | Posted Web/Mail |
|-------|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| 18 | February 2008 | 10 th | 15 th |
| 19 | April 2008 | 7 th | 10 th |
| 20 | June 2008 | 7 th | 10 th |
| 21 | August 2008 | 10 th | 15 th |
| 22 | October 2008 | 19 th | 23 rd |
| 23 | December 2008 | 10 th | 15 th |