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**A Field in Flanders
Remembering the Christmas Truce of 1914**

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Hello All

At a time when the British economy is struggling, bankers' bonuses under severe scrutiny, and many households having to face financial difficulties in the United Kingdom certainly, and by association, in the Channel Islands also, it is remarkable that people still have the ability to 'give'.

I was particularly impressed to see after this year's Poppy Appeal in Jersey that the sum contributed (albeit unaudited) was £170,000, an increase of 25% plus over last year's amount. There is nothing new with that generosity, for Chris Aubin, in his 'maiden' article on **Soyécourt and Jersey**, reminds us of the financial help that was given by Jersey, from both public purse and private pocket, to that little French village after the Great War. Undoubtedly, the Island would have needed money to enable its own population to readjust and for returning servicemen to be resettled, some with serious injuries, after more than four years of war. Yet there was still a will to help the French. Similarly the Belgians too, as reference is made in the article on William Stephens in **Faces Remembered**, his family had written to him in October, 1914 that:

"They made £600 in Jersey last Saturday, selling flags in aid of the Belgian Refugee Fund. Jolly good for Jersey."

What of the other side of the coin? In reading Robert Graves' "Goodbye to All That", he wrote that the French charged the British £200 for each hospital train that took casualties from railheads back to base facilities, and the trains and other rolling stock were those that the British had brought over! Was this an isolated complaint about French profiteering? Perhaps not, for Haig in his Diaries noted that aggregate material used for repairing and building French roads and having been excavated from French quarries also had to be paid for by the British. To him this was somewhat galling as the British banking system with the help of US loans was also underwriting the French in their continuance of the War!

Turning to today, it does seem that profiteering still exists, not least with charging to use the toilets at Tyne Cot seems a little excessive at 50 cents a head. Our last visit of about an hour there coincided with the presence of eight coach-loads of school children, fifty or thereabouts to a coach. It is clear with that number of children, that the long queues would have generated 200 Euros "for the cleaner", had not a "work-around" been established. It left me with a couple of thoughts; one was that I should have been a Belgian toilet cleaner when I was still working! The other one was, given that toilets do need cleaning regularly, yet why at Tyne Cot are visitors charged whereas they are not at Thiepval, with similar visitor numbers?

This Month's Cover

First, as you will have undoubtedly noticed, the Journal cover's style has changed with this issue to incorporate Ian Ronayne's logo design. Hopefully it will provide a more attractive 'face' and prove readily noticeable, while I shall also try to observe the 'rule' of only using colour photographs in future. Please do give me feedback, so that I can undertake a few tweaks if needed. Second, the cover photograph for this Journal reminds us of the Christmas Truce of 1914, ninety five years ago, when the realisation dawned on people that the War was, as Ian Ronayne indicates in his article, **Far From Over by Christmas!**

The Madells
One of Guernsey's "Fighting Families"
By Liz Walton

The Madell family suffered even more than most Guernsey families as a result of the Great War. The 1901 census shows Wallace Madell, aged 58, a lamplighter and his wife Amelia, aged 42, living in Lower Le Marchant Street in St Peter Port. Their family consisted of Wallace Junior and Stanley, both aged 12, who were working as errand boys, Roland aged 11, Herbert aged 8, Olive aged 7, Campbell aged 5, Havelock aged 3 and Lily aged 3 months.

By 1911 the family was living at No 1, Mount Durand Steps, St Peter Port, and Mr Madell was described as a gas office assistant, Herbert was a miller, and Campbell and Havelock were both errand boys. Lily was still living at home. Wallace Junior was boarding at 38, Dorset Street, St Helier in Jersey with the Le Quesne family, and working as a jobbing gardener. Private Roland Madell was serving with the 1st Battalion, the Dorsetshire Regiment, based at Alma Barracks at Blackdown, near Farnborough in Hampshire. Stanley Madell was a sawyer working in a timber works and lived with his wife Rose and children, Louis aged 2 and Rose aged 1 month at Les Petites Fontaines in St Peter Port.



On 17th June, 1914, shortly before war broke out, Herbert Madell left the island to make a new life for himself in the Colonies. He travelled out from London on the *SS Hawkes Bay* as a farm student and went on to work in New South Wales. 2364 Private Herbert Doyle Madell of the Australian Infantry attested at Liverpool, New South Wales on 12th May, 1915, and went to France in October of that year. Medical records show that he had suffered from dysentery within days of arriving, and he continued to suffer from recurrences throughout his time there. He saw action at Gallipoli, and was then transferred back to France where he was wounded in action on 27th July, 1916. He was then transferred to England suffering from paratyphoid on the hospital ship *St Andrew* from Rouen on 1st September, 1916. He went into Wareham Military hospital, a 185 bed hospital at Worgret Camp near Wareham in Dorset. He died here of

dysentery on 11th January, 1917, age 24. Pte Madell is buried at Wareham Cemetery which contains 49 First World War burials.

His older brother Stanley joined the Royal Horse and Field Artillery in 1915. He went with the 1st Contingent of the 9th Divisional Ammunition Column to Bordon Camp in England, and then to France, arriving on 13th May, 1915. The 9th Divisional Ammunition Column consisted of volunteers from the Royal Guernsey Artillery and Engineers, and formed part of the 9th (Scottish) Division. Their job was to move artillery ammunition forward towards the front line and to recover unused ammunition from positions that had been abandoned. They also collected valuable empty brass cartridge cases from the positions where they had been used, all

extremely dangerous jobs. Some men were also posted to Trench Mortar Batteries, raised in 1916. 89207 Driver Stanley John Madell, of the Royal Field Artillery, died of wounds received while on active service on 19th April, 1918, aged 29. At the time of his death Driver Madell is listed as belonging to 'D' Battery, 160th Brigade, RFA, which meant that he was probably with the 160th Trench Mortar battery. He is buried in plot II at Aire Communal cemetery, Pas de Calais in Northern France. He is buried in a section of the cemetery used for men who had been evacuated from the lines to the 54th Casualty Clearing Station. Driver Madell left a widow, Rose and two young children.



A third brother, 33453 Lance Corporal Roland Madell of the Essex Regiment died in Guernsey on 14th May, 1921, and is buried in Candie Cemetery, St Peter Port, where his grave bears a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. Roland Madell, a single man, had been a fisherman before joining the 1st Battalion the Dorsetshire Regiment on 11th February, 1911. He served with them for more than two years, and was posted to the 2nd Battalion and served in India from 11th September, 1912 to 15th October, 1914. He then went to Mesopotamia where he remained until 22nd June 1915. Whilst serving there he was diagnosed as suffering from heatstroke attributable to service during the war. He then returned to India and whilst he was there spent three weeks in hospital in Poona again with heatstroke, and was said to have suffered "slight recurrences" after that. He then transferred to the Essex Regiment as 33453 Pte Madell on 1st June, 1918. He was again hospitalised suffering from heat stroke from 10th to 16th June, 1919. His Army pension record shows that he served for more than eight years in India, South Africa and Mesopotamia before being transferred to the Reserve on 15th July, 1919. He came back to Guernsey where he died less than two years later at the age of 29.

11840 Private Campbell Madell served with the Royal Army Medical Corps in France from May, 1915 to the end of the war. 1024 Private Havelock Madell served with the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry from its formation in 1916, when he was only 19. He was wounded at Cambrai on 20th November, 1917, and invalided to England, five days later, on 25th November. He then returned to the unit at its base in France with the 10th reinforcement on 20th April, 1918, just after the devastating losses of the Battle of the Lys. These had meant that the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry could no longer function as a fighting unit, so they were then put to guarding Haig's headquarters at Montreuil until the Armistice. Havelock Madell was invalided home sick on 28th November, 1918.

Thus at least five of the six Madell brothers saw active service in the Great War. Of these three died as a result of the war, and are commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. A fourth was injured and hospitalised, then later became ill whilst in service. As far as can be traced so far, a fifth brother, Private Campbell Madell, saw service from 1915 to the end of the war but escaped injury. No information has yet been found showing that Wallace Madell saw active service.

These three brothers, less than 4 years apart in age, died in different places from different causes but were all victims of the Great War. Their family epitomises the extent to which Guernseymen were involved on a worldwide basis throughout the entire period of the war.

Remembrance Week, Guernsey 2009 By Liz Walton



**An Arrangement of poppies by the
Remembrance Window in St Andrew's
Church**

Although this year's Armistice and Remembrance Day celebrations in Guernsey did not include any major events, they did appear to mark an increased level of interest in the Great War.

One of this year's innovations was the inauguration of a ceremony to remember Guernsey's civil servants who fell in both World Wars. A well polished brass plaque stands in the entrance to Frossard House in the Charroterie, where many of the island's civil servants are now based. It was moved here from the previous States offices on the town seafront. The wreath laying ceremony which took place at 11 a.m. on Armistice Day was the idea of Frossard House office manager Ted Mauger, who asked retired Lieutenant Colonel John Silvester, Head of Estates Management at States property Services, to lay the first wreath. The ceremony will now be repeated every year.

Another innovation was the invitation to all ex-service men and women resident on the island to form a Veteran's Platoon in the parade which precedes the Act of Remembrance at the Bailiwick Memorial in Smith Street. The parade, which traditionally consisted of representatives of cadet forces and standards from various local organisations, plus crew members from HMS Daring (which is affiliated to the island) and 201 (Guernsey's Own) Squadron leaves the Town Arsenal and marches to the Smith Street memorial in time for the 11 a.m. ceremony. The idea of inviting all ex service personnel was to remember those lost in modern conflicts as well as the casualties of two World Wars.

Island schools too are making more of their own local history and looking at what happened to their island in other conflicts rather than just studying the Occupation. St Sampson's High School pupils, year 11 media students, did a project based on

Remembrance, which involved creating a poster and a short film. Many chose to look at modern conflicts as well as the Great War. 15 year old Jo Bichard is quoted as saying:

"I wanted my video to hit home about the fact that people died for us – and are still dying – so that we can live in peace."

At the Vale Primary school Mrs Mahy who is in her nineties, brought in a watch carried by a family member who was killed in the Great War, and told the children about what had happened to various family members and what it meant to her family now. Elizabeth College, as always, put small poppy crosses on the Field of Remembrance in Smith Street in memory of all of the Old Boys lost in both World Wars. They also hold a service at the memorial plaque in the school hall, when all the names on it are read out. The Grammar School usually holds a similar ceremony (though I have so far been unable to check if it happened this year) at their memorial plaque, which was moved from the old Boys' Grammar School in Rosaire Avenue to the current site in Footes Lane.



The Vale Parish held its annual wreath laying ceremony at their Memorial before parishioners and officials moved on to a service of Remembrance in the Vale Church. This year was perhaps a little different in that Deputy Bill Cohu has called for the memorial to be moved from its present site at the bottom of the Route des Coutures to the lawns outside the Douzaine Room. He feels that it would be easier and more pleasant to visit there and that it could also be looked after better. It is currently in a small walled enclosure behind locked gates and some panels are not easily visible from outside the wall. It is sited on a very busy, noisy road junction and this year when I visited it people were driving past while the wreath laying ceremony

took place.

Wreath laying ceremonies took place in all the other parishes too, with the Douzaines, Women's Institutes and Royal British Legion being represented at all of them. Families placed personal tributes too. In St Andrew's churchyard on the grave of Frank de Moulpied Laine who died in 1922 as the result of wounds received at the Lys in 1918 was a wreath which simply said "Daddy". His daughters who are both in their nineties obviously still remember even though he is not commemorated by the CWGC, having died outside



their period of recognition. I placed a cross on the nearby grave of AB John Helman, who took part in the raids at Zeebrugge and was mentioned in the ballot for the VC but still remains unrecognised by the CWGC. The church itself was beautifully decorated with red Guernsey Lilies (*Nerine Sarniensis*), along with the usual poppies. I also visited St Sampson's Church which was packed to the doors on Remembrance day. In a very moving service a bugler from the local Boys' Brigade sounded the Last Post and again all the names on the parish Roll of Honour were read out.

The Museum Service also played its part in this year's week of remembrance. On Armistice Day the cannon at Castle Cornet was fired by Royal British Legion Island President Eric Le Quesne at 11 a.m. and again at 11.02 a.m. to mark the beginning and end of the two minutes' silence for the fallen. Then on Remembrance Day, Castle Cornet and the new Royal Guernsey Light Infantry Museum were open to the public free of charge. The cannon was again fired to mark the two minutes' silence. Culture and Leisure Minister Mike O'Hara said:

"Many people in Guernsey have not yet seen the new museum, so Remembrance Sunday is a fitting occasion to offer the opportunity to learn more about the courage and sacrifice of the generation who fought in the Great War."

BBC Guernsey's website featured an article on the Madell family who lost three sons in the Great War and there was radio and television coverage of the various ceremonies. Information about our website was also given out by BBC Guernsey. Also the Evening Press featured a poppy in its header for the entire week and each day carried an article about some aspect of remembrance. This included a photo from their archives of the Remembrance Day ceremony in 1934 and features on the work of various island schoolchildren on the theme of remembrance.

Thus the fallen were not forgotten here in Guernsey - in fact it would appear that each year more is made of Remembrance week. Whatever the reasons for this and despite publicity about later political arguments to do with the order in which wreaths should be laid it is clear that for many Islanders remembrance of the fallen still plays an important part in their family and island history.

From the CWGC

Why are some headstones not separated but joined together? Touching headstones can be found in many cemeteries – particularly those that might once have been close to a Casualty Clearing Station. Sadly many men died before they could be evacuated to hospital and were buried in long trenches, shoulder to shoulder with their comrades. The lack of space between burials necessitates a different approach. Adjoining headstones are also used when the remains of those buried are intermingled. Although individual sets of remains are known, the circumstances of death made it impossible to separate individuals. One of the most common uses of this form of commemoration are the graves of Second World War air crew.

Debt of Honour Database Changes: After some considerable debate, the CWGC are taking on board a range of concerns that have been expressed by the 'amateur researcher community' in making improvements. A more detailed review of the situation should appear in the next Journal.

Archibald John Keeping

Archibald John Keeping was born on the 12th March, 1884 at 20 Queens Road, St Helier in Jersey. His father was Philip John Keeping who was employed as a Coachman, while his mother was Alice Elizabeth Lock. He had a sister, Ella Dora, who was born on the 15th January, 1898.

Archibald attended the Jersey National School at Halkett Place in St Helier, and on leaving school would become a horse driver. Still living on the Island at the time of the 1901 Census, he decided to join the Royal Navy, signing up for a period of 12 years colour service which would begin on 12th March, 1902 when he had attained the age of 18 years. However, he had actually joined on 5th October, 1901 as a Boy, 2nd Class with the service number 217600.

It seems that as a naval rating, he progressed fairly quickly through the ranks, for by the 1st October, 1906 he had gained the rating of Leading Seaman while on *HMS Bulwark*, and on 3rd December, 1907 had passed his Petty Officer's educational examination. All was going well until 10th March, 1909, for on that date, according to his naval service record he reverted to the rating of Able-Bodied Seaman apparently for being drunk while serving on *HMS Gossamer*! Ten days later, he was assigned to *HMS Vivid I*, the Devonport shore base, and would, on 31st July, 1909, leave the RN having purchased his discharge.



Civilian Street beckoned! But first, Archibald joined the Royal Fleet Reserve at Devonport on the day following his discharge and given the RFR number B2839. Little more than a month later, he was to be found in London and having enlisted as

PC 853 in 'Y' Division of the Metropolitan Police. He would stay with the Police until 2nd August, 1914 when the RFR was fully mobilised for war. However, before that happened, he had married an English lady, Minnie Victoria Sophia Tibbitt at St Luke's Church in West Holloway, London on 30th October, 1912. The photograph on the previous page of Archibald, Minnie and their family and friends was taken at 17, Beacon Hill, Islington ,



Back in the RN, his first ship was *HMS Eclipse* and he would remain onboard until 6th March, 1915 when he would re-join *HMS Vivid* for a few days before being reassigned to *HMS Severn* on 11th March, 1915 and being reinstated as a Leading Seaman.

HMS Severn (pictured left)

HMS Severn, one of three monitors (the others being *HMS Humber* and *HMS Mersey*) that were originally intended for the Brazilian Navy, had already been in action during the Great War, taking part in actions, with *HMS Mersey*, at Ostend and Dunkirk, as well as covering the BEF's retreat. There would be no respite for these ships, for a month after Archibald having joined *HMS Severn*, they were to be found off Malta waiting to be sent up the River Danube once the Dardanelles Straits had been forced!

There was another fly in the ointment, however, in the shape of a German light cruiser, the *SMS Königsberg*, off the East African coast, and it was to East Africa that these ships were dispatched being towed through the Suez Canal on 6th May, 1915, arriving at Mafia four weeks later on 3rd June.

**SMS Königsberg
(pictured right)**



By the time they arrived the *SMS Königsberg* had been blockaded in the delta of the river Rufiji for some seven or eight months, and so both ships were prepared with the fitting of extra armour plating and sand-bagging of structures, while improvements were also made to the buoyancy with the addition of sealed, empty kerosene cans. Two more months elapsed during which time the channels were charted and on the night of 5th/6th July, 1915 a small fleet set sail, some as a diversionary feint, others to act as flank guard.

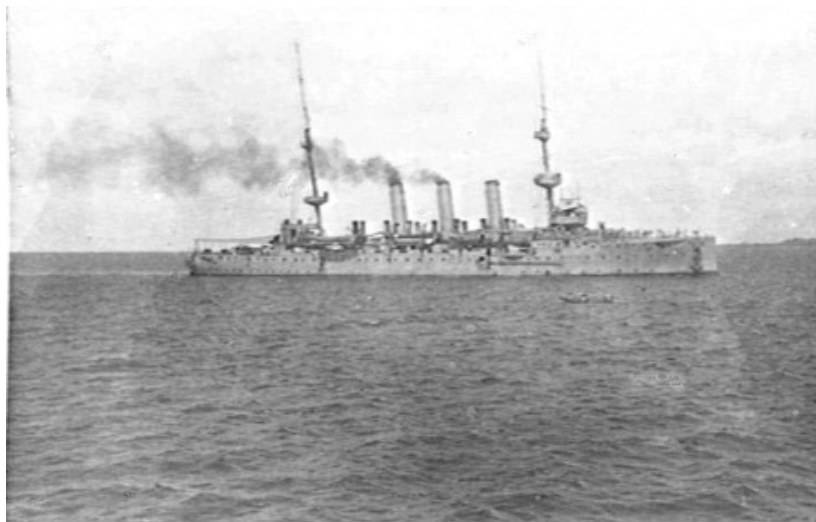
With *HMS Severn*, and *HMS Mersey* in the channels, Archibald's ship was the first to fire at the *SMS Königsberg* at a range of nearly 11,000 yards, but was at once answered by the German ship's guns, which soon also had *HMS Mersey* bracketed, causing damage to this ship and its crew. If incoming fire from the *SMS Königsberg* was not enough, shore-based German artillery and machine gun fire also engaged the British ships. Throughout the engagement, which lasted from about 06.30 to 15.30 hours on the 6th when the British ships withdrew, it appears that the *SMS Königsberg* was hit six times and that only one of its guns had been put out of action, this being reported through the continued presence of naval spotter aircraft.

With the *SMS Königsberg* still afloat and, comparatively speaking, only lightly damaged, *HMS Severn*, and *HMS Mersey* would again return to the fray on the 11th July, 1915, receiving a very 'hot welcome' as they headed into the Rufiji delta at around 11.30 hours. Again, naval spotter aircraft were overhead, one being brought down by shrapnel from the *SMS Königsberg*'s quick-firing guns to hit the river upside down. Both aircrew surfaced and were recovered, thankful that crocodiles, normally resident in the Rufiji, had left for quieter surroundings! During the period following its arrival, *HMS Severn* was getting a good proportion of its shells on target, and at about 12.40 hours three explosions were heard in succession. Soon after the *SMS Königsberg* sank in the shallow waters, and the engagement was over.

One must presume that Archibald Keeping was on board throughout this action, though I cannot find mention of his contribution. He is not mentioned in the dispatch regarding the action that was published in London Gazette 29395 dated 7th December, 1915 nor is there any reference in his service record except to state that he was part of *HMS Severn*'s crew at this time.

Archibald would remain a member of *HMS Severn*'s crew until 13th October, 1916 when he would be transferred to the cruiser, *HMS Hyacinth*, another ship on the Cape station, having seen the German surrender at Dar es Salaam on the 4th September.

HMS Hyacinth



What happened to Archibald next is somewhat unclear thanks to the dark patches on the reproduction of his service paper! His entry for *HMS Hyacinth* is from 14th October, 1916 until 18th April, 1917 when there is the dreaded naval annotation of 'DD' – Discharged Died! However, it appears that the dark patches partially conceals a note of "Missing, believed wounded", while another reference states that he was "Mentioned for meritorious service whilst serving with the Naval Lewis Gun Detachment (this is followed by an undistinguishable word – but probably an African town name in present day Tanzania) 18th April, 1917". However, the fog lifts a little with a reference to a document (NP 4601/17) which stated that he was 'DD' on the

16th May, 1917 (per German Report), and advises that he “Died of Wounds whilst interned as prisoner of war in a German East African Hospital after an Operation”.

So, can we assume that he had been put ashore as a member of the Detachment which had encountered strong German opposition? Probably, and in this, he had been severely wounded and could not be recovered, thus becoming a prisoner. Injured and/or seriously ill, he had been operated on, but had then died. He has no known grave, and is commemorated on the Dar Es Salaam British and Indian Memorial.

Minnie, the radiant bride of 30th October, 1912 had now become a widow. But it is clear that she had visited Jersey while Archibald was serving off East Africa, for she travelled on the SS Alberta between Jersey and Southampton on 15th August, 1916. At some stage following the news of Archibald’s death, she met another Jerseyman, William George Stephens, an ex-soldier who had lost his right arm, and they would marry.

Author’s Note: With thanks to Richard Stephens, the grand-son of William and Minnie Stephens, for the wedding photograph and the information that was used in the first four paragraphs of this article. William Stephens is featured in “Faces Remembered”.

Soyécourt and Jersey
A Tale of Adoption after the Great War
By Chris Aubin

Editor’s Note: This article was first published in the Annual Bulletin of the Société Jersiaise, Volume 29 Part 4, 2008 pages 387-394, and the Société’s permission for it to be reproduced in the CIGWSG Journal is gratefully acknowledged.

In the aftermath of the Great War a swathe of north-eastern France was left devastated. Homes, families and lives were destroyed, whole villages had ceased to exist, and yet the people returned. Living with the carnage, the destruction, the devastation, the death, the unexploded ordnance and the general paraphernalia of war left behind, those who returned started to rebuild their lives and reengage in agricultural production as quickly as possible. Over 300 million cubic metres of trenches had to be in-filled, barbed wire covered 375 million square metres of land ⁽¹⁾ (by comparison, Jersey is only 116 million square metres); even today, in the 21st century, unexploded ordnance is dug up every year and vast forests were left as effectively ‘no-go’ areas which are still just too dangerous to venture into. Of over 790,000 (some sources say 850,000) buildings damaged, over 148,000 were gravely damaged and 293,000 private buildings and farmhouses were completely destroyed. In the public building sector there were 17,500 buildings (churches, Mairies and schools) damaged with over 6,500 razed to the ground; nearly 23,000 industrial establishments were damaged or destroyed and a total of 620 Communes were razed to the ground ⁽²⁾.

Clout notes a parallel between the reconstruction of northern France in the years after the Great War with the ‘four-fold sequence of recovery’ model postulated in modern research for reconstruction following earthquake damage: “initial emergency work is succeeded by a brief restoration phase then a longer period of replacement

reconstruction, and a final commemorative period”⁽³⁾. It is the latter two periods that created links between Jersey and Soyécourt.

Soyécourt is a small village to the south of the Somme with a population in 1999 of 212. It lies 10km to the south-west of Péronne, in Picardie; today quiet, peaceful, farming country.

But in 1918 and 1919, in the midst of the devastation the people of Soyécourt started to return to the site of their village. In the beginning of the recovery period the people would have lived in mend and make-do shelters as best they could; there were various schemes for the provision and erection of temporary shelters and huts but the resources required and the size of the task meant that demand far outweighed supply. Nevertheless, the farmers returned to their land. The French government undertook the initial task of clearing the land of ordnance, of in-filling trench systems and of levelling the land so that agricultural production could resume as soon as practical with the farmers living in very rudimentary shelters. Again the early success of clearance and re-integration of farming was very varied across the North-East of France with resources stretched⁽⁴⁾.

In 1919 M Marcel Braibant, Conseiller Général of the Ardennes first suggested that British towns should adopt French communities⁽⁵⁾. Admiral Sir Charles Dundas wrote to the Morning Post in April, 1920 on behalf of the Association of Great Britain and France noting that the devastation in the Ardennes was as much due to the retreating Germans as to the effects of war. From the London office of the Morning Post, HA Gwynne wrote to Lady Bathurst after discussions at the Committee to set up a League of Help; Lady Bathurst was the owner of the Morning Post and had already been involved in giving aid to French communities.

As a result, in June, 1920 ‘The British League of Help for the devastated areas of France’ was inaugurated with an office and headquarters in London. Meetings were called and on the 30th June, 1920 all Mayors were invited to a meeting at the Mansion House in London.

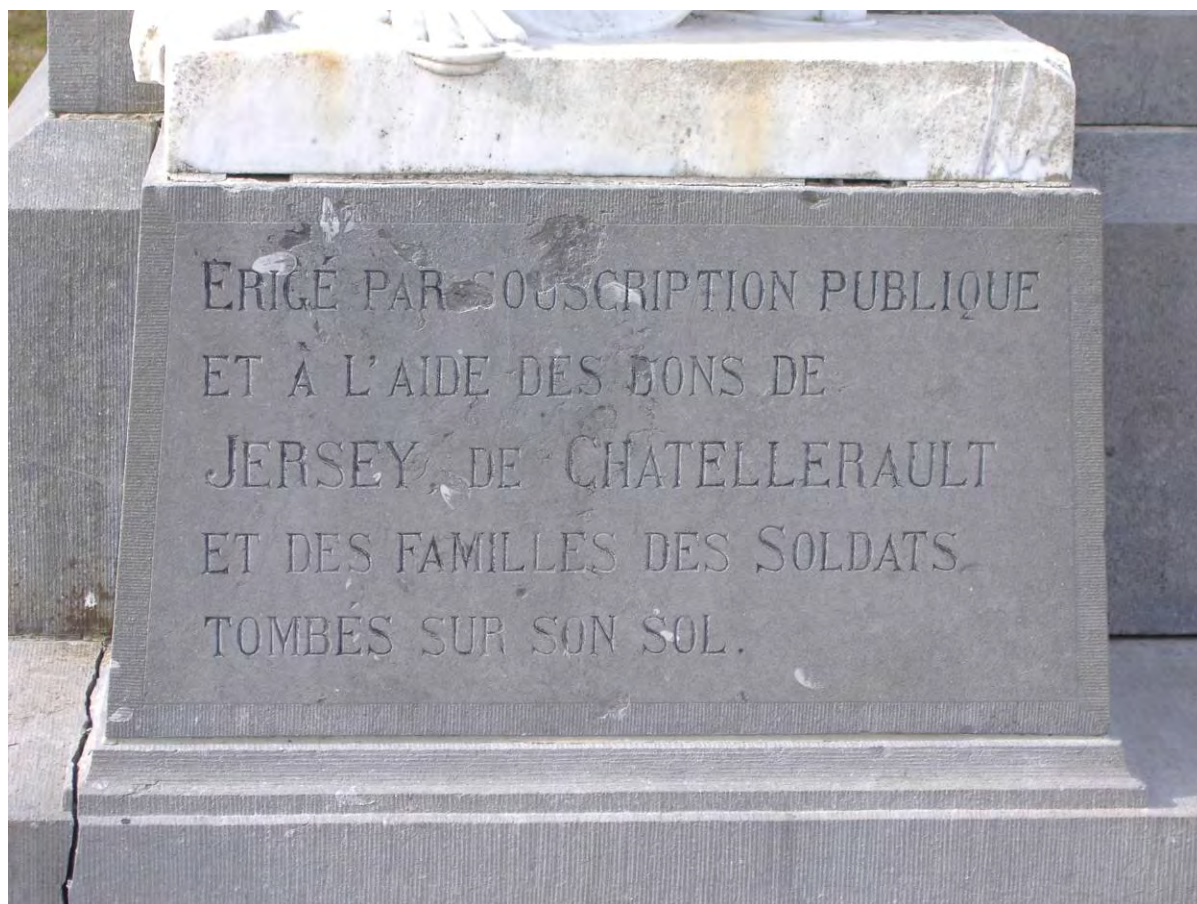
On the 11th December, 1920, the Lieutenant Governor of Jersey, Major-General Sir William Douglas-Smith, KCB, KCVO, wrote to the Bailiff of Jersey, Sir William Venables Vernon, copying a letter and other material he had received from the Secretary of ‘The British League of Help for the devastated areas of France’. The Bailiff forwarded the correspondence to the Defence Committee. It was duly discussed at the Committee meeting of the 29th December, 1920⁽⁶⁾, and the Committee replied requesting a list of agricultural villages not yet ‘adopted’.

The Bailiff received a reply by late January which was passed to the Defence Committee which appointed a subcommittee to consider the matter on the 18th February, 1921⁽⁷⁾. The subcommittee consisted of various States members: the Connétable of St Saviour (JA Perrée), and the Deputies for St Saviour and St Brelade (Francis John Bois and John Herbert Orange). The subcommittee responded after its meeting of the 4th March, 1921⁽⁸⁾ by requesting the States Greffier write directly to the League’s Secretary seeking confirmation as to whether the village of Soyécourt (Somme) had been adopted and if not if it could be reserved pending further communication.

The Subcommittee's recommendation was adopted by the full Committee at its meeting on the 11th March, 1921 ⁽⁹⁾, and the Committee agreed to recommend to the States that a sum of £1,000 be sent as the Island's contribution to Soyécourt. The matter was passed to the States which on the 15th March, 1921 agreed to send, via the Lieutenant Governor, a cheque for £1,000 payable to M V Gilmer, Secretary of the League. The Bailiff was asked from the Defence Committee meeting on the 31st March, 1921 ⁽¹⁰⁾ to inform the French Consul in Jersey of the donation to Soyécourt.

The States meeting was reported in both the Evening Post on Tuesday 15th March, 1921 ⁽¹¹⁾ and in the Morning News on Wednesday 16th March, 1921 ⁽¹²⁾. The report noted that Jurat Payn believed that members would have been aware of the trend in England of adopting French towns and that the matter had been discussed in the Defence Committee which was requesting the donation of £1,000, it was noted that the village of Soyécourt had been 'entirely wiped out'. The Recteur of St Peter would have preferred a sum of £3,000 or £4,000. It was noted that £1,000 would be 56,000 Francs and it was hoped private individuals may add to the sum.

The Bailiff's letter of the 5th April, 1921 ⁽¹³⁾ addressed to the French Consul enclosed a cheque No 251335 for 56,000 Francs payable to the Préfet de la Somme at the 'Banque Française pour la Commerce et l'Industrie' drawn on the States' account at the 'London Joint City and Midland Bank Limited'. The Bailiff asked that the cheque be forwarded with the Island's best wishes for the early return to ease and prosperity (*à l'aisance et la prospérité*) for the inhabitants of Soyécourt and wished for the money to be used for the reconstruction of some of the most destroyed homes and other pressing needs of the villagers.



The Bailiff's letter of the 5th April included reference to the Jersey Contingent which it was thought had fought in the area. However, this is not apparent from the history of the Jersey Contingent. In March, 1915 one Company of the Royal Jersey Militia was detached and joined the 7th (Service) Battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles. It formed part of 48th Brigade in the 16th (Irish) Division and took part in the fourth and fifth phases of the Battle of the Somme in September, 1916 at Guillemont and Ginchy; both towns are on the Somme but some 10 miles to the North in the British sector whereas Soyécourt was in the French sector of the 1916 Battle of the Somme and to the South of the river ⁽¹⁴⁾. In 1917 the 7th Battalion was at Messines and Langemarck before being transferred to the 49th Brigade in August and then to the 108th Brigade of the 36th (Irish) Division in October and was then absorbed into the 2nd Battalion in November with which it fought at Cambrai. The surviving Jersey Contingent members were then transferred to the 2nd Battalion, the Hampshire Regiment in December and finished the war in Flanders ⁽¹⁵⁾.

The States accounts show the sum of £1,000 for Soyécourt on the 2nd April, 1921. The sum remains in the accounts in the War Loans of 1915, 1916 and 1918 until converted to Public debt in 1926 ⁽¹⁶⁾.

It is possible to put the sum of £1,000 into context. On the 8th October, 1921 the property No 1 St Luke's Villas in Beach Road was sold for £1,000. The States War Loans of 1915, 1916 and 1918 in the 1922 accounts totalled £276,719.5s.8d. However, the First Annual Report of the League makes further interesting comparisons ⁽¹⁷⁾. Although no total figure is given for the monies donated in the first year (and it cannot be calculated due to the way the Report is presented) it is possible to calculate that at least £32,800 had been subscribed and at least £43,000 had been sent in currency or in goods and materials, a further 37,000 Francs (approx £660) had been sent. Of the monies already sent, the sum of £17,500 came from Mauritius and a further £12,000 was from Newcastle; the rest was from a list of forty towns and cities throughout the United Kingdom: Jersey's contribution to the League was big for its size and population. Further monies were later forthcoming.

The correspondence then stops and nothing is heard until a further letter was received by the Lieutenant Governor from the officer in charge of the reconstruction service for the devastated regions of France. Although this was forwarded by the Bailiff to the Defence Committee, it has not been located but it did include a report of work to date though no specific area or town/village is given ⁽¹⁸⁾.

On the 2nd June, 1922 the Lieutenant Governor passed on to the Bailiff an invitation from the League to attend a dinner in London to be given by the League and to which Mr Poincaré ⁽¹⁹⁾ was the Guest on the 17th. Neither was able to attend.

Later in June, 1922 the Lieutenant Governor received a letter from the League which was again forwarded to the Bailiff and the Defence Committee. At the Committee's meeting of 6th June, 1922 it was duly discussed ⁽²⁰⁾. The League had suggested that collections be made for the benefit of Soyécourt in the various churches in the Island. It was proposed that a collection date be set for the first Sunday in July following and the Greffier was asked to write to all Rectors, Superintendents and Pastors expressing the wish that the suggestion will be well received and worthy contributions made which were to be sent to the President of the Committee at the States Greffe. On the 28th June ⁽²¹⁾ the Committee decided to request the local press advertise the collections on the following Sunday in the various churches. A note

was duly published in The Evening Post on Friday, 30th June, 1922 ⁽²²⁾ and in the Morning News in the edition of Saturday, 1st July, 1922 ⁽²³⁾.

The Committee sat on the 11th July, 1922 and received the initial reports of the success of the appeal, not all churches had by then sent in their collections but the sum of £122.15s.10d and 27.75 Francs had been received ⁽²⁴⁾, the monies were sent to the States Treasurer pending further instructions.



The Committee meeting of the 11th August, 1922 records a further communication and a plan or drawing had been received through the usual channels via the Bailiff and the Lieutenant Governor. The Greffier was asked to place a further note in the media listing the donations received from the appeal and asking any outstanding sums to be forwarded. The list duly appeared in the Evening Post of Saturday, 12th August, 1922:

“List of amounts received on behalf of the Village of Soyécourt (Somme), France adopted by the Island:-

By the Defence Committee:-

St Martin's Church	3	11	1
St Luke's Church	6	16	6
St John's Church	1	0	0
St Saviour's Church	7	14	0
St Thomas' RC Church	22	9	9
St Aubin's Church	18	3	7
Secretary Breton Mission	0	5	0
Halkett Place Independent Church	2	2	0
Trinity Church	0	14	6
Grouville Church	7	10	2
St Pierre La Rocque	1	8	0
Lyric Hall	2	0	0
St James' Church	6	12	11
St Martin's RC Church	12	0	0
Salvation Army	1	11	6
St Mary's Church	1	11	0
St Lawrence's Church	8	18	3
St Matthew's RC Church St Peter	5	0	0
St Andrew's Church	1	16	0
St Clement's Church	4	14	4
St Ouen's and St George's Church	5	18	0
All Saints' Church	3	15	0

£133 11s 7d

Per 'Evening Post':-

Presbyterian Church	5	15	10
Congregational Church, Victoria St	4	1	6
Église Évangélique de St Jean	2	6	0
Other subscriptions also per EP	8	4	0

£20 7s 4d

£153 18s 11d

The Committee are awaiting the results of collections at other churches in the Island”

By the Committee meeting of the 13th October, 1922 further sums had come in and the total received from the appeal had reached £179.6s.8d. The Committee asked the Bailiff to arrange for a cheque to be drawn for this sum and sent on to the French Authorities for the benefit of the village of Soyécourt ⁽²⁵⁾. The Bailiff sent a cheque to the Préfet de la Somme for 10,777.90 Francs on the States' account at the 'London Joint City and Midland Bank Limited' payable at the 'Banque Française et Italienne pour l'Amérique du Sud' ⁽²⁶⁾.

In January, 1923 the Committee discussed at length further correspondence that had been received. This had been sent by the League to the Governor and had been discussed in the States on the 16th January, 1923. At the Committee meeting of the 23rd January ⁽²⁷⁾ the request to contribute to the ongoing administration costs of the League was turned down and the Committee decided it could not recommend to the States that a contribution should be made to the office expenses of the League. The second matter under discussion was the suggestion from the League that the Island should send a party of school children aged between 14 and 16 years to the Somme to see the devastation and the reconstruction work. Again it was felt that the Committee could not recommend this suggestion to the States. The matters were then raised in the States and the Act of 30th January, 1923 confirmed the Defence Committee recommendations.

On the 19th May, 1923 the Bailiff acknowledged a letter from the Maire de Soyécourt of the 8th inviting him to visit the community. The Bailiff accepted the offer but no date was fixed. The Bailiff advised that he had been in the general area several times before the war ⁽²⁸⁾.

A short report appeared in the Evening Post of 8th September, 1924 ⁽²⁹⁾. An unnamed correspondent reported on a recent visit by a member of the States from one of the eastern parishes and some friends to France where they had visited Soyécourt, unofficially. When it was realised that they were from Jersey they were introduced to the Maire who took them to points of interest. They were told that for six days and nights, troops and equipment had passed through the village; this was then followed by a German advance when everything was demolished and the Maire himself carried off into captivity until the Armistice. By the time of the visit sixty houses had been built and it was thought that the village would soon be 'its old self in new form'. The party were informed that the Jersey contribution had not yet been touched but that it was being held back to pay for a new water supply to the village once the housing had been addressed. It appears that in Soyécourt they were even talking of the 'electric light' - it was suggested in the report that 'they will move more quickly in that direction that we in Jersey have'!

Towards the end of 1924 a request was received from the Président of the Comité charged with the '*érection d'un Monument aux Enfants de Soyécourt (Somme) morts pour la France*' and for those fallen on its soil. The envelope, addressed to Monsieur le Bailli de l'île de Jersey, Iles anglo-normandes and embossed '*Comité d'Érection du Monument "aux Morts" de SOYÉCOURT (Somme)*' remains in the Bailiff's correspondence with 75 centimes in franked postage stamps. The invitation is a printed form addressed to the Bailiff in manuscript. The Committee agreed on the 15th October ⁽³⁰⁾ to a donation of £30 and asked the Bailiff to forward the sum as previously. The Bailiff duly sent a cheque for 2,565 Francs (£30) and a copy of his letter and the acknowledgement received from Soyécourt were minuted on the 12th December, 1924 ⁽³¹⁾. The Bailiff's letter, as had been requested, sent the cheque

payable to Monsr Delaporte, the school master (Instituteur) at Soyécourt. The Bailiff's original hand written letter dated the 21 Octobre 1924, enclosing a cheque for 2,565FF on the Société Générale, has survived at Soyécourt.

Notice of the official unveiling of the Monument was sent to the Bailiff by the Maire for the 24th October, 1925. The Bailiff was unable to attend but said that the memory of the '*glorieux morts*' of both France and Britain was undying and that he and the Island would be present '*de coeur*' as Soyécourt was the Island's adopted daughter.

The writer would to express his thanks to Sir Philip Bailhache, Bailiff of Jersey, and to M de la Haye, Esq., Greffier des Etats for permission to read and quote from the Bailiff's correspondence files and the Defence Committee minutes, to the Jersey Archive for arranging access and also to M Sébastien Robit, of Soyécourt.

References:

1. Clout quoted by Osborne see (2) below
2. Clout, Hugh (1996) After the Ruins: Restoring the countryside of Northern France after the Great War
3. JE Haas, RW Kates and MJ Bowden. Reconstruction following disaster (1977) quoted by Clout op.cit.
4. Clout op cit
5. The origins of the 'British League of Help for the devastated areas in France' are recorded in the papers of Lilius, Countess of Bathurst held in the Department of Manuscripts and Special Collections in the Brotherton Library, University of Leeds. The collection has not been researched in the preparation of this paper but the early history of the formation of the League is to be found in:
 - (i) Brian S Osborne In the Shadows of Monuments: the British League for the Reconstruction of the Devastated Areas of France International Journal of Heritage Studies Vol 7, No 1 pp59-82, and:
 - (ii) Sally White Worthing, Richebourg and the League of Help for the Devastated Areas of France Sussex Archaeological Collections 140 (2002) 125-138.To both of which articles the author acknowledges his gratitude having collated this summary.
6. Defence Committee Minutes 29 Décembre 1920, Jersey Archive C/B/B1/11
7. Defence Committee Minutes 18 Février 1921, Jersey Archive C/B/B1/11
8. Defence subcommittee Minutes 4 Mars 1921, Jersey Archive C/B/B1/11
9. Defence Committee Minutes 11 Mars 1921, Jersey Archive C/B/B1/11
10. Defence Committee Minutes 31 Mars 1921, Jersey Archive C/B/B1/11
11. The Evening Post Tuesday 15th March, 1921, microfilm at the Jersey Library
12. Morning News Wednesday 16th March, 1921, microfilm at the Jersey Library
13. Bailiff's correspondence files Jersey Archive B/D/B1/9
14. Ten miles is a short distance but the entire 1916 Battle of the Somme, which cost 1 million 'casualties' (maybe ¼ - ½ of that number dead), was fought on a 25 mile front
15. See:
 - (i) The Channel Islands in the Great War www.greatwarci.net
 - (ii) The Long Long Trail 1914 - 1918 www.1914-1918.net
 - (iii) Regiments www.regiments.org

16. Budget des Etats pour L'Année Financière Commençant Le 1er Février 1922 et seq
17. The British League of Help for the devastated areas of France: First Annual Report (1921) IWM: 33309 see also List of British towns and urban districts which have adopted French towns and villages IWM: 36011
IWM indicates 'Held at the Department of Printed Books, the Imperial War Museum' the author wishes to express thanks to the IWM and in particular to Becky Hawley for assisting in locating the references
18. Defence Committee Minutes 7 Février 1922, Jersey Archive C/B/B1/11
19. Mr Poincaré had been the French President throughout the Great War up to February, 1920
20. Defence Committee Minutes 6 Juin 1922, Jersey Archive C/B/B1/11
21. Defence Committee Minutes 28 Juin 1922, Jersey Archive C/B/B1/11
22. The Evening Post Friday 30th June, 1922, microfilm at the Jersey Library
23. Morning News Saturday 1st July, 1922, microfilm at the Jersey Library
24. Defence Committee Minutes 11 Juillet 1922, Jersey Archive C/B/B1/11
25. Defence Committee Minutes 13 Octobre 1922, Jersey Archive C/B/B1/11
26. Bailiff's correspondence files, Jersey Archive B/D/B1/9
27. Defence Committee Minutes 23 Janvier 1923, Jersey Archive C/B/B1/11
28. Bailiff's correspondence files, Jersey Archive B/D/B1/9
29. The Evening Post Friday 8th September, 1924, microfilm at the Jersey Library
30. Defence Committee Minutes 15 Octobre 1924, Jersey Archive C/B/B1/11
31. Defence Committee Minutes 12 Décembre 1924, Jersey Archive C/B/B1/11

Far From Over by Christmas **By Ian Ronayne**

Editor's Note: The following is an article that Ian has written for the free "Isle Newspaper" published this month, is only available in Jersey.

In this season of festivities and goodwill, Ian Ronayne, author of "Ours: The Jersey Pals in the First World War", looks back to December, 1914 and Jersey's first Christmas of the war.

One commonly held belief during the first few months of World War One was that it would all be over by Christmas. Men had rushed to join up on this understanding, not wanting to miss the chance of a fight with the 'dastardly Hun'. Yet as the 25th of December approached, there was little sign of an imminent end to the fighting. Something had clearly gone wrong.

Although the war had been raging for nearly five months as Christmas 1914 approached, neither side had managed to win a decisive victory. By December, with the armies exhausted and winter setting in, the intensity of fighting declined. Warily, the soldiers began constructing the trenches that would come to characterise this most dreadful of wars. An end to the conflict seemed further away than ever.



Some among those in the trenches were unwilling to let the festive season pass unobserved however. On Christmas Eve 1914, British soldiers holding the line south of the Belgian town of Ypres were surprised to hear the sound of carol singing floating across no-man's land. Venturing up to take a look, to their amazement they found lanterns and small Christmas trees held up above the enemy trenches. After a while, a German officer approached and proposed a truce for Christmas Day, starting at dawn. Warily, the British accepted.



At first light the next morning, soldiers from both sides left their trenches and cautiously wandered out into no-man's land. Any apprehension quickly disappeared with the warm exchange of greetings and gifts. The Germans brought cigars and beer, many of the British offered cigarettes or sweets from the recently distributed Princess Mary gift boxes.

Souvenirs changed hands too, helmets, buttons and belt-buckles. Legend has it that from somewhere a football appeared and an impromptu 'international' took place among the shell craters. To those taking part, it must have all seemed like a dream. Less than twenty-four hours earlier after all, those same players had been trying to kill each other. Was the war over by Christmas after all?

It was a question also asked at that time by some back home in Jersey. For although the war's outbreak initially turned the island upside down, by December 1914, things seemed more like business as usual. And the trappings of Christmas were very much part of this. On Christmas Eve, 1914, musicians were out entertaining the shoppers and revellers thronging St Helier's King Street. At the corner of Halkett Place and Waterloo Street, the Salvation Army Band drew a large crowd with a rousing medley of festive tunes. The shops were full of things to buy - although, as some later discovered to their horror, certain items still bore the stamp 'Made in Germany'. Theatres and picture houses – The Opera House, The Alhambra, and Wests among them – drew big crowds to their packed programmes. The war seemed a very long way away.

The most obvious reminder it was not a normal Christmas, however, was the presence of large numbers of soldiers among the festive crowds. Many were members of the South Staffordshire Regiment who had arrived in the island for training soon after the outbreak of war. By December 1914, almost two thousand volunteers from the Midlands were present and a familiar sight to locals as they trained and enjoyed the local hospitality.

The other large group of soldiers were the men of the Royal Militia of the Island of Jersey. Back then, the law demanded that every able-bodied Jerseyman between the ages of 16 and 45 served in the Militia. By Christmas, thousands of local men were taking turn standing guard over the coast and key installations. But what had

seemed exciting when war started in August had become increasingly tedious, disagreeable, and in some cases deadly.



Through winter weather and tough training regimes, the war had started claiming the lives of soldiers serving far from the front line. In October, 1914, three members of the South Staffordshire Regiment died within days of each other of unspecified illnesses. Then in November, Winter Tite, a member of the Militia's Town Battalion, had died at the General Hospital after collapsing. A subsequent enquiry questioned his suitability for military service – even if he was only in Jersey. And the unfortunate Private Tite would not be the last. Over the forthcoming winter months, several more militiamen would die of exposure related conditions after serving on night-time guard duties.

For the family of Private Tite, that first Christmas of the war must have felt far from business as usual. The same was true for the families of more than one hundred Jerseymen soldiers and sailors who died during 1914. And for the thousands of local families with a loved one serving overseas, the bright lights and carols may have seemed a little hollow. Their hopes of the war being over by Christmas had been well and truly dashed.

Perhaps some locals heard about the unofficial truces in Belgium and elsewhere along the three hundred miles of the Western Front and felt a glimmer of hope. After all, there would have been Jerseymen among those involved. But sadly, as we know, those unofficial Christmas truces failed to end the fighting. Then as now, the exchange of gifts or a game of football is unfortunately no way to end a war.

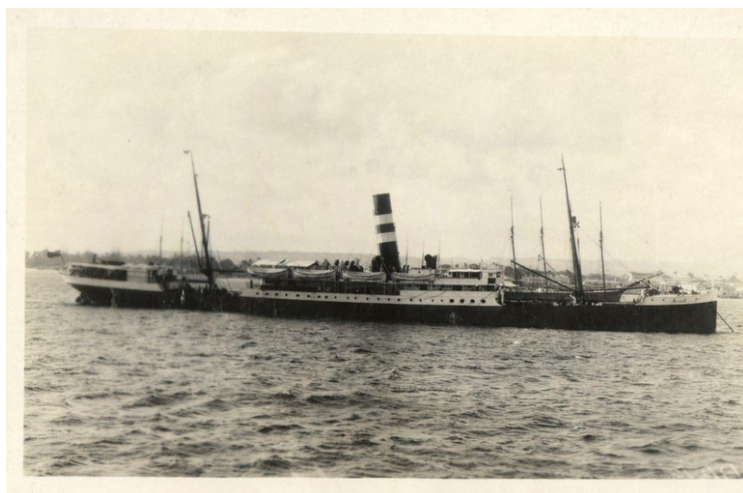
Although the live and let live atmosphere lingered for a few more days in places, in Belgium and most other locations the truce expired at the end of Christmas Day. And the generals, enraged at the prospect of fraternisation, ordered that it should not occur again. To back up their demand, artillery fired into no-man's land to ensure men returned to their trenches. Somewhat meekly, the soldiers went back to killing each other. One of those great 'what if' moments in history had come and gone. For Jersey, it meant three more Christmases at war, and thousands of lives blighted for ever.

Faces Remembered

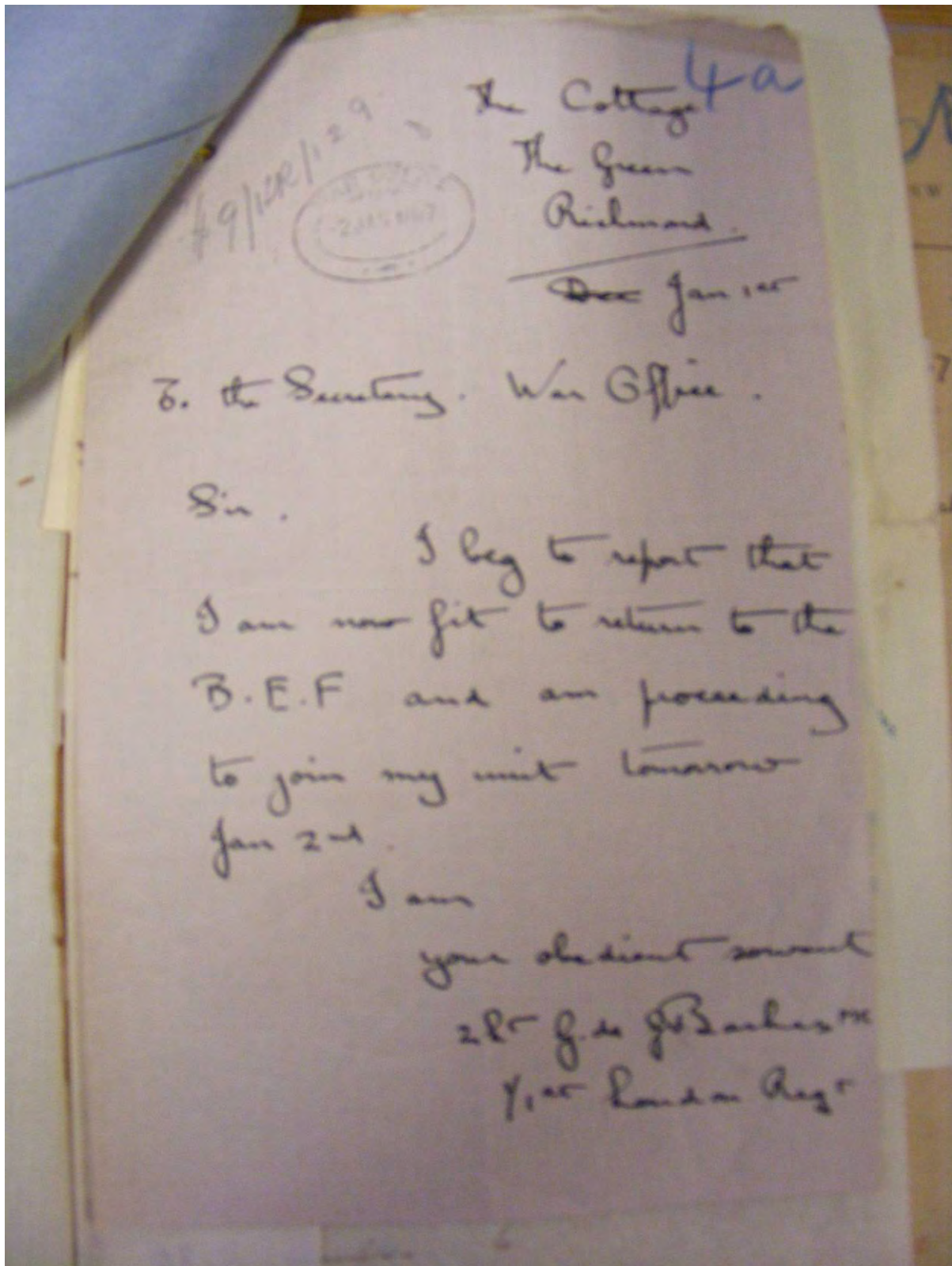
Geoffrey Barkas: In the last Journal, comment was made that: "Geoffrey Barkas was certainly an interesting character" and a few more pieces of information have emerged to support that, though not in a way that could be anticipated. First, Geoffrey did serve with the 2nd/1st Battalion, London Regiment at Gallipoli, and it is clear that he would have been well aware of the events that are recounted in "Tell England", as would, it is hoped, Sir Ian Hamilton!

During my recent trip to Kew, I looked at his War Office file (WO 374/3881) only to discover that it was very much lightweight in that there was only a collection of notes from his doctor at home, while he was on leave, declaring that he was not fit enough to return to France in December, 1916 due to nerves. A two week leave period was stretched out to four weeks and he returned there on the 2nd January, 1917 as the accompanying letter overleaf shows. With hindsight, one wonders if the reason for his file being 'lightweight' could be attributed to the relevant papers being transferred to his later service file.

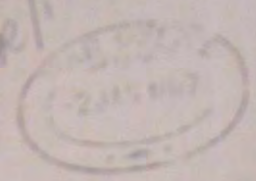
Another task while visiting Kew was to look at the Ship's Log covering the period 14th December, 1915 to 15th March, 1916 for the SS Intaba (ADM 53/44863) as I wanted to get whatever details existed of the death of Dr Alfred Nicolle de Gruchy on Christmas Day, 1915. The Log did indeed report his death, and later that day, his burial at sea, and so I photographed the relevant entries as Dr de Gruchy is not commemorated by the CWGC (but this is now in hand), even though the Intaba, had been impressed into government service, and after Dr de Gruchy's death, would become a Q-Ship. However, a note from Geoffrey's great-nephew that greeted me on my return helped to establish that Dr de Gruchy was also Geoffrey's uncle.



SS Intaba (above)
Dr Alfred Nicolle De Gruchy (left)



49/12/29



The Cottage 4a
The Green
Richmond.
Dec Jan 1930

To the Secretary, War Office.

Sir,

I beg to report that
I am now fit to return to the
B.E.F. and am proceeding
to join my unit tomorrow
Jan 2nd.

I am

your obedient servant
28 f. de Barchinon
1, rue London Reg

Further contact with Geoffrey's great-nephew revealed another family tragedy, more appalling than the news of Dr de Gruchy. It appears that on the evening of 13th May, 1921, Geoffrey's father went into Richmond Park and shot himself with Geoffrey's service revolver, although he did not die immediately, lingering for two days before dying on the 15th May. (For those who have access to the Times Archive, the 16th May, 1921 issue carries a reference). Albert Barkas was a highly respected Librarian

in Richmond-on-Thames, and I understand that a Barkas Room in the Library recalls his 30 years service.

Charles W Haskell: Sadly, no further information has been forthcoming on Charles W Haskell: (or Haskill, or even Haskle).

William Stephens, An “Old Contemptible” at 18: William George Stephens was born to Richard Oliver and Adelina Stephens in St Helier, Jersey on 5th January, 1896, and would initially regard a soldier’s life as being attractive compared to working as a market gardener, for by enlisting on 12th October, 1912, he had convinced a none-too-fussy recruiting sergeant that he was some 17 months older with a birth-date of 5th August, 1894 thus “showing” that he was 18-years old! Given the Island’s comparative proximity to Weymouth, the Dorsetshire Regiment was a popular choice, and he joined them and was given the regimental number 9451. Indeed, the Dorsetshire Regiment was occasionally referred to as the “Jersey” regiment, for a number of other Jerseymen would also be found serving in either of the regular Battalions.



After training, he was sent to the 1st Battalion which was located at Blackdown Camp, a few miles from Aldershot. Later in 1913, the 1st Battalion would move to Victoria Barracks in Belfast, and they were there when the Great War began on 4th August, 1914. The Battalion was mobilised, and with a number of men on reserve rejoining the colours and bringing it up to its war establishment, would arrive at Le Havre in France on 16th August, 1914. The Battalion formed part of the 5th Division’s 15th Brigade along with the 1st Battalions of the Norfolk, Bedfordshire and Cheshire Regiments, at that stage of the War, all regular or reservist soldiers. The 5th Division, along with the 3rd Division, were part of ‘II’ Corps, which was initially being commanded by Lieutenant-General Sir James Grierson, but when he died on 17th August, 1914, taken over by Lieutenant-General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien.

Under Smith-Dorrien, the Dorsetshires would soon move forward to meet the Germans, and in the weeks that followed, would be involved in the early battles at Mons (23rd–24th August), Le Cateau (26th August), the Marne (7th–10th September) and the Aisne (11th–28th September).

The period had at first been demoralising as the British forces had conducted the retreat from Mons, holding off a numerically stronger enemy, but the success at the Marne had put the Germans on the back foot. But, it was not without cost as the

British Expeditionary Force had been taking casualties throughout. However, William Stephens, although probably foot weary appears to have been unscathed at this stage.

With an impasse having developed at the Aisne, each side tried to turn the other side's flank, and the German and the Anglo-French forces would both move northwards in an attempt to gain the edge. La Bassée's Canal became the next place for battle. Here on 12th October, 1914, the 1st Battalion, the Dorsetshire Regiment would oppose the Germans again. The previous day was a Sunday, and the Battalion had marched from the west via Bruay to Béthune, and with 'B' and 'C' Companies in outposts from Gorre to the Férme du Roi, the Battalion were billeted overnight in the streets of Béthune. The events of the 12th October, 1914 are best recounted by quoting the Battalion's War Diary (File No WO 95/1972) now held at the National Archive at Kew:

"At 7 am. Bn marched with 15th Bde via Gorre towards Festubert. Bn halted on Rue de Béthune owing to shell fire and then moved south to Canal, thence along Canal towpath to Pont Fixé 'A' and 'D' Coys were ordered to occupy positions south & north of the bridge, 'A' Coy being on the south and 'D' Coy on the north. One machine gun was placed on the 1st floor of a big unfinished factory just north of the canal bank.

There was no immediate German advance but the machine gun in the factory opened on Germans debouching from brickfields near 'H' of Cuinchy. The German firing line was checked by this fire. Later a movement of Germans was detected just south of 'U' of Guinchy but their advance presented a good target to the machine gun and the Germans fell back.

At 4 pm (about). Objective: La Bassée. General advance of Dorsets ordered in conjunction with French on right and 1/Bedford Regt on the left, 'A' Coy moving on south bank of the canal and 'D' Coy on the north bank forming the firing line, 'B' and 'C' Coys being in reserve. The machine gun was ordered to support the attack.

'A' Coy moved up the south bank under cover of high bank and did not come under fire from Cuinchy (although held by the enemy) and subsequently inflicted severe loss on Germans north of Cuinchy. Meanwhile, 'A' Coy advancing from the factory towards a small farm about 200 yards east of it came under heavy fire from crossfire from snipers on the high canal bank (south side) and suffered casualties. Major Roper was killed at this farm about 4.30 pm.

Attack had made excellent progress and a line had been established from La Bassée Canal to large farm north of Givenchy.

Dispositions for night: 'B' and 'C' Coys entrenched on rise upon which above-mentioned farm stood. 'A' Coy withdrawn to Pont Fixé and with 'D' Coy and Bn HdQrs billeted there.

Casualties: 11 Killed, 30 Wounded, 2 Missing."

(Editor's Note: it is interesting to read that some locations were referred to by giving a bearing from a letter in a village name on the map (e.g. "detected just south of 'U' of Guinchy"). The maps at this time were French and largely of the Napoleonic

period. Later, the maps produced by the British would introduce a system of grid referencing similar to that one is used on today's Ordnance Survey maps.)

Given the high numbers of casualties later on during the Great War, by themselves, the numbers in the War Diary seem mercifully light at 13 Killed (the 2 Missing were later confirmed as Killed also) and 30 Wounded, but they were hardly so, given the continuous fighting that had gone on for the BEF and the Dorsets since the 22nd August. William Stephens was one of the latter category of casualties, and the Battle of La Bassée on 12th October, 1914 would put an end to his short military service, for his right arm was so badly damaged, that the army doctors would have to amputate. Meanwhile, one Jerseyman, Private William Lennard was one of the thirteen killed at La Bassée on the same day as William was wounded, and on the following day, further fighting would see three more Jerseymen killed while serving with the 1st Battalion, namely Privates Alphonse Dumond, Herbert Hurley and Clarence Orchard.

News of William's serious condition reached Jersey on the 23rd of that month. Clearly, he had been very quickly evacuated from France and was now to be found recovering at the Epsom Hospital, which was in fact located on the Epsom Racecourse, as a letter to the Evening Post in Jersey by a Mr Hamon from Covent Garden Market in London WC had reported in early November!

"Dear Sir,

I went to Epsom Hospital yesterday to see young Stevens [sic]. I found out that the hospital was on Epsom Downs, and that the grandstand on the racecourse had been utilised and turned into a very pleasant and comfortable hospital. I found the lad up and going on very nicely, also bright and cheerful. A great pity is that it's his right arm that he's lost, right up to the shoulder. I hope to go again and see him. In the meantime I hope you may be able to procure the addresses of what hospitals some of the Jersey lads are interned, so that as many as possible may be visited. Any parent writing to me I shall be pleased to do anything in my power provided the hospital is not too far from London.

*Yours sincerely,
JD HAMON"*

The previous news of William's amputation had clearly been of great distress to his parents and siblings as can be seen in the following letter. However it is unclear if any of William's family was able to visit him at Epsom:

26/10/14

*Spring Grove Cottage
Bel Royal
St Lawrence
Jersey*

Dear Willie

Just a line to let you know that we were all very surprised to receive that news about you, but cheer up Willie dear, God is good. We will be very glad to have you back with us again. We have had your photo put on the Post, the one with you on horseback. Do you want us to send you some writing paper? If so, let us know, and

we'll send you as much as you want. When you come home you will have to sleep with Harold in my bed, but you must not fall through like last Xmas. Do you remember? Jules Rault is supposed to have gone to the front. I suppose you know whose photo this is in this letter. They made £600 in Jersey last Saturday, selling flags in aid of the Belgian Refugee Fund. Jolly good for Jersey. All your Jersey friends wish to be remembered to you. So hurry up and get better for our sakes, dear Willie, because we want you home again. Au revoir.

From Ma, Dad, Charlie, Lena and Harold
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

”

Given the seriousness and the nature of his injury, William appears to have been well on the way to a good recovery if Mr Hamon “found the lad up and going on very nicely, also bright and cheerful” early in November, 1914. This seems to have been borne out by his discharge papers when he was given two weeks leave on the 15th December, 1914 before being finally discharged two weeks later on the 29th by the OC of the Invalid Depot at the Royal Herbert Hospital at Woolwich. With this, any opportunities for travel, excitement, adventure, sport, comradeship, good food, pay and prospects were now a forlorn ambition, and returning home to Jersey, the 18 year old William would have to make his way in life without a good arm.

In the years that followed, a one-armed William would settle back into civilian life, helped somewhat by obtaining a position at the Government Offices in Jersey. There is evidence that he was with them between 1916 and 1918, when in August of that year, as many thousands of other British limbless ex-servicemen would, he had to travel to the Queen Mary’s Hospital at Roehampton to have an artificial arm fitted. He would marry Minnie Victoria Sophia Keeping (née Tibbitt), the widow of another Jerseyman, Archibald John Keeping who had died in German East Africa in 1917.

One presumes that the photograph (right) of William and his three unidentified friends was taking at Spring Grove Cottage, and he does seem cheery for the camera given the loss of an arm.



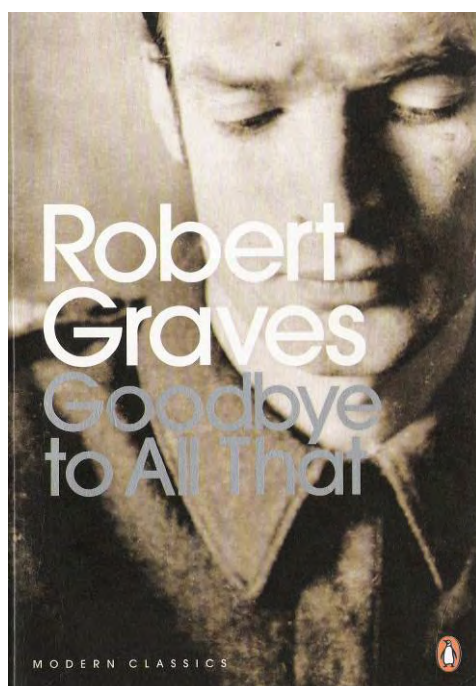
Overleaf, there is a picture of Government Office staff in Jersey in 1916, with William the taller civilian at the back. There is a mixture of other regimental badges that are being worn, including the Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers and Royal Militia Island of Jersey. The location has not been identified, but it is suspected that it is at

Government House, even though the Government Offices and Headquarters Jersey District was, at that time, located at Mount Bingham.



Author's Note: Grateful thanks goes to Richard Stephens, the grand-son of William and Minnie Stephens, for the photographs and information that has been used. This article should feature, in expanded form, on the website in the near future.

Book Reviews



Goodbye to All That
By Robert Graves
(Penguin Modern Classics - £8.99)

There are books that we 'know', even though we have never bought or borrowed them, much less read them. Films and TV have brought their tales to our attention, and I'd bet that more of us have seen that excellent film "The Dambusters" than have read Paul Brickhill's account of the raid for example. Similarly, one author's lines from one book are oft-quoted by others so that a veneer of familiarity develops. For me, "Goodbye to All That" falls into the category of a 'familiar' account, and in having now read it, one sees elements which have appeared elsewhere, not least in "The War the Infantry Knew", or in wider accounts of the Great War.

That being said, much of "Goodbye" is fresh and proved to be enjoyable. An autobiography that covered his first thirty three years of life, it was broadly chronological dealing with life before, during and after Army service. Half German, thanks to his mother, he would spend a number of pre-war holidays in Germany although he preferred Harlech and Wales where he developed an interesting in mountaineering, thanks to George Mallory, then a teacher at Charterhouse which school Robert unhappily attended.

Much of the book is devoted to his Army service of some four to five years, serving with various Battalions of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, and briefly with a Welsh Regiment. For me, the surprising aspect that emerged was a perception that he was a first-class officer and leader, and very much a military man. This ran counter to my original view that he was more of a pacifist along with his fellow officer-poet, Siegfried Sassoon. A passage where he refers to lecturing on the importance of drill undertaken on the parade square in terms of inculcating the cohesive and uniform spirit of a body of men stresses the importance of discipline in a unit, and highlights his military train of thought. The pacifism, if it is such, emerges as he is meeting such *bien pensants* as Bertrand Russell, and one senses an easy malleability of minds when away from the sharp end. There is a criticism that Asquith did not accept a truce when offered in 1915, being persuaded otherwise by a 'Win the War' faction led by Lloyd-George. However this would have been a far more complex decision given the French position, and Graves makes no allowance for this.

There is anecdote upon anecdote, and one learns that senior RWF Officers regarded their juniors as "warts", while when out of the trenches, newly commissioned officers would be required to attend riding school! Trench discipline in terms of cleanliness was variable, with a rating system that saw English and German Protestants at the 'top of the leader-board' while the Belgians, French and Portuguese languished at the bottom! In a similar vein, RC padres are more highly regarded than their colleagues of the CE persuasion, as the latter were instructed not to get too close to the front line. The anecdote that I particularly like is after he was wounded and regarded as unfit for France, he was with the RWF's 3rd Garrison Battalion at Kinmel Park, and when a German invasion of the north-east coast was envisaged, his Battalion was sent to man the defences. However, the move did not go as intended, and I will leave you to ponder the following:

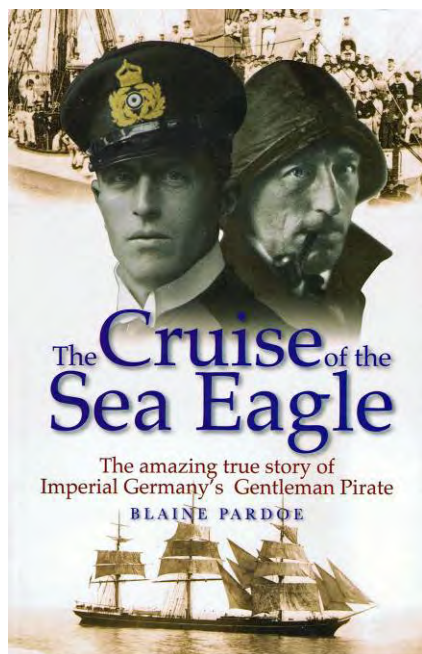
Because of a dot in place of a dash, they were sent to Cork instead of York!

This poetry stuff is catching! Fortunately the greater part of the book deals with his time in the Army, however the final fifty or so pages deals with a return to 'civvy street'. It is still interestingly militarily in that, for the first few years, he saw life and its surrounds from a military perspective. Walking in the hills above Harlech for example, he could not look at a landscape without asking himself where the Lewis gun team should be positioned for an attack on a bridge. As with many others with education interrupted, he headed off for University – Oxford in his case - while dealing with illness, a struggling marriage and a failed venture into shop-keeping. On a broader scale, one suspects that a return to civilian life was not a happy lot for many hundred of thousands of soldiers, and although better cushioned thanks to his family's help, Graves' experience mirrored theirs.

One can think that Graves tends name-dropping, Thomas Hardy, TE Lawrence and Walter de la Mare for example, but he was moving in literary circles, and both he

and Lawrence were at Oxford together after the war when the latter was writing "The Seven Pillars of Wisdom". A few fellow officers are referred to solely by their nicknames, and one wonders whether he fretted about the libel laws!

In summary, "Goodbye" is an interesting anecdotal read, but it is not a book that stands head and shoulders from the many other accounts of service life, although it does present a view of a particular regiment.



The Cruise of the Sea Eagle
The amazing true story of Imperial Germany's
Gentleman Pirate
By Blaine Pardoe (Crécy Publishing Ltd – 2009)

Review by Peter Tabb

I will readily confess that when it comes to wars, my 'professional' interest has always been the global conflict that raged between 1939 and 1945 (and in particular its impact on the Channel Islands) and my interest in the earlier conflict was more because of the seeds it sowed for the later conflict than for itself. That changed after my wife and I strayed (almost by accident) into the Great War battlefields of Verdun, the Somme and Flanders and it was probably the awesome sight of the Canadian war memorial on Vimy Ridge that clinched it. That and having access

to the Victoria College Roll of Honour and a certain Old Victorian with whom I had been at school having access to me.

I confessed in my last book review to being fascinated by the role of the commerce raider, the weapon of war favoured by the naval underdog since the time of Drake and Frobisher (when in nautical terms, England was the underdog). The Channel Islands' role as the safe havens for commerce raiders during the English Civil War, the American War of Independence and the Napoleonic Wars is well documented but following that last conflict (that at sea was effectively settled in 1805) Britain became master of the seas and everybody else became the underdog. Despite, in the Great War, the almost parity of Imperial Germany's High Seas Fleet with Britain's Grand Fleet, Germany resorted to commerce raiders to diminish Britain's mercantile dominance of the world's oceans. The most deadly was without doubt the *Unterseeboot* but a small fleet of surface raiders had significant successes in terms of the enemy's shipping sunk and perhaps more importantly caused many forces to be diverted to their capture or destruction that would have been more gainfully employed in other theatres of war.

The most bizarre commerce raiding shot in Imperial Germany's locker was *Seeadler* – the Sea Eagle (we would know it better as the osprey) of the book's title. *Seeadler* was a true ship (one with square sails on all three masts), a steel-hulled windjammer which started its commercial life as the American trader *Pass of Balmaha*. The vessel was interned by the Germans and converted into the most unlikely commerce raider by the addition of two concealed 4.2 inch guns and a few light machine guns. Her advantage was that she did not need constant refuelling but her disadvantage (despite being fitted with a diesel engine) was that many potential victims could

outrun her. Nevertheless in a cruise lasting from December 1916 to August 1917, *Seeadler* sank fourteen vessels engaged in trading with Germany's enemies.

However as the book's title indicates, it is the commander of this vessel, Count Felix von Luckner, who is even more fascinating than his eccentric charge. Like Captain Raphael Semmes of the Confederate raider *Alabama*, whose vastly more destructive cruise wrote the rule book for this type of naval warfare, Von Luckner was very much a larger than life character. Like Semmes, he was also proud of the fact that however deadly his actions were to the enemy's mercantile fleet, his conduct towards their crews was exemplary and the loss of life from his depredations was minimal. Stealth, trickery and bravado were the tolls of his particular trade – for much of its cruise *Seeadler* posed as a Norwegian windjammer with a young sailor, Hugo Schmidt, wearing a long blonde wig posing as the captain's wife, Josefeena, and a photograph shows what a comely wench 'she' was – together with the collaboration of captured crews all helping the wind-powered ship overcome its more powerful and often faster adversaries.

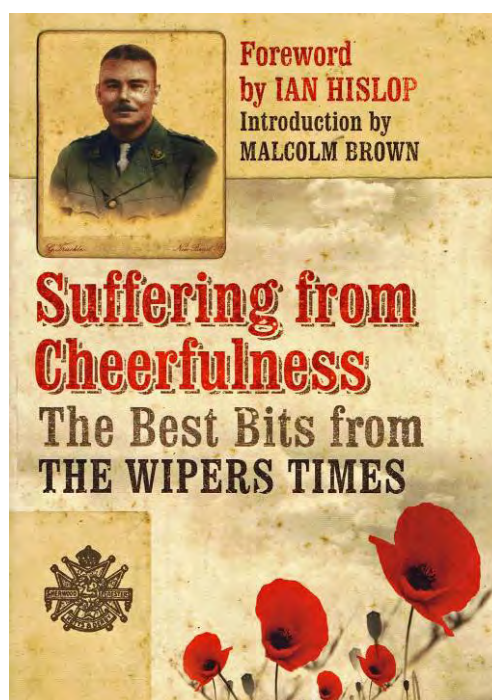
Despite the eventual wrecking of his ship by a tidal wave in Samoa in the Pacific, von Luckner (like Semmes before him) avoided capture and eventually returned home. Once again like Semmes, he wrote his memoirs and without any doubt enhanced his own reputation.

The author does a commendable job separating the facts of the *Seeadler's* cruise from many of the myths – many generated by von Luckner's own occasionally selective memory in later years – and the book reads like an adventure story which it is what it was. It is also refreshing to read of a warrior who was also very much an officer and a gentleman. Captain Raphael Semmes CSN would have approved.

Suffering from Cheerfulness
The Best Bits from THE WIPERS TIMES
Foreword by Ian Hislop,
Introduction by Malcolm Brown
(Little Books Ltd - 2007)

Review by Peter Tabb

The Great War has been chronicled many times (and I have a sizeable proportion of the works on my bookshelves) but, as this book points out, contemporary voices have been largely overlooked, especially those which managed to raise a laugh or crack a joke in a conflict that has come to be regarded as an unmitigated disaster. Yet in almost every trench magazines and newspapers found solace in the funny side of what no one disputes was a seriously unfunny war.



Mark Bryant's *World War I in Cartoons* illustrated just how what today is an art form that is largely humorous or satirical could be funny or downright vicious and be powerful propaganda. We have to transport ourselves back to an era when the printed word was still the only means of communication – the radio and telephone

were still in their infancy and exploiting their scope as entertainment media was a long way off. Television, that medium that can tell us at the very same moment the shot is fired, was, of course, not even yet a twinkle in John Logie Baird's eye.

Of all the 'trench media' the leader and the role model was *The Wipers Times*, founded and edited by two 'hostilities only' infantry officers of a North Midlands battalion. FJ Roberts and JH Pearson produced the first issue within range of the guns of the Ypres Salient in February, 1916 using an abandoned printing press salvaged from the ruins. So successful were their efforts that the magazine was republished in two collected editions before the war was over and then in subsequent printings more than fifty years later. At times irreverent, at times hysterical, and always endlessly inventive, it is perhaps one of the better, if not the best, insight into the times and the temper of life in the trenches.

This book is a collection of the very best jewels of poetry, humorous articles, comic advertisements, literary gems and music-hall parodies, selected by historian Malcolm Brown. A satire of daily life on the Western Front, *The Wipers Times* is a spontaneous chronicle of life in the trenches, vividly portraying the spirit of cheeriness and camaraderie that prevailed in spite of the horror.

'Merry it was to laugh there where death becomes absurd and life absurder', wrote Wilfred Owen. These pieces are testament to how accurate Owen's insight was.

It's perhaps very appropriate that the Foreword should be written by Ian Hislop. As well as being editor of *Private Eye*, the satirical magazine (whose correspondent 'Slicker' has been known to refer to the Channel Islands as 'the septic isles'), Ian, whose mother was in Jersey throughout the German Occupation, is also a consummate presenter of both radio and television programmes on military history and he remarks that *The Wipers Times*, with its mix of jokes, sarcasm, black humour and sentimental poetry was quite literally laughing in the face of death with jokes about flame-throwers and gas attacks from the troops who were facing them. It was also very rude about senior officers, the home front and the organisation of the war. It is *Blackadder Goes Forth* for real and the obvious forerunner to *Private Eye* itself.

It is a very British trait – along with the stiff upper lip – that as a race we are capable of extracting humour from every situation no matter how desperate. The following 'Letters to the Editor' from the edition of December, 1918 (after the war was over) illustrates that, in the opinion of the editors, little was sacred. And rightly so.

To the Editor, The Wipers Times.

Sir – I feel I cannot let this 1914 Star discussion pass without airing my little grievance. My husband has got the 1914 Star and the red, white and blue ribbon clashes most horribly with my cerise blouse. What can I do? I am most perplexed about it. Am I to dye the blouse, dye the ribbon or get a new husband?

Yours, etc.

A CONTEMPTIBLE'S WIFE

To the Editor, The Wipers Times.

Sir – Surely the practice of putting thrupennybits, silver charms, etc. in Christmas puddings should be stopped. Last Xmas I was dining with some friends and we, of

course, had an Xmas pudding; but what do you think I got in my portion of the pudding? A thrupennypiece, a 50 centime note (very dirty one), a Bosche cartridge, a piece of film 2.25 inches long, a cigar stump and three carpet tacks. It is a dangerous practice as well as very insanitary. This view is endorsed by my doctor, who performed the operation afterwards.

Yours, etc.

WILLIAM WOOLFIT

St Agnes' Convalescent Home, Seasyde-super-Mare

Lt-Col FJ Roberts MC, founder and editor of The Wipers Times, was born in London in 1882. A mining engineer by profession he enlisted in 1914 with the 12th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters. He won the Military Cross during the Battle of the Somme and survived the war. He died in Canada in 1964. Er, that's it...

A Visit to Remember
The Jersey Company's 1926 Return to the Western Front
By Ian Ronayne

As part of the production process, the publishers of 'Ours' asked for an image to use on the book's front cover. For me there was really only one choice. I was fortunate to have a suitably evocative photograph showing members of the post-war Contingent Association attending the unveiling of a memorial to the 16th (Irish) Division in 1926. The location was Guillemont, scene almost ten years earlier of the Jersey Company's worst battle. Nearby was the village of Ginchy, the location of perhaps their finest. To me, the expressions on the men's faces said it all.



Looking at the photograph, I have often wondered how the men felt being back there once more. What was going through their minds as the ceremony, with all its pomp and paraphernalia, unfolded that pleasant summer's morning. While some gaze impassively at the camera, the thoughts of others are clearly elsewhere. Have they seen something to attract their attention, or are they remembering wartime events? Is Colonel Stocker, who missed Guillemont and Ginchy through illness, recalling the men he led away from Jersey, and those that did not return? Could that be an accusing stare on the face of Joseph Moisan who stands third from right, his empty sleeve tucked into a pocket to remind us that it was at this place he lost an arm? Now, of course, we can only speculate. But perhaps from the photo it is possible to glean an insight into these men's feelings, there in Guillemont, and overall during a memorable five day return to the old Western Front.



The invite to attend the ceremony at Guillemont, and another at Wytschaete on the preceding day, had come from the Irish Battlefield Memorial Committee, a body overseeing the erection monuments to the war's two southern Irish divisions. Helped by a £100 grant from the Jersey States, twenty-five former Jersey Company members chose to attend, along with two former 16th (Irish) Division officers, Dr E Fraser and Capt C Bolton, Deputy Boielle, a champion of ex-servicemen's rights, and Evening Post reporter, Mr W Troy. On the rainy Friday afternoon of 20th August, 1926, they all set off from St Helier harbour onboard the SS Dinard bound for St Malo. It was the first leg of a long and convoluted trip.

Anyone who has made today's six hour car journey from St Malo up to Ypres will tell you that the drive is an effort, but hardly a strain. Back in 1926, it was a very different matter for the Contingent's returning veterans. After a rail transfer to Rennes that evening, an overnight train carried the party to Paris's Gare Montparnasse, arriving

just after five in the morning of 21st August. Hurrying across the quiet French capital, they boarded another train at the Gare De Nord and set off for Amiens. From there it was on to Albert, Arras, and Lille before crossing the frontier at Commines and changing to another train. Not until two o'clock in the afternoon were they able to wearily climb down from the train at Ypres railway station – a full twenty-four hours after their departure from Jersey.

It was raining in Ypres; but as one of those newly arrived remarked, when they had been there during the war it always seemed to be wet. Fortunately, if the weather remained the same, other things had changed for the better. Nine years had passed since the Jersey Company first marched through the ruined town on their way to serve in the Salient during the fighting at Frezenberg. In 1926, they were pleasantly surprised to find a town rising from its past:

“A walk around the old town showed the Cloth Hall and various other of the well-known buildings still in ruins, but the Ypres we knew no longer existed for rows of houses had sprung up on every side and business was being carried on briskly. It was refreshing to find ourselves in the position of being able to saunter along through streets which previously we had taken, as it were, in our stride. In the old days it had not been healthy for one to stop and look around in Ypres; it had been decidedly better to get out of it ‘tout de suite’”ⁱ

That afternoon and evening there was the chance to revisit Poperinghe and go to some of the cemeteries surrounding Ypres, including Kemmel Chateau Cemetery that held the graves of four Jersey Company members.

After a night in Ypres, the next morning buses ferried the Jersey party, and a considerable number of other visitors south to the village of Wytschaete. There, on the morning on Sunday, 22nd August, the first official ceremony of the visit took place. In June, 1917, the 16th (Irish) Division stormed Wytschaete during the Battle of Messines Ridge, a feat that earned its men due praise. Accordingly, it was the choice in 1926 for a memorial to the Division, located a hundred metres or so outside the village on the road to Kemmel. For its unveiling a large crowd had gathered, including General Sir William Hickie, the former divisional commander, a host of former and serving Irish soldiers, representatives of the Belgian government and royal family, the burgomaster of Wytschaete, and the Mother Superior of the Convent at Locre. It was noted, however, that the largest single party was that from Jersey.

A warm celebration in the village followed the unveiling ceremony. Then it was on the buses once more for the drive south and back into France on a route chosen purposely to follow the old front line. Trundling across the old Loos battlefields, the Jerseymen caught glimpses of familiar towns and villages, although changed beyond recognition by then from the broken piles of rubble that existed during the war. Armentieres, Neuve Chapelle, La Bassée and Vermelles all slipped by, but a planned stop in Noeux-Les-Mines was cancelled due to lack of time. Thankfully, a wash, brush-up, and tea in Bapaume made the agenda, before crossing the old Somme battlefield to reach Amiens for the night.

The next morning, it was on to the unveiling ceremony at Guillemont. Like Wytschaete in Belgium, it was also the location of a celebrated 16th (Irish) Division victory when its 47th Brigade captured the village after repeated earlier attacks had

failed. But for the Contingent Association representatives, accorded a prominent position at the ceremony, Guillemont would surely have recalled memories of suffering rather than victory. Sent to garrison the ruins after their capture, on 6th September, 1916 they endured a day of heavy German bombardment that left scores of dead and wounded. So it must have been with mixed feelings that they listened to moving addresses by General Hickie, Maréchal Joffre, and the bishop of Amiens. Particularly troubling may have been the thought that most of the Jersey Company men that died there, and during the attack on nearby Ginchy, had never been found. Most likely, they remained buried in the fields surrounding the village, lying in unmarked graves.

Despite the undoubted strong memories, by 1926 it must have been hard for the returning veterans to recognise the places of victory and suffering ten years earlier. Guillemont, Ginchy, and the other villages of the Somme, were rapidly rising from the ruins of the war, rebuilt by the determined efforts of the locals and the financial support of adoptive British communities. The fields too were now largely cleared and restored from the mass of craters and trenches that formerly scarred them. But not everywhere, as the Jersey party discovered on the afternoon following the ceremony. Visiting the Ulster Tower near Thiepval, memories of the wartime battlefield flooded back as from the top of the tower:

*“We looked down on the countryside, and it is here that one can really convey to those who had not been ‘out there’ the best idea of what trench warfare meant to the countryside. There are the old trenches, the old shell-holes and the dug-outs. There is barbed wire, old decayed bits of leather equipment, shell cases, and much of the impedimenta which always littered a battlefield. For a few miles round the countryside has not yet been reclaimed as has happened almost everywhere else, and but for the thick vegetation which almost obscures the shell-holes, there would be a very homely look about it and one might still feel inclined to duck”.*²



After laying a wreath to that other Irish Division, the 36th (Ulster), the party returned to Amiens for a second night.

On the following day, after saying goodbye to other representatives travelling back to Britain, the Jersey party set off for Paris and the start of a long journey home. In the capital, however, there was one last ceremony to attend.

At the tomb of the Unknown Soldier under the Arc Du Triomphe, representatives of the 16th (Irish) Division laid wreaths including one from the Jersey Contingent. As photographers clicked away, the men had chance to mix with ex-French servicemen, and even a German officer then serving with the League of Nations. He reportedly

expressed a wish that they would never have to witness such a terrible war again. The French, Irish, and Jersey representatives reportedly wished the same.

Official duties over, there was time for a sight-seeing tour of Paris and, the next morning, a trip out to the Palace of Versailles. That evening, the party boarded the overnight train for Granville. On the morning of Wednesday, 25th August, they arrived back in Jersey after a most memorable trip. It was one, as one of the party claimed, they would never forget.

Contingent Association Members on the Visit: Despite the claim that twenty-five members of the Jersey Contingent Association went on the trip, only nineteen names are given in the Evening Post report:

Battam, John	Hibbs, William	Neville, William
Binet, Roy	Hoyles, George	Pringent, Augustin
Connell, John	Journeaux, Clarence	Ralph, William
Coutanche, William	Kent, Harry	Shackell, Alfred
D'Authreau, Christian	Le Breton, Jack	Stephens, Albert
Dobin, Frank	Moisan, Joseph	Stocker, Walter
Fennessey, Joseph		

It is possible that some names are missing, including Robert Roberts whom someone has identified as being in the photograph, or the twenty-five includes the other party members.

¹ Jersey Contingent's Second Landing in France, *The Evening Post*, 30th August, 1926

² Jersey Contingent's Second Landing in France, *The Evening Post*, 1st September, 1926

Ian Ronayne's Diary

In the last few months, interest in my book has generated opportunities to attend a number of local events. Below is a quick round-up.

Grouville Jersey Contingent Dinner: To their credit, the Parish of Grouville have continued a tradition of an evening meal to commemorate the men of the Jersey Contingent. The event can trace its lineage back to the annual dinners of the Jersey Contingent Association. When the last of the original contingent died, the members of the parish decided to continue the tradition.

This was my second time of attending as the guest of the Constable, Dan Murphy. On the first two years ago, I promised a book was on its way. This time (although a year later than I said), I was very pleased to be able to show 'Ours' and even managed to sell a few copies.

The supper did not come free however. In return, I gave a short talk recalling the great football match between the Jersey and Guernsey Contingents that took place at Aldershot in October, 1915. To the appreciation of my (admittedly partisan) audience, I reminded them that Jersey won by one goal to nil.

St Lawrence Remembrance Day Exhibition: At the invite of Mary Moody, the granddaughter of the Jersey Company's Jimmy Scoones, I set a small exhibition at a Saturday morning event held at St Lawrence's Parish Hall to mark Remembrance Day. While son Thomas manned the desk, I signed books and chatted generally to

people interested in the display of photos and documents. The highlight was one woman who recognised her father, Charles Le Quelenec, in one of the pictures, and was delighted to see him there. Later (after eleven o'clock!), my brother Paul and Ned Malet de Carteret turned up to join in the conversations and help with the considerable interest.



Remembrance Day Service at Grouville Church: Having visited Grouville Church to remind them of the significance of the memorial to the Jersey Contingent situated there, I was honoured with an invite to give the address at the Remembrance Day service. In fact, not just one address, but two – in the early service at 8.30, and the main one at 11.00.

For the first, the congregation was a small crowd including ex-Bailiff Sir Philip Bailhache and my brother Paul. At the later service, however, there was a packed house to address from the pulpit. Over tea and biscuits that followed at the Parish Hall, the feedback was very positive.

Grouville Church has also now added an item about the Jersey Contingent and its memorial to their website at www.grouvillechurch.org.je.

Jersey Archive Presentation: This year, the Jersey Archive has been opening its doors to the public on selected Saturday mornings. As a draw, members of staff have given presentations on aspects of Jersey history and associated archive collections. Seeing there was one about military ancestors in November, I offered to give a talk on Jerseymen and the First World War, which they were pleased to accept.

My talk was on Saturday 21st November, with some good publicity beforehand. It resulted in their best attendance of the year, fully-booked in advance with over eighty people. Again, the feedback was good – the Head of Archives has asked me to return in January to give the same talk to all the staff. And there were more books sold, more questions asked, more photographs dug-out.



Visit to La Rocquier School: My most recent event was a visit and talk at La Rocquier School, arranged followed a chat at a book-signing event. My audience (I was pleased to learn) were ‘hand-picked’ fourteen year olds who had been studying the First World War.

Unsure of what to expect, I covered a potted history of Jersey in the war, with some photos on a presentation and documents to hand round. I made it as interactive as possible – asking questions and getting feedback as I went along. The pupils seemed to enjoy – at least their teachers assured me they did. At their request, I also covered why I found history so interesting, and what was the process of research, writing, and publication behind my book

The teachers were delighted – it was all new to them, having never really considered what had happened to Jersey during this time. The librarian who arranged (besides baking me a lovely cake), has passed my details on to other schools after I agreed to repeat if required.

Postscript: I have also contacted Education subsequently about the general subject of the curriculum and Jersey in the First World War. We will see how this goes.

Editor's Note: Setting aside Ian's need to get his passport stamped as he crossed from St Saviour to Grouville, it is clear that his book and subsequent talks have "rung some bells" in Jersey, a full house at the Archive being clear evidence of that. I am pleased to say that his book has been selling well, topping the Jersey branch of Waterstone's best-selling paperbacks for four out of five weeks recently, being dislodged into second place for one week by some *parvenu* called John Grisham. Also, the research that we are doing collectively is certainly helping Islanders to rediscover their families' involvement in the Great War.

Out and About

Looking Back:

I visited the Salient and the Somme during the period 14th October – 1st November. A report will follow in the next Journal. Meanwhile a trip to London in late November combined the OV Dinner with visits to Kew, the IWM and Westminster Abbey.

Ned Malet de Carteret gave a talk to some 25-30 Friends of the Jersey Maritime Museum on 27th November, the subject being "A life at sea in the Great War" – a look at his great uncle Philip's service.

Looking Ahead:

I will be giving a talk on Coutart de Butts Taylor to the North Wales WFA on 4th September, 2010, at Caernarfon Castle. Before that Jersey calls between 17th and 24th March. No Western Front trips are currently planned.

Liz Walton will be giving another talk at the Candie Lecture Theatre in the Guernsey Museum on the 17th February, 2010 commencing at 19.30 hours. This time the topic is "Guernsey-women and the Great War".

Website Workings By Roger Frisby

Following from the last Journal comments, Geoff's 1914-1921 Search Engine (<http://www.hut-six.co.uk/cgi-bin/search14-21.php>) has been put to further use in that some 46 more names to have been added to Jersey's Roll of Honour. However, most of these carry a "health warning" as they have not all been fully substantiated.

A number of headstone photographs from the Somme and Ypres recently taken by Barrie have been added

The Jersey Roll of Service will be undergoing further updates in the next two months.

Howard Davis Park By Paul Ronayne

I recently found an old book in a cupboard, "The Parish Pump 2" and not having read it for some years I decided to flick through the pages and read some of the many short stories on Jersey's history which make up the book. The one, which grabbed my attention, was the story of Howard Davis Park.

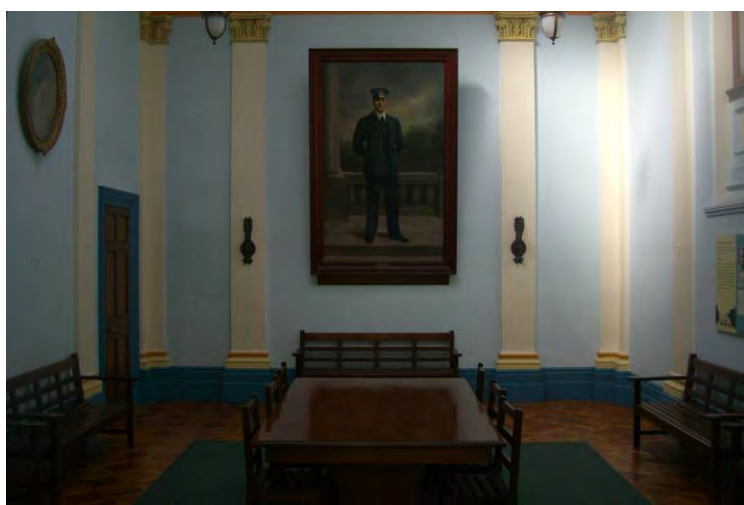
Howard Davis Park is a beautiful park located on the east side of St Helier. Popular on a summer's day with locals and tourists alike, and used at night for concerts, I wonder how many of the people enjoying the park having picnics, walking through the wonderful gardens or sunbathing on a hot summer's day know that the park is named in the memory of Thomas Benjamin Frederick Davis's favourite son Howard Davis, who had died in the Great War.

In 1937 TB Davis bought the property called Plaisance in St Helier and decided to demolish most of the buildings and turn it into a park which he would give to the people of Jersey in memory of his son.

The official handing over of the Park to the people of Jersey took place on Saturday, 30th September, 1939, when in the presence of the Bailiff, later Lord Coutanche and many other Island dignitaries, TB Davis made the following speech:

"Mrs Davis and I present Jersey with this park in the memory of our son Howard, who gave his life for his King in the Great War at the Battle of the Marne, and I will ask all people who visit this park to respect his memory and do nothing that would not be in keeping with his wishes. I only make two requests and I trust these will be granted by the representative of our Island on behalf of the people. Firstly, that the little hall on the left of the entrance will be kept for all time for the housing of our son's picture which is to be installed there. Secondly, that at no time will this park be built upon except for such building as may be necessary for a park or for the benefit of the people who use the park"

On reading this I started to think. I remembered visiting the little hall where Howard's picture is installed many years ago and I remembered reading that Howard had died in 1916 as a result of wounds received on the 1st July in the Battle of the Somme. So how come in his speech had TB Davis pronounced that Howard had died in the Battle of the Marne a whole two years before the Somme in 1914? I decided to make my way to the Park one day in October to see if I had remembered correctly.



On entering the Park I headed for the Howard Davis Memorial Hall, which was originally the billiards room in Plaisance. It's a wonderful room, very formal with a large portrait of Howard Davis hanging on the opposite wall to the entrance. There is a table in the middle of the room and benches placed around the sides. The room has a calming feel and it is an enjoyable experience to spend time in the room.

To the right of the entrance is a display cabinet full of memorabilia relating to Howard Davis including his medals, his death plaque, a scroll from his Battalion, the Highland Light Infantry, a flag and two photos.



To the left hand side of the cabinet is letter from King George V, a very good friend of Howard's father, sending his condolences to the Davis family for the death of their son. The King has signed the letter personally.



To the right of the cabinet is another letter, and this is where the discrepancy comes in. for this letter is a statement from Howard's parents and reads:

To
The Memory of our Dear Son
Howard Leopold Davis
Born in London, February 10th 1895
Came to Durban, Natal, 1902
Educated Michaelhouse, Natal
And on HMS Worcester
Joined Clan Line, October 1912
Arrived Glasgow, October 10th 1914
Joined 17th Service Battalion
Highland Light Infantry, October 14th 1914
Proceeded to France, November 21st 1915
Severely wounded July 1st 1916 in the
Battle of the Somme, advancing on Thiepval
Died of his wounds, August 12th 1916
At Etaples, near Boulogne
Buried at Etaples British Military Cemetery

HE
Gave his life for his country

So this is where the mystery comes in, for as we can see in the memorial hall it categorically states Howard died as a result of wounds received on the 1st July, 1916. I have researched the 17th Battalion, the Highland Light Infantry and it did indeed take part in the attack on Thiepval on the 1st July. So how is it that the reported speech made by Howard's father in 1939 states that Howard died during the battle of the Marne? It is hard to believe his father could get something like the date and location of his son's death so wrong. Therefore I can only imagine that either the author of "The Parish Pump" got it wrong or the source from where he had researched his article had made the mistake, probably a local reporter writing for a local paper. So my next step is to look through the local papers of the time and find out who has made the mistake. I will update as soon as I know.

In the mean time if anyone does happen to find themselves in Howard Davis Park please spare a thought for Howard and the sacrifice he made all though years ago. It's what his father would want.

Editor's Note: Paul's observations on the Marne and the Somme are well made, but it is also interesting to note that Howard has often been wrongly described as KIA, and this even appears on a family headstone, I think at St Brelade's parish church. As an aside, TB Davis went to school at St Luke's, and, as a chum of Walter Pipon Braithwaite, they would climb over the wall of Plaisance to go "scrumping"! Lastly, the 17th Battalion's History can be found on Project Gutenberg.

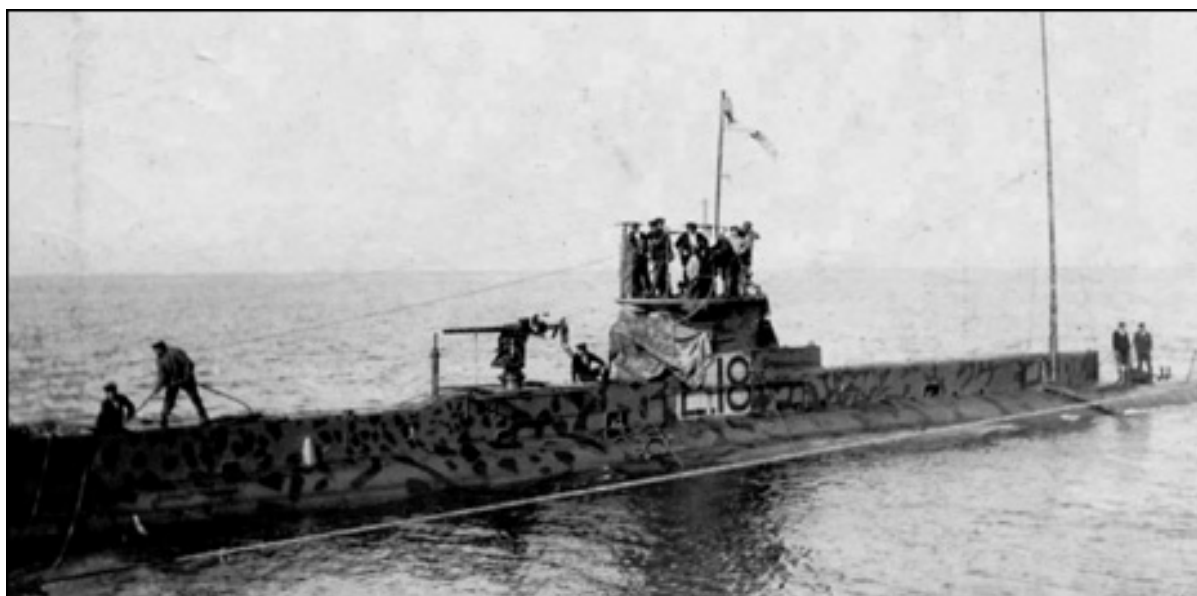
Odds and Ends

SS Vedra: The JEP of 10th December very kindly carried an article (along with another one on Oxenford House School thanks to Mark Bougourd) on the fate of Second Officer John Le Masurier and the SS Vedra based upon the article contained in Journal 27. Hopefully, some further information will emerge as a result, however the previous voyage of the Vedra was not incident free. Kew has two files (TS 13/764 and TS 13/810) that deals with a number of writs served on the UK

government. On the previous voyage, the Vedra was heading back from the US with some 5,000 tons of fuel oil aboard and it appears that it was diverted to Sheerness where the cargo was confiscated, unloaded and then sold on. The cargo had been intended for the Europäische Petroleum Union of Bremen. The Union appears to have been owned by a consortium that included Rumanian and British part-owners alongside German ones, but a court finding considered seizure by HM Customs as legal as the Union was registered in Germany. Apart from the associated costs for the Vedra's owners, monies were retained by the court pending any appeal for which leave had been granted. Given that this decision was made in January, 1915, it was a somewhat poignant one given the ship's demise five weeks previously.

HM Submarine E18: A couple of newspaper articles and an item on the BBC website in late October carried the news that the wreck of HM Submarine E18 had been discovered in the Baltic. I won't repeat the details, but it can be read at:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8321516.stm>



It is of interest as one of the crew who perished was Jerseyman, Leading Seaman Ernest William Ruax who, when last I looked, has the distinction of being commemorated twice on the St Martin parish Memorial, once as EW Ruax and once as EW Quaux! An error in the original Roll of Honour that was clearly repeated in granite!

RGLI Numbering: Mark Bougourd has sent a reminder that Appendix 'D' in Diex Aïx is incomplete and men with numbers in the range 1357 to 1403 missed out. A list on our website records the missing names.

RAF Officers' Records: The National Archive at Kew has now made these records accessible on their website. I obtained samples for about eight or nine officers when at Kew recently, but I've yet to analyse them in detail other than to say that there was a lot of white space in the chosen documents!

Naval Gazing: More naval rating records were extracted from Kew, this time for the men whose surnames began with 'A' and 'Y', though there are a couple of others in. With another 59 names looked at, it is clear that the earlier trends in analysing the

records are being reinforced with about a third of the men not having featured in the original Jersey Roll of Honour and Service along with the frequency of cell visits, spells of hard labour and discharges due to Services No Longer Required. Once again, the odd case of Pulmonary TB crops up.

A copy of these men's records will be with the Jersey Archive in the next week.

National Archive, Kew: For anyone planning to visit in 2010, as of the 4th January, Kew's opening hours (and document ordering hours) will be as follows:

• Monday	Closed	(n/a)
• Tuesday	09:00 19:00	(09:00 17:00)
• Wednesday	09:00 17:00	(09:00 16:15)
• Thursday	09:00 19:00	(09:00 17:00)
• Friday	09:00 17:00	(09:00 16:15)
• Saturday	09:00 17:00	(09:00 16:15)
• Sunday	Closed	(n/a)

Enfin

A well supported Journal! A big thank you to the contributors who have made it easy!

Harking back to the OV Dinner referred to in **Out and About**, a personal note it was a great pleasure to meet up with Group members Tony Coleman, Peter Gould and Peter Tabb.

Finally, to every one, best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Regards
Barrie H Bertram
15th December, 2009

Journal Issue Dates For 2010

Planned Issue dates for Journals in 2010 are as shown below.

Issue	Month	Articles To BB	Posted Web/Mail
30	February 2010	10 th	15 th
31	April 2010	10 th	15 th
32	June 2010	10 th	15 th
33	August 2010	10 th	15 th
34	October 2010	10 th	15 th
35	December 2010	10 th	15 th

As in previous years I will advise if there are any changes for individual issues as publication dates approach.

NAVAL GAZING PART 4

Surname	Forenames	Number	Rank	Service	Ship	Born	Parish	Remarks	RoS	RoH
ACOURT	John Joseph	J26116	Leading Signaller	RN	HMS Gynner? (HMS Tiverton)	24 Nov 1897	St H	Served 29 Jul 1913 to at least 19 Dec 1928.	Add	No
AHEARN	William	203872	AB	RN	HMS Cochrane	25 Nov 1882	St H	Served 16 Mar 1899 to 24 Nov 1922 when pensioned off. Subsequently joined RFR.	Add	No
AHEARN	Thomas	299260	Leading Stoker	RN	HMS Tarlair	19 Aug 1883	St H	Served 2 Dec 1901 to 1 Dec 1923 when pensioned off. Subsequently joined RFR	Add	No
AHIER	Arthur Joseph	J34429	Boy 1st Class	RN	HMS Vindictive	25 March 1902	St H	Served 7 Feb 1918 to at least 10 Mar 1928	Add	No
AHIER	Albert Ernest	158638	Leading Boatswain	RN	HMS President IV	4 Jan 1875	St S	Served 8 Jan 1891 to 30 Apr 1919 when transferred to New Coat Guard Force. Assume stationed at Eastern District (Seahouses) at Armistice	Add	No
ALLAN	Harold Clifford	L12143	Officer's Steward 3rd Class	RN	HMS Victory I	17 January 1901	NK	Served 13 Mar 1919 to 12 Mar 1924	Add	No
ALLAN	James	206392	AB	RN	HMS Pembroke I	26 Jan 1884	St H	Served 21 Sep 1899 to 31 Jan 1923 when pensioned off.	Add	No
ALLO	Ernest	304380	Stoker 1st Class	RN	HMS Victory II	22 Nov 1882	St H	Served 22 Jan 1903 to 20 Oct 1909 when purchased discharge. Joined RFR on 21 Oct 1909. Mobilised 2 Aug 1914, demobilised 5 Mar 1919, returning to RFR and working in AMG	Add	No
ANDERSON	George	K46865	Stoker 2nd Class	RN	HMS Victory II	24 Jul 1891	NK	Served 30 Oct 1917 to 4 Nov 1917. Discharged to shore for the Military Authorities. An Army deserter perhaps? POB in 1901C is France.	Add	No
ANGELL	Frederick William	156171	Petty Officer	RN	HMS Vivid II	19 Nov 1874	NK	Served 9 Jul 1890 to 6 Nov 1918 when invalided out with an Inquinal hernia double (?)	Add	No
ARMS	Benjamin John	295204	Boatswain	RN	HMS President IV	11 Feb 1880	St Mn	Served 30 Apr 1900 to 26 Aug 1919 when invalided out. Stationed at Eastern District (Aldeburgh) with Coast Guard.	Add	No
ARROWSMITH	Christopher George	139365	Petty Officer	RN	HMS Onyx	15 Mar 1871	St H	Served 26 Oct 1886 to 28 Feb 1919 when pensioned off.	Add	No
ATKINSON	James Helier	J36300	AB	RN	HMS Theseus	25 Apr 1899	St H	Served 5 Feb 1915 to 28 Jun 1922 when invalided out with Ch (?) Gonorrhoea. Had left Jersey by 1901C	Add	No
AUBIN	Charles Francis	J74892	AB	RN	HMS Duke (Lubeck)	2 Nov 1884	St H	Served 2 Aug 1917 to 7 Jul 1919 when demobilised. Appears his service took him to Suez and Germany. On ML 4?	Add	No
LANGFORD	Albert Thomas	202817	AB	RN	HMS Egmont	30 Mar 1883	St H	Served 3 Jan 1899 to 26 Jul 1923 when pensioned off. Occasional visitor to cells.	Add	No
ABBOTT	Harold	J27308	Ordinary Seaman	RN	HMS Colleen (HMS Snowdrop)	8 June 1898	NK	Served 23 Sep 1913 to at least 1 Apr 1929.	Amend	No
ABRAHAM	Francis John	L11767	Boy 2nd Class	RN	HMS Vivid I	16 March 1901	NK	Served 1 Oct 1918 to 13 Mar 1919 when demobilised while still under training	Amend	No
ACOURT	Joseph George	SS119912	Stoker 1st Class	RN	HMS Victory II	15 March 1901	St H	Served 27 Mar 1919 to at least 19 Feb 1924. Possibly commissioned subsequently.	Amend	No

ACOURT	James Henry	J30572	AB	RN	HMS Queen Elizabeth	19 Dec 1898	St H	Served 31 Mar 1914 to at least 27 May 1927	Amend	No
AHIER	Edward John Walter	F31687	Air Mechanic 1st Class	RNAS	NA	31 Dec 1894	St H	Formerly Armourer's Crewman, M8067, who transferred to RNAS on 15 May 1917, having originally enlisted 18 Aug 1914. Subsequently transferred to RAF	Amend	No
ALEXANDRE	John James	F28702	Air Mechanic 1st Class	RNAS	NA	20 Jun 1880	St H	Served 27 Apr 1917 until 31 Mar 1918 when transferred to RAF	Amend	No
ALLEN	Clarence Francis Thomas	225808	Leading Seaman	RN	HMS Sandhurst (HMS Rapid)	4 Feb 1886	St H	Served from 28 Apr 1903 to 13 Mar 1927 when pensioned off. Subsequently joined RFR. Occasional visitor to cells.	Amend	No
ALLEN	George	239758	Petty Officer	RN	HMS Dido (HMS Torrid)	10 Oct 1890	St H	Served 25 Sep 1907 to 6 Dec 1922 when invalided out with Pulmonary TB	Amend	No
ALLIX	Philip Henry	342355	Chief Petty Officer Writer	RN	HMS Dolphin	8 Feb 1881	St H	Served 6 Oct 1898 to 14 Feb 1921 when pensioned off	Amend	No
AMY	Philip George	K42785	Stoker 1st Class	RN	HMS Blenheim (HMS Badger)	24 May 1896	St Mn	Served 18 May 1917 to 8 May 1919 when demobilised	Amend	No
AMY	George	158637	Petty Officer	RN	HMS Royal Sovereign	6 Jan 1875	St H	Served 8 Jan 1891 to 28 Mar 1919 when demobilised. No reference in Service record to second forename.	Amend	No
ANSTEE	Laurence William Leonard	F9183	Air Mechanic 1st Class	RNAS	HMS Daedalus (Isle of Grain)	20 Oct 1897	St H	Served 12 Nov 15 to 31 Mar 1918 before transferring to RAF. Service record notes prior Jersey Militia service while 1919 JRoH&S shows him as a Gunner in RGA?	Amend	No
ARROWSMITH	Francis George	189590	Petty Officer	RN	HMS Caledon	9 Feb 1880	St H	Served 23 Jul 1896 to 13 May 1920 when demobilised. Noted for war service in E Mediterranean	Amend	No
ASHMAN	William George	201021	Petty Officer	RN	HMS Vernon	4 Feb 1883	St H	Served 21 Sep 1898 to 3 Feb 1913 when Colour service complete. Enlisted RFR 10 May 1913 and mobilised on 2 Aug 1914. Demobilised 13 Mar 1919. Later served 9 Apr 1921 to 5 Jun 1921	Amend	No
ASPLET	Sidney James	201316	AB	RN	HMS Victory I	7 Nov 1881	St H	Served 21 Sep 1898 to 6 Jul 1911 when invalided out with ear disease. Rejoined and served 18 Aug 1915 to 3 Oct 1918 when demobilised	Amend	No
AUDRAIN	Francis James	J93017	Boy 2nd Class	RN	HMS Impregnable	03-Jun-02	St H	Served 3 Oct 1918 to 5 Nov 1919 when invalided out with Organic Heart Disease. Had been on the run in Apr 1919	Amend	No
AUDRAIN	James Francis	K24924	Stoker 1st Class	RN	HMS Royal Sovereign	26 Sep 1896	St H	Served from 16 Mar 1915 to at least 7 Apr 1928. Spent 60 days detention for theft.	Amend	No
AUDRAIN	Pierre Marie	J93061	Boy 2nd Class	RN	HMS Powerful	30 November 1900	St H	Served 19 Sep 1918 to 4 Jul 1923 when invalided out with MCO(?)	Amend	No
AUFFRET	Leon Julien Marie	J83829	Ordinary Seaman	RN	HMS Barham	02 November 1900	St H	Served 18 Jun 1918 to at least 31 Dec 1928.	Amend	No
AYLING	Alfred William John	363730	Domestic 3rd Class	RN	NA	6 Jan 1887	NK	Served 3 Aug 1905 to 3 Jul 1906 when discharged at his request. Later in Merchant Navy	Amend	No

D'AUTHREAU	Frederick James	M34443	Boy Artificer	RN	HMS Fisgard	15 April 1903	NK	Served 9 Jan 1919 to 7 Sep 1920 when invalided out with Seq (?) Pneumonia	Amend	No
TOSTEVIN	Edward Claude	227193	Petty Officer	RN	HMS Agincourt	2 Aug 1886	St H	Served as CLAYDEN until 1921 having given birthdate as 17 Nov 1886. Served 23 Jul 1903 to at least 23 Feb 1925	Amend	No
YEALLAND	Richard	113531	Petty Officer 1st Class	RN	HMS Dolphin	11 Dec 1864	St H	Served 9 Oct 1880 to 9 May 1919 when demobilised	Amend	No
YOUNG	Herbert Louis	L7524	Officer's Steward 2nd Class	RN	HMS Queen Elizabeth	19 Mar 1894	St H	Served 15 Oct 1915 to 17 Apr 1919 when demobilised. Service record shows able to claim 1 year and 78 days of prior Army service - Militia?	Amend	No
ALBERT	Lancelot George Arthur	J27242	AB	RN	HMS Victory I	16 Jul 1898	NK	Served from 19 Sep 1913 when he enlisted as a Boy. Died from Empyema (?) at RNH Haslar. Had been at Haut de la Garenne	No	Amend
ALEXANDER	Alfred	208184	Petty Officer 1st Class	RN	HMS Submarine C33	10 Jan 1884	St H	Served from 17 Jan 1900 when he enlisted as a Boy. Submarine 'parent ship' HMS Arrogant	No	Amend
AMY	John Harding	150473	Chief SBS	RN	HMS Victory I (RNH Haslar)	11 Jul 1871	St H	Served 17 Aug 1893 to 24 Sep 1916 when promoted to Warrant Wardmaster. Covered in JROH having died at Simonstown on 3 Jul 1917	No	Amend
AMY	William Monamy	342066	Shipwright 1st Class	RN	HMS Hampshire	3 Mar 1874	NK	Served 25 Apr 1898 to 25 Apr 1910 when colour service complete. Reenlisted 21 Oct 1913. KIA on 5 Jun 1916	No	Amend
ALLBERRY	Edwin James	J98567	Boy 2nd Class	RN	NA	16 May 1904	NK	Enlisted 24 Aug 1920. Not to be included in JROS	No	No
AMY	William	228295	Stoker 2nd Class	RN	NA	26 Oct 1887	NK	Served 16 Dec 1903 to 13 Jul 1907 when it was determined that retention in the RN was undesirable. Sentenced to 21 and then 60 days HL for going on the run. Claimed to be French national!	No	No
AMY	Philip Charles	183536	Leading Seaman	RN	NA	8 Jan 1879	Gr	Served 8 Apr 1885 to 1 Feb 1906 when discharged by purchase. Served in RFR 2 Feb 1906 to 1 Feb 1911.	No	No
ANDOW	Joseph Alexander	184616	AB	RN	HMS Castor	27 Feb 1880	St H	Served 5 Aug 1895 to 4 May 1920 when pensioned off	Amend	No
ANDRE	Francois Marie	J98066	Boy 2nd Class	RN	NA	13 February 1905	St H	Served 20 Jul 1920 to 18 Aug 1920 when invalided out. No GW service.	No	No
ANGELL	Thomas	180298	AB	RN	NA	19 Feb 1879	St H	Served 30 Jul 1894 to 9 Jan 19-6 when discharged SNLR. Frequent cell visitor and HL	No	No
ANLEY	Clarence Walter	290768	Stoker 1st Class	RN	NA	6 Dec 1880	St H	Served 8 Dec 1898 to 5 Dec 1907 when invalided out with kidney disease	No	No
ARM	James Benjamin	156948	Leading Seaman	RN	NA	26 Aug 1874	Gr	Served 20 Aug 1890 to 17 Sep 1904 when colour service ended. Very occasional cell visitor.	No	No
ARROWSMITH	Joseph Bertram	187413	Petty Officer 2nd Class	RN	NA	26 Sep 1880	St H	Served 3 Jan 1896 to 12 Jul 1906. Sadly drowned in Jersey on 12 Jul 1906 while bathing	No	No
ARTHUR	Edward	353923	Domestic 3rd Class	RN	NA	23 Jul 1875	NK	Served 11 May 1895 to 18 Oct 1895 when discharged SNLR.	No	No

HAYNES	Edward	206411	Boy 1st Class	RN	NA	10 Jul 1883	St B	Served 26 Sep 1899 to 24 Jun 1901 when invalidated out	No	No
TARDIVEL	Alfred Auguste	218519	Ordinary Seaman	RN	NA	30 Nov 1884	St H	Served 16 Jan 1902 to 22 May 1905 when discharged SNLR. Frequent visitor to cells and awards of Hard Labour. Poor discipline. Surname spelt YARDIVEL in Service record.	No	No
YELLAND	William George	158711	Stoker	RN	NA	25 Dec 1871	NK	Served 3 Jan 1891 to 19 Feb 1894 when it appears discharged SNLR due to desertion. Cells and HL	No	No
AMIOT	Charles Francis	365129	Officer's Steward 2nd Class	RN	HMS Victory I	12 Apr 1890	St H	Served 22 Sep 1906 to 25 Jan 1911 when released. This is possibly CFJ Amiot Sgt RFA KIA 24 Apr 1917 aged 27.	No	TBA
ALEXANDER	Philip	212840	AB	RN	NA	1 Oct 1884	St H	Served 5 Jan 1901 to 28 Feb 1907 when purchased discharge. Did he serve in RJGB subsequently?	TBA	No
ANDREWS	Charles Clifford	L7268	Officer's Steward 3rd Class	RN	HMS Victory I	2 Jul 1897	St H	Served 24 Aug 1915 to 23 Oct 1915 when discharged as unsuitable having spent 14 days in cells. Is he same man as RWF 490?	TBA	No

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