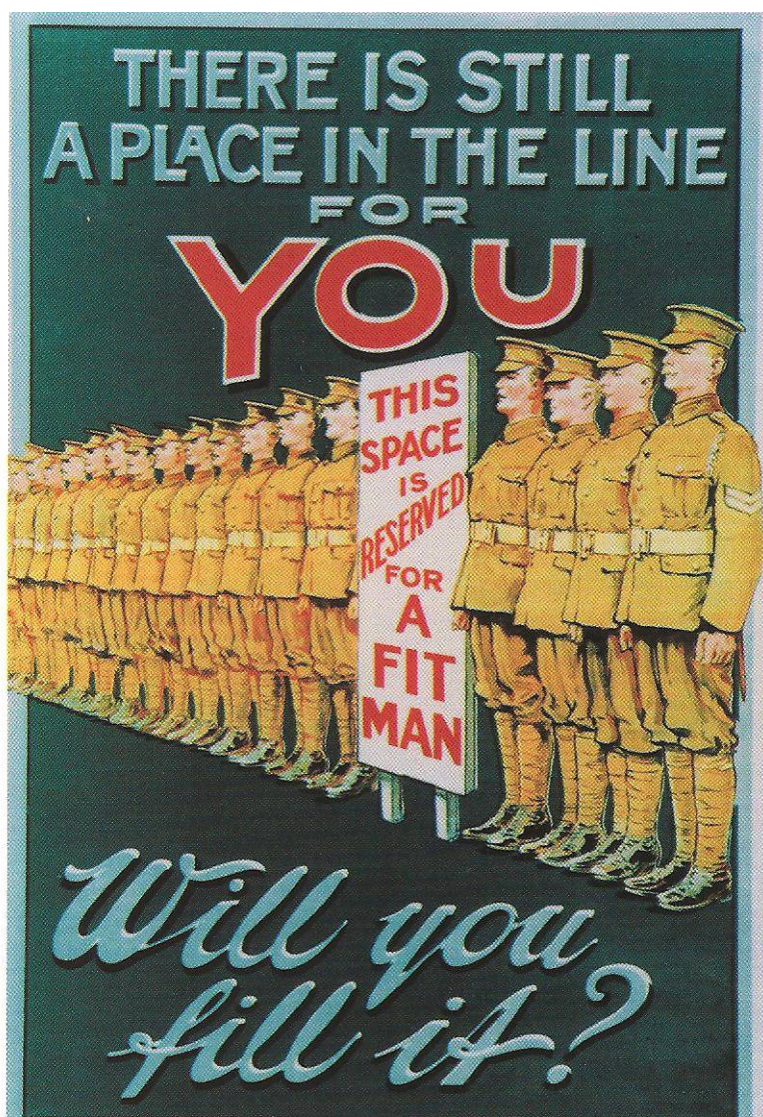


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A Fit Man?

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Hello All

It seems that, for months past, there has been much in the television and newspaper media regarding the 'Eurozone' crisis and the, almost, countless number of summits to resolve the problem. If I am not mistaken, each summit has found the solution. Yet, if it was so, why the need for the second, third,... and so on summits?

People will have differing opinions of what Europe needs to do to avoid what could be a major financial crisis if one or more countries revert to their former currencies, but this is not the place to explore the issue. However, what I find to be fascinating is how Europe's history comes to the fore in the mindsets of the politicians who are in the eye of the Euro storm. For example, the German Chancellor is reported to have a dread of the hyper-inflation that beset the Weimar Republic after the Great War, no doubt with the apocryphal image of the man pushing a wheelbarrow containing Reichsmarks by the million with which to buy a loaf of bread in mind. Meanwhile the French, after three wars with Germany that each saw various areas of France under German occupation, have seen the European Community as the means of controlling the Germans and thus prevent further conflict. The British have never been comfortable with an over-dominant nation just across the English Channel, be it the Dutch, the Spanish, the Germans or the French. Now, with an apparently strong Franco-German axis in Europe, suddenly things might be seen as less comfortable?

However, when the recollection of one's history has a bearing on today's events, are the politicians looking at the right 'end', i.e. are they looking at the cause or the effect? If we just take Frau Merkel's fear of hyper-inflation, surely that was the result, among other factors, of the Treaty of Versailles and the punitive reparations placed upon the German nation? If so, the demands that they were punitive were the French's, and were seen as vengeful as a consequence of Alsace-Lorraine falling into German hands at the end of the Franco-Prussian War in 1871? But, it was the French under Napoleon III who had previously declared war on the Prussians in 1870? Or, had they been tricked into war beforehand by Otto von Bismarck? Of course this is a simplistic example and no one would welcome its return, but to avoid a repeat of hyper-inflation at the time of the Weimar Republic, it must surely be necessary to examine the causes of it, and to draw parallels to today's conditions, thereby determining whether the risks are the same.

This is probably been a round about way of saying that history offers us lessons, but at the same time we cannot understand or use a topic in splendid isolation, we do need understand the context and see whether there are factors that are comparable to past causes.

In the light of this, it was interesting to read that there have been recommendations made in the UK (and these will surely filter through to the CI) that the teaching of history should continue in schools, to pupils up until they reach 16 years of age. The author of the Report has cautioned that the subject should avoid being too jingoistic and that the wider context is considered, even if it sits uncomfortably with British preconceptions, but to my mind this is all welcome if over time we can better understand those from other nations and to appreciate and accommodate those differences. After all, a Greek can never become a German, or indeed, vice-versa!

As for other school subjects, imaginative teaching helps, and possibly some of the following ideas could take root as 2014 nears. Group member Anna Baghiani from the

Société Jersiaise was invited to Victoria College to attend the Remembrance Service in the company of a speaker who was giving a short talk on OV, Captain Henry Pitcher VC. While there she met some excellent staff including CCF cadet leader Chris Rondel who teaches history to Year 8 (12-13 year old?) pupils. He said that his project was to use a photograph of College students taken in 1911 and to see what they were up to during the Great War and also to search them on the 1911 census. Each boy 'took on' the identity of one of the boys in the 1911 photograph as part of the project, using the Book of Remembrance as well as online resources.

At a different educational level, shall we say, my daughter teaches 10-11 year old pupils at an inner-city school in the Birmingham suburb of Handsworth. Although her 'primary' qualification is English, she runs her school's History club where the children who take part look at Handsworth's local history and in this, she is fortunate to have the help of the late James Watt who lived, worked and died in the suburb! This year for the Remembrance week, she followed a similar path, with her class and club members, to that adopted at Victoria College, but instead of a photograph, she made use of the local Great War memorial in the parish church. But, it was to the same effect in that the children went on to discover more about the individuals and where they had worked and lived. However, what is surprising when we consider that Handsworth's war dead were very likely to have been exclusively white, most if not all the children that my daughter involved were from families who originate from the Indian sub-continent!

Over the past few years, the North Lancashire branch of the Western Front Association (WFA) to which I belong has sponsored an annual Armistice prize. This is awarded for work submitted by pupils from schools in the branch's area that deals with any aspect of the Great War and in whatever medium. By and large the submissions have been pieces of poetry, and some of which has been quite good, if a touch too maudlin and emotional for my taste. For the last two years I have been one of the judges, though goodness knows why, and this year it has been particularly demanding to evaluating eighteen entries of contrasting styles. However, the important thing has been to get these youngsters to think about what the Great War meant and to produce work that can reflect their understanding.

Is my WFA branch's idea exportable to the CI? It undoubtedly is, with little modification, the only one being the question of sponsorship. Off the top of my head we fund it to the tune of £150 per annum, a sum that would not pose a problem to some of the Islands' larger companies, even in these times of economic difficulty. Perhaps there is someone in Bailiwick that might like to come forward and promote the idea with the education authorities, the schools and some of the major businesses?

The Front Cover

'Enlist Today', 'Your Country Needs You', 'Remember Little Belgium' along with many other phrases would find their way onto recruitment posters during the Great War, with the commercial artist showing off his skills in showing young men as healthy and sporty chaps! Reality was different as many would join up undernourished, from impoverished families. Although '*Statistics of the Military Effort of the British Empire during the Great War, 1914-1920*' has a section on recruiting, it does not provide figures of those who were rejected as a result of poor physical fitness, nor as the essay on 'Shell Shock' indicates, those who were mentally debilitated.

Shell Shock

While there were many weapon technologies that had seen previous service in other wars, their use during the Great War would be on an industrial scale and no more so than the artillery that could deliver shrapnel and high explosive shells for upwards of ten or twenty miles. As an example, German accounts of the seven day British preliminary bombardment for the Battle of the Somme refer to it as 'drumfire', implying an unbearable persistency of noise and tremor while soldiers would, in due course, emerge dazed and shocked from their dug outs. Artillery killed and physically injured many, as it had always done and, indeed, some 50% of all British physical casualties were attributable to this. But, there also evolved a new phenomenon, that of 'Shell Shock', which, in due course, also added to the casualty lists.

Following the Great War, the 'powers that be' felt that it was necessary for this 'Shell Shock' to be evaluated, and thus a War Office Committee of Enquiry was set up to consider the matter in September, 1920. Comprising fifteen members and a secretary, during the next eighteen months the Committee would consider written and oral evidence provided by fifty-nine witnesses drawn from a broad spectrum, ranging from laymen to psychiatric experts, and in 1922 would present their final '*Report of the War Office Committee of Enquiry into 'Shell-Shock'*' to the Houses of Parliament. This essay endeavours to summarise that Report, and hopefully reflects much of the content accurately.

What is 'Shell Shock'? Most laymen, and I am certainly one of those, would have defined it as a form of injury to the human nervous system caused by the concussive effect of an explosion, most probably of a shell or mortar round, occurring very close to an individual, and not necessarily resulting in physical damage to the body. But, it was the first task of the Committee to answer that question, and from the evidence presented, they concluded that men who had been categorised as suffering from 'Shell Shock', would have been so as a result of one of the following conditions:

- Commotional Disturbance
- (and/or) Emotional Disturbance
- Mental Disorder(s)

Given those broad conditions, it is therefore fair to suggest that the 'layman's definition' would be broadly consistent with Commotional Disturbance, while a man, whose nervous system had been so affected, could also show the signs of Emotional Disturbance had he become hysterical for example. Curiously, many men would claim to have experienced 'Shell Shock' of the Commotional Disturbance variety when in fact subsequent evidence showed that they had been nowhere near an exploding shell! Indeed, there were also many such claims out of German artillery range, and one must attribute these to 'Shell Shock' of the Emotional Disturbance variety. As the layman appreciates, the term Mental Disorder tends to be self-explanatory and yet, it was also considered as 'Shell Shock', why?

There are, possibly, several reasons. The first is that the three conditions were defined 'after the event' to enable the Committee to evaluate evidence in a structured manner. Secondly, to be diagnosed with Mental Disorders (and Emotional Disturbances for that matter) did not sit well with the male psyche and there was a perception held that there would be a stigma attached to an individual. Thirdly, the treatment of mental conditions

was an emerging discipline in the medical profession prior to the outbreak of the Great War, and consequently, there were comparatively few military doctors experienced in this field. Lastly, a man's condition might be re-categorised as a result of subsequent diagnosis. Under such circumstances, the term 'Shell Shock' progressively became all-encompassing.

The Committee's work was somewhat bedevilled by a lack of statistics, no one having thought to have collated the information during the War. After all, it was going to be all over by Christmas, 1914! 'Shell Shock' figures are certainly not included in the heavyweight '*Statistics of the Military Effort of the British Empire during the Great War, 1914-1920*' published in April, 1922. Thus the Committee relied on the anecdotal evidence from the witnesses, and could only surmise, based upon one witness' input that Commotional Disturbance accounted for about 5% of cases, while Emotional Disturbance accounted for another 80%, leaving 15% as a combination of both types of Disturbance. Mental Disorder cases were seen as being a contributory factor in the Emotional Disturbance figures. It was interesting to note however, that the percentage figure for Commotional Disturbance was higher in Salonika, and this was attributed to a shell exploding in the rocky, mountainous areas with the concussive effect being more pronounced when compared to one exploding in the Flanders' mud.

As has been mentioned, the witnesses came from a broad spectrum, and in many respects their views were broad, some seeing 'Shell Shock' as a purely medical condition, while a few others saw that many men who claimed to be suffering were out-and-out malingerers, and were 'funking' it! But, there was middle ground. In general, there was broad agreement that comparatively few cases of 'Shell Shock' were seen in 1914 and most of 1915, that they began to increase steadily towards the end of 1916 and throughout 1917, and again diminished from the middle of 1918. It is no coincidence that these somewhat simple phases can align to several factors.

1914 saw the all-volunteer pre-war Army taking to the field with, in the main, men who had a high *esprit de corps* and who had been well trained, with many having previously seen active service in campaigns such as the South African War. As casualties rose, the Territorial Force followed, and again these were largely pre-war volunteers who had made a commitment, at the outbreak of war, to service overseas. As is known, Kitchener's 'New Army' men were the next to appear from mid-1915 onwards, and just over a year later, the first conscripts with the 19 year olds initially and later the other age groups progressively. The other factor that had an effect that needs consideration was that of the nature of warfare at the various phases. At first mobile, the trenches then ensure a long spell of static warfare, only for the war to become mobile again from March, 1918.

But, given the proportion of Commotional to combined Emotional Disturbance and Mental Disorder cases, the report focused on the latter, as this essay will henceforth do also. However, before it does, it is relevant to remind ourselves that there is little that can be done in terms of prevention that avoids the consequences of a shell exploding close by. At the same time, those silent films, that so vividly depicted men, twitching as they walked or uncontrollably writhing under their beds, were not Hollywood movies, and demonstrated that something had occurred, and indeed, nearly 115,000 men applied for a 'Shell Shock' related pension during the 1920s.

Regimental Medical Officers (MO) became more and more faced with soldiers exhibiting symptoms of conditions such as anxiety, depression, exhaustion, hysteria and insomnia along with physical debilities such as uncontrollable shaking or incoherent speech, these being induced by the nervous conditions. It also became noticeable that young officers and senior NCOs were also showing many of these symptoms, and this was attributable to the added pressure of being responsible for a platoon of men while needing to maintain the 'stiff upper lip'. Interestingly, MOs with the Royal Flying Corps (and later the Royal Air Force) noted similar symptoms in comparing the pilots and the observers of two-seater aircraft, where the former saw themselves as continually responsible for the latter who would be waiting to go into action until a marauding Albatros appeared on their tail.

In looking to see what had contributed to the problem and also what should be done to prevent a recurrence, a number of factors emerged, and surprisingly, the subject of recruiting featured quite strongly. Prior to the Great War the Regular Army had an establishment of some 250,000 men, and this had not posed a problem for the recruiting organisation in terms of the annual influx of recruits needed to maintain the level. Indeed, if a problem existed, it had resulted from too few men wanting to enlist! The recruiting organisation knew its job, and volunteers were screened, both in terms of their suitability to become soldiers in a specified regiment or corps, and also with regards to their fitness to cope with the potential rigours of military service. Although a very small percentage with mental disorders might have slipped through, by and large, a 'Lunatics need not apply' stance was maintained, and of course, initial training would also weed out most of those who would not make the grade.

Now, with the British Empire at war, the pendulum swung! Overnight, young men were virtually clambering over each other to join up and fight the Hun, and it was this increased influx that a depleted recruiting organisation would now face. For, it had become depleted as many of its staff had headed off to the Great War themselves, returning to their regiments and depots to fill vacant posts. As a consequence, others had been drafted in, both to plug the gaps and also to increase staffing levels to cope. Now, pre-war standards slipped, and it is highly probable that medical assessments were far less stringent than previously. This was exacerbated by the need to employ civilian doctors who were not necessarily versed in terms of military requirements, a situation compounded by the payment of the sum of 3/6 per man assessed as fit, and this was not a bad rate of pay when one considers the stated report of one doctor having conducted 400 examinations a day over 10 days! It is safe to assume that, as a result, more young men, who would have been medically rejected in pre-war days, would now don khaki, and some of these would not be mentally equipped for the weeks and months ahead.

The recruiting process was revised in 1917, and instead of by a single doctor, each man was assessed by a medical board of four doctors, this allowing a more balanced and comprehensive view of each individual's fitness, both physical and mental. Boards were now the responsibility of the Ministry of Pensions, and they would class a man as A1, A2 and so forth. But, the responsibility for allocating men to this regiment or that corps was retained by the War Office. The revised process appears to have worked, but it cannot be proved, for, by the time many of the recruits reached the front, the battlefield was becoming fluid once more and the rigours of spending days after days in trenches were thus reduced.

As far as it was possible to be, recruiting was a preventative measure in helping to avoid Emotional Disturbances and Mental Disorders. Initial training fell very much the same category, and two particular aspects were of note.

The first was the importance of a high *esprit de corps* being inculcated into the men through creating a sense of belonging to, and indeed pride in, the regiment that they had been assigned to. Less than forty years following the creation of the county affiliated regiments from the former regiments of foot, it seems remarkable that this had been considered a factor in preventing 'Shell Shock'. But, regiments who, like the Guards with their long traditions and their emphasis on turn out and drill, built up and maintained this *esprit de corps* generally fought better. The risk to this, however, was the Army's need, quite frequently, to transfer men from regiment to regiment thereby reinforcing units that had suffered serious casualties. A man could enlist in the Army and bound for the Hampshires for example, only to arrive at the training camp to find that he was earmarked for the Dorsets. Sent to an Infantry Base Depot in France after training, he might be reassigned to the DCLI!

The second aspect of training was that it had to be simple, sympathetic, varied, realistic and progressive, and at the same time, all of these features being aligned to the predominant requirement of training men for the express purpose of killing the King's enemies on the battlefield. The Committee included in its Report some nine pages that summarised the Army's training ethos, its Principles of Training, at the end of the War, and it remains valid today, even though technology has moved on. The Principles are somewhat bloodthirsty in parts, as training has to stir up passion, hatred and patriotism, all the time through clenched teeth, while they remind us that; 'Victory is gained by the army with the greatest intensity of purpose', while 'Killing power, not manpower, wins a war' and 'A man merely dressed in uniform and hurried into battle decreases rather than increases the power of the army'.

Training had to impart the skills that the infantryman needed in the right way so that, for example, training a man to strip and reassemble the Lewis Gun for the first time would be taught in the comparative comfort of a classroom or drill hall. The training in such a task would be repetitive and would increase in pace, such that it became second nature for the time when the individual would have to apply those skills in a muddy trench. The 'end product' of the training process had to be men, equipped with the mental and physical resilience, who could cope with the rigours of the battlefield.

The Committee also recognised that there would be men that had got through the recruiting process who subsequently proved mentally unfit, and so it was required that regimental officers and the SNCO instructors be responsible for monitoring the men as they were trained, and that they should liaise closely with the MO if an individual seemed 'odd'. What is 'odd'? Furthermore, did it imply mental instability? The US Navy had, by the time that the Committee had sat, produced a list of criteria that reflected 'oddness' in its recruits, ranging from those who were bed-wetters, to those who resented discipline, and those who were feminine in their manner. To those 'defects' could be added men with a criminal tendency, sleepwalkers and those suffering from chronic homesickness. Those who gave evidence suggested that the list added nothing in determining whether a recruit was mentally unstable, and it was perceived that the SNCOs had the common sense and experience to differentiate between the 'odd' and the 'unstable'. Perhaps it was recognised that the US Navy's list might equally have applied to lads in public school dormitories of the time!

For all of its focus on training to kill, the Principles of Training placed considerable value on the quality of the SNCO instructors, seeking to ensure that they themselves, did not become 'burnt out' by day in, day out training. It was interesting to read that it recommended that Instructors must: 'Have a pleasing and winning personality', something that this writer fails to recollect when referred to as a 'orrible little *****' by one or two drill sergeants! But, in all seriousness, the Principles were sound advice in preparing men to face the demands placed upon them.

As the Committee did in 1920, let us now turn our attention to the trenches for these were where many of Emotional Disorder cases clearly originated. It was a surprise to read that one suggestion recommended training of officers in the skills of 'Man Mastership'! One presumes that this term equates to the more modern 'Man Management' and clearly the Army took this very much onboard as it was issuing guidance booklets for officers with the newer term as the title in the 1970s (I kept a copy when I left the Army and it may still be somewhere around the house). But whatever the term used, it does appear that there was a shift in how men should be treated and regarded as individuals, be they hard-working, column dodgers or weak natured. Whether or not caring for the men was the norm before the War, at the very least the Committee reinforced that as an officer's responsibility subsequently.

It was for the Battalion's officers to know the men under them, and to recognise where they were behaving out of character or oddly, such that these traits might indicate that an individual showing signs of nervous breakdown or excessive fatigue. In such cases the men could be sent back up the line to a rest area established in the Battalion or Division to which they belonged. Under the supervision of an MO, it would be expected that a man could be returned to full duty after a few days. But, the responsibility for the men's care did not simply stop with the Commanding Officer and the officers in his Battalion, for there was a need to ensure, as far as the exigencies of the operational situation allowed, that those in higher formations such as Division or Corps also considered the needs of the men.

It was suggested that a Division should maintain a system of unit rotation such that overlong spells in the front line trenches be avoided, and where the sector was considered bad, the changeovers between units should be more frequent. Similarly, units should be moved from one sector to another, to alleviate monotony. For all of the War's horror stories, one can forget that the greater part of a soldier's life was one of boredom and monotony, especially in static trench life, while it is also forgotten that when one walks around the battlefields that the view that the men had of them was about one or two feet below the soles of our shoes. Apart from sentry duties or being sent forward to man an observation post in no-man's land, much of the time was spent dozing or just waiting for something unwelcome to occur as it frequently did.

The Committee recommended that once out of the line it was important that men enjoyed a period of rest and recreation so that their spirits would recover, and that the men's physical comforts were addressed, however, it had not been unknown for resting units to be ordered to furnish fatigue parties detailed to repair tracks or carry engineer stores back up to the front line trenches that they had just vacated. A delivery of mail, a hot bath, a change of clothes, an estaminet nearby, and a safe place to sleep were all vital ingredients to a man's wellbeing, mental as well as physical. Out of the line there was also clearly a need for a battalion to undertake training, to keep the men at a level of physical fitness, and to deal with the hundred and one administrative tasks that kept it

up to scratch. But, this was best confined to the mornings to allow for the men to go off or to take part in inter-unit games of football or rugby, or divisional horse shows. Activities such as these were seen as the ideal counter to the deadly inactivity of trench life, and as such, would help to restore the men's spirits

Mention has been made of the MOs, and at the regimental/battalion level they were at the forefront of the medical care provided to men. However, they were not with the Battalion simply to send a man back to a hospital if he felt unwell or was wounded, they also had to keep men fit for the front line. For many MOs, the treatment of 'Emotional Disturbance and Mental Disorder' cases was something that they had not received training for previously, not least because it was a specialism that was quite recent in the wider medical context. In this, the Committee felt that MOs needed further training, and in their words:

'Special instruction should be given to Royal Army Medical Corps officers in the psycho-neurosis and psychoses as they occur in war, and selected officers should be encouraged to specialise in the study of these disorders.'

But that was very clearly 'after the Lord Mayor's show', and the MOs had faced the difficulties during the four long years of war. Importantly, as with their fellow officers in the Battalions, the MOs were also expected to know the men under their medical care, and be able to distinguish between the man who was really unfit, and the perennial attendee at Sick Parades. They were also the Battalion CO's medical expert, and in that role they were expected to provide advice on the men's mental wellbeing along with their physical condition.

Turning to treatment, it was seen that this should be undertaken as far forward as possible, first of all by the MO in the regimental rest area. Under no circumstances were men encouraged to think that their condition was a one-way ticket to leave the battlefield although it was important that they were removed from the trenches for fear of a contagious effect on their comrades. A few days in the rest area, and most would return to their place in the frontline, although more seriously affected individuals would be sent back up the line to Neurological Centres with MOs who were experts in nervous disorders, still close to the front, or onto Base Hospitals. A return to Blighty would only occur in exceptional circumstances and then if it was likely that a man was unfit for further military service. As to the form of treatment, it was considered that simple forms of psycho-therapy, i.e. explanation, persuasion and suggestion was appropriate for most cases, occasionally supported by baths, massage and electric shock treatment (?). For the more severe cases, convalescence, re-education and occupational therapy assisted, and throughout, one was reminded of Dr William Rivers' work at Craiglockhart. Indeed, he was one of the witnesses who provided evidence but who died before the Report was published.

Finally, it was clear that the British Army had to come to grips with the consequences of a much enlarged force of men in uniform, many of whom would be mentally unsuited to military life. The full Report is some 215 pages long, and is occasionally repetitive, yet its suggestions were quite relevant in the aftermath of the Great War, for the Second World War. One suspects that the need for guidance on 'Man Mastership' resulted in a major shift in the military's thinking, and it may be that in its 'Man Management' guise, it was a forerunner to an application in the civilian workplace. The value of the *esprit de corps* in each regiment and corps remains important, although it

can be easily broken with over frequent change in the military. Turning to the diagnosis and treatment of nervous disorders, we have moved on considerably but it is worrying that today's Combat Stress from service in Iraq and Afghanistan seems quite high, and one might wonder whether the preventive measures, as suggested by the Report, have improved in 90 years. This essay is an all too brief study of that Report, and as was mentioned earlier, hopefully an accurate interpretation. However, there is nothing like reading the Report itself, if you want to gain a more detailed insight into the concerns and solutions.

Like Father, Like Son

Well, not quite! Recently the JEP contained a couple of remarkable World War 2 tales, both of which I certainly knew nothing of, that link to our research. The first was of a Jersey lady, Phyllis Martin (née Pattimore), who, married to a French soldier Henri Martin, trained to become a secret agent with the Special Operations Executive, and was parachuted into France to deliver messages to the resistance. Courage certainly ran in her family, for we list her father William James Pattimore in the JRoS, a Sergeant in the King's Royal Rifle Corps who won the DCM and the MM.

The second account was of one of the many escape attempts that were made by young Jersey lads trying to get to the Cherbourg peninsula in 1944/1945. Over two successive nights in October 1944, ten lads tried to get away, the first one being successful, the second tragically not so, with the Germans shooting one lad, a Douglas Le Marchand. However, among the successful escapers on the first night was Peter Desvergez. He was the son of Pierre who had been a POW of the Germans and the nephew of Francois whom we met in 'A Double Entry' (Journal 36) and who died in a Japanese POW Camp in April, 1944.

CWGC Non-Commemorations

It is pleasing to report that we are finishing the year with a further two acceptances by the CWGC of men who will now be considered Great War casualties, namely Thomas Ounan and William Turner.

Turner's acceptance was particularly surprising as I could not account for the two years of his life between being discharged from the RN suffering from Neurasthenia and his admission into St Saviour's Hospital. Frankly, it was difficult to determine how to have found further information had he been rejected, for many of the RN Hospital Admission Registers have gone 'walkabout'.

But, Captain John Este Vibert was not accepted with further information to be sought, a task that will be picked up in the New Year.

Currently, the non-commemoration of Charles Anthony Pirouet is being investigated. I had eventually found that he was born in Jersey 1892 and that he had returned from Montreal in July, 1911. Two months later he was employed by the L&SWR as a clerk in its Marine Department in Jersey, where, according to his salary entries, he stayed until at least February, 1918. He was listed as belonging to the Dorsets in the 1919 JRoH&S, but no evidence of military service has emerged, not even in Jersey's Militia or in the RJGB. As a result, I've been in touch with a Pirouet family member who, it is hoped, might be able to shed more light on him. Incidentally Charles was the older brother of

Arthur Thomas Pirouet who was commissioned into Jersey's Militia and later served with the RGLI in France.

Finally, thanks must go first to Mike and Rosemary Thomas whose research provided the impetus to submit the details of fourteen men earlier this year and for which we have now had eleven accepted. Secondly, Vic Geary's efforts also merit thanks, for he has undertaken the detailed location of those men's graves as well as providing a number of photographs to help the CWGC when they visit Jersey to carry out their surveys.

The list below summarises the current status as to Non-commemoration submissions:

Accepted

Norcott, Gerald *
Dustan, John
Cudlipp, Herbert
Blanchet, Jean
Warne, Alfred
Bailey, Alwyn C
Leopold, Archibald
Cheney, Walter A
Poingdestre, Alfred
Jouanne, Auguste F
Syvret, Edward H
Lihou, Joseph T
Le Breton, Wilfred J
Whittle, Thomas J D'A
Orange, Walter
Ellis, John
Asser, Verney – Non-CI

Accepted

Burton, Garnet C
Helman, John W
Le Noury, Walter
Logan, Lionel H
Ounan, Thomas P
Turner, William A
Mutton, Harold C *

Pending

Pirouet, Charles A
Owen, Guy

TBA

Anderson, Frank B
Touzel, Walter H

Rejected

Adams, Frank H
Vibert, John E

Not Submitted

Syborn, George T
Raymond De Caen
Mourant, Sydney A
Surguy, Sidney

With the CWGC

Rundle, Cubitt S
Le Morzédec, Henri
De Gruchy, Alfred

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

For One Day Only!

For some, it was an all too brief war, and it was even all over, well before Christmas! Well, 1917 that is. Having previously published Major Albert GL'E Le Gallais' account of his time as a Prisoner of War in an officer's camp (see 'A Cad named Niemeyer!' (Journal 37)), we can now turn our attention to the fate of 1526 Private John Henry of the 1st Battalion, Royal Guernsey Light Infantry (RGLI).

His home address was at Vazon in Castel parish, and he would be sent to France as one of the 149 men who were the first group of reinforcements sent to bolster the 1st Battalion, who, in late November, 1917, were engaged in the Battle of Cambrai. According to Diex Aix, this party of reinforcements had embarked on the 24th November, disembarked in France the following day, and then had reached the Base Depot on the 27th November. It appears that the men then arrived at Masnières on the 30th November, only to be greeted with the order to 'Fix Bayonets' to repulse the Germans who had just launched their counter-attack at Les Rues Vertes. A day later on the 1st December, 1917, John Henry was seriously wounded with shrapnel in his shoulder, and then taken prisoner by the Germans. The following is his account of subsequent life as a Prisoner of War:

"I was taken to a hospital at Le Cateau and my wounds were dressed at once.

I was placed in a bed with a straw mattress and was supplied with two blankets. The food was quite decent and we were attended by German doctors, but I had to undergo no operation. My wounds were dressed twice a day with ordinary bandages. The orderlies here were good, and the whole time I remained in this hospital I was in bed.

On the 28th December, I was removed in an ordinary train to Celle, arriving there on the 31st December, and during the journey they gave us good food. I was moved from the train on a stretcher to a lazaret, and there were about 23 in my ward. The beds here were also good, being supplied with a straw mattress, two blankets and a sheet. A German doctor, Dr Ellerbruck, attended me. He was a good doctor and he saw that my wounds were dressed every day by an orderly, but they had to use paper bandages. I know that one of the orderlies who attended me was a Canadian and named Gamble. The sanitary arrangements in the lazaret were good and there was a bathroom.

The food here was quite eatable, but I could have done with more. Each day at 7 o'clock they gave us coffee and a slice of bread, at 9.30 they gave us another slice of bread, and at 12 some soup; at 3 o'clock we had another slice of bread and some coffee, and at 6 o'clock we had two slices of bread and sometimes soup.

During the month of January I was able to get up and walk about a bit, and before I left the camp I was able to walk quite well.

We were allowed to write two letters and four postcards a month, and I also received letters from home, and I know that the letters I wrote home were received. I received Red Cross parcels, but some had certain articles removed, usually either soap, tea, sugar, or cigarettes. I also received Red Cross bread parcels irregularly.

I was never able to do any work. I remained here until June, and on the 18th of that month I left for Soltau, travelling by ordinary train, and reached that place on the 19th. We were given no food during the journey. On arrival at Soltau I was taken to a prisoners' camp, which was composed of wooden huts. There were about 80 beds in each hut. Each bed had a mattress and two blankets. In my hut we had almost all English prisoners with one or two French and Belgians. I do not know either the name of the Commandant or Assistant Commandant. On my arrival at the camp I was examined by the doctor, who marked me off for no work and told me to put in an application for exchange, which he said he would support. The food here was very poor and we English prisoners could not have lived without the parcels we received through the Red Cross. The grocery parcels came very regularly, but the parcels of biscuits very rarely.

The sanitary condition of the camp was bad, but there were baths supplied to the prisoners. The huts were cleaned by orderlies, and in my hut there were two Englishmen as orderlies when I left. Entertainments were allowed in the camp, and several of these were got up by prisoners while I was there. We also had plenty of books supplied to us.

The treatment of prisoners I consider to have been very fair, and I never saw any cruelty by any of the German NCOs and I got my letters regularly and we were able to write letters and postcards, as at Celle.

I left Soltau on the 2nd September and travelled through, in an ordinary train, to Aachen, and after stopping there two days I was taken to Rotterdam.

While in the camp at Soltau I often heard how hard-up people were for food, and during my journey to Aachen we were often asked when stopping at the stations to give food to people on the platforms, and the people looked pretty hungry.”

Again according to Diex Aix, John Henry would arrive back in England on the 7th September, 1918, his application for exchange having clearly proved successful. As can be seen from above, it was standard procedure for any repatriated Prisoner of War to undergo a de-briefing session after return. In this case the interview was conducted by a solicitor, Everard G Thorne of 22 Aldermanbury in the City of London on the 20th September, 1918, and he would give his opinion that: *“This man gave his report quite well”*.

One finds that John Henry’s report is commendable as he acknowledged the decent medical treatment that he received. When compared with the conditions ‘enjoyed’ by Major Le Gallais, it seems that the Major fared less well, possibly because John Henry was mainly in hospital. But, it is also clear that his brief account of Germans begging for food would have contributed to the broader intelligence picture of living conditions in Germany, and thus, the morale of the civilian population which, as we now know, was very low in the latter half of 1918.

Book Reviews

TOMMY

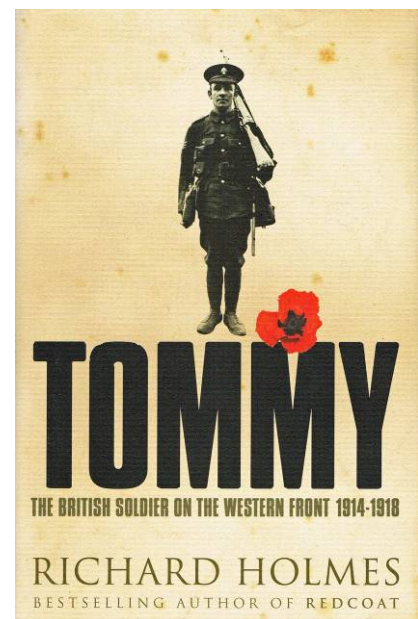
The British Soldier on the Western Front

By Richard Holmes

(HarperCollins - £20.00)

Review by Peter Tabb

I have frequently professed my admiration for the books produced by the late Professor Richard Holmes, not only for the works themselves but also the sheer number of them and their diversity ranging from the English Civil War to the Second World War. I have read most of them (I think) but strangely I discovered that the most appropriate to our interest, *Tommy*, has been sitting on my bookshelf unread since last Christmas! What’s more the book was first published in 2004 so it has taken me seven years to get around to reading it.



This is a thick book – 700 plus pages – and contains many reminiscences of the men who fought on the Western Front, from the ‘Poor Bloody Infantry’ to the staff officers ‘thirty miles behind the Front and wasting thousands of lives to move their desks a few feet nearer Berlin’. Typically Professor Holmes largely dispels that Blackadder-ish depiction although clearly many up to their waists in mud, blood and gore regarded those wearing red collar tabs who, it seemed, managed to keep their feet dry and their uniforms clean with considerable disdain.

The Great War's Western Front is dug deeply into the consciousness of we Britons. The images it conjures up are of blood, barbed wire, shell-holes filled with dead bodies; of subalterns with wispy moustaches who never had the chance to grow old; of soldiers with faces vacant from shell-shock; of great aunts who never married.

Professor Holmes rightly postulates that the army that fought this war, warts and all, represented the greatest collective endeavour of the whole of British history. Over five million men served in the army, almost one million lost their lives, and more than two million were wounded. As the war continued, these men drifted apart from the land that had raised them, and lived in a world with its own rules, values, beliefs and language. They celebrated the armistice, not with cheering, but in silence and then went home to pick up their lives and found the 'homeland fit for heroes' fell very short of that ideal.

One veteran proudly affirms that Tommy Atkins – the full private – was, when all was said and done, the one who won the war. He won it by sheer dogged pluck. Of this man too little has been heard, perhaps because he had a habit of going into places a thousand strong and coming out as a remnant of a hundred or so. Dead men tell no tales of their own glory.

Richard Holmes sets out to put this right and does it very effectively. We cannot actually smell the trenches but the author's descriptions of trench warfare are so vivid it requires little imagination to conjure up that horrific mix of mud, blood, body excretions, corpses and, above all, the stink of cordite. The book puts 'Tommy' centre stage. Richard Holmes manages to write here, not as a historian, but of the Western Front as it was experienced – in the midst of battle, enduring the boredom and gut-wrenching apprehension of waiting to move up to the Front, the actual exhaustion of travelling to and from the Front, of sharing a mug of tea with a mate and seeing him blown to smithereens just moments later,

Nevertheless do not expect this to be stories of lions led by donkeys for Professor Holmes doesn't do clichés. The book is a fascinating insight into war as it was fought mostly at the level of the private soldier and despite the plethora of other titles still manages to reveal fresh perspectives in what many of us might have thought had already been so comprehensively covered that there was little left to write about.

Each chapter addresses some aspect of life at the Western Front with titles such as Flesh and Blood, Brain and Nerve, Earth and Wire, Steel and Wire and ultimately Heart and Soul. Every aspect of Tommy's life is examined, most acutely and astutely by Tommy himself. The book examines many areas we often gloss over – for instance, how Tommy spent his free time and it clearly wasn't always writing letters home to Mum and sweethearts. Lance Corporal George Ashurst found in an estaminet in Armentières that 'all evening Tommies could be seen either going to or coming from the girls' room upstairs, queues actually forming on the stairs'. Tommy was paid just one shilling a day so presumably the favours on offer were relatively cheap.

We learn about Field Punishment Number 1 which could involve being lashed to the wheel of a gun for two hours at a time. Faced with such Hanoverian field punishments, Australian troops threatened to inflict similar humiliations on any officer or NCO daring to impose such penalties. Needless to say, while discipline was maintained, the ANZACS never endured such punishments, merely losing pay and being confined to barracks. Notwithstanding Field Punishment Number 1 – ostensibly consisting of a

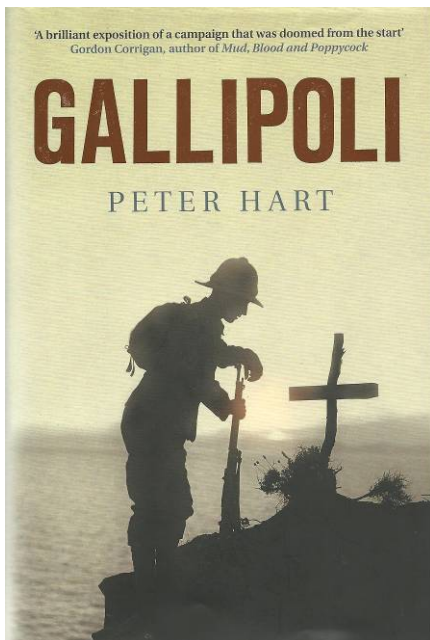
forfeiture of pay, confinement to barracks, hard labour, employment and restraint (i.e. being handcuffed to a field gun) - was awarded on 60,210 occasions. The most serious Field Punishment was death by firing squad which was awarded on no fewer than 3,080 occasions although carried out only 346 times, all but 37 executions being for offences that occurred only under military law. Richard Holmes disposes of the myth that there was always one man in the squad who fired a blank cartridge since as anyone who has donned a uniform – even a CCF one – will know, the Short Magazine Lee Enfield .303 rifle packs a hell of a kick with a live bullet and none with a blank.

Some aspects revealed by Richard Holmes are distinctly uncomfortable including many instances where Tommy shot or bayoneted German soldiers who had surrendered and Fritz, of course, did the same. Snipers were hated by both sides and were shot (by both sides) when captured without any semblance of a trial or why there should be one.

I have opined before that we shouldn't think of the Great War as being confined to the Western Front. It earned its soubriquet of being the First World War (once, of course, we had had the Second) because it was truly a global conflict, stretching from Tsingtao in China to the Falkland Islands, from the Orkneys to darkest Africa, with engagements on every one of the seven seas. Nevertheless the Western Front and its appalling carnage dominate our consciousness and Richard Holmes has once again tapped a very rich seam.

Appositely the back cover of the book features a verse by Rudyard Kipling:

*Then it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that
An' "Tommy, 'ow's your soul?"
But it's "Thin red line of 'eroes"
When the drums begin to roll.*



Gallipoli
By Peter Hart
(Profile Books, £25.00)

If you see my old chum Peter Hart, don't tell him that I said so, but this, his latest book is by far the best of all that he has written to date. It is certainly an improvement on his last effort: '1918: A Very British Victory' providing a much better balance in terms of the material that he has used. He deals with the campaign in a more structured manner compared to '1918' which was very much front-loaded so that the final few months of the Great War were, in my opinion, dealt with at a gallop. But, at the same time, there are areas where he could do better, particularly when he is at his most provocative best (or is it worst?), and I will come to these later.

Why the improvement? I would put it down to the simple fact that he is playing 'at home', and when I last met up with him a couple of weeks ago, he was quite enthused by his most recent tour to the Dardanelles and was looking forward to two more planned for next year. For him, the tours are not about money-making, they are simply the

excuse of getting him back to Gallipoli! It may sound odd, but if one has been there, one senses an attraction about the place and the events of 1915 that can draw people back. Certainly, I would go back like a shot if only the memsahib would sign my leave pass! The compactness of the area of battle on the peninsula, the ruggedness and the lack of development is little different to what the troops would have experienced.

The book reflects Peter's skill in taking a number of statements from a wide range of participants and weaving them into a single narrative. In doing so, he has not been 'anglo-centric', for he has tapped into Turkish, German and French sources to go alongside those from the dominions of the British Empire, including Newfoundland, and from all ranks. Most of these accounts reflect the difficulties of fighting, although there are a few such as Mustafa Kemal (later Kemal Ataturk) that were written with posterity in mind.

An airing is given to two topics that frequently tend to be little covered in other books similar to this. The first is that of logistics, for everything had to be brought 'over the beach', whether it be food, water, ammunition, artillery shells (and there were insufficient of those given the 'Shell scandal' that year), clothing, animals, replacements and reinforcements. All of this was delivered along a supply chain that was some 2000 miles in length, and for which there was a U-boat risk to be faced from the time that ships left Marseilles. We are reminded that there were no port facilities available so piers had to be constructed from the materials available while the vagaries of the weather would also require reserve dumps to be built up, both for offensives and also just in case the ships could not unload during storms. Throughout, these stockpiles would be in the range of the Turkish artillery ensconced in the peninsula as well as on the Asiatic side of the Dardanelles. The French suffered particularly so, being on the right of the line at Helles, being shelled from their front and their rear at the same time.

The second topic is that of sickness, and the confined battle space of the peninsula ensured that it became a major problem with the flies only too ready to spread disease, particularly dysentery from inadequate open latrines, among human beings. To be fair, even though they were Turkish flies, they were neutral, ensuring that all protagonists suffered equally! Rotting corpses were breeding grounds and Peter comes up with the fascinating statistic that the offspring of just one female would number 5.6 trillion in just six months! The impact of disease was two-fold in that men's fighting abilities were much debilitated, especially when assaulting 'Johnny' Turk was the order of the day, and the high demands placed on limited medical resources would see a service that creaked right back to Alexandria, four or five days sailing time away. Again to quote figures, the British Empire saw 410,000 men serve on the peninsula of which 50% became casualties, and of these, a staggering 90,000 having to be evacuated through sickness. If one allows for the fact that both the French, having fielded 79,000 men, and the Turks counted their casualties using slightly different parameters, the percentages were still similar to those of the British.

Peter paints a vivid picture of Gallipoli as a military defeat, and it surely was. The rot had set in when the Royal Navy had originally gone in with all guns blazing, with the element of surprise thus lost for the subsequent landings, since it would not be too difficult for the Turks and their German advisors to figure out what might come next! Meanwhile, it appears that little consideration had been given to the excellent fighting qualities of the Turkish soldier, who, had fought a hard campaign in the Balkan Wars only a year or two previously. Although that campaign had been lost, they had acquired

skills in the art of modern warfare, not least in terms of musketry as the British soon found to their cost. Turkish experience and courage proved to be more than a match for the British and French who, no less courageous, were raw, barely trained troops asked to perform tasks at the limit of their ability. There would be a considerable improvement in their skills with 'on the job training', but when the body has been wracked with dysentery or paratyphoid, applying those skills could be difficult!

With the element of surprise gone and the pressure to take the peninsula increasing, we turn to General Sir Ian Hamilton, the force commander. In modern warfare, six weeks is an inadequate time in which to plan for an opposed landing against an intelligent enemy, with poor maps, a lack of good intelligence, a lengthy supply chain, inexperienced troops, and above all, poor subordinates on the staff and in command positions. However, that is making excuses, for he should have been more assertive in his dealings with the War Office and with those appointed below him. The view was that the plans for the landings, and for later operations, were over complicated, with too much reliance placed upon various actions and phases proving interdependently successful. This was most evident when the New Zealand Brigade failed to gain Hill 971, a challenging objective in itself, and thus being unable to support the attack of the Australian Light Horse at the Nek in August.

If Hamilton's plans were over complicated, his subordinate commanders did not help, and the Australian 3rd Brigade's Commander, Colonel Sinclair-MacLagan, failed to push his men to reach all of their objectives after landing, and then persuaded 2nd Brigade's Commander to veer away to the south from taking that Brigade's objectives. As a result of this failure to follow orders, the Turks were given time to bring in their reinforcements. Similarly, Hamilton's plans for the Suvla landing were progressively watered down in terms of the objectives to be gained, and again becoming aware of this, he reinforced the eventual failure through a 'lack of grip'! This lack of assertiveness should have also been reflected in his communiqués back to the War Office in Whitehall. These told Kitchener what he wanted to hear as opposed to being needed to.

I mentioned earlier that he could have done better in a number of areas, and one of them is where he sets out to be provocative and thereby becomes emotional. His Preface starts 'Gallipoli! It was a lunacy...' while the words futility, madness and such like occasionally feature. At the same time, he appears to have a running dispute with other historians 'off camera'. He is very much a 'Westerner', i.e. he takes the view that Gallipoli was a sideshow and that the War would only be won on the Western Front, a view that I see as valid. However, whatever their faults, it would be difficult to consider Asquith, Kitchener, Churchill, Lord Grey and others of the Cabinet as being 'one sandwich short of a picnic'! Nor could it be said of the naval and military hierarchy, even though Jackie Fisher could be wayward. They were all very clever men, knowledgeable and experienced. But, they were capable of not making to the right decision at times, collectively or otherwise. To simply state that the Gallipoli campaign was a lunacy without examining the reasons for the landings or proffering an analysis of the failures and possible solutions, is inadequate. To my mind, it is akin to making the 'Lions led by donkeys' claim without any substantiation.

Could Gallipoli have been avoided? This is a question that Peter, sadly, does not examine. Clearly Churchill's seizure of the two Turkish dreadnoughts being constructed in England were the catalyst for a war with the Ottoman Empire, clearly upsetting Anatolian peasants who had paid good money for those ships. With the fleet having

acquired two new ships, they were no compensation for those lost in the Dardanelles, nor more importantly for the naval lives also lost. But one must wonder why no one in the cabinet saw fit to advise against such a move, not least the Foreign Secretary, Lord Grey. Some Turks were amenable to coming in on the British side, and at the very least, Turkish neutrality would have been just as useful and far less costly. Mention is made though of giving support to the Russians. Peter is dismissive of the strategic importance of this (perhaps arguing with his 'off camera' fellow historians), but one should ask how Russia could import and export material and foodstuffs to continue the fight during the winter months with limited access to the oceans.



**With Peter Hart (left) at lunch in early December
Bob Matthews, President of the Cumbria WFA, is the
referee in the middle!**

In conclusion, I would however agree with Peter that Gallipoli was an unnecessary battle, but wish that he had offered better arguments. However, the strength of the book is in the various accounts of those who had taken part in the landings or who had fought in the trenches irrespective of their nationality. It is for this reason that I would strongly recommend the book. I have no doubt that his tours would also be highly interesting should you be tempted. If so, do get in touch with him at pmhart@btinternet.com. Be warned though, they might be robust in terms of walking the terrain.

As an afterthought, I shall pass on my views of his book when I next see him (in February probably), if there is no Journal out that month you'll know the reason why!!!

Guernsey Women and the Great War By Liz Walton

I was invited by the Family History section of La Societé Guernésiaise to give a talk on 'Guernsey Women and the Great War' on Wednesday 16th November at the Candie Lecture Theatre. The talk lasted about 45 minutes and was accompanied by a Powerpoint presentation. The aim was to show how women's lives changed as a result of the war as well as describing the roles played by individuals such as Dorothy Nicoll in munitions, Ada Le Poidevin with the Salvation Army, Mabel Grut VAD, Violetta Thurstan who won the MM, and Frances Ozanne, her daughter and daughter in law who worked with the French Red Cross. Phyllis O'Donnell and Mollie Parks, who lost their lives as a result of the war, were also mentioned. The talk attracted a good audience and lots of anecdotal information was shared about female family members and the effect that the war had on them. I have now added some text to the slides and sent the presentation to Roger for inclusion on the website.

Blanche Banques POW Camp

A convenient point to introduce a couple of photographs (overleaf) depicting the POW Camp under construction in late 1914 or early 1915. You should be able to work out the position of the upper photograph on the second.



CWGC Commemoration of Sapper William John Le Noury
By Liz Walton



The case of Sapper William John Le Noury was originally brought to my notice by Dave Ricketts, and was mentioned briefly in an earlier edition of the Journal.

Service records show that WR28504 (formerly 255580) Sapper William John Le Noury of 321st Quarry Company, Royal Engineers died of influenza and pneumonia at Fovant Military Hospital, Wiltshire on the 14th March, 1919, apparently aged 55. He had originally joined up on the 23rd January, 1917, stating that he was 48 years old, single, his occupation that of quarryman and he lived at 23 Le Bouet, St Peter Port. His next of kin was given as Agnes Marriette, his stepsister, who lived at the same address.

One of the reasons that Sapper Le Noury was not listed on the CWGC Debt of Honour register may be that he had so few living relatives to mourn him and mention his passing to the authorities. Initially it was

difficult to trace him on census records. If he had been 48 in 1917, that would have meant that he was born in about 1869, but there was no John William Le Noury aged about 2 on the 1871 census. There was however 8 year old William Le Nowry (sic) living with his widowed mother Harriette and younger brothers John and Alfred aged 7 and 6 at the Longstore, which is very close to Le Bouet. By 1881 William Le Noury age 18 and his brothers were living with their mother and a new stepfather, Edward Wilson, plus Agnes and Edwin Wilson aged 5 and 9 respectively. All of the men in the household worked as stone crackers. In 1901 William was still living with the Wilsons at 23 Le Bouet and his age is given as 41. But in 1911 although his address was the same, he, his widowed stepfather and his half brother Edwin were boarders in the household of his half sister Agnes, now Mrs Marriott. His age in 1911 is given as 50, which would have made him 56 and not 48 when he joined up in 1917.

His service record shows that he set off for France with 321st Quarrying Company in February, 1917 and remained with them throughout the war. In January, 1917 the 321st Quarrying Company, Royal Engineers was formed from local quarrymen who had previously volunteered for service overseas. They left Guernsey on the 25th January and travelled to Buxton in Derbyshire via Weymouth. They were issued with standard uniforms and RE insignia, but in common with the other Quarrying Companies received no military training. They arrived in France on the 15th February, and they travelled by train from Le Havre to Marquise, near Boulogne where the quarries were located. They were mainly employed in producing stone for railway ballast to be used by the military railways essential to the moving of ordnance and troops to the front. Some idea of the magnitude of the work involved can be gained from the fact that from quarries worked in

this single location over 600,000 tons of material was produced in the nine months ending 31st August, 1917.

Sapper le Noury was due to be demobilised and transferred to Army Reserve on the 26th March, 1919, and his home address was to be Hillside, La Moye, Vale in Guernsey. However he never made it back, dying from influenza and pneumonia at the Military Hospital, Fovant some 12 days earlier on the 14th March, age 58. There was no record of his death on the CWGC database though his circumstances clearly fulfils their requirements for commemoration, having died from an illness contracted whilst in service well within the required timescale. Nor does he feature on any Guernsey memorials. I found his headstone in St John's Churchyard in Guernsey, and sent a photograph of that, together with his service record and the entry for his death in the register for Wiltshire. The CWGC have now agreed to add his name to their Debt of Honour register and as his grave is now a war grave it will be maintained by them in perpetuity.

Ronayne Writes

Highlands History Courses: The latest Highlands prospectus is out and includes my usual three local military history courses, Jersey and Napoleonic Wars, Jersey and First World War and Jersey and Second World War. This term I have also added Jersey and the Occupation in response to demand. All are three weeks in length and are priced at £41. (**Editor:** A promotional poster is attached on page 27)

Go Tours WW1 Tour: Numbers of the planned Go Tours Great War tour scheduled for September 2012 and focusing on the role of the Channel Islands in the war are filling up. There will be a big push in the JEP and Guernsey Evening Press involving a 'Readers' Offer' giving a discount on the tour.

Clarence Ahier – The Book: Final and frantic efforts to complete are in full swing with deadline of end of year approaching. I need to give more thought to photographs. If any members have access to suitable Great War artillery images that they would be willing to allow me to use I would be grateful.

Animals' Hospital: Finally just a small, and non-CI related, item I stumbled across during a recent family visit to London. We stayed in Maida Vale, and en route to the nearest Tube station passed a building called the Animal War Memorial Dispensary, which opened in 1932. Mounted outside is a large bronze sculpture and two stone plaques dedicated to all the animals whose lives were sacrificed during the First World War. I haven't had much chance to look into the history, but it seemed an interesting and moving place. Oh and I also took some shots of the Artillery memorial, one of which is attached. (**Editor:** See the photographs on pages 28 to 30)

Out and About

Looking Back: As reported earlier, Liz Walton gave a talk to La Societé Guernésiaise on the topic of 'Guernsey Women and the Great War'. Ian Ronayne gave a talk at Grouville Church which, according to Ned Malet de Carteret, was greatly appreciated. Sadly there are no photographs to display. Ian was also charming the ladies at one of the Women's Institute branches with his talk on 'Jersey in the Great War'.

Looking Ahead: The next few months will undoubtedly be quiet for battlefield tours. However, I have booked my next year's trips (Jersey in March, Kent in May, Cornwall in June and the Meuse-Argonne in September/October) with the twin aims of avoiding the disruption from the Olympics and visiting a number of sites with Museums and Great War connections.

Website Workings By Roger Frisby

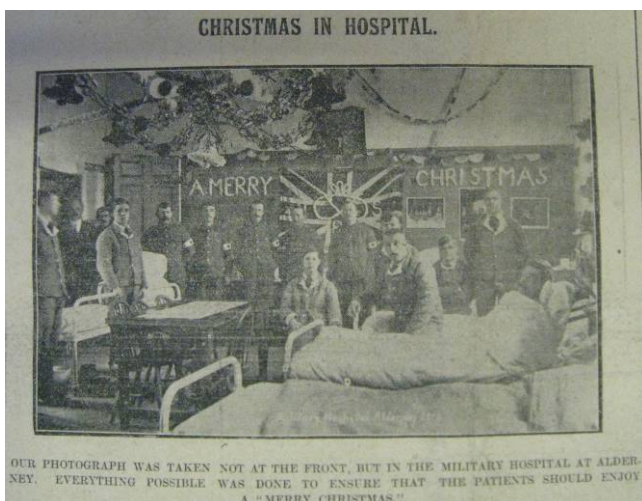
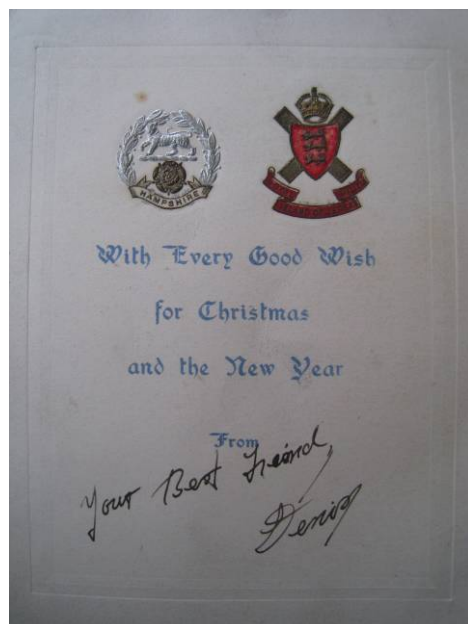
The past two months have been comparatively quiet with minor additions and changes to the Rolls of Honour and Service. There shall probably be some revisions to Jersey's RoS at the time of the next Journal while the major input of Jersey Militia 'Home Only' men will appear in late April.

We are expecting to receive some data on the men who came from Sark, and will use this to enhance what we already have where necessary.

Christmas Miscellany By Mark Bougourd

Help Wanted

Members may be able to shed some light on the Christmas Greetings card shown. With the badges of the Hampshire Regiment and Jersey's Militia there was a thought that it was originally produced for the Jersey Contingent after it had transferred to the Hampshire's 2nd Battalion in January, 1918. But the Second World War also saw the affiliation of the Militia to the Hampshires with the formation of the 11th Battalion. As to 'Your Best Friend, Denis', the only one with that name who features in the Jersey Contingent was William Denis Sweeney who died in 1916, more than a year before the transfer took place, and no other men from Jersey called Denis served during the Great War as can be determined. Can anyone help?



Christmas in Hospital

The accompanying image appeared in the Guernsey Weekly Press edition of the 6th February, 1915 showing soldiers in the Cambridge (?) Military Hospital at Aldershot having a celebrated Christmas away from the front. Unfortunately, none of the men were named, but the union flag at the back displays the Staffordshire knot, and the lettering suggests the North Staffs Regt. It may be that most, if not all, of the men were from the 1st Battalion.

CHANNEL ISLANDERS ON H.M.S. HAMPSHIRE



This photograph was taken on H.M.S. Hampshire on Christmas Day. The Officer on the right is Mr. BROCK, of St. Peter's; Seaman DANIEL LE PAGE, son of Mr. W. Le Page, Sarnian Cottage, L'Islet, is seated next to him, and above the latter is Seaman H. DE P. TAYLOR, son of Mr. Taylor, of La Favorita, St. Martin's. The others in the group are Jersey men.

Eighteen months after the above photograph was taken, HMS Hampshire would hit a mine off Marwick Head on the Mainland of Orkney and quickly sank. Of the crew, 12 survived from more than 600, but the sinking was doubly notable because the Secretary of State for War, Lord Kitchener, was among those lost. Of the three Guernseyman who are identified, only Petty Officer Harold de Putron Taylor lost his life, and he is buried in the Lyness RN Cemetery in Orkney. Lieutenant Commander Brock and Seaman Daniel Le Page had most likely transferred to other ships or shore stations before the sinking on 5th June, 1916.

Given that there were seven Jerseymen in the photograph, at least four survived even though we have five Jerseymen who drowned. The Commander is not among the five, whilst a Midshipman Clement Mallet was, and none of the men shown is wearing a Midshipman's uniform. The only possible candidate for identification is Private Albert Smith of the RMLI who maybe the man with a moustache, seated front right.

Faces Remembered



The gentleman pictured left is Lieutenant Colonel Charles Edward Lloyd who was the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion, RGLI in 1914. There is some confusion about him, but it appears that he went with the Guernsey Contingent to Ireland in March, 1915, as a Major in the 6th Royal Irish Regiment, commanding 'D' Company. He died on the 8th October, 1915 and is buried in the Aldershot Military Cemetery, and we know that this was during the period that the 16th (Irish) Division was being assembled and carrying out formation training before being sent to France. This is borne out by pages 4 and 5 of Diex Aix, although his initials are shown EC and CE. But, it seems that he was about to be transferred to the 7th Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers to command their 'D' Company when he died.

Odds and Ends

Administrative Matters: As ever, it would be of help if changes to Members' Email addresses are notified as they occur. This will enable me to keep the distribution lists up to date and for members to receive prompts on particular matters.

2014-2019: Nothing has been received from the Constables on this topic as yet, but I am assured by their Secretary that this will be on the Committee of Constables agenda in January.

Tsingtao: Peter Tabb makes a reference to the almost forgotten action at this port in 1914. In a similar arrangement to that of Hong Kong, the Germans leased Tsingtao from the Chinese in 1898. After the rejection, in August, 1914, of an ultimatum from the Japanese to hand over the port, the port was blockaded with the assistance of two British warships, HMS Triumph and HMS Usk. Because future Japanese intentions were considered suspect, the 2nd Battalion, South Wales Borders and later the 36th Sikhs were sent there from Tientsin, to join a Japanese force 23,000 strong. The Japanese started shelling on the 31st October, 1914, and just over a week later the German garrison of some 3,600 men surrendered the town on the 7th November, after the Japanese had attacked on the previous night. British dead amounted to seventeen killed or died of illness.

Were any Channel Islanders present? The only one that is known to have been there was Engineer Commander Hilgrove Hammond on board HMS Triumph. He was killed on the 25th May, 1915 when the ship was sunk off the Gallipoli Peninsula by U-21.

Militia Pay Lists 1914-1917: Having noted the existence of these on the Jersey Archive website, I have now started to creation of nominal rolls to show which men were undertaking military duties from the Militia's mobilisation to its disbandment, and where known, their subsequent military service and fate. Indicatively I am about 40% through the 'first pass' of data assembly intended to create the initial templates, the target for their completion being the end of February, 2012. Having contacted Linda Romeril at Jersey Archive I was delighted to have confirmed the fact that the Pay Lists include the men's regimental numbers as I had expected them to. So, with the completed templates, I am planning three or four sessions at the Archive in March to refine incorporate additional data from the original documents. My main target, during those sessions, will be to assemble a complete picture of the Militia in 1914, and time permitting, then add incremental data for the years 1915-1917 on a 'by unit' basis. If it all goes to plan, I hope that the information can be fed into the JRoS by the end of April.

War Horse: Ian Ronayne's item on the Animals War Memorial Dispensary at Maida Vale has struck an appropriate chord, for the Steven Spielberg production, 'War Horse', is to be released on general distribution in cinemas throughout the UK, and one presumes in the CI, in January. It has received high ratings in the US. I shall be heading off to see it, heeding advice, with a few extra handkerchiefs in my pockets!

Stop Press: I have just received news from the 'In From the Cold' Project team that Harold Mutton has now also been accepted as a Great War casualty.

Guess the Guardsman: Finally, to close on a light note, can you identify to which Guards Regiment each Guardsman shown below belongs? Answers will appear in the next Journal from our Guards Guru, Mark Bougourd.



As an Aside: I mentioned early on this Journal that I've been judging entries for the North Lancs WFA branch's Armistice prize competition. Certainly I am no expert in the field of poetry as Peter Tabb might recall from our schooldays, though I know what I do like. Reading through one submission, I found that I was getting the 'Wow!' factor for it was very good in terms of structure, the powerful phrasing of words and the sense of the writer being in action. A very high mark was definitely on the cards, but then...!

I became suspicious! 'Googling' a few lines, I discovered that it was one of Siegfried Sassoon's, namely 'How to Die'. I have his 'Collected Poems' but I rarely get past reading 'The Kiss' and 'The Redeemer', so I surprised myself.

That very high mark vanished, and I contacted the other judge who had already carried out his marking. 'Oh!' was the response, 'I didn't pick up that, in any case I thought that it was load of rubbish and I gave the writer a low mark!'

Chester Cecil Church: What will 2012 bring on the Great War front? Well, hopefully in the search for Chester Church it will be that the DNA provided by some of his present day male relatives will help the Fromelles Project Team to identify his remains nearly 96 years after his death. Sadly one of those died a few months ago, but others were already providing the samples.

Enfin

As ever, many thanks to those who contributed to this Journal for their inputs, large and small. If you haven't managed to write up something this time, there is always the next Journal that is waiting for that article from you.

Regards
Barrie H Bertram
15th December, 2011

Journal Issue Dates For 2012

Planned issue dates for 2012 are shown below:

Issue	Month	Articles To BB	Posted Web/Mail
42	February 2012	10 th	15 th
43	April 2012	10 th	15 th
44	June 2012	10 th	15 th
45	August 2012	10 th	15 th
46	October 2012	10 th	15 th
47	December 2012	10 th	15 th

As in previous years I will advise if there are any changes for individual issues as each publication date approaches.

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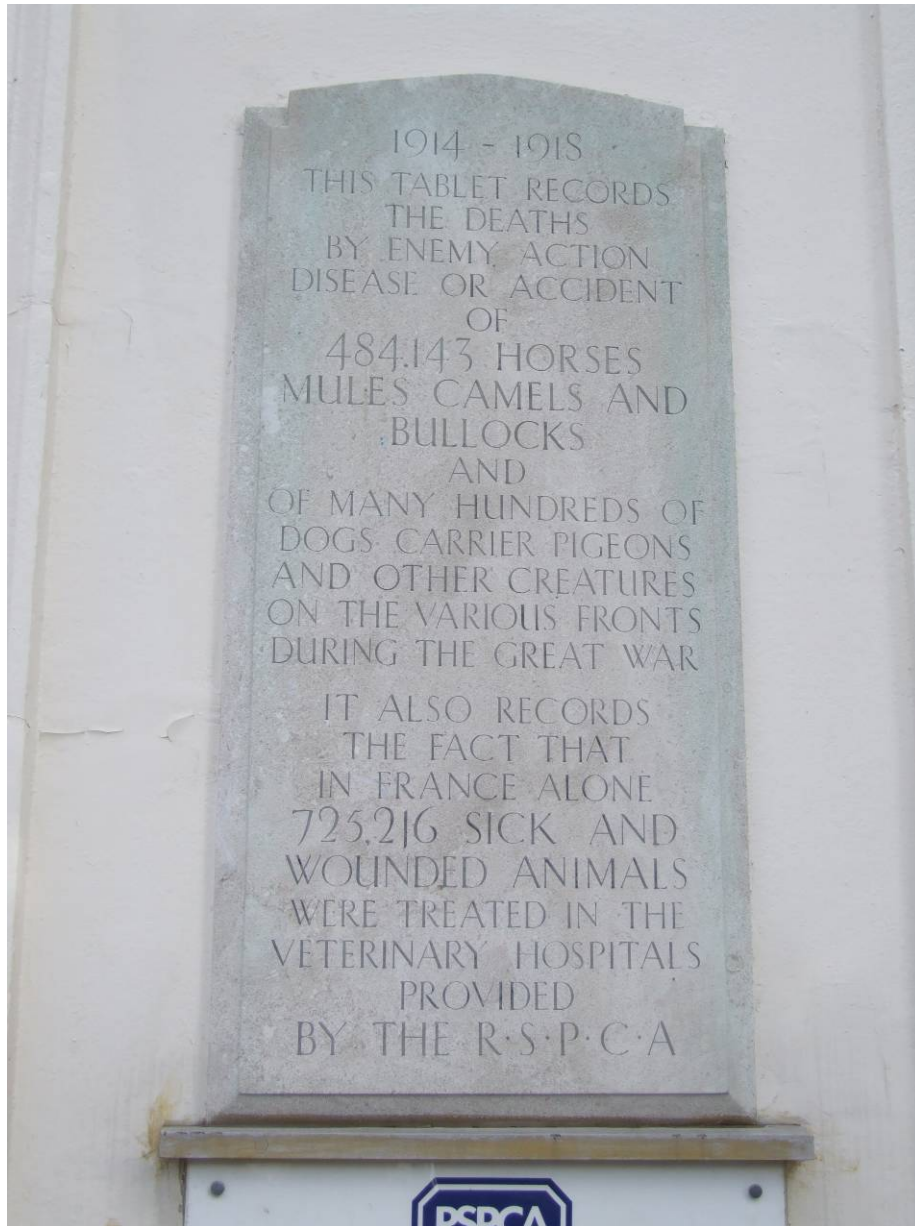
An exploration of Jersey's five years of occupation during the Second World War. How the occupation unfolded for Jersey and its people, examine the plans and actions of the occupying forces and consider how the legacy of occupation affects us to this day.



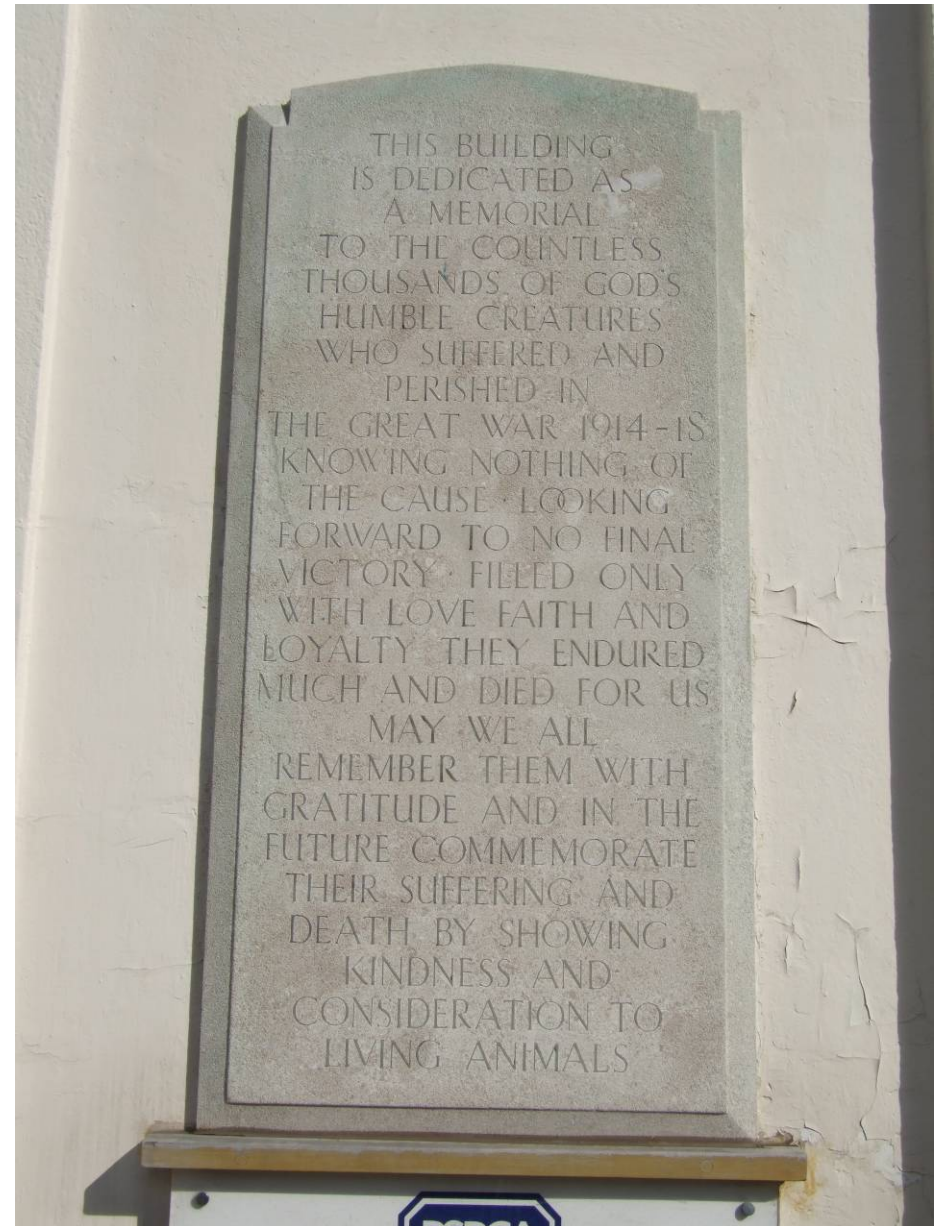
The next set of evening courses start in January 2012 and run sequentially, priced at £41 for each. To apply for the course call Highlands on 608655/608632 or complete and return the form available at <http://www.highlands.ac.uk/news/28/24/Current-Adult-Education-Prospectus.html>.

For more information contact Ian Ronayne on 859958 or email ironayne@gmail.com





1914 - 1918
THIS TABLET RECORDS
THE DEATHS
BY ENEMY ACTION
DISEASE OR ACCIDENT
OF
484,143 HORSES
MULES CAMELS AND
BULLOCKS
AND
OF MANY HUNDREDS OF
DOGS CARRIER PIGEONS
AND OTHER CREATURES
ON THE VARIOUS FRONTS
DURING THE GREAT WAR
IT ALSO RECORDS
THE FACT THAT
IN FRANCE ALONE
725,216 SICK AND
WOUNDED ANIMALS
WERE TREATED IN THE
VETERINARY HOSPITALS
PROVIDED
BY THE R.S.P.C.A



THIS BUILDING
IS DEDICATED AS
A MEMORIAL
TO THE COUNTLESS
THOUSANDS OF GOD'S
HUMBLE CREATURES
WHO SUFFERED AND
PERISHED IN
THE GREAT WAR 1914-18
KNOWING NOTHING OF
THE CAUSE LOOKING
FORWARD TO NO FINAL
VICTORY FILLED ONLY
WITH LOVE FAITH AND
LOYALTY THEY ENDURED
MUCH AND DIED FOR US
MAY WE ALL
REMEMBER THEM WITH
GRATITUDE AND IN THE
FUTURE COMMEMORATE
THEIR SUFFERING AND
DEATH BY SHOWING
KINDNESS AND
CONSIDERATION TO
LIVING ANIMALS

