



**A Highly Unusual and Colourful Medal Combination  
Guernsey's Engineer Rear-Admiral GW Le Page, DSO RN**

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Hello All

Well, it is that time of year when I start thinking of my New Year resolutions, and not surprisingly the one that I always come up with is to get better organised. I look around my study and think of moving the printer here or the PC there. The result is always the same. I get three-quarters of the way through the job and then hit the pile of paper that was too difficult to sort in the last shake up, and now I add to it with even more paper!

As I indicated in Journal 46, having discussed the move with a number of members I am trimming future Journals to four per annum as from February. It is a combination of the too frequent bursts of intellectual effort, a wish to spend that little more time on research, and to reduce the clashes with my occasional jaunts to France and elsewhere. Hopefully the Journals' quality can also improve, while I hope that in terms of quantity, a forty to fifty page document will still be generated.

What has been pleasing during the year is that people are waking up to what we Group members have been saying for several years and that the anniversary of the War is not far off. Daniel Benest efforts around the parish halls to promote Jersey's Roll of Honour is having some effect with the feedback that we're receiving, while Ian Ronayne's coach-loads of un-segregated Islanders visiting the battlefields helps bring home the Islands' contribution and sacrifices. Of course, we cannot manage what we find without the website which grows from strength to strength with Roger Frisby's considerable efforts. Meanwhile, first rate material keeps popping out from the woodwork, while there was more to the men and women who served than we can ever understand.

In one area this is particularly true, and that is the contribution that Islanders also made to the evolution of the Dominions and Colonies of the former British Empire. It is said for example that Canada became a nation at Vimy, while Australia and New Zealand did likewise at Gallipoli, but Channel Islanders did play their part in achieving that. Similarly, they were present in helping to shape many of the other countries that are now part of the Commonwealth and the United Nations. Too often, the focus on this type of contribution is on the 'great and the good' to the exclusion of 'lesser mortals', but perhaps we are shining a light on the latter?

Finally, I would wish everyone a Merry Christmas and express my hope for a peaceful New Year. My thanks go to all contributors, and hopefully we can continue to ensure that the Channel Islands do recognise their contribution during the Great War.

Now, I must get organised, where shall I put the printer?

### **The Front Cover**

Mark Bougourd is to be thanked for spotting the set of medals pictured on the front of this cover. The medals, awarded over time to Engineer Rear-Admiral George Wilfred Le Page DSO RN were recently put up for auction by medal specialists DNW. We thank them for the small article that appears on pages 34 to 35.

Nobody has yet advised me on the collective name for a group of nurses (perhaps it is a night-shift?), but the collection from which Journal 46's cover photograph came, was recently featured in the Jersey Evening Post in a centre-spread, along with Ian Ronayne getting some more well-earned publicity as a result.

## Revisiting a Very Gallant Padre

There is always a risk with doing 'cart before the horse' 'research' in that the facts later discovered will completely rubbish work that has been undertaken earlier. So, I approached Father Simon Knapp's service file (WO 339/23030) at the National Archive with some trepidation at the beginning of December, knowing that, under ideal circumstances, it should have been my first port of call. Had I written a load of codswallop?

Surprisingly, as it turned out on a first reading, the answer was no, and 'A Very Gallant Padre' (Journal 43) proved to be reasonably accurate, although there were undoubtedly gaps. Father Simon's file would however, provide additional information, and a few surprises, not least the appearance of a Mrs O'Brien, a sister-in-law, on the very first page, who was listed as his NOK! How that could be was explained in the following letter that she wrote to the War Office (WO) from 10 South Parade in Bath on the 11<sup>th</sup> September, 1917:

*'Gentlemen*

*As I have before said, I am the only relation that Father Knapp had, his father and mother died when he was a child. I married his eldest brother (who took the name of O'Brien) who died in 1882 and was [a] Captain in [the] 3<sup>rd</sup> Middlesex Regiment, and the remaining brother was killed in the South African War, unmarried. When Father Knapp was on his last leave, he said he had given my name as his only relation. I am quite sure there is no one else living. The Carmelite Prior in Kensington (Church Street) is asking to have the kit, as there are some church things in it.*

*Truly yours*

*Jeannette O'Brien'*

The letter indicates that she had previously contacted the WO, and this is corroborated by a letter on the 9<sup>th</sup> August where she listed her two children, a Major O'Brien in the Queen's Bays and RFC, and a Mrs George Owen Williams.

So, what of his eldest brother who was listed as John J Knapp in Jersey's 1861 Census? Well, it appears that he married Jeannette Anne Hodson as Thomas Knapp during the second quarter of 1876 in the Axminster area (BMD reference 5c 934), and at the time of the 1881 Census he was living at West Cliff (now Bitton House) House in West Teignmouth as Thomas Knapp O'Brien, aged 27 and having been born in Monkstone, Dublin. He seems to have been faring well as he was deriving an income from land, houses and the railways. Along with Jeannette, the two children were listed, Teresa Muriel born in the first quarter of 1877 (BMD reference Newton Abbot 5b 117) and Adrian Helyar Murrough Knapp born on the 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1880 (BMD reference Newton Abbot 5b 119).

As Jeannette O'Brien states, Thomas O'Brien died in 1882, and the Probate Register gives us the date as the 9<sup>th</sup> September. The Register states that he was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Royal Fusiliers, and this was just after the Cardwell reforms, for four London Gazette entries (24075, 24253, 24861 and 24861) chart his rise to Captain in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Middlesex Regiment between 1874 and 1880 as well as noting the name change to Knapp-O'Brien. The name change has proved to be useful as Thomas' death is referred to in

the Times personal columns of the 14<sup>th</sup> September, 1882. First, we can read that he died of consumption, but, it also appears that his, and therefore Simon's, father was a Captain in the Royal Navy! At this stage, research cannot go any further to confirm this, but a study of the Navy Lists will be necessary. But, it does explain the difficulty in finding him and the itinerate lifestyle of the family.

**(Author's Note:** With all the name changing, and there may be more to come, I've looked again at John J Knapp's Census entry on Ancestry, it does look as if the 'J' might be a 'T'.)

Turning briefly to the children, Teresa would marry a George Griffith Owen Williams in the Bridgwater area (reference 5c 641) in the third quarter of 1901, and then sight is lost of her. More can be found about Adrian however. His military career can be charted from at least seventeen London Gazettes over a period of twenty-three years from January, 1900 to October, 1923. During this period he was commissioned into the 3<sup>rd</sup> Welsh Regiment, transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays), had a spell with the 5<sup>th</sup> Royal Dublin Fusiliers, this followed by the Royal Flying Corps after learning to fly at Le Crotoy in 1915. However, before the Great War he was, for a period of three years up until late-1912, the ADC to the then Governor (Sir Édouard Percy Girouard) of the East African Protectorate (present day Kenya), at which point he appears to have settled there. His medal card shows that at the outbreak of war he was with the East African Mounted Regiment, and returning to Kenya afterwards, he died at Lumbwa on the 9<sup>th</sup> June, 1927.

Adrian had married a Monica Gwendolyn Underhill in 1915, she being the daughter of the Chief Cartographer of the Admiralty's Hydrographic Department. They had at least one daughter, Patricia, and two sons, the eldest being Terence Hugh, a Pilot Officer in the RAF who was killed when his Hurricane crashed near Debden in Essex on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 1939.

Who was Father Simon's 'remaining brother [who] was killed in the South African War'? As best as it can be ascertained, it appears to have been Charles John (or John Charles!) who was born on the 30<sup>th</sup> August, 1856. The Anglo-Boer War website carries the following extract from '*The Last Post - Roll of Officers who fell in South Africa 1899-1902*' by Mildred G Dooner and published by the Naval and Military Press:

*'[Captain John Charles Knapp] was killed in action in a reconnaissance from Ladysmith, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 1899. He was 43 years of age, and was a managing director of Rhodesia, Limited. He had been present at the battles of Elandslaagte and Lombard's Kop, and was an old hand in South African warfare. In 1877-78, Captain Knapp served with the Cape Mounted Rifles, and afterwards held a commission in the Cape Regular Infantry. As a pioneer of Bulawayo, he helped to organise the Rhodesian Horse, and was in the Matabele Campaign, commanding Gifford's Horse, when Colonel the Honourable Maurice Gifford was wounded. At the outbreak of the South African War, Captain Knapp, having volunteered for service, was given command of E Squadron of Imperial Light Horse, at the head of which he met his death. It is stated that he was the idol of his squadron. He was mentioned in despatches by Lieutenant General Sir G White, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1899, LG, 8<sup>th</sup> February, 1901. Captain Knapp was a fellow of the Royal Colonial Institute, his name was inscribed on a memorial tablet in the hall of the building in Northumberland Avenue, London. (see Major Taunton)'*



Clearly Captain John Charles Knapp's age is consistent with Charles John's Date Of Birth in St Helier's Baptism Register, although there does seem to be some confusion as to where he was killed, be it Lancer's Nek, Mounted Infantry Hill or Long Valley as is shown on the headstone (pictured left). Interestingly, during the 1896 Matabele Rebellion campaign he would lead a scouting party in support of an irregular column led by a certain Lieutenant Colonel Herbert Plumer who had previously been the DAAG in Jersey. There also appeared to be talk, at some stage, of relocating his remains, with those of three others, alongside Cecil Rhodes grave in the Matopos Hills. It appears from various accounts that John Charles was a very big influence in the creation of Rhodesia, and perhaps merits more research. The headstone at Ladysmith (and photographed by Chris and Petra Lombard) does prompt the question however, of who provided for it to be erected?

It may be thought that a look into the lives of Thomas O'Brien and Charles John Knapp is a digression. I would suggest otherwise, for it brings a further dimension into Father Simon's background. For example, would the news of Charles' death in November, 1899 have influenced Father Simon to volunteer his own services in South Africa? Would the circumstances of Thomas' death at the age of 27 further compound Simon's 'hypochondria'?

What is also striking is that the Knapp family appears to have had money and connections. For example, search for Bitton House pictures and one will see a substantial property that is now the local council offices. After 1871 it was no longer possible to purchase a commission, yet there would still be a degree of patronage for to enable those from 'good families' to join, and certainly in the case of joining a prestigious cavalry regiment such as Adrian O'Brien did with the Bays, such support would be vital, along with a private income that could maintain a string of polo ponies! Perhaps some money found its way to support Father Simon's travels to the USA and elsewhere also?

**(Author's note:** Guernseyman John Le Marchant, who was the instigator of the RMA at Sandhurst, also commanded the Bays between 1799 and 1803).

We turn to the remainder of the file of which much is given over to matters that resulted from his death. However, there is a letter dated the 8<sup>th</sup> October, 1914 requiring him to go to Salisbury Plain to take up his chaplaincy at 10/- per day, a figure that remained unchanged for the next three years. Having previously noted that he was soon in France, he soon returned to England. On the 28<sup>th</sup> December it was reported that he was suffering from influenza, and two weeks later on the 11<sup>th</sup> January, 1915 he came home to convalesce. During this period his address was 61 Warwick Street in London (just behind Regent Street), and he would remain until he was sent a travel warrant on the 13<sup>th</sup> March, 1915 and instructed to go to Southampton.

As regards his death, it took place at No. 47 Casualty Clearing Station and its Roman Catholic padre, Chaplain Patrick Keenan would have the invidious duty of dealing with his possessions, amongst which he listed:

- One pair of scissors (in a case)
- One religious medallion
- One electric torch
- One pair of spectacles (in a case)
- One cigarette case (damaged)
- One notebook
- One tunic
- One pair of boots
- One cufflink
- One rosary

Other packages of personal effects were referred to, and it is possible that the Adjutant of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Irish Guards dealt with those. In any case, the contents are not listed.

There is some communication between Mrs O'Brien, the War Office (WO) and Father Ambrose Fatcher, the Prior at the Carmelite Church regarding the disposal of Father Simon's effects. Mrs O'Brien did not wish to have them, while the WO required her permission to pass them to Father Ambrose who would have liked to get the church's property back. This does prompt the question as to whether padres turned up for duty with their vestments and chalices borrowed, 'for the duration', from their churches, or whether they drew 'Kits, Padre, C of E, for the use of' from the Quarter-Master Stores? In the latter case, it would have been clearly necessary to cater for other religions.

Father Simon's estate had to be closed and sorting this out fell on Father Ambrose's shoulders. The Probate Register quotes a sum of £590.8s.7d, and this would have included outstanding monies from the Army. A cheque for the sum of £41.6s.3d was sent to Father Ambrose reflecting a Gratuity of £30, Allowances of £11.9s.4d, and an unchanged amount of daily pay of 10/- for the 1<sup>st</sup> August, 1917. Of course there were Deductions, no Army functions without these as some of us know to our cost, and so 7/4 went to Servant's wages while another 8/9 was to pay the Groom's wages.

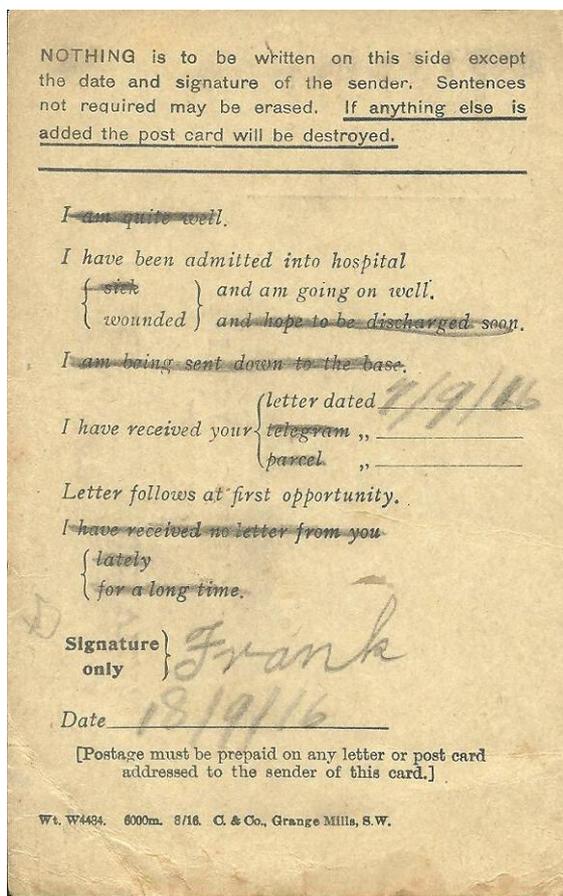
In some minor respects Father Simon's file was slightly disappointing, one such area being the lack of citations for his DSO and MC. But overall, and on a positive note, it adds to our knowledge of his life and background rather than causing us to revise what we may think. But of course, there could still be errors, not least in the assumption that Charles John Knapp and John Charles Knapp are one and the same man. To confirm this, the Royal Colonial Institute's successor, the Royal Commonwealth Society has been contacted with John Knapp's biographical details being sought. Similarly, the Irish Guards have also been approached regarding any information that they might be able to provide on the stained glass window. We shall see!

Finally, having thought that the Times 'In Memoriam' entries had finished in 1947/1948, I have now discovered that they had not. Although Hermione's did finish then, for several years more until 1960, on the anniversary of the Irish Guards' battle at Ginchy-Lesboeuifs on the 15<sup>th</sup> September, 1916, a notice was placed in memory of the men who fought and died. Additionally, Father Simon was affectionately remembered by 'CR'

(later 'CAR') for dying while giving absolution to the wounded of both sides. However, the entry referred to him as Father Knapp O'Brien.

### Wounded Frank

"I have been admitted into hospital wounded and am going on well". So wrote Frank in a Field Service Postcard on the 18<sup>th</sup> September, 1916 to a Miss A Le Liard in the parish of St Brelade in Jersey. But who was Frank?



As best as could be determined, Miss Le Liard's forename was Ann (Marie), the daughter of Jean François and Anne Marie Liard, who had come to Jersey from France. According to the 1901 Census, Ann was 5 years old, but she did not feature in the 1911 Census. However, it was possible that she was with either of her parents' families in France at that time. Meanwhile, among Ann's siblings in 1901, there was also listed Jean François, aged 7, and Yves Marie, aged 6. All three were born in St Saviour.

Yves Marie could be found in Jersey's 1919 Roll of Service, and he had been a Rifleman with the King's Royal Rifle Corps (KRRC). On investigation, his regimental number was R/16823, he was from St Saviour, and had been wounded, probably in late May, 1916 given that his name was on the Times Casualty list of the 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1916. Although no service or pension records appear to exist for him, he was listed in the roll of Silver War Badge recipients as well as the Medal Cards.

The SWB Roll (National Archive file series WO 329/2958 to WO/3255 covers all the SWB issues, and as with the medal references, the trick is to relate the SWB reference on the medal card to the particular volume) is useful. Not only does it identify the number of the badge that is issued, it also gives the name, rank and service number of the individual, his unit in many cases, the reason for discharge, and, most importantly, a date of enlistment and discharge, of particular value if service records no longer exist. In Yves case, his SWB number was 118072, he enlisted on the 16<sup>th</sup> November, 1915 and was discharged on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 1916. Unfortunately, his Battalion was not listed, but the dates neatly bracket the Times Casualty List date, and imply that Yves was barely a month or so at the front before being wounded.

In addition to Yves, the 1919 Roll of Service also listed Francis John Le Liard who was from St Saviour too. He also served with the KRRC, rising to the rank of Corporal and with the regimental number R/6102. He had also been wounded, but in his case, the record card showing his medal entitlement, that included the 1914-15 Star, also notes that he had been discharged. Again, no other service or pension records appeared to exist, but, there was a SWB reference, and following this up, his badge number was

29936 and his dates of enlistment and discharge were the 26<sup>th</sup> October, 1914 and the 26<sup>th</sup> February, 1917 respectively. The Field Service Postcard's date appears to 'sit' conveniently with the later date. Looking at the dates, it is thus likely that Frank was wounded in early-September, 1916. While there is no indication of which Battalion of the KRRC Francis John belonged to, a number were in action, at that time, at Delville Wood, Guillemont and Pozières, all phases of the Battle of the Somme.



In trying to identify Frank, it was most likely therefore that Jean François was also Francis John, who adopted the anglicised version of his forenames when he enlisted. So, it is suggested that Francis John was the writer of the Field Service Postcard that was sent to his sister and which is pictured. Was this analysis correct?

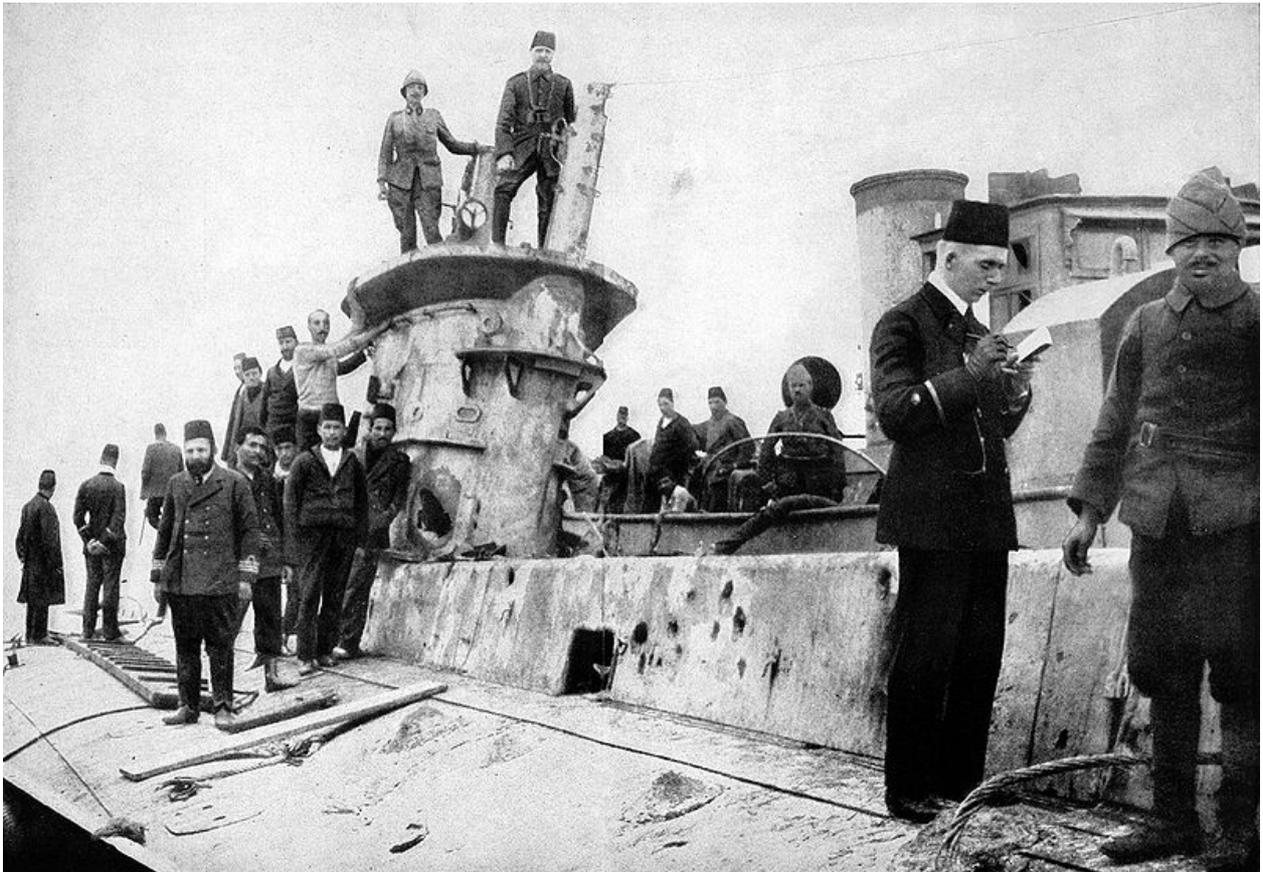
Having no need to retain the card, I forwarded it to a Le Liard family member who, I am glad to say, confirmed my assumptions as to the names. It turns out that Frank also set up Jersey's first tourism board

Thanks go to Andrew Brooks of the WFA North Lancashire Branch for supplying the postcard, and hopefully one or two others in the future.

### Naval Gazing

After a gap of fourteen months, my recent trip to Kew has allowed some further Naval Gazing, albeit with slightly fewer service records than previously collected. As ever there are a range of happenings to the latest batch of men (see pages 40 to 42). Surprisingly this time there is comparatively little in terms of 'spells in the cells', and certainly no Hard Labour! If you are unaware, after I have gone through the records, I forward them, via Mark Bougourd who takes a copy, to the Jersey Archive. That way there is a copy in both Islands.

Submariners feature, with Peter Querotret and John Le Boutillier who were lost on E3 and E14 respectively. In the case of E3, it was the first sinking by one submarine of another, while the present seabed location of E14 has recently been discovered. There is a third submariner on the list, namely Charles Emile Gosling, who served on E15, and was twice fortunate. E15 was disabled by Turkish gunfire a week before the Gallipoli landings and then beached. During this action, some seven members of the crew were killed and the remainder taken prisoner. Held in captivity for the next three and a half years, a further six would die, the remainder, including Charles, eventually returning to the UK in December, 1918.



**The Turks inspecting E15**

Of course, there were also a couple of 'Runners', namely Francis Philip Queree and Leopold George Godfrey. Leopold went 'On the Run' on his 24<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1910, but reappeared later in the Newfoundland Regiment with the regimental number 4068. Francis had disappeared in 1903 after eight months in the RN, having transferred from the Royal Marine Light Infantry to be trained as a Blacksmith. Eleven years later at the outbreak of War he turned up at the Recruiting Sergeant's desk and enlisted in the Royal Army Service Corps. That it was him is undoubted, even though he had replied 'No' to the question of any previous military service. He stated that his trade was Blacksmith while his 'army' age in terms of years and days was consistent with his 'naval' date of birth.

Francis Quentric appears twice, because he enlisted twice and with a two year difference in his years of birth. He enlisted as a 15½ year old Boy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class in September, 1917 and was discharged two months later with severe Otitis Media in his right ear. Just over one year later he again joined the Navy and was now more than

three years older! He appears to have served well into the 1930s, as he received his Long Service and Good Conduct medal in 1934, while he would die in the Worthing area in January, 1994. But strangely, the peacock tattoo referred to in 1917 no longer existed in 1919!

The last man that merits a little more attention is Wilfred John Torpy, and to be honest, I am totally puzzled. In fact, I feel a letter coming on! One starts simply enough as Wilfred turned up at HMS Impregnable becoming a Boy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 1914, having given his date of birth as the 14<sup>th</sup> August, 1898 well before the war clouds were on the horizon. His engagement was for 12 years as from his eighteenth birthday. Looking through his record, it was one of continuous and unblemished service until at least the 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1929, at which point all of his details were transferred from the ledger to a card. His service included a period of secondment (September, 1925 to September, 1928) to the Royal New Zealand Navy. Although it is obviously not shown on the ledger record, he was one of those who survived the sinking of the aircraft carrier HMS Courageous in September, 1939 (incidentally, Frank PL Desvergez was another survivor).

So far so good, but the research starts to go pear-shaped when his naval data is compared to his Baptism Register, Census and Occupation Registration Card information. The indications are that he was born in 1893 or 1894, and in fact, the Registration Card states the date of birth as the 14<sup>th</sup> August, 1893! It seems then that he took five years off his age, when many would add one or two years to join up? One must wonder whether a 21-year old would pass as a 16-year old.

Now, the story becomes more complex. There are no further instances of Wilfred John Torpy in the 1901 and 1911 censuses. Yet, on the 30<sup>th</sup> December, 1916, a Munitions Worker Wilfred Torpy, of 34 Dorset Street in St Helier, travels to Southampton. Some time later, according to the Silver War Badge Roll, a 40801 Private Wilfred John Torpy of the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment served between the 13<sup>th</sup> May, 1918 and the 12<sup>th</sup> May, 1919, was wounded and received SWB B223200. The Roll also stated that he was 23<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> years old when he enlisted, thus putting his likely date of birth as August, 1894. However, if this Wilfred was a Jerseyman he would have been 'deemed to have enlisted' a year earlier when the Island's Military Service Act came into force and his year of birth would have been 1893. Thus, it may be that the Soldier, the Munitions Worker and the Wilfred born in 1893, were the same man. If so, the 'Wilfred born in 1898' maintained his alias for a very long time!

### **Captain Basil Howard Spear(-)Morgan**

Having discovered that Captain Spear Morgan had died in Jersey in September, 1919, and that there was no obvious Island connection, his War Office file (WO 339/34069) was recently visited. It appears that he enlisted as a Private in the KRRC with the regimental number R/7636 on the 24<sup>th</sup> October, 1914 and by the 24<sup>th</sup> January, 1915 when he was discharge to be commissioned, had reached Sergeant. We next find him as a Second Lieutenant being hospitalised on the 12<sup>th</sup> November, 1915 before being shipped home to the UK five weeks later having caught paratyphoid, enteric fever and gonorrhoea! I presume that he was at Gallipoli, with either the 6<sup>th</sup> or the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Borderers. In any case, he was with the 1<sup>st</sup> at Monch-le-Preux when seriously wounded in the head. It was considered touch and go for a while but he seemed to have made a good recovery though occasionally having fits. He was able to write lucidly. As

to his presence in Jersey, it was stated that he was on convalescent leave and that he was staying at a private nursing home. As a result he cannot be added to the JRoH.

### **CWGC Non-Commemorations**

As mentioned in the last Journal, further research has been 'parked' until early in the New Year in respect to John Breban, Samuel WT Lindsey and Harold P De Ste Croix.

#### **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  
Marquis, Jack H\*  
Lander, Charles HR \*  
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 \*  
Le Morzédec, Henri

#### **Not Submitted**

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

#### **Pending**

Owen, Guy  
De Ste Croix, Harold P  
Lindsey, Samuel WT  
Breban, John

#### **TBA**

Ferrer, Amant  
Anderson, Frank B  
Touzel, Walter H

#### **Rejected**

Adams, Frank H  
Vibert, John E

#### **With the CWGC**

Rundle, Cubitt S  
Godfray, Edwin de V  
Vautier, Alfred P\*  
De Gruchy, Alfred

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

### **From Gauche Wood to Grouville**

The act of seeing men killed was invariably traumatic to a soldier when first he saw it, and only gradually might he get inured to it. A fatalistic regard for death might evolve as mates 'bought it' in an attack, a trench raid, or even the predictable 'two-minute hate' from the German artillery batteries a few miles away. Burials on the battlefield were quickly carried out, frequently in the dark and just out of the enemy's sight behind some cover. Grave marking was done with whatever was to hand, a man's rifle driven into the ground being the most obvious means, and a note, saying who he was, affixed in some way. If the grave's location could be recorded in terms of a map reference, so much the better.

The Grave Registration Units (GRU) would follow, where the fighting allowed it, to properly record those graves and, if possible, recover bodies to concentration cemeteries. There were of course the battlefield cemeteries, dotted around France and Flanders, that units had started and which were sometimes added to, while larger cemeteries evolved due to their locations adjacent to centres of medical treatment. Of the latter, Dozinghem, Rouen and Etaples readily spring to mind while Tyne Cot can be regarded as a concentration cemetery although it commenced as a battlefield cemetery

as evidenced by some of the graves that seem to be laid out haphazardly near the Cross of Sacrifice. In Tyne Cot's case, the concentration took place post-war.

The GRUs would place temporary wooden markers and where a man had been identified or not, stamped metal strips (the fore-runner of Dymo-tape) would be affixed to a marker recording whatever details could be found. In the case where cemeteries were established, the grave markers remained until cemeteries were properly developed by the IWGC (fore-runner of the CWGC) into the excellent plots that we see today. The markers were replaced by the headstones, and offered to the men's families.

Of course, many men remained on the battlefields, and following the war, these fields were 'swept' between three and six times to find missing men. It was a grisly task for many of the Exhumation Companies that were formed and who had to perform it. Members 'enjoyed' good rates of pay, but quite often had no war service experience and had been constrained by the upper age limits set by the army. As well as recovering bodies, many little more now than skeletons or dismembered parts, a process often carried out in less than hygienic circumstances, identification would have to be found amongst rotting and putrid flesh, if at all possible, while the locations would also have to be noted, one suspects for future possible identification. One wonders how many of these volunteers also suffered traumas and nightmares in the years following. I would not have relished the task, even for a daily bottle of rum, never mind a tot!

Bearing this in mind, for a few years I have been somewhat perplexed about what happened to Second Lieutenant Edward de Faye, Tank Corps, who was killed on the 1<sup>st</sup> December, 1917 and is commemorated on the Louverval Memorial. He was killed 'leading his tank' during the British response to the German counter-attack that had followed Cambrai. For the British, the offensive had ceased, and in the case of the Tank Corps, they were metaphorically 'packing their bags and going home'. Wherever possible, both serviceable and unserviceable tanks were being loaded on to trains and taken back to the 'Tankodrome' near Albert. The Germans attacked on the 30<sup>th</sup> November, and the British started scratching around trying to plug the gaps that were opening up in the line. That day whatever tanks were around, were mustered with the view of attacking to the east of Havrincourt the following morning to eliminate the risk of a sizeable portion of the British Army being cut off and having to surrender.



**Second Lieutenant  
Edward de Faye**

At 06.30 hours the next day, a composite force of tanks went in to support cavalry in clearing Gouzeaucourt, Gauche Wood, Villers-Guislain and a number of other villages to the north. The tanks primarily came from 'H' Battalion, but there were some from 'D' and also 'A' to which Edward belonged. Two other Battalions had tanks on the move, but they never arrived, having run out of fuel!

However, some time during that day, Edward and his driver, Albert Voice were killed in the vicinity of Gauche Wood. What happened after was unclear but Albert is also on Louverval, so both men's bodies were never found. But here, the story gets confusing because of different phraseology, does 'leading a tank' mean that he was outside of it? Meanwhile a Corporal reported that the tank had been outside of the Wood.

The tank had been hit by a shell, *'Just after we came out [of Gauche Wood]'*, and along with the two men killed, two more had been wounded. Now, given that a tank had crew of eight men, there were just four men still fit, and possibly a little concussed to say the least. Were the four fit men going to hang around to bury the two dead men, or were they going to head back the way they had come to where they might be treated? One would suggest that the latter was the preferred solution. After all, the Germans might advance again.

But we come to a cross that is in Grouville Church, and had clearly made its way, somehow, from Gauche Wood, for the accompanying inscription reads:

*'This cross marked the grave of 2nd Lieutenant Edward Francis de Faye of the Royal Tank Corps in Gauche Wood, Nr Gouzeaucourt, Cambrai.'*

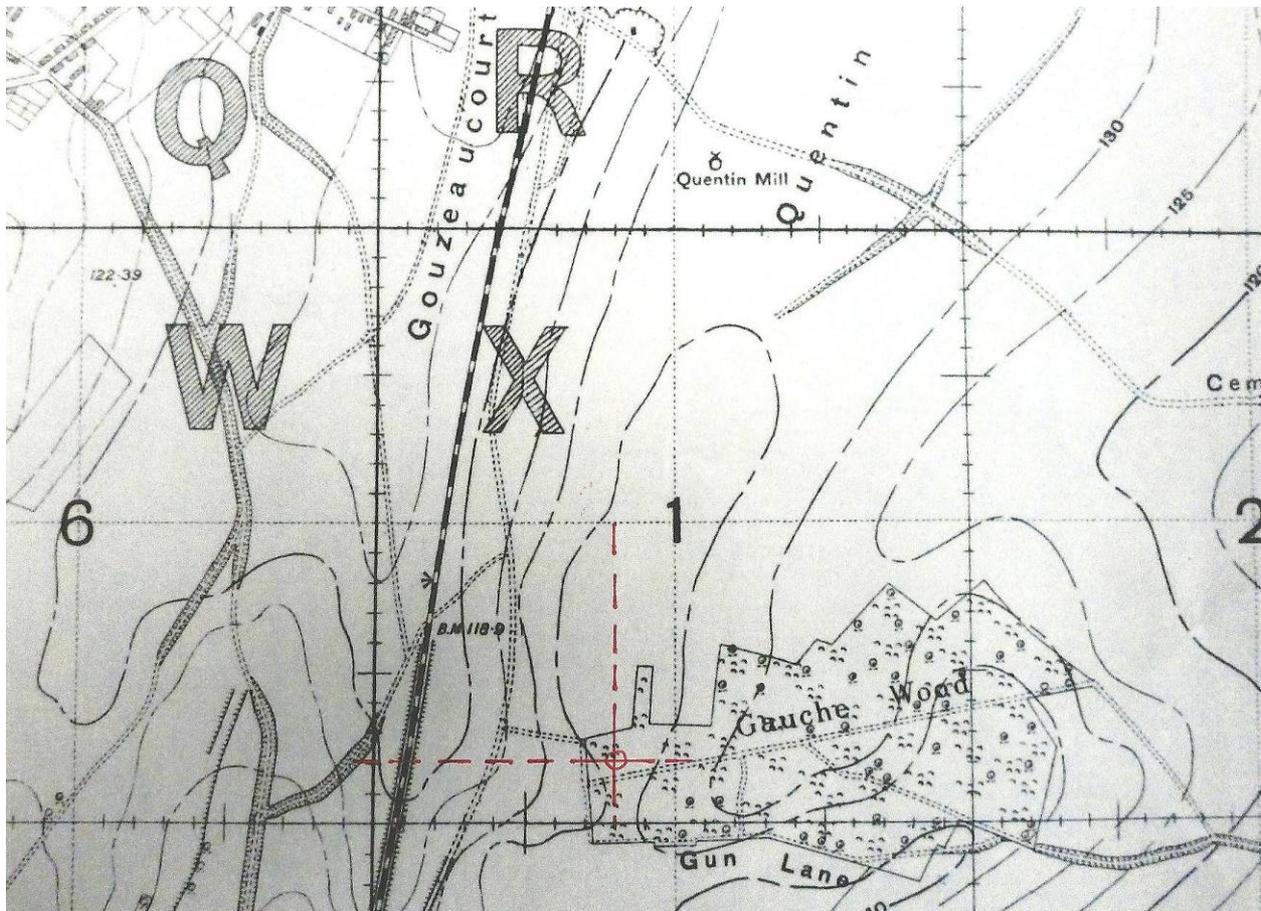
So, it did appear that a certain date Edward had been buried, and his grave had been marked for others, it is hoped, to find and to recover his body, and presumably Albert Voice's, and then to give it a proper burial in a cemetery, even though with a full year of war ahead, the outcome could not be assured. But, whereas the tank was 'out', Edward was 'in'. If the assumption that his crew did not bury him is correct, and tanks would not have carried a supply of crosses 'just in case', then, it would have been a GRU that did, and probably about a week later once the front line again stabilised between Gauche Wood and Villers-Guislain. Burying him just inside of the wood appears logical, and a burial party would have had some cover from the enemy's view.

Yet, at some stage the cross went one way and his body, we assume, another way. It is possible that in the subsequent year during the fighting, that first went one way, and then the other that the cross was displaced. Or, eventually when the Exhumation companies turned up, somehow his body and cross separated. As a result, by the time of his re-burial, he may have become an 'Unknown British Officer' or even an 'Unknown British Soldier'. It may have been further complicated by the possibility that he was wearing overalls to avoid soiling his uniform with oil and dirt inside the tank.

Trying to answer how the cross made it to Grouville seemed the way forward. However the family member whom I wrote to in the summer of 2011 never responded, and so any research lay dormant. But, by chance the Group was contacted by another member who identified that she was Edward's great-niece three months ago, and so the baton has been picked up again. Family members were being asked of what they know or recall, even though it is a very long shot, while I was in touch with my CWGC contact regarding the cross' existence. While we had some differing views of whether it was a grave marker and how it reached Grouville, he suggested that there might be some information in Edward's War Office file at Kew.

Initially drawing a blank, I did not associate E Faye as being EF de Faye, his file (WO 339/59540) was indeed under E Faye, and seeming appropriate, on the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death, I found the final line on his 'Casualty Return – Active Service' Form stating that he was 'Buried Sheet 57.c.SE.X.1.c.8.2'! The entry was dated 4<sup>th</sup> January, 1918, but it was clearly transcribed a document (a burial report?) of two weeks earlier.

Plotting this on a copy of relevant part of the 57.c. map (see overleaf) shows that he was buried 'in' thus confirming the cross' inscription.



What now? Having asked the CWGC in the past to clarify identified 'Jersey Unknowns' on the basis of knowing the 'to', i.e. their headstone, and asking for the 'from', i.e. where they were found, the question has been reversed, as the 'from' is known. The presumption is that his body and any others buried at X.1.c.8.2 have been moved to a cemetery and an identified grave. The question has now been put to the CWGC to see if they can advise on where any bodies found in Gauche Wood were moved to. Like everything else, let us wait and see.

**Billet D'Etat for Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January, 1915  
By Liz Walton**

I was lucky enough to come across a copy of this Billet for sale for under £2 and it contains some fascinating material giving an insight into island life at this time despite only being sixteen pages long. Among other items it contains a letter to the Bailiff from General Sir Reginald Hart the Lieutenant Governor (overleaf) who gave his address as Headquarters Office, Guernsey, rather than the more usual Government House or Lieutenant Governor's Office. It relates to Sir Reginald's wish that there should be a unit at the Front bearing the Island's name, and how the Guernsey Irish Battalions and eventually the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry (RGLI) came into being.

It states:

'Sir

1. I have the honour to inform you that I have received the following telegram from the War Office:-

*“As soon as States have obtained the requisite number of volunteers these men should be enlisted into the regular army, and from the date of enlistment the Imperial Government will provide pay, rations, separation allowance and pensions under British Army conditions.”*



2. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> instant, during your absence in England I sent the Lieutenant-Bailiff a copy of the War Office letter 91/Channel Isles/258 (AGI) dated 27<sup>th</sup> November, 1914, in which the Army Council asks whether Guernsey in co-operation with Jersey can raise and maintain in the field a complete Battalion, and if this is impracticable, whether Jersey and Guernsey, together or separately, will undertake to prepare and train from the Militia, a force for the purpose of furnishing drafts of officers and men to selected regiments.

3. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> December I called a meeting of Militia Commanding Officers, at which the Lieutenant-Bailiff was present, to discuss the above War Office proposals, and after going into all the pros and cons of these proposals it was the unanimous opinion

that the formation of a Channel Islands Battalion should be adopted if Jersey would agree, and that failing this, two Companies of Infantry should be offered to the War office to be attached to a selected Battalion to be called Nos 1 and 2 Guernsey Companies. The alternative suggestion of the War Office, viz. sending drafts to a selected Regiment, was thrown out as Commanding Officers stated that their officers and men were totally opposed to such a proposal.

4. I wrote officially to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of Jersey on the 7<sup>th</sup> instant conveying to him the above meeting and asking him for his co-operation in the matter, and urging the formation of a Channel Islands Battalion, as I feel that this is the best way for the Channel Isles to be represented in this great war. I also suggested to His Excellency that perhaps Jersey and Guernsey might be able to offer between them the personnel for a Heavy Battery. I made this suggestion as the Officer commanding the Guernsey RGA&E Pointed out to me that many of his men wished to be represented. I have received a reply saying that the matter was to be discussed by the States of Jersey, and that meetings are being held. I am still corresponding with the Lieutenant-Governor of Jersey and I sincerely hope that eventually a Channel Islands Battalion will be formed and that the personnel for a Heavy Battery will be sent to the Expeditionary Force, but from the returns received from Commanding Officers I fear at present that prospects are not very promising. The personnel of a company is 221 NCOs and men, and so far 300 only have volunteered of which 259 have been passed by Medical Officers as fit for active service abroad<sup>1</sup>. You will see therefore that, roughly speaking, there are only sufficient personnel to form one Company. As regards the personnel for a Heavy Battery the Guernsey and Alderney Militia Artillery have responded to the number of 131, and if Jersey does equally well there seems no doubt that a Battery can

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<sup>1</sup> Many were rejected because of their small stature, as Guernsey men of that generation tended to be smaller and more slightly built than their mainland counterparts.

*be formed and you may be sure that I shall strongly urge its acceptance by the War Office.*

*5. The position of affairs now seems to me to be:-*

*(a) That the military authorities have done everything possible to further the wish of the Island to send a contingent overseas.*

*(b) That it now remains for the local civil authorities to seriously take the matter in hand.*

*I would suggest therefore for your consideration the advisability of calling a special meeting of the States at a very early date to thoroughly discuss the matter and devise means to carry through the patriotic resolution passed by that Assembly on the 14<sup>th</sup> October, 1914.*

*I need hardly point out how very important this question is, and I feel sure you will agree with me that for the credit of the Island alone everything possible should be done to include Guernsey in the new chapter of the Empire's history.*

*I can only add that you may rely on me to continue to support you in any and every effort you may make to attain the end which I am sure you all have at heart, and I shall be only too pleased to attend a meeting of the States and address it if I can in any way further the object desired.*

*I have &c., &c.*

*REGD. C. HART, General  
Lieutenant-Governor'*

We now know that the idea of a Channel Islands Battalion never materialised, but that both Jersey and Guernsey sent men to form battalions within Irish regiments. Then when the RGLI was formed in 1916, survivors from the Guernsey Irish Battalions transferred to the RGLI where there was no problem with numbers because conscription had been brought in by this stage. The Royal Guernsey Artillery and Engineers (RGA&E) did not join with their Jersey counterparts, but were formed in to the 9<sup>th</sup> Divisional Ammunition Column and posted to the 9<sup>th</sup> (Scottish) Division after the War Office turned down the offer of a Heavy Artillery Battalion. However Hart's patriotism is very evident here with his mention of 'a new chapter of the Empire's history' and 'this great war.'

The next item in the Billet is a very practical one relating to the housing of the Militia during a prolonged period of mobilisation. Julius Bishop, Treasurer to the States of Guernsey asked in a letter dated December, 1914 for a credit of £500 to be opened for additional expenses incurred as a result of this. He states that though the men could be accommodated under canvas in summer, when the colder weather arrived it became necessary to commandeer houses, and this entailed expenses such as rental, compensation to house owners, upkeep and repair. This was passed by the States.

The next major item dealt with the previous Lieutenant Governor, Major General HM Lawson's desire for the formation of a '...strong, centrally controlled Police Force for the whole island' to ensure the preservation of law and order. His suggestion that the Parish police should form the nucleus of this new force met with a mixed reaction. St Peter Port

agreed to offer six Assistant Constables for the duration of the war but the Vale and St Sampson's only had one man each and he was needed for parish duties. St Martin's also only had one man who was stationed at the Parish Hall and doubled up as caretaker there so he couldn't be released either.

It was decided that the six St Peter Port men would be accepted, and that in addition they would need one Inspector, two sergeants, two Corporals and eleven Assistant Constables. They would be permitted to ride bicycles which they would have to repair and maintain themselves but for which they would receive an allowance. The constables would receive 25 shillings per week plus a 2 shilling bicycle allowance while the Inspector would receive £5 per week.

A final small item deals with a request for additional funds to pay former quarrymen. The quarries closed down soon after war broke out as the granite could not be shipped out and as a consequence many men became jobless. Money was needed to set up a Relief Work scheme whereby these men could be offered work repairing the island's roads for a fixed wage. This would not be needed for long because as more men were called up so unemployment levels dropped.

The subtext of all of these items gives an insight into island life at this period, showing how provision had to be made for various changes that happened as a result of the war even though they did not form a direct part of it. Life was changing rapidly, and we now still live with the results of these changes.

### **Airmen's Records**

At long last it seems, the records for Airmen (i.e. Other Ranks) who served in the Royal Air Force (RAF) during the Great War have surfaced at the National Archive at Kew. While the Records are indeed a help, many look to be a little lightweight in terms of content. However, we must not forget that they were only created as from April, 1918.

Having set out to look at a number of Jerseymen, the first thing to understand is that the records have not yet been digitised, and that they are retained in some 2,800 folders of varying thickness. It is not possible to search for all those born in Jersey or who enlisted in St Peter Port and so the effort in finding an individual's Record is manual.

The complete series is covered by the reference AIR 79, and the folders are then numbered with the obvious sequence of AIR 79/1, AIR 79/2 and so on. As to file sizes, AIR 79/104 contains the records for some seventy Airmen with numbers in the range 7931 to 8000, while AIR 79/256 contains one hundred and twenty five records in the range 24651 to 24775. To find Airman Bloggs, one needs to start with his name to find that his reference was AIR 79/256/24733. However, seeking to read his record, the file AIR 79/256 (and not AIR 79/256/24733) would have to be ordered in the Reading Room, so, a Reader's Ticket is required.

The logistics of looking at the records of two or three Airmen, say, is not onerous, but it becomes more so if one wants to do a much larger number such as forty or fifty. This is because of the need to keep the files moving between their receipt, reading and then their return while placing orders for the next batch of files to be consulted. So, some very good preparation is required beforehand. When I have done naval rating records I have listed them by number, and I would suggest, that this method is followed for

Airmen's records, but also ensuring that the listing is in folder order so that folders are not subject to 'double-handling' if there are two or more airmen within as the subject of research. There may also be a 'folder retrieval penalty' in that the Archive might only allow so many folders to be retrieved during any one day, so be aware of that.

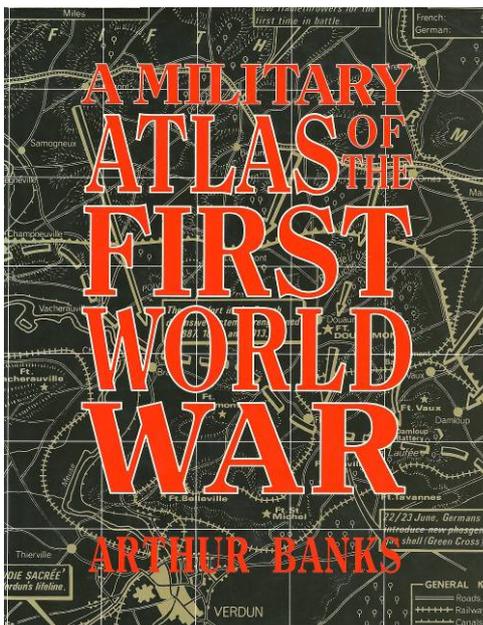
The records include the men absorbed from the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS), their numbers no longer being preceded by the letter 'F' and now having added 200,000 to them (F7561 in the RNAS becoming 207561 in the RAF, although there are some exceptions to this rule). As to 'old hands' from the Royal Flying Corps (RFC), they retained their numbers, and in some of the earlier files (such as AIR 79/6 for example) Army attestation forms sit alongside the RAF record cards.

Turning to individual 'Jersey Airmen', I was looking for a number of names such as the bigamist Raymond de la Faye Biard, the con man 'Gorgeous' George Le Vée, Charles Anthoine Remon and Thomas Bennett. In Raymond's case, it was interesting to note that his Jersey born wife Lizzie was living in Bayswater and they were still married, but, he had transferred from the Army. One of George's stays at one of His Majesty's Prisons was noted, while he seemed to transfer in trades four times in very short order. Charles Remon's time in the RAF indicates prior Army service, and we can now delete one of two entries for him.

As to Thomas Bennett, with the service number 448, he was clearly one of the RFC's 'old hands'. He had joined the RFC on the 15<sup>th</sup> October, 1912 having previously served for nine months as a territorial in the London Regiment's 25<sup>th</sup> (City of London) Cyclist Battalion. He must have been amongst the first troops to get to France as he arrived there on the 13<sup>th</sup> August, 1914, while he was awarded the DCM while serving as an Observer just over a year later before being wounded. He was born in Battersea, but I have since found that his parents, Thomas Daniel and Matilda Jane, were Jersey born.

Where relevant the JRoS entries for these four and others checked out will be amended when analyses into their records are complete.

## Book Reviews



### **A Military Atlas of the First World War By Arthur Banks Pen and Sword Books (Leo Cooper)**

One of my most frequent bugbears in reading books concerns the quality of the maps provided to support the text. Having recently been given this book, I can say that I am highly delighted with it. But, there is a problem! It is long out of print. Originally published in 1975 and reprinted in 1989 (as my copy is), it may only be found in second-hand bookshops and on the web. However, there could be an alternative with 'The Routledge Military Atlas of the First World War' by Martin Gilbert, but Banks' book contains some 250 maps while Gilbert's is in second place with 174. That said, this review is of Banks as I have not seen the later work.

The maps are presented chronologically and are in black and white. Generally, they represent phases, and there a lot of arrows showing thrusts and movement while a map will reflect the changes to frontlines at key stages of a particular battle. It should be noted that the maps tend to be top-down organisationally in that the actions by Armies, Corps, Divisions, and occasionally, Brigades are shown. Infrequently, as with Neuve Chapelle, we might even see Battalions. But of course, one cannot expect more detail.

Arthur Banks is a professional cartographer and it almost goes without saying that the maps are extremely well-drawn. Some are amplified with information blocks and this works particularly well with a subject such as the reduction of the Liège Forts between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> August, 1914. We can read for example, that on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Fort de Fléron is pounded into submission at 09.45 hours while two days later, the garrison at Fort de Flémalle surrenders to avoid annihilation. In this example, the situation at Liège has been comprehensively captured on one map and can be easily understood.

Supplementing the maps, there are a number of drawings, charts and tables covering various aspects of the war such as weapons, ships and aircraft. I am not sure that these add to the atlas, but it may be that it was an attempt to get younger readers interested in the Great War. Are there any errors in the book? At first glance it seems not, but only when one is using a map alongside an account of a particular battle will any show. It could have been in colour, but the cost would have been prohibitive.

Finally, if you see this book, reasonably priced at around £12-15, on the web or in a second-hand bookshop, and you are interested, buy it!

**HMMG Mary Rose  
By Ned Malet de Carteret**

Following contact from a George Kimber through the website, I was pleased to learn more of my great uncle Philip's service on board HMS Canopus in the Dardanelles.



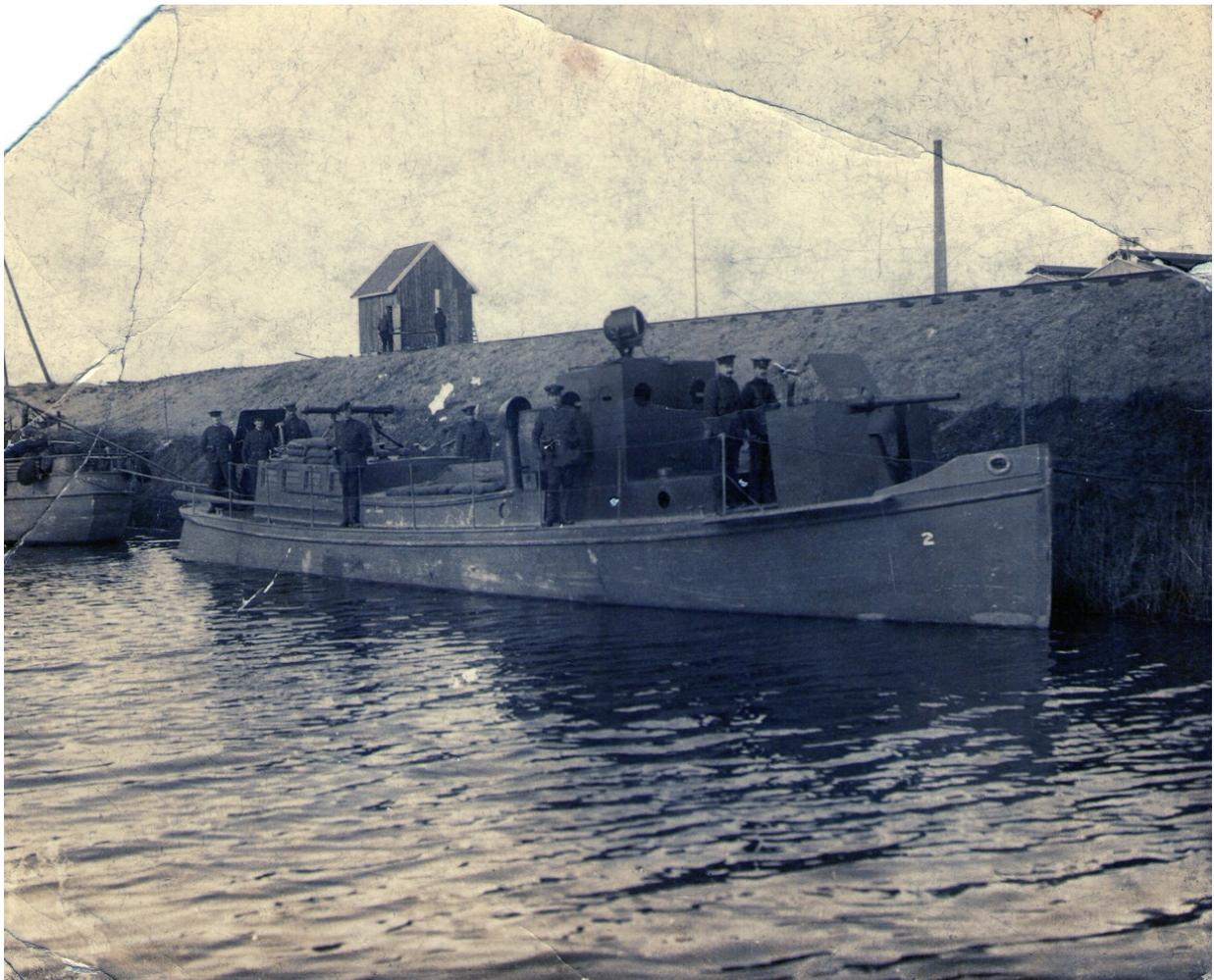
**HMMG Mary Rose at Mudros**

During Philip's time there, he was seconded to HMMG Mary Rose for a three-week period in March, 1916. The man in charge of the gun crews was George's grandfather, Henry Ralph Kimber of the Royal Marine Artillery (RMA).

Going back eighteen months, the RMA Battalion had been landed at Dunkirk on the 7<sup>th</sup> October, 1914, but it could not be moved forward into action. On the 11<sup>th</sup> it was withdrawn back to England, but according to 'The RMA 1804-1923' by E Fraser and LG Carr-Laughton:

*'After this time the attention of the RMA was concentrated on the formation of the batteries of heavy howitzers and of anti-aircraft guns. Apart from these there remained in France and Flanders no more than a few individual officers of the Eastney Division, not commanding their own men, and one or two details.*

*1915: Of these latter perhaps the most interesting was the small party, Sergeant Kimber and less than twenty NCOs and men, which provided the gunners for the armed motor-boats serving on the canals about Dunkirk in March and April 1915. [...] these boats with their crews were afterwards dispatched to the Mediterranean, and did good work in the Gulf of Smyrna.*



**HMMG Mary Rose at Dunkirk**

Meanwhile: *'In June there arrived a small flotilla of five motor-boats, armed with three-pounders, named California, Mary Rose, Penelope, Anzac and Dorothea.*

*These gunboats had first been organised in 1914 for service on the Belgian and French canals, and their crews, consisting of RMA and RNVR ratings, had been in them from that time. Their Commanding Officer, who was in the California, was Commander M Smart, RNVR.*

*At first these were based in Hiero, and patrolled the entrances to the harbour of Aivali, which, it was persistently rumoured, was being used as a submarine base. This patrol, which was sufficiently arduous, and at times exposed the boats to a brisk fire, was maintained till the middle of September, when they received orders to move to the Gulf of Smyrna, in which their duty was chiefly in maintaining the blockade.*

*Inside the Gulf of Smyrna the motor-boats based themselves on Long Island, whence they were employed in searching for submarine bases, protecting minefields, helping to maintain the blockade, in evacuating refugees from the mainland, and in intelligence work. A system of night and day patrols was maintained, which, considering the small size of the vessels, was often sufficiently strenuous in rough weather. "Particularly during November," their Commanding Officer reported, "the conditions under which the gunboats carried out their patrol was beyond description for discomfort owing to the constant quick rolling of the boats, and the cold and wet in cramped quarters, and it speaks well for all concerned that this trying work was carried out cheerfully and effectively."*

Philip referred to Henry Kimber indirectly while it is interesting to get a small insight, by proxy, into what Philip may have been doing when he was detached from HMS Canopus. Henry Kimber was awarded the DSM in 1917, and left the RMA in 1923 to become a CSM with the Harrow School OTC.

### **The St Peter Port War Memorial (sometime in the 1920s)**



Somehow High Streets looked more human in those 'never to return' days, when you could enter a shop and not have your brain curdled by pop music, where you were greeted by a 'Good afternoon Sir or Madam' as opposed to 'Hi guys!' Do I sound old? (Answers are not required...). Liz Walton has again been rummaging through her handbag and has provided the photograph on the pprevious page saying:

*I found [the above] postcard of the St Peter Port parish memorial. I would guess from the clothes it was taken in the 1920s. It is shown here on the end wall of Le Riche's Stores which became Checkers and a few years ago moved to the new development, Admiral Park, on Les Banques. Checkers was then bought by Waitrose and a copy of the memorial (it was needed because the original was made of wood and rotted away) is now in their foyer.*

### **Into Battle with God's Help: Diex Aix. Clergy in Khaki - By Mark Bougourd**

In Diex Aix: God Help Us, one of the books written on the 1<sup>st</sup> (Service) Battalion, Royal Guernsey Light Infantry (1/RGLI) by Major Edwin Parks, he explains in the book that Diex Aix was the motto of the Royal Guernsey Militia. It is correctly translated as 'With God's Help', and it is that on which I wish to expand in this article.

Who was the officer charged with responsibilities for the spiritual leadership at all levels in the Army from soldiers, through to the most senior officers? This man would be the Army Chaplain. His role was especially important at times when it was ordered into battle and where many men were to sadly join the fallen and never return. His task was going to be a tough one, keeping the morale, ethics, respect for others, including the care for enemy wounded combatants', selfless commitment, dignity, integrity, discipline, loyalty, and courage within the Battalion. All of this was before, during and after conflict. In total 179 Chaplains died in their cause during the Great-war.

1/RGLI, like other British Army infantry Battalions had a Chaplain on its strength. In Diex Aix, Appendix C covering the RGLI Officers gives us our first clue. It simply lists a **Chaplain** in the remarks column and the name column as **Collings CF**

Here the mystery started for me when I tried to locate a CF Collings as the name suggested, there appears to be no listing of CF Collings on Ancestry that matched our criteria for an ordained Chaplain in the Army. So who was our Chaplain Collings? Eddie's book simply states Collings CF, these initials needed to be understood as there were other Officers with initials listed at the end of their name when their first names were not yet fully known.

My first calling was to the 1913 Clergy list, and the 1921-22 Cockfords clerical directories, these listed three *Collings* as our possibilities. Of these only two were ordained as "*Chaplain to the Forces*" - Joseph Philip Collings (Roman Catholic) and Herbert Charles Collings (Church of England). Here also was the clue to our erroneous initials of CF, this being a title **Chaplain to the Forces**.

The first, Joseph Philip Collings was Monsignor Canon Joseph Collings, master of ceremonies at Westminster Cathedral until his retirement in 1950 - the Catholic Herald says that he was ordained in 1910 and he served as Chaplain of the Forces 4<sup>th</sup> Class for two years. He should be discarded because of his religion, not in any way implying

anti-catholicism, but because RC Chaplains tended not to be appointed to units where the greater majority of the men were perceived to be CofE.

The next was Herbert Charles Collings and he was Chaplain to the Forces 4<sup>th</sup> Class for two years. The 1911 Channel Islands Census lists him as being born abt. 1889 in St. Peter Port, Guernsey and the son of Laura Josephine Collings (born London) and Charles d’Auvergne Collings MA MD also born St. Peter Port, Guernsey and all living at the Grange, St. Peter Port. Herbert Charles Collings was from an educated family and a scholar (No. 2841) at Elizabeth College, St. Peter Port, Guernsey between 1897-1908.

The last, Henry Collings, was ordained 1872, and retired 1903. The third in this small list, retired and a little too old in our findings, thus we can discount him from the 1913 Clergy list as being our Chaplain.

A look at Ancestry once again, this time on the Medal Index Cards shows Herbert Charles Collings as having been qualified as Reverend 4<sup>th</sup> Class in the Royal Army Chaplains Department (RACHD) and entering the theatre of war, France, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 1917, this being three weeks before 1/RGLI arrived in France on the 27<sup>th</sup>. After the war he was issued with the British War Medal and Victory Medals for his war service, Rev. HC Collings CF was the most obvious of the three clergy to have served along with 1/RGLI.

The under-mentioned to be Temporary Chaplains to the Forces, 4th Class – 3 <sup>rd</sup> July, 1917:		
Arthur Thomas Segger	<b>Herbert Charles Collings</b>	Gerard Markby Davidson
Claude Emmanuel de la Bere	Frank Oswald Scott	Charles Guy Anders
William Graham Moeran	Alfred Randolph Marriott	Henry Gerrard White
Ronald Park	Walter St John Lindars	Arthur Percival Hill
Walter Sydney Smith	Claude Beckwith	Albert Linwood Wright
Hugh George South	John Compton	William Amcoats
Reginald Harry Noble	William Henry Blight	Charles Edmund Greathed Parry-Okeden
Harry Gibbons	Mervyn Baylay	Sidney Featherstone Hawkes
Gordon Hinton Bateman	John Francis Bloxam	Harold Gibson
Charles Michael Stuart-King	John William Gladstone Bennett	Charles Percival Triplett

**List confirming Herbert Charles Collings with title, Chaplain to the Forces, published in the London Gazette Issue 30187, dated 17<sup>th</sup> July, 1917.**

(Author’s Note: Temporary Chaplains to the Forces, 4<sup>th</sup> Class carried the Officers rank of Captain, and would be paid ten shillings a day, plus an extra 3/6 if under canvas).

The defining link with 1/ RGLI was found with a detailed look at the Guernsey Museum service’s archive book of 1/RGLI Daily Part II Orders, on sheet No. 57 dated 15/06/1918 at 3rd Echelon, Extract from bottom of page.

## 5. LEAVE

Rev. MC Collings, CF, attd RGLI. Granted leave to UK via Boulogne 11/6/18 – 25/6/18. (14 days ration allowance only).

The initials before his name were not so clear on this printed page, now nearly a hundred years old, one wonders whether they were MC or HC? I think we can be sure that it was the latter and, with the other evidence, that it was HC Collings, CF, who served with 1/RGLI.



**Blessing 1/RGLI's King's Colours 'In the field' at GHQ France  
(Personal collection)**

It is very likely that **The Reverend Herbert Charles Collings CF** is one of the Reverends (**Editor:** The Chaplain on the left?) shown above involved in the blessing of the new 'King's Colours' that was received 'In the Field' by 1/RGLI on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 1919. Thus it may be the only photo of him in Military service?

### References:

Diex Aix: God Help Us by Major Edwin Parks  
London Gazette 30187 (online)  
Guernsey Museum Services 1/RGLI – Daily Part II orders  
Town Church, St. Peter Port, Guernsey  
Ancestry.co.uk - 1911 CI Census & Medal Index Cards archives  
Cocksford, Clerical Directories  
UK Medical Registers 1951

## Military Miscreants

**Second Lieutenant Geoffrey Schmid McLeod:** One of the features of the Territorial Forces is that, over many years, it has provided officer candidates with a 'back door' entry to the Regular Army. By this means, an officer who had gained experience and expertise through his time in an Officer Training Corps (OTC) or service in a Militia or Yeomanry unit in the early 1900s could by-pass the Officers Course at Sandhurst or Woolwich. In the infantry, this was regularised by the existence of the Special Reserve (SR) Battalion in each Regiment, normally the 3<sup>rd</sup>, which would have the Officer on its books. After training with the SR Battalion, an Officer would generally be sent to either the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. If he subsequently proved his worth, he could be granted a Regular Commission.

As to the Island's Militias, they were part of that conduit, and a number of Officers would go on into the British Army, including Geoffrey McLeod. In his case, he was born on the 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1895 and had attended Blundell's School where he had been a member of its OTC. On the 20<sup>th</sup> August, 1914 he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in Jersey's Militia and joined its 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 1915 he resigned his commission with the aim of joining the SR, and would be commissioned (on probation) into the Black Watch at the beginning of May, 1915 and instructed to report to Nigg in the chilly north-east of Scotland.

However, on leave in London, where he lived, during August of that year, it all went wrong for him in that he started to write three cheques that bounced, the total sum being £10. It does not sound much until one regards it as £300-500 in today's money, but Macfarlane's Club at 225 Oxford Street in London was very soon writing to the WO, complaining of Geoffrey McLeod's behaviour. Efforts were made to contact him in writing subsequently but each try met with a blank. He was ordered to return to Nigg, but did not show. His WO file (WO 339/19087) does not contain any reference to police being sent around to knock on his door, but one presumes that that never happened to officers and gentlemen, even if they had been misbehaving. Finally being declared AWOL, the King was asked to remove his commission, and George V's signature authorising this act is in the WO file.

Did Macfarlane's get their money back? Did Geoffrey McLeod ever re-emerge from hiding? The file contains no answers on these questions, the WO clearly having washed their hands of him once King George had signed the paper. When one looks at his age, not even twenty, the suspicion may be that he got a little over-excited with a cheque book in his pocket for the first time, and as matters progressed he found himself in a hole and kept on digging!

**Percy Tom Rollings Rendall:** Closer to home Percy Rendall appeared to have been far naughtier. An article in the Times of the 7<sup>th</sup> January, 1920 titled/sub-titled 'A Jersey Blackmailer: Baptist Minister Slandered' tries to sum it up:

*'At a sitting of the Jersey Assize Court, Percy Tom Rollings Rendall, a demobilised mechanic from the Royal Air Force, was sentenced to five years' penal servitude for attempted blackmail. The Chief Magistrate described the prisoner as an unscrupulous and plausible scoundrel. The persons from whom Rendall tried to obtain money by blackmail were the Reverend Wilson Haffenden, Baptist Minister, and Miss Le Quesne, a church worker who acted as organist.'*

*It was stated that the prisoner saw Miss Le Quesne sitting reading in a secluded spot in a valley and accused her of trespassing. Afterwards he tried to obtain money from her by stating that the farmer on whose land she had trespassed accused her of misconduct. Later the prisoner called on Mr Haffenden and said that his wife wished the Minister to visit her. When Mr Haffenden called at the prisoner's house he was told that a farmer accused him of misconduct with Miss Le Quesne. The Minister replied, "It's an infamous lie", to which the prisoner retorted, "It will be hard for you to disprove"*

From these few lines, it does seem that it was a case of two against one, and that the word of a Baptist Minister might have carried further weight. Undoubtedly something was said by Tom Rendall, but, whatever it was, one suspects that five years' penal servitude was an exceptionally stiff sentence.

### **The Yandell Brothers - Frederick and Bernard**

What continually surprises today is the frequency with which excellent photographs from the Great War period turn up along with, in many cases, an account of the lives of the men and women pictured. The Yandell brothers, Frederick Charles and Bernard, fall into that category and we have to thank Mrs Sally Garner, Frederick's grand-daughter, for her information. Originally planned to be a short 'Faces Remembered' contribution, Sally's information and photographs, coupled with material from their WO files (WO 374/77417 and WO 339/31454) has resulted in this being a larger article.

**Frederick Charles Yandell** was born on the 12<sup>th</sup> April, 1892 in Mascara (there is no cosmetic connection!) in Algeria, while his father was serving as Pastor there. He then moved to Maastricht in Holland with the rest of the family, which accounts for the ability to speak a number of European languages, including French and Dutch.



He was sent back to Jersey to attend Victoria College between 1903 and 1910, while his younger brother, Bernard, would follow him three years later. Between 1908 and 1910, Frederick was a member of the College's OTC. While in Jersey, the boys lived with their aunt Esther Tessier and her husband in St John. Leaving College he applied to go into the Diplomatic Service, but as the London Gazette of the 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1910 reports, he did not achieve one of the requisite top four places in the Civil Service Examination and was given the position of Assistant Surveyor of Taxes in the Inland Revenue. At the time of the 1911 Census, he was living in lodgings in Wandsworth, along with his cousin John Le Sueur.

He joined the Royal East Kent Yeomanry on the 7<sup>th</sup> April, 1914 and was given the regimental number 1681. His unit was the 1<sup>st</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> Regiment, and having been mobilised at Canterbury in August, 1914, it spent the first year in East Kent before 'dismounting' to become infantry.

Setting sail from Liverpool onboard the SS Olympic on the 24<sup>th</sup> September, 1915, it arrived at Mudros on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October, remaining there for a few days of acclimatisation before being moved to Suvla Bay. He would remain on the Gallipoli Peninsula from the 8<sup>th</sup> October, 1915 until the 30<sup>th</sup> December, 1915 when he left Cape Helles. The following day he was back at Mudros and spent the next month there before heading off to Egypt, where he arrived on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 1916.

The picture of Frederick on the previous page was taken during the year when East Kent had to be defended from the Hun, not that Kitchener having an estate there was unduly influence. While the picture below shows him back in the saddle, second from the right.



Having arrived in Egypt on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February he would remain in Alexandria until the 16<sup>th</sup> March when the Regiment moved to the Canal Zone. The next move was westwards to Sollum on the 30<sup>th</sup> July arriving there on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August, but two months before that date, he had applied for a commission. Heading back in the other direction to Zeitoun, he attended a commissioning course from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> September and was gazetted as a Second Lieutenant on the 30<sup>th</sup> of that month, in the Royal East Kent Yeomanry. Prior to commissioning, he had risen through the ranks to Sergeant.

He remained in the Middle East for another year, in Egypt until April, 1917 and then into Palestine until that September, when he left to join the Royal Flying Corps on secondment.

In December, 1917 he arrived at TS Waddington from the Middle East, presumably after some leave, then moved to NT Brigade in March, 1918 then was posted to 44, 48 and 15 Training Depot Squadrons at Bicester, Waddington and Hucknall respectively between November 1918 and February 1919. He relinquished his RAF commission in January 1921 and was appointed to the Territorial Force Reserve. According to his records, he flew Maurice Farman Shorthorns, Avro 504's BE2C's, BE2E's and RE8's.



**With Fellow Officers, Somewhere in the UK, Mid-1918 or Thereabouts  
(Frederick is seated third from the left, side-saddle so to speak!  
The aircraft is an Airco DH9)**

At end the war he married Gladys May Hancock, very much against the wishes of his parents. As a result, they were married in the Chelsea Register Office with two Chelsea Pensioners as witnesses.

After his wartime service he then returned to the Inland Revenue, ending up as Senior Inspector of Taxes at Somerset House. They mainly lived in Battersea, in Prince of Wales Mansions. He first retired in about 1954 but then went to Lagos in Nigeria as part of the Foreign and Colonial Office to set up a tax service. On their return to the UK, in about 1957 or 1958, they went to live in Haywards Heath in Sussex and then he returned to Somerset House in London, to work again. Around 1960 he finally retired for good and they went back to Jersey to live, in a house at La Rocque. He died on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 1977 following a stroke. His wife died ten years later, in August, 1987. For the record, they had two children, John Tessier Yandell (August, 1919 to December, 1979) and Barbara Kathleen Erault Yandell (August, 1922 to February, 2012).

Bernard Yandell was born on the 13<sup>th</sup> July, 1894, in Jersey, where his parents were staying at the time. As has been already mentioned, he attended Victoria College,

between the years 1906 and 1913, at which point, he received a King Charles I scholarship and went up to Pembroke College that Autumn, to study modern languages. However, in the two years before leaving, his WO file notes that he had been a member of the College's OTC, and the accompanying photograph, possibly taken at a summer camp in England, shows him within a group of unidentified OTC members and their instructor.



**With Fellow OTC Members  
(Bernard Yandell is seated centre)**

At the outbreak of war, there was a rush to the Recruiting Offices. Many young men from the Public Schools and the Universities flocked to the colours and a University and Public School Brigade was formed that consisted of the following:

- 16<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion (Public Schools), Middlesex Regiment
- 18<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion (1<sup>st</sup> Public Schools), Royal Fusiliers
- 19<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion (2<sup>nd</sup> Public Schools), Royal Fusiliers
- 20<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion (3<sup>rd</sup> Public Schools), Royal Fusiliers
- 21<sup>st</sup> (Service) Battalion (4<sup>th</sup> Public Schools), Royal Fusiliers

The Middlesex Battalion was raised on the 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1914 and headed off to Kempton Park, while the Fusilier Battalions began being raised ten days latter, and at Epsom (Clearly somebody like horse racing or was it for the open spaces?). Like many undergraduates, Bernard decided to suspend his studies at Pembroke College, and on the 7<sup>th</sup> October, 1914 attested as a Private with the 19<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion, and was given the regimental number 1130.

Those who were enlisting into these Battalions were very largely regarded as potential young officer material, and many were soon encouraged to put their names forward for a commission. Bernard would do so at the beginning of January, 1915, having gained the support of the College's headmaster, Arthur Worrall. Similarly, the Commanding Officer of the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Manchester Regiment, then a Service but later a Reserve Battalion, indicated that he would be accepted into the unit.



The WO file 'loses' him for nearly a year, but the photograph (left) indicates that a part of that period was spent learning to ride a horse along with other aspiring young officers. The boots look brand new as do the jodhpurs, while his cap badge looks to be that of the Manchester Regiment. He also has the OTC 'lozenge' on his right sleeve showing that he has attained the required standard of military skills for OTC members wishing to become officers.

He next appears on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 1916, at Southampton disembarking from HMHS Aquitania. He had travelled there from Mudros, having embarked on the 26<sup>th</sup> December, and was suffering from dysentery. This was a clue to determine where he had been, and the obvious place was Gallipoli. The form announcing his arrival also noted that he had been serving with the 11<sup>h</sup> (Service) Battalion, Manchester Regiment after having been attached to them from the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion had boarded a boat at Liverpool on the 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1915 heading to Mudros and then on to Imbros. Suvla Bay followed where the Battalion landed on the 6<sup>th</sup> August, 1915. Bernard endured almost three months of filthy conditions until he fell ill and was evacuated back to Mudros on the 31<sup>st</sup> October. One wonders whether the brothers met while in Gallipoli?

After returning to the UK, he would spend much of his time convalescing in Jersey, frequently reporting for medical examinations to determine his fitness to return to his parent unit. Eventually, Col J Yourdi in Jersey declared him fit for Light Duties, and on the 10<sup>th</sup> June, 1916 he was reported as being back with the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion now lodged at Brocton Camp. Two months later he was fit for General Service.

He then transferred to the RFC in October, 1916. He was with the 18 Radio School then transferred to the BEF and 7 Squadron, flying BE2 aircraft on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 1917. However,

sometime between joining the RFC and leaving for France, he was in an aircraft crash at the Air Station at Montrose.

Following a crash with 7 Squadron on the 13<sup>th</sup> June, 1917 he was hospitalised at Etaples, and on the 7<sup>th</sup> July was considered unfit for service for three months. We can be fairly certain about the date of the crash as after three months his flying pay was stopped. Months in convalescent hospitals followed, and it was at one of them that he met and married Elizabeth Maud Allardyce in circumstances highly unwelcome to his parents. The loss of flying pay combined with being a newly wed presented a problem, as it turned out that after it should have been stopped, it continued to turn up at the bank until he had to repay the sum of £32.8s.0d. At first he offered to have it repaid in £6 monthly instalments, and then when it was more difficult with their son Basil on the way, having that amount halved.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 1918 he resigned due to ill health, and was gazetted out and given the honorary rank of Lieutenant. His address at that time was in Eastbourne. Resuming Oxford he achieved a Double First took to teaching modern languages, first at Lancing College, he was there during the Second World War, and latterly at Clifton College in Bristol. After his retirement he continued to mark O and A level examinations. He moved from Bristol to Devon in about 1963 and died there in October, 1972.

**And a little bit about their father, Frederick Field Yandell.** Frederick senior was born in Wilton, just outside of Taunton in Somerset, the only son of a carpenter, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 1861. He must have been exceptionally bright, for he gained a scholarship to the private Taunton School, and then went on to attend both the Sorbonne in Paris and the University of Lille, writing theses on Carlyle and Emerson.

At some point he became ill and was sent to Jersey to recuperate, lodging with the Picot family. He went on to marry Marie Picot, the daughter of Jean Picot and Esther Larbalastier. The date of their marriage is uncertain, but family rumour says that she was considered to be 'on the shelf' when they married. He then became a Pastor to the Eglises Protestante de France, and went to work in Mascara in Algeria where Frederick Charles was born. Family tradition has it that he was also a Pastor to the French Foreign Legion, but to date there is no evidence for this. After the birth of a daughter, Marie, in February, 1890, he then moved to Maastricht in Holland. Two further children were born, Bernard, as we have read, in 1894 and Dora in October, 1896.

He returned to Jersey on his retirement, living at 3 Balmoral Terrace. During the Great War he officiated as a Chaplain to the Germans at the POW Camp at Blanchés Banques in St Ouen. An account in the Morning News newspaper in August 1915 reports him as officiating at the funeral of a German POW (**Editor:** This was probably Karl Brundig at St Peter's Church), reading the lesson, and then saying the prayers in German, which caused a widespread outrage in Jersey at the time. He died in August, 1922 while staying with his son, Frederick Charles who was then working for the Inland Revenue in Portsmouth.

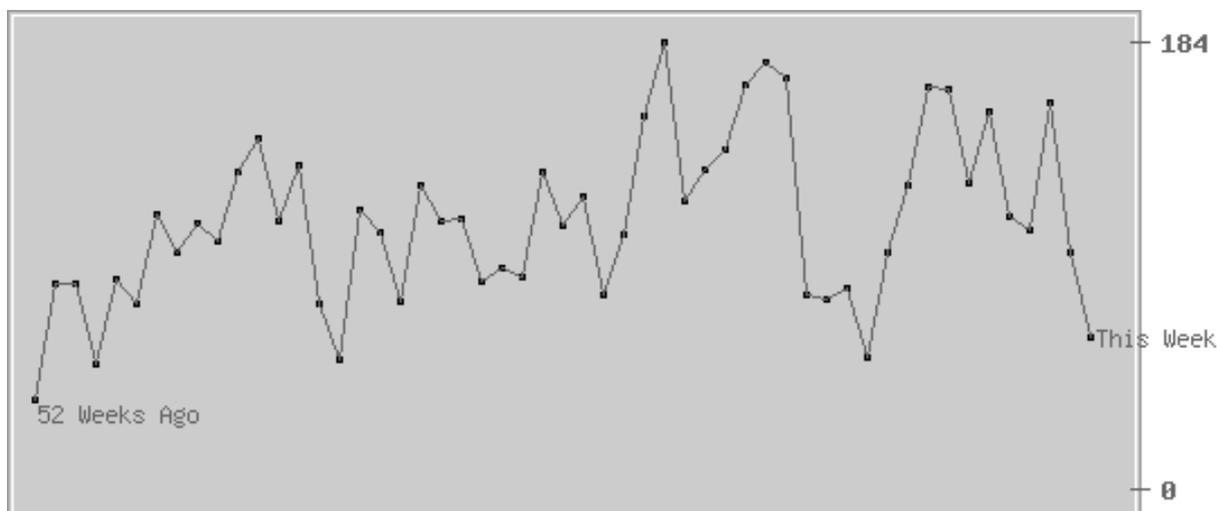
### **Out and About**

**Looking Back:** Nothing to report other than my trip to Kew, the results of it featuring in a number of articles.

**Looking Forward:** Nothing to report.

## Website Workings By Roger Frisby

Website visits are now approaching 28100, an additional 1000 since the last Journal was published.



**An annual view of website visits this time**

The steady flow of photographs and information continues, mainly relating to our Rolls of Service, resulting in many of those listed now having photographs attached to their names. Our appeals via press letters and posters have paid off, particularly because of heightened public awareness as we approach 2014. Posters in Jersey parish offices are proving productive. Perhaps a similar approach in Alderney and Guernsey should be considered?

Cooperation with Jane Norwich in Sark has added to our Guernsey Roll of Service and has also enabled her to add to her book, 'Men of Sark'. Our weak link continues to be Alderney as we have no members there.

With regards to the JRoH and the JRoS, there is work in progress to add additional minor information such as whether a man was awarded the 1914 or 1914-15 Stars, and other information such as the Silver War Badge issue number. Where there are National Archive file references, we will be looking to add them over time so that an individual's entry in either Roll can be useful with cross-references for other researchers, whether family or military. It is hoped that the next updates can be loaded by mid-January.

Meanwhile, looking slightly further ahead, it is hoped that the Jersey Militia data can be loaded onto the web by around March or April. This should be a combination of an improved stand-alone article on the Militia while at the same time an increase in JRoS numbers with those men who served solely in the Militia.

Finally a few statistics about our Roll numbers since the end of October:

- Guernsey Roll of Honour – 1463 names (unchanged)
- Guernsey Roll of Service – 5142 names (up by 68)
- Jersey Roll of Honour – 1625 names (unchanged)
- Jersey Roll of Service – 7330 names (unchanged)

## A Close Shave Engineering Rear-Admiral George Wilfred Le Page DSO, RN



Engineering Rear-Admiral George Wilfred Le Page was born in Guernsey in 1883 and was educated at the Royal Navy Engineering College at Devonport.

He was advanced to Engineer Lieutenant in February, 1907, and would later join the British Naval Mission to Turkey in April, 1911, remaining similarly employed until the outbreak of hostilities with Germany, a period in which he wore an elaborate Turkish uniform with the traditional Fez, and was awarded the 3<sup>rd</sup> Class of Order of Medjidie, accorded the title of Bey and granted the honorary rank of Corvette Captain.

With the Ottoman Empire in the German camp, staying there was not an option, so he was now sent to Russia.

Russia 1914-18: In September, 1914, Le Page was appointed for duty with the CinC of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, and he joined the cruiser Almaz that October, the commencement of a long chapter of active service in this theatre of war. He assisted at the following operations in the Black Sea:

- 13<sup>th</sup> March, 1915 - bombardment of Zunguldak in light cruiser Almaz
- 26<sup>th</sup> March, 1915 - bombardment of the Turkish batteries off the Bosphorus in cruiser Kagul
- 5<sup>th</sup> April, 1915 - in Almaz during action between Russian and Turkish fleets off the Bosphorus
- 25<sup>th</sup> October, 1915 - bombardment of Varna in Almaz
- 14<sup>th</sup> April, 1916 - in Rostilav during bombardment of Rize near Trebizond resulting in fall of latter

Le Page was also present in the Bosphorus action of the 25<sup>th</sup> April, 1915, when the Russian Black Sea Fleet carried out a bombardment to distract the Turks from the Allied landings at Gallipoli, services which gained him the 2<sup>nd</sup> Class of the Order of St. Stanislaus.

Having previously been advanced to Lieutenant-Commander in February, 1915, it was proposed that he be granted the acting rank of Commander to 'enjoy the greater confidence of the Russians', a proposal that was approved in October, 1916, the same year in which he was awarded the 3<sup>rd</sup> Class of the Order of St. Anne 'for distinguished and useful service in time of war and in active operations against the enemy.' And to which distinction, in March, 1917, he added the 4<sup>th</sup> Class of the Order of St. Vladimir.

**Attache and Arrest:** Latterly burdened 'with the arduous task of maintaining relations with the Russian Fleet in the Black Sea' following the abduction of the Tsar, the words of our man in Moscow, Bruce Lockhart, Le Page was scheduled to depart Russia for the UK with charge of a group of British refugees in April, 1918, but the order was rescinded, his experience and fluent Russian being too valuable to lose.

Instead, he was appointed Assistant to the Naval Attache at Petrograd, Captain FNA Cromie, DSO, RN, who described Le Page as a 'large, self-possessed man with a typical navy beard.' And the pair of them were quickly embarked upon a programme of anti-revolutionary initiatives and in espionage, one of their visitors being the 'Ace of Spies', Sidney Reilly.

Clearly, too, Le Page's services were much appreciated by our man in Moscow, Bruce Lockhart, as well as by Cromie, who, in May, 1918, pushed for his charge to be confirmed in his acting rank:

*'17<sup>th</sup> May, 1918. Naval Attache Petrograd brings to notice the valuable services rendered by Acting Engineer Commander Le Page. Our view of his abilities in his present situation does not hesitate to recommend him for confirmation in his rank, notwithstanding that he is unable to express an opinion on Commander Le Page's abilities as an Engineer'*

To which the Admiralty responded:

*'28<sup>th</sup> August, 1918. Their Lordships are unable to approve of this officer being specially confirmed in the rank of Engineer Commander, but that HM the King has approved of Acting Lieutenant-Commander Le Page being appointed a companion of the DSO in recognition of his services in Russia.'*

Two days following this entry on his service record, Le Page was staying at a friend's house in Petrograd, and was apprehended by the Cheka Secret Police on his way back to the Embassy, the beginning of thirteen weeks of primitive and squalid confinement in the Peter and Paul Fortress, the whole under constant threat of imminent execution. In the event, in common with other British hostages, he was released and given 48 hours to leave the country.

Had he been present at the embassy that fateful day in August, 1918, it may have been a very different story, for the gallant Cromie was gunned down in cold-blood by the Cheka Secret Police, although he did manage to take one or two of his assailants with him, using Le Page's revolver which he had retrieved from the latter's office. Cromie was awarded a posthumous CB, the announcement for which appeared in the London Gazette one week before Le Page's DSO was notified on the 5<sup>th</sup> October, 1918. It was awarded:

*'In recognition of the valuable services rendered by him to the Allied cause in Russia since 1914.'*

**Naval Intelligence Department and beyond:** Assigned to the Naval Intelligence Department on his return to the UK, Le Page remained similarly employed until early 1924, in which period he finally gained advancement to Engineer Commander and was awarded the 4<sup>th</sup> Class of the Roumanian Order of the Star. He was most probably

employed on Russian matters during the period 1919 to 1920, and was later assigned to Coastal Defence Intelligence duties.

Having then attended a refresher course in engineering, Le Page returned to normal duties, gaining advancement to Engineer Captain in December, 1929 and serving as Squadron Engineer Officer to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battle Squadron between 1931 and 1933. Appointed as an ADC to the King in 1935, he was placed on the Retired List in May, 1936 and died in January, 1940.

### **Medal Description:**

Distinguished Service Order, GVR, silver-gilt and enamel

1914-15 Star (To Eng Lt Cdr GW Le Page, RN)

British War Medal (To Eng Commr GW Le Page, RN)

Victory Medals (To Eng Commr GW Le Page, RN)

Jubilee 1935

Roumania, Order of the Star, 4<sup>th</sup> Class breast badge, with swords, silver-gilt and enamel

Turkey, Order of the Medjidie, 3<sup>rd</sup> Class neck badge, silver, silver-gilt, gold and enamel

**(Editor's Note:** The medal set does not include the Russian medals, were they kept by the Cheka or have they vanished since?)

### **Watch out for the Hun in the Sun!**



My apologies, I couldn't finish this Journal without Roger Frisby's photograph of a replica Fokker DR1 taken at an IWM Duxford Air Display earlier this year. It provides an interesting contrast between its wood, wire and linen covered fuselage of ninety years ago with the metal and composite structures in today's aircraft beyond.

## Faces Remembered



The photograph above has been provided by Daniel Benest and is of the Myerscough family, who were his relatives. Father is Thomas and he was a Lancastrian while his wife Alice Mary Le Feuvre, was born in St Ouen in 1866. Harold is the younger lad, but it is John the other lad who was killed in April, 1917 who prompts us to include the picture. Although born in Barrow-in-Furness, he is commemorated, as I discovered a few years ago, on Lancaster's War Memorial. John was serving with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, RMLI which was part of the 63<sup>rd</sup> (RN) Division.



The chap on the left is Private Frank Vesconte Lucas, who ended the Great War, serving with the Machine Gun Corps. However, like so many Islanders he would leave the CI to serve with another Regiment, in his case, the Hampshires. The photograph shows him with a Hampshire cap badges and proves the argument that the information that was used to generate the 1919 JRoH&S could never keep up with the moves of men caused as a result of military decisions. As

we look back, it was an almost impossible task to achieve. It is not that much easier now, even with on-line access to data in Ancestry and elsewhere and software tools such as Excel.

## The UPS Alphabet

While looking for background information about Bernard Yandell (see pages 26 to 31), I chanced upon a history of the UPS Brigade and its Battalions. Being a well-educated collection of men, there were one or two poets in their midst, and the book included an anthology of their work. This was one of their more low-brow, if enthusiastic, efforts!

A is an Adjutant, booted and spurred,  
B is the Battalion that moves at his word,  
C is a Company (ours takes the cake),  
D is the damning that keeps it awake,  
E is an Elegant Extract of rank,  
F is a File (which is frequently blank),  
G is a Gun – I beg pardon, a rifle,  
H stands for 'Hype' (this may vary a trifle),  
I is Instructions for night-ops again,  
J is our Joy when it comes on to rain,  
K is the 'Kultur' we're out to suppress,  
L is the Liar whose name you can guess,  
M is the Mortal who moves to command,  
N is the Nut he was beforehand,  
O is an Officer – hark at his shout -  
P the Platoon that he \_\_\_\_\_ about.  
Q is the Query, 'What *does* the man mean?'  
R is the Reply, 'That remains to be seen.'  
S is a Sentry group out in a wood,  
T is the Toddy they'd get if they could.  
U stands for Uniforms, and I presume  
V for the Various shapes they assume  
W's our Weapons (we've only a few),  
X is the Xtent of the damage they'll do.  
Y is our Yearning to join in the fray, and  
Z is our Zest which will carry the day.

## 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. I have been notified of a few more changes recently, so thanks to those members who have submitted their information.

**Chester Cecil Church:** Some progress can be reported with the identification of Chester Church's remains at Fromelles in that the DNA sample kits have now been sent out to the donors. The Church family member in the south-west of England will be sorting his sample over the weekend of 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> December and it should be back with the Forensic laboratory before Christmas. At this stage it is anticipated that the analyses will not take place before late February and results notified in March.

**Armistice Prize-Giving:** Was this to be the revenge of the rats? Having been a little caustic in Journal 46 about the many references to rats in the entries for the Armistice

Prize here in North Lancashire, I was then asked to present one of the prizes at the Girls Grammar School in Lancaster. Furthermore, it was to be at assembly! First, I no longer do early reveilles, but standing up in front of some 200 young ladies I swear that it was nerve-wracking and that my blood ran cold! It was something that I have no wish to repeat anytime soon.

**Francis PL Desvergez:** Having found that Frank was on board HMS Exeter when it was sunk by the Japanese in 1942 and then dying in a PoW Camp, I discovered that he was also on board the aircraft carrier, HMS Courageous when it was sunk by U-29 in September, 1939.

**Jersey's Militia Pay Lists, 1914-1917:** Work on this project has at last resumed, and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalions, RMIJ are very near to being a first draft. Hopefully I can get them, with the other units, onto the web at the beginning of March, if not April.

**HMS New Zealand:** We've been contacted by Auckland Museum about using some of Mark Bougourd's material (Journal 10) in support of a web-based exhibition. If anyone else has material they might like to contact Gail Romano at:

([gromano@aucklandmuseum.com](mailto:gromano@aucklandmuseum.com))

**National Army Museum – War Horse Exhibition:** Originally scheduled until the end of December, this exhibition, which caters for young and old alike, has now been extended until the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2013. Linking fact with fiction, and largely centred on Michael Morpurgo's 'War Horse', it is excellent, and along with the remainder of the Museum, is well worth visiting.

**George Francis Le Vée:** Having visited Kew, George's Officers file (WO 339/28135) was high up my 'To read and photo' list. Unfortunately I have not had the time since then to absorb the detail that I obtained, save that I can say two things about him:

- The first is that I may have been unkind in suggesting that the resignation of his commission on health grounds was actually a euphemism to cover up misdeeds of an ungentlemanly and un-officer-like nature! It appears that he was suffering from tuberculous disease of the spine and was not considered fit enough to serve, nor would be for some time. He spent much of his brief service as an officer in hospital at Netley.
- And on the other side of the coin, possibly I should have been a little more dubious about a press suggestion that he was an Old Etonian. According to the file, he was not. At least, not unless Léoville School was an off-shore branch of Eton!

Hopefully I can add more to his story in the next Journal, and possible a 'mug-shot' if the Police's Criminal Records Bureau can come up trumps.

**TS Sarnia:** Guernsey's unit of Sea Cadet Corps had the honour of representing the wider Corps in the recent Festival of Remembrance and Cenotaph Ceremony in London. Mark Bougourd has sent a copy of the Guernsey Press article which can be found on pages 46 and 47.

## **Enfin**

As ever, my thanks to those who contributed to this Journal for their inputs, both large and small. But, another plea from me!

I am sure that over the next year or two that there will be a number of visits to the battlefields, museums and archives. If so, it would be great if members were to make more use of the 'Out and About' facility to give timely notice of where they are going. Others might be in the area and it might be nice if they met, while the odd favour might be sought.

At present, Journal access is constrained to access for the two most recent issues. This will be re-evaluated once we go quarterly. Given the likely increase in Great War interest, it may be of more benefit that access is reduced or eliminated.

Finally, you just might like to have a try at the Christmas Truce Quiz on pages 43 to 45.

Regards  
Barrie H Bertram  
15<sup>th</sup> December, 2012

### **Journal Issue Dates For 2013**

The four Journals (48, 49, 50 and 51) for 2013 are planned to be published on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February, May, August and November. As ever, I shall be looking for articles by the 10<sup>th</sup> of those months.

**NAVAL GAZING PART 9**

Surname	Forenames	Number	Rank	Service	Ship	Born	Parish	Remarks	RoS	RoH
DURELL	Laurence Edward Horsnell	M5454	Shipwright, 2nd Class	RN	HMS Castor	24 Dec 1894	NA	Born in Herne Hill to a Jersey born father. Enlisted 3 Jan 1913, served until he died of Pneumonia on board HMHS Soudan on 15 Jul 1918.	No	Amend
LE BOUTILLIER	John	M22714	Engine Room Artificer, 4th Class	RN	HM Submarine E14	1 Feb 1888	NK	Enlisted 28 Aug 1916, served until 28 Jan 1918 when E14 was sunk by Turks in the Dardanelle Straits.	No	Amend
QUEROTRET	Peter	210665	Able Seaman	RN	HMS Maidstone (HM Sub E3)	5 Dec 1884	St H	Enlisted 24 Jul 1900, served until 18 Oct 1914 when he was killed as a result of HM Sub E3 was torpedoed by the German U27 off Borkum. 1914-15 Star.	No	Amend
GOSLING	Charles Emile	295949	Leading Stoker	RN	HM Submarine E15	26 Nov 1881	St H	Enlisted 20 Sep 1900, served until 18 Apr 1913 when discharged by purchase. Enlisted in RFR on 19 April 1913. Mobilised on 2 Aug 1914, was taken POW by Turks on 18 Apr 1915 when E15 was damaged and beached. Repatriated in Dec 1918. 1914-15 Star	Add	No
GOSLING	Walter Henry	202027	Petty Officer	RN	HMS Minerva	20 Dec 1882	St H	Enlisted 15 Nov 1898, served until 12 Jun 1922 when pensioned. Nothing particular to note regarding service. 1914-15 Star.	Add	No
GOSLING	William Robert	J74410	Able Seaman	RN	HMS Pembroke I	20 Nov 1882	St H	Enlisted 23 Jul 1917, served until 29 Apr 1919 when demobilised. Nothing particular to note regarding service.	Add	No
GOSELIN	Arthur	342904	Chief Shipwright, 2nd Class	RN	HMS Pembroke II	23 Nov 1883	St H	Enlisted 5 Jul 1899, served until 22 Nov 1923 when pensioned. Nothing particular to note regarding service. 1914-15 Star.	Add	No
GOSELIN	Maurice Lionel	J84487	Ordinary Seaman	RN	HMS Victory I	02-May-00	NK	Enlisted 23 Jan 1918, served until 19 Sep 1922 when invalided out with Minor Epilepsy. Nothing particular to note regarding service.	Add	No
QUEROTRET	John	183184	Petty Officer, 1st Class	RN	HMS Cardiff	20 Jan 1879	NA	Born in St Peter Port, Guernsey, to Jersey born mother. Enlisted 11 Dec 1897, served until 14 Oct 1919 when demobilised. Joined RFR on 15 Oct 1919, serving until 9 Sep 1922. Nothing particular to note regarding service. 1914-15 Star.	Add	No
QUINN	William Edward	J48742	Ordinary Seaman	RN	HMS Minotaur	20-Jul-00	St H	Enlisted 25 Jan 1916, served until 15 Apr 1920 when invalided out with pleurisy and deformity. Hampshire Police making enquiries in Sep 1928!	Add	No
QUINQUENEL	Emile	216103	Able Seaman	RN	HMS Neptune	5 Feb 1886	St H	Enlisted 16 Jul 1901, served until 8 Jul 1926 when pensioned. Nothing particular to note regarding service. 1914-15 Star.	Add	No

QUINQUENEL	Louis Joseph	208982	Able Seaman	RN	HMS Maidstone	9 Nov 1884	St H	Enlisted 27 Mar 1900, served until 7 Apr 1919 when demobilised. Nothing particular to note regarding service. 1914-15 Star.	Add	No
QUINTO	Herbert Henry	SS2480	Leading Seaman	RN	SS Virginian	14 Oct 1889	St H	Enlisted 4 Jun 1908, served until 7 Jun 1913 when engagement period expired. Enlisted in RFR on 8 Jun 1913. Mobilised on 2 Aug 1914. Demobilised 7 Feb 1919. Virginian was an Armed Merchant Cruiser which was torpedoed in Aug 1917. 1914-15 Star	Add	No
GODEL	Albert Gard	239027	Able Seaman	RN	HMS Leander	20 Oct 1889	NA	Born in Morice Town, Devon to Jersey born born parents. Enlisted 24 Jul 1907, served until at least 14 Feb 1928. Nothing particular to note regarding service. 1914-15 Star.	Amend	No
GODEL	Charles Francis	SS122894	Stoker, 1st Class	RN	HMS Victory II	10 Mar 1885	St H	Enlisted 31 Jul 1919, served until 31 May 1924 when he transferred to full colour service as K64221. Prior to enlisting hadf served in RNR as Deckhand 2225SD and before that in Merchant Navy. Amendment to reflect RNR service at Armistice	Amend	No
GODEL	Arthur	K19246	Stoker, 1st Class	RN	HMS Egmont (HMS Asphodel)	22 May 1895	NA	Born in Devonport to Jersey born father. Enlisted 26 May 1913, served to at least 1 Jan 1929. Two cell visits.	Amend	No
GORIN	John Philip	J78795	Boy, 1st Class	RN	HMS Dido	20-Jul-01	NK	Enlisted 28 Sep 1917, served until 23 Feb 1928 minimum. Nothing particular to note regarding service.	Amend	No
QUENAULT	John Charles	K20439	Stoker, 1st Class	RN	HMS Diligence (HMS Tomahawk)	9 Jan 1895	NK	Enlisted 23 Sep 1913, served until 22 Sep 1925 when colour service expired. Nothing particular to note regarding service. 1914-15 Star.	Amend	No
QUENTRIC	Francis	J78744	Boy, 2nd Class	RN	HMS Impregnable	11-Mar-02	St H	Enlisted 21 Sep 1917, served until 28 Nov 1917 when invalidated out with Otitis Media (right?). On examination, he is the same man as K55179! Entries on JROS to be merged. Peacock tattoo.	Amend	No
QUENTRIC	Francis	K55179	Stoker, 1st Class	RN	HMS Renown	11-Mar-00	St P	Enlisted 2 Jan 1919, served beyond 1 Jan 1929. On examination, he is the same man as J78744! Entries on JROS to be merged. But no peacock tattoo noted!	Amend	No
QUEREE	Francis Philip	345437	Blacksmith	RN	HMS Duke of Wellington	26 Dec 1880	St H	Transferred to RN 1 Jul 1902, served until 3 Mar 1903 when he went on the run! Had prior RMLI service as PO/10134 enlisting in Feb 1899. Joined RASC as MS/2975 in Aug 1914, lying about past service, quoting trade as blacksmith. 1914 Star	Amend	No

QUEROTRET	Louis	278915	Stoker Petty Officer	RN	HMS Diligence (HMS Obedient)	4 Jan 1876	NK	Enlisted 4 Jan 1895, served until 2 Jan 1917 when invalidated out suffering from Myopic Aetymilitis.	Amend	No
TORPY	Wilfred John	J29275	Able Seaman	RN	HMS Defiance	14 Aug 1898	St H	Enlisted 22 Jan 1914, served until 1 Jan 1929 at least. Survived sinking of HMS Courageous on 17 Sep 1939. Some confusion over a Pte in Dorsets of same name while there is not a WJT listed with comparable DOB in 1901 & 1911 Census for JY. Enlisted 6 Jul 1900, served until 13 Jan 1914 when colour service expired. Nothing particular to note regarding service.	Amend	No
GODEL	Philip	210635	Able Seaman	RN	HMS Prince of Wales	14 Jan 1884	St H	Enlisted 3 May 1917, served until 31 Mar 1918 when transferred to RAF. Details already on JROS	No	No
GODEL	Philip John	F28863	Air Mechanic, 1st Class	RNAS	HMS Daedalus (Manston)	28 Apr 1888	St H	Born in Camberwell to a Jersey born father. Enlisted 25 Jun 1900, served until 22 Oct 1900 when discharged. Reason not stated.	No	No
GODEL	Edward Briard	210282	Boy, 2nd Class	RN	HMS Lion	24 Sep 1884	NA	Enlisted 9 Oct 1903, served until 7 Oct 1910 when he went on the Run! Served with Newfoundland Regt in Great War with regtl number 4068.	No	No
GODFREY	Leopold George	228594	Able Seaman	RN	HMS Theseus	7 Oct 1886	Gr	Enlisted 13 Mar 1900, served until 6 Aug 1908 when invalidated out suffering from TB. Brief spell in cells.	No	No
GOLD	Francis John	208956	Able Seaman	RN	HMS Victory	25 Dec 1884	St H	Enlisted 12 Oct 1882, served until 6 Jul 1883 when invalidated out. Reason unstated. Nothing particular to note regarding service.	No	No
GORE	William Henry	121177	Boy, 2nd Class	RN	HMS Impregnable	14 Aug 1867	Gr	Enlisted 28 Jan 1891, served until 4 Jun 1908 when invalidated out suffering from Neuresthenia. Nothing particular to note regarding service.	No	No
GOSLING	Augustus John	158694	Petty Officer, 1st Class	RN	HMS Iphigenia	20 Jan 1875	St H	Enlisted 1 Mar 1893, served until 6 Dec 1905 when discharged. Reason not stated.	No	No
LE QUELENEC	John Alfred	172057	Able Seaman	RN	HMS Victory I	2 Dec 1876	St L	Enlisted 4 Jul 1917, served until 31 Mar 1918 when transferred to RAF. Details already on JROS	No	No
QUENAULT	Philip Peter	F32929	Air Mechanic, 1st Class	RNAS	HMS Daedalus (Grain Island)	9 Oct 1889	St H	Enlisted 2 May 1900, served until 8 Sep 1910 when invalidated out suffering from TB. Brief spell in cells.	No	No
QUEREE	George Francis	209656	Able Seaman	RN	HMS Victory I	19 Nov 1883	St H		No	No

## A Christmas Truce Quiz

No prizes, no names and no pack-drill! This is just a little something to distract you from your Christmas dinner or yet another repeat showing of 'Mary (xxxxxx) Poppins'.

**Let Battle Commence:** Give the MONTH and the YEAR in which the following Battles started:

- |                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. First Aisne .....        | 7. Cambrai .....      |
| 2. Brusilov Offensive ..... | 8. Loos .....         |
| 3. Asiago .....             | 9. Tannenberg .....   |
| 4. Third Ypres .....        | 10. First Somme ..... |
| 5. Second Ypres .....       | 11. Jutland .....     |
| 6. The Coronel .....        | 12. Gallipoli .....   |

**Scrambled egg on their hats:** Unscramble the following to find the first name and surname of the twelve Great War military personalities:

- |                        |       |
|------------------------|-------|
| 1. dfrediann cohf      | ..... |
| 2. nia mtnoihal        | ..... |
| 3. uaaftsm lekma       | ..... |
| 4. vidda tateyb        | ..... |
| 5. ojnshpeinrg         | ..... |
| 6. tarwel wibatteriha  | ..... |
| 7. logudsa ghia        | ..... |
| 8. njilua gynb         | ..... |
| 9. hurrat riceur       | ..... |
| 10. nohj rcfhen        | ..... |
| 11. raeioubv ed sille  | ..... |
| 12. imwllali tbrsooner | ..... |

**The Answer is A or Y:** The following Commonwealth War Grave cemeteries are located near either Albert or Ypres. Identify the closest town by A or Y:

- |                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Ridge Wood ..... | 7. Spoil Bank .....      |
| 2. Dartmoor .....   | 8. Point 110 .....       |
| 3. Lonsdale .....   | 9. RE Farm.....          |
| 4. Norfolk.....     | 10. Lone Tree.....       |
| 5. Suffolk .....    | 11. Ten Tree Alley ..... |
| 6. Connaught.....   | 12. Peake Wood .....     |

**Do you know your badges:** On the next page there are twelve British regimental and corps badges for you to identify. Being a spoilsport, I have blacked out the names on the scrolls.

**And your Divisional Flashes:** Following the page of regimental badges, there are twelve divisional insignia to identify, but this time there are a few Empire divisions as part of the mix.

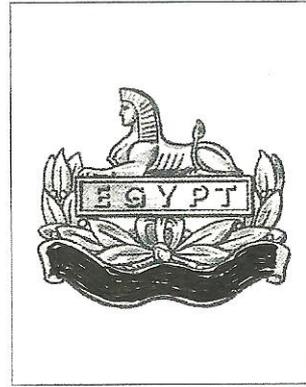
Answers in the next Journal if I can remember by then where I filed them!



1.



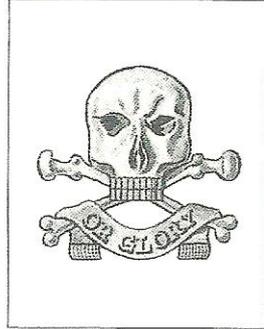
2.



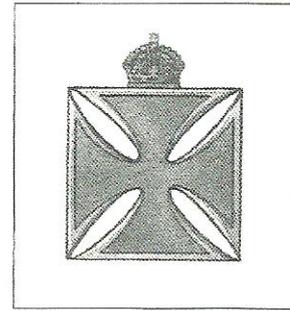
3.



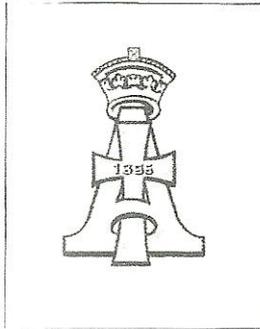
4.



5.



6.



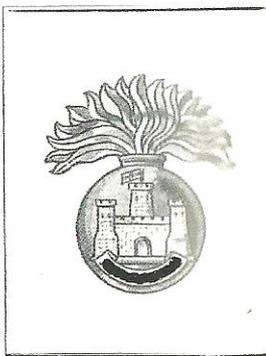
7.



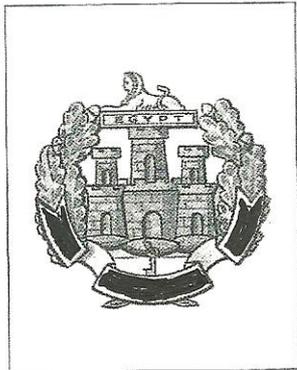
8.



9.



10.

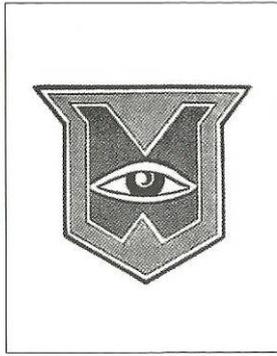
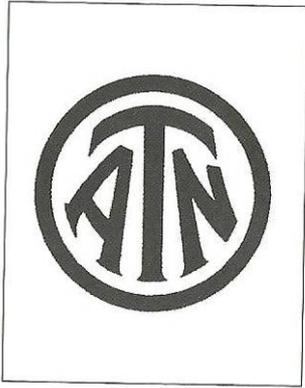


11.

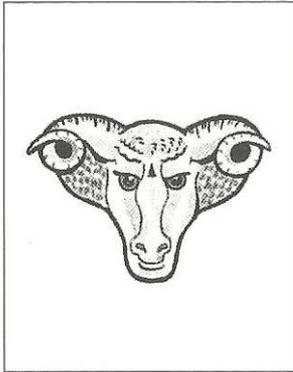


12.

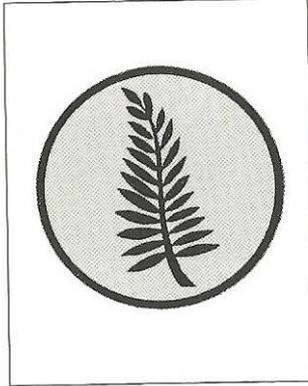
Do you know your badges?



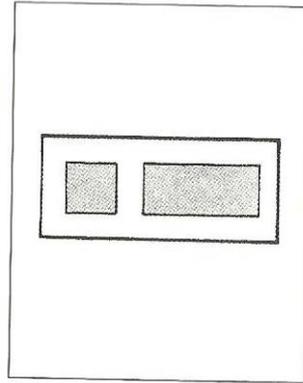
1. -----



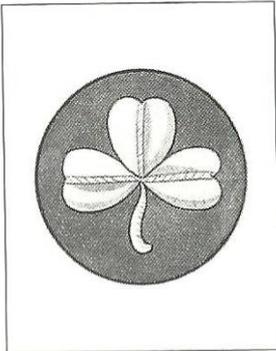
2. -----



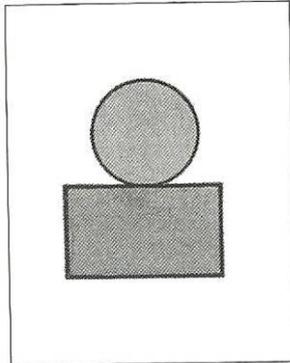
3. -----



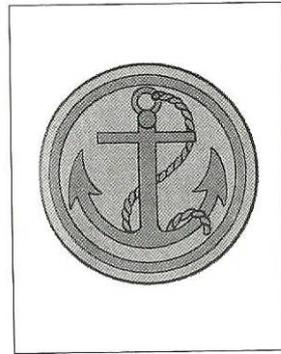
4. -----



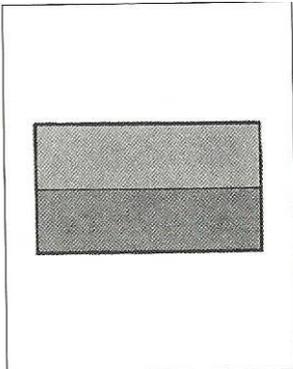
5. -----



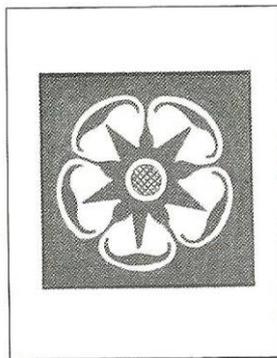
6. -----



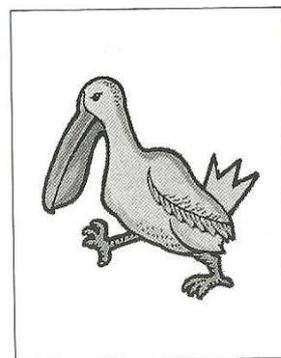
7. -----



8. -----



9. -----



10. -----

11. -----

12. -----

**And your Divisional Flashes?**

# TS Sarnia Cadets

## Cenotaph wreath-laying part of representatives' duties



Fourteen cadets from the Sea and Royal Marine sections have recently returned from the National Remembrance Parade in London where they took part in representing the island.

A GROUP of Guernsey Sea Cadets and Royal Marine Cadets from TS Sarnia have returned to the island after taking part in the National Remembrance Parade in London.

Fourteen cadets from Guernsey joined a small contingent from Jersey, several of whom also attended the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of the Queen.

It was the first time that Sea Cadets from the Channel Islands had been selected to represent the Corps at these events.

'This Remembrance weekend was a very special one for us,' said TS Sarnia commanding officer Paul Mooney.

'At the Festival of Remembrance, Leading Cadet Morgan

by Anna Brehaut

[annabrehaut@guernsey-press.com](mailto:annabrehaut@guernsey-press.com)

Johnson was given the honour of carrying the National Sea Cadet standard into the arena.

Four other Guernsey cadets also had a starring role in the arena: Able Cadet Angela Truffitt, Ordinary Cadets Joseph Bourgaize, Marcus Rees and Tiegan Carre representing the Corps in the Muster at the end of the ceremony, with Joseph also forming part of the 'carpet guard' to welcome the arrival of the Chelsea Pensioners.

'On the Sunday, all of the cadets participated in the ceremony and parade at the Cenotaph, where they laid a wreath.

'The march past continued into Horse Guards Parade where Prince Edward, the Earl

of Wessex, took the salute.'

The cadets also attended a number of educational visits.

Trips were arranged by Sea Cadet headquarters to the RNLI Thames Lifeboat Station, the Imperial War Museum, the Field of Remembrance outside Westminster Abbey and private tours of the Houses of Parliament.

■ The Guernsey unit of the Sea Cadets parades on Wednesdays from 7-9pm and on Sundays from 10am-12.30pm. Junior cadets aged 10-12 parade on Thursdays from 6.30-8.30pm. For more information, go to the second floor of Sydney Vane House at Admiral Park during parade times or telephone 725678.

# attend Remembrance Parade

