

**JOURNAL  
51**

**Channel Islands  
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**The Ossuary at Douaumont, September, 2013**

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Hello All

Suddenly, or so it seems, the majority of people in the British Isles are waking up to the fact that 2014 will be the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Great War. I am certainly seeing a subtle increase in the number of Great War articles that are appearing in papers such as The Times and The Daily Telegraph. Indeed, the latter paper is currently providing a monthly pull-out, sponsored by Lord Ashcroft that looks at various aspects of the War from high strategy to war art and poetry. Ian Hislop's 'Wipers Times', reviewed by Liz Walton below, has given us a foretaste of BBC TV's forthcoming output which, if my arithmetic is correct, will be about 10-12 hours of programmes each week over five years! Meanwhile, new books from such notables as Sir Max Hastings, Allan Mallinson and Margaret Macmillan are already flying off the shelves. In the case of Sir Max, his book, 'Catastrophe', is the subject of Peter Tabb's latest review, showing that we are up to date!

Will the Anniversary and its subsequent milestones be celebrated or commemorated, or are those words, semantically one and the same, and will this profusion of media output simply entertain, or will it educate people by presenting them with the chance to better understand the War. The next six years will prove to be an interesting time for many.

What of the Group's efforts during this forthcoming period? Now, I was tempted to use a modified version of the Kitchener poster, 'Your Country needs You', but it has unfortunate connotations with attrition. Yet, it is becoming apparent that interest in what we, as a Group, have achieved and provided to date is increasing, whether it is in the number of website 'hits', the contacts and requests for information, and more recently, involvement with committees and other organisations at meetings or through other media. All of this has to sit alongside ongoing research although some requests conveniently complement that effort. While this interest is to be welcomed, it also requires more effort and in some cases it can temporarily overload the respondent.

Now, within the Group all members are equal but some, because of their particular interests and personal circumstances, are more able to be involved in promoting the Islands' participation in the Great War than are others. It cannot be otherwise, given the need to balance work, other interests and so forth. But, and this applies to those in Guernsey and Jersey specifically, if you feel that you can lend a hand to lessen the load on other members or to support local organisations in commemorating the Islands' Great War participation, please do so.

### **The Front Cover**

Nine months on from the cover picture for Journal 48 that showed the snow-covered Ossuary at Douaumont, it was opportune to take one of it, where it basked in the sunshine of a glorious Indian summer in September. A year ago, the scene that greeted visitors was quite different as the two arms that go from either side were masked by scaffolding. However, the workmen have not gone away, as the third arm extending backwards and containing the chapel is presently receiving their attention, while the front door remains boarded off so that entry is now via the shop entrance and access involves a 5 Euro charge.

However, that allows the payee the pleasure of a lung-busting climb up the bell tower to take in the view across the now forested battlefield, where, if the top is reached at 1 p.m., he or she will be greeted by the sound of bells, rather close by!

## The Shrine By Keith Pike

The majority of Great War memorials were post-war affairs, certainly those in France and Flanders could not be otherwise. Keith Pike's very useful collection of articles shows that St Peter Port, at least, was amongst those few towns and cities that saw and acted upon the need long before a time of peace that was visible to politician and soldier alike.

**World War Shrine: To our Fallen Heroes, War Shrine Unveiled: Impressive Speech by the Lieutenant-Governor. (The Star, 5<sup>th</sup> January, 1917)**



The War Shrine, presented to the Parish of St Peter Port by Messrs EJ Dene (left) and J Smith (centre), of Pollet Street, and erected at the foot of Smith Street by them, was unveiled with due solemnity on Thursday afternoon by His Excellency General Sir Reginald C Hart, VC, KCB, KCVO (right). Long before the appointed hour the lower part of Smith Street and the adjacent thoroughfare was thronged with representatives of all classes of the community, as well as relatives of the brave men whose names are inscribed on the Shrine. A strong force of Special Constables, under the direction of the Constables of St Peter Port, and the members of the Town Police Force, assisted and combined to keep the road.

A Guard of Honour, composed of NCO's and men of the Guernsey Companies who had returned from active service, headed by the bugles and drums, and under the command of Capt HA Le Bas, accompanied by Lieutenants PF Trotter and BC Jones, took up their place in front of the Yacht Hotel, awaiting the arrival of His Excellency. The Guernsey

Volunteer Corps Band was drawn up on the right of the Guard of Honour and the Volunteers, under the Commandant HH Randell, lined the route on both sides of Smith Street.

Among the military present were Lieutenant-Colonels HJ de la Condamine and HHW Nason, Majors J Rowley, Carey Curtis and HE Mauger, Captains JH Luscombe and Roy Leale, Lieutenant Carey and others.

His Excellency, with whom was Lady Hart, Mrs d'Oyley and Miss Hart-Synnot, Colonels H St Leger Wood, DSO and J Macartney, CB, Captain W McGowan, ADC, arrived at three o'clock, and was received with the Royal Salute, the band of the GVC playing the first six bars of the National Anthem. His Excellency then inspected the Guard of Honour.

**His Excellency's Address:** After the inspection His Excellency and Lady Hart were directed by Messrs Prialux and Murdoch to the specially erected platform in Messrs. Le Riche's shop doorway, near the Shrine, which was covered with a huge Union Jack. His Excellency then delivered the following address:

*"The Shrine, which I am about to unveil, has been presented to St Peter Port by two of the Townsmen as a tribute of respect to the memory of two officers and 46 men of the Town Parish who have lost their lives in the present war. This is necessarily a religious ceremony, very solemn and very sad.*

*The Guard of Honour is formed of officers and men who have been to the Front, and many of them have been wounded. They were the comrades of our dead heroes, and shoulder to shoulder they faced death, and all the terrible hardships of the trenches. It has pleased God to spare their lives, but we must never forget the debt of gratitude we owe to those volunteers who answered the call of the King, the Successor of the Dukes of Normandy, and came forward ready to sacrifice all, even their lives, for the sake of King and Country."*

**The Roll of Honour:** His Excellency then called the Roll of Honour as follows:

Pte CC Marquis, Pte RC Le Vasseur, Pte A Dummond, LCpl G Male, Pte SA Toms, LCpl RWB Mourant, Capt E Graeme Ozanne, Pte HE Goodman, Pte BE Mauger, Pte WGE Knight, Leading Seaman A Male, LCpl R West, Pte CH Harrison, Cpl CJ Smith, Pte FJ Le Poidevin, LCpl WG Machon, Cpl WT Golding, LCpl WJ Salmon, Pte A Taylor, Pte FG Gale, Pte PS Guilbert, Gnr T Waterman, Pte F Rowswell, Pte L Orvin, Pte AA Gillman, LCpl AP Mallett, Pte CGW Mitchell, LCpl C Flux, Pte G Dimmer, Pte FC Bullock, Pte C Druce, Sgt CH Austin, Lt EJ Hopwood, Dmr J Brehaut, Pte EA Wood, Pte AJ Salmon, Pte M Somers, CSM FJ Hamblen, Cpl J Richer, Pte JS Guppy, Pte N Lawless, Pte C Glasse, Cpl CJ Barnes, Pte WJ Ballen, Pte AD Barrasin, Pte T Russell, Dvr WGH Mauger, Cpl A Attewell.



In reading the names inscribed on the tablet, His Excellency drew attention to the fact that Captain E Graeme Ozanne, who was killed in action in February, 1915, was the only son of the Bailiff and Mrs Ozanne. His Excellency also referred to the two brothers of the Male and Salmon families, who had given up their lives, Lance-Corporal G Male and Leading Seaman A Male; Lance-Corporal WJ Salmon and Private AJ Salmon.

**The Call for Fortitude:** Continuing, His Excellency said:

*“Many people will uncover when they pass the Shrine, and breathe a prayer, according to their religious belief. Some may pray for the souls of the departed, some may pray to the spirits of the dead as to guardian angels, and it may be that the veil that separates us from the next life may not be so impenetrable as we think. Many will pray for the comforting of the bereaved relatives to whom those brave men were so dear. There can be few now who from want of experience, cannot sympathise deeply with the crushing anguish of bereaved parents, widows and children. Some are sustained by their religious belief, but it is only Time that softens grief. There is something gone in our lives and the blank remains, and we have to live on because it is our duty, and certainly occupation does help us in the time of great sorrow.*

*Man that is born of a woman hath but short time to live. It does not matter how long we are allowed to play our part in this drama of life, but what does matter is how we do our duty in that state of life unto which it hath pleased God to call us. Surely the heroic dead have played their part well and earned a Crown of Glory. Did they not follow in the footsteps of Christ and give their lives for others?*

*Their lives will be examples to follow for generations to come. They have passed through the valley of the shadow of death.”*

**The Unveiling:** His Excellency then unveiled the Shrine, the Guard of Honour ‘Presenting Arms’ and the Buglers sounding ‘The Last Post.’ The male members of the public uncovered during the brief ceremony. After the Union Jack which covered the Memorial had been hoisted to the masthead above, His Excellency added a few words as follows:

*“It was better that our dead heroes answered the call of duty and went and did not return than that, being of military age, they had thought only of their own selfish interests and stayed back. Let us not think of them as lost but gone before. Death is not a long sleep but a joyful awakening to the life everlasting. Therefore we will sound the ‘Reveille’.”*

The Buglers having sounded the ‘Reveille’, the Guard of Honour saluted, whilst the band played the National Anthem, thus terminated the brief Ceremony. Among those who witnessed the proceedings were Colonel AH Collings, the Reverend SHN Rawdon, Miss Edith Carey, Messrs R McLean and GF Peek.

The handsome Shrine is made of sheet zinc, varnished dark brown, with gold edging. It is surmounted by a complete Georgian Crown, and at the base is a bowl for flowers. Its size is 1 feet overall, by 3 feet by 6 feet, and its projection is one foot from the wall. At the top of the Shrine are the words ‘For God, King and Country’ in bold gilt letters. The names are inscribed clearly in black lettering on a satin walnut board, and over the names is the Guernsey coat of arms with laurels in red and gilt, and the inscription ‘Diex Aie’.

**The War Shrine: Enormous Crowd witnesses the Unveiling: Impressive Address by Lieutenant-Governor. (Guernsey Weekly Press, 6<sup>th</sup> January, 1917)**

The beautiful War Shrine presented to the Town Parish by Messrs J Smith and EJ Dene, was unveiled at 3 pm on Thursday by His Excellency the Lieutenant- Governor, who was accompanied by Lady Hart, Mrs D'Oyly and Miss Hart Synnot, Colonels H St Ledger Wood, DSO, HHW Nason, DSO and Macartney, CB, Lieutenant-Colonel H de la Condamine, Majors J Rowley and Carey Curtis, Captains Alderson Archer and W McGowan, ADC, and Messrs O Priaulx and WD Murdoch, Constables of St Peter Port.

The Shrine, which contains the names of two officers and 46 men who laid down their lives for King and Country, had been erected on the north gable of the High Street premises of Le Riche's Stores, Ltd. It was covered with a Union Jack, attached to a flag post erected above the Shrine was an improvised platform, from which His Excellency delivered an impressive address.

An enormous crowd assembled to witness the unveiling ceremony, and the thoroughfare was kept clear by a party of Special Constables, and by a detachment of the Guernsey Volunteer Corps, commanded by Commandant HH Randell, with whom was Honorary Sub-Commandant J Naftel, Platoon Commander AT de Sausmarez (Adjutant), and Dr C Jones, (Honorary Medical Officer). The Volunteers who assembled at the Town Arsenal, marched to Smith Street headed by the drum and bugle band of the Corps.

Whilst the Volunteers were assembling at the Town Arsenal, a company of the RGLI to form a Guard of Honour, under the Command of Captain HA Le Bas, marched in headed by the drum and fife band and the bugles of the Battalion. The whole of the men forming the Company have seen active service, and a large proportion wore one, two and even three strips of Russian gold braid on the left arm, as a sign that they had been wounded. Another small party of the RGLI helped to keep the ground, and a party of officers who have returned from the front, assembled near the Shrine.

The Guard of Honour, making a brave display with fixed bayonets, marched down to the scene of the unveiling, shortly after the Volunteer Corps, and formed up in line along the eastern side of High Street, facing the Shrine. Members of the families of the fallen heroes were accompanied with places near the Shrine.

At 3 o'clock His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor walked down Smith Street attended by members of his Staff, and was received with the Royal Salute, the Band of the Guernsey Volunteer Corps playing the first six bars of the National Anthem. His Excellency then inspected the Guard of Honour whilst a selection was played by the Volunteer Corps Band. Mounting the platform His Excellency addressed the gathering as follows:

*'The Shrine, which I am about to unveil, has been presented to St Peter Port by two of the Townsmen as a tribute of respect to the memory of two officers and 46 men of the Town Parish who have lost their lives in the present war. This is necessarily a religious ceremony, very solemn and very sad. The Guard of Honour is formed of officers and men who have been to the Front and many of them have been wounded. They were the comrades of our dead heroes, and shoulder to shoulder they faced death, and all the terrible hardships of the trenches. It has pleased God to spare their lives, but we must never forget the debt of gratitude we owe to those volunteers who answered the call of*

*the King, the Successor of the Dukes of Normandy, and came forward ready to sacrifice all, even their lives, for the sake of King and Country. I will now call the Roll of Honour.'*

At this juncture His Excellency read the names inscribed on the Roll of Honour, calling special attention to the name of Captain E Graeme Ozanne, only son of the Bailiff and Mrs Ozanne, and to the names of the brothers LCpl G Male and Leading Seaman A Male, and LCpl WJ Salmon and Pte AJ Salmon. Continuing, His Excellency said:

*'Many people will uncover when they pass the Shrine, and breathe a prayer, according to their religious belief. Some may pray for the souls of the departed, some may pray to the spirits of the dead as to guardian angels, and it may be that the veil that separates us from the next life may not be so impenetrable as we think. Many will pray for the comforting of the bereaved relatives to whom those brave men were so dear. There can be few now who from want of experience, cannot sympathise deeply with the crushing anguish of bereaved parents, widows and children. Some are sustained by their religious belief, but it is only Time that softens grief.*

*There is something gone in our lives and the blank remains, and we have to live on because it is our duty, and certainly occupation does help us in the time of great sorrow. Man that is born of a woman hath but short time to live. It does not matter how long we are allowed to play our part in this drama of life, but what does matter is how we do our duty in that state of life unto which it hath pleased God to call us. Surely the heroic dead have played their part well and earned a Crown of Glory. Did they not follow in the footsteps of Christ and give their lives for others? Their lives will be examples to follow for generations to come. They have passed through the valley of the shadow of death. I now unveil the Shrine'.*

As the flag was drawn from before the Shrine, the Guard of Honour presented arms, and the Buglers of the RGLI sounded the 'Last Post'. Finally as the concluding notes of the 'Last Post' died away, His Excellency again addressing the gathering, said:

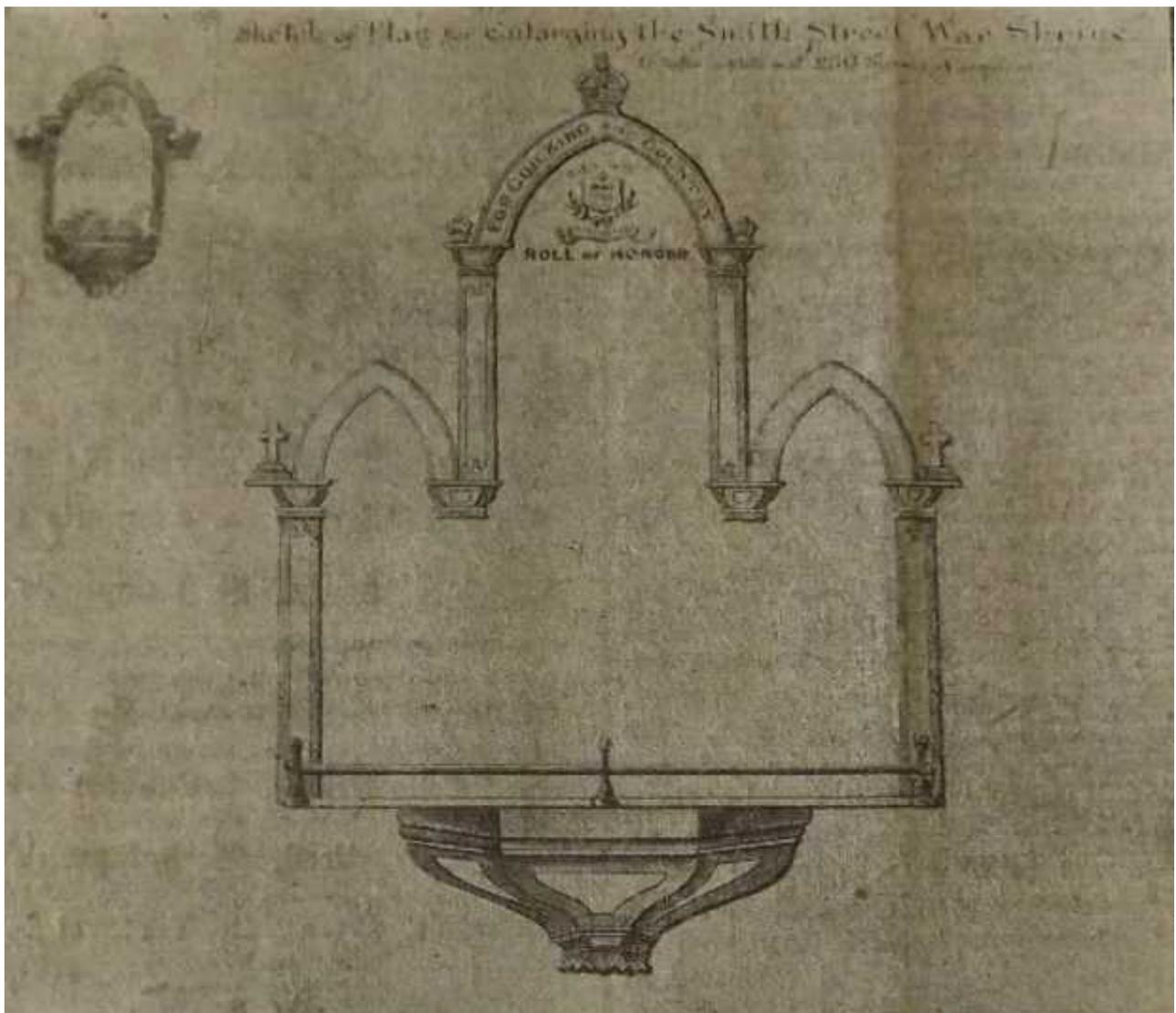
*'It was better that our dead heroes answered the call of duty and went and did not return than that, being of Military age, they had thought only of their own selfish interests and stayed back. Let us not think of them as lost but gone before. Death is not a long sleep but a joyful awakening to the life everlasting. Therefore we will sound the 'Reveill e.'*

The stirring 'Reveill e' was sounded by the Buglers, and the Guard of Honour came to the 'Slope'. His Excellency then left the scene of the unveiling, the Royal Salute being given, and six bars of the National Anthem being played by the Band of the Volunteer Corps.

Shortly afterwards the Guard of Honour marched away by way of High Street, and the Guernsey Volunteer Corps 'fell-in' and marched off by way of the Pollet. The Shrine, which is of zinc, is seven feet high and three feet six inches wide. It is surmounted by a Crown. Below the Crown is a Gothic arch with the inscription 'For God, King and Country'. Within, painted in gold and colours is the Guernsey coat of Arms, and the Norman battle-cry, 'Diex Aie'. The tablet on which the Roll of Honour is inscribed is of satin walnut, and has the superscription 'St Peter Port Roll of Honour'. Two gilt crosses are placed on either side at the top, and at the base are receptacles in which flowers may be deposited.

**(Editor:** At this point, The Weekly Press repeated the Roll of Honour previously included on page 4)

**Funds required for Enlargement. (Guernsey Weekly Press, 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 1918)**



Everyone is now familiar with the appearance of the beautiful War Shrine at the corner of Smith Street and High Street. It will be remembered that the Shrine was the generous gift of Messrs EJ Dene and J Smith of Pollet, and was unveiled by General Sir Reginald Hart, VC Unfortunately it has already been found that the Shrine is too small to accommodate the ever-growing Roll of Honour of St Peter Port, and it is proposed to add wings which will provide space for an additional 250 names.

It is estimated that the work of remodelling the Shrine will cost about £50, and the public are asked to subscribe this amount. Generous donations, we may say, have already been promised. Further donations may be sent to the Editor of the 'Guernsey Evening Press,' or left at the Press Stationery Department, Smith Street, where a list has been placed. Such donations will be acknowledged in the usual manner. Above is reproduced a photograph of the Shrine as it now appears, and a sketch by Mr EJ Dene, showing the Shrine as it will appear with the addition of the wings.

## The Smith Street War Shrine. (The Star, 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 1920)

The Smith Street War Shrine, removed for enlargement, was yesterday replaced in its former situation after the addition of names and alteration of shape. It was decorated with red, white and blue flowers, and this morning was attracting considerable attraction from passers-by.



## The War Shrine. (Guernsey Weekly Press, 7<sup>th</sup> February, 1920).

On Thursday morning the War Shrine was replaced at the bottom of Smith Street, on the gable of Le Riche's Stores, Ltd. The Shrine has been enlarged from a panel to a triptych, and forms a suitable memorial to the glorious dead some of whose names appear on the memorial.

## Replacement in Smith Street (Unreferenced)

The War Shrine, enlarged from one panel to a triptych, has been replaced in position at the bottom of Smith Street, and attracted general attention on Tuesday. It is a most handsome memorial, and the colour scheme harmonises well with that of the building of Messrs Le Riche Stores, Ltd, flanking it. The original Shrine was the gift of Mr J Smith, the Sanitary Engineer, who constructed it, and Mr EJ Dene, the sign-writer, who collaborated in the additional work necessary, and the whole forms a dignified Shrine which constitutes a worthy Parish 'In Memoriam'.

## Will Smith Street Roll of Honour Reappear? (Guernsey Star, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 1955)

The fate of the Roll of Honour situated at the bottom of Smith Street, hangs in the balance. It has been removed to allow workmen to paint Le Riches' premises and now a decision must be made as to whether or not it is worth renovating and replacing.

Erected soon after the First World War, this Roll of Honour bears the names of Islanders who fell defending their country. The cost of erecting it and maintenance has been borne by the St Peter Port taxpayers, and the estimated figure for replacing it stands in the region of £50. Woodwork and metalwork need much attention. All the names which have been painted on the roll have also been entered on plaques situated at the base of the War Memorial at the top of Smith Street.



A Postcard from the late-1920s/early-1930 showing the War Shrine (Postmarked 1935)





The War Shrine still accessible during cable laying in 1933

### **Should this Memorial be put back? (Guernsey Press, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 1955)**

Has the Roll of Honour at the bottom of Smith Street out-lived the purpose for which it was erected? This is the question which will have to be answered within the next few days. It has recently been removed from its position on the wall between Le Riches' grocery store and tobacco departments in order to permit workmen to complete the task of painting the frontage. Erected soon after the First War it bears the names of those Islanders of the Town Parish who perished in that four-year conflict, the cost of its erection and maintenance being borne by St Peter Port taxpayers. At the present time it is in bad condition and the cost of renovation would be in the region of £50. The metal work needs attention and the wood work also bears signs of wear.

While it is true that this Roll enriched the area and has helped the public to remember those who paid the supreme sacrifice, it should be pointed out that all the names appearing on it are now also on plaques at the base of the War Memorial situated at the top of Smith Street. This being the case it seems rather pointless to spend tax-payers money on renovating an additional memorial. If this were done, then relatives of those who died in the last war would be well within their rights to ask for the erection of another Roll of Honour bearing the names of their loved ones, names which have also been engraved on the Memorial at the top of Smith Street.

### **Douzaine Meeting. (21<sup>st</sup> June, 1955)**

It was decided that the parish War Shrine removed from its position against the gable wall of Messrs. Le Riches' property in Smith Street during the painting of the premises, should not be renovated and replaced. It was felt that as the island War Memorial which included all the names on the Shrine was situated in the Town, no useful purpose was served in maintaining the Shrine. The Constables were authorised to arrange for a photographic record to be made and kept in the Constables' Office. Extra copies are to be supplied to the Royal Court, Priaulx Library and other institutions if required.

### **Plaque to honour the Fallen is dedicated. (Guernsey Press, 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2001)**



A Memorial and Roll of Honour to the First World War dead was dedicated in the Town Church yesterday by the Dean of Guernsey the Very Reverend Canon Marc Trickey. The wooden copy of a plaque that was once fixed to Le Riche's store in Smith Street was unveiled by Lieutenant-Governor Sir John Foley, accompanied by representatives of the Royal British Legion, a Chelsea pensioner and several St Peter Port deputies. The simple service dedicated the replica, which will hang permanently in the entrance to Checkers at Admiral Park. Mr Trickey told the congregation that the original, which predated the present War Memorial at the top of Smith Street, might have been made because one of the fallen was Herbert Frayling, the son of the store's first manager in Guernsey.

An honour guard from Elizabeth College Combined Cadet Force met Sir John, and during the service Russell Doherty, dressed in the uniform of the RGLI, stood by the memorial. Sergeant Bill Moylan, a colleague of 100 years-old Albert Alexandre at the Chelsea Royal Hospital, represented Mr Alexandre who is believed to be Guernsey's oldest soldier. Mr Alexandre was born in Alderney and came to Guernsey to enlist in the Guernsey Militia in 1916. Aged just 15, he lied about his age and later fought in France. John Burley, Chairman of the Le Riche Group, read a passage from the Wisdom of Solomon and Bill Gallienne read verses of Laurence Binyon's 'For the Fallen', in Guernsey French.

### **Waitrose returns Memorial Board to its former Glory: Supermarket pays for Servicemen's Plaque to be restored. (Guernsey Press, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2011)**

A commemorative Memorial Board recognising Servicemen who came from St Peter Port has been restored by Waitrose. During the refurbishment of the Admiral Park store earlier this year it was noticed that the sign, commemorating those who lost their lives in the First World War, had been bleached by the sun due to its position at the entrance of the store. Waitrose, Admiral Park branch manager, Allen Edwards, said:

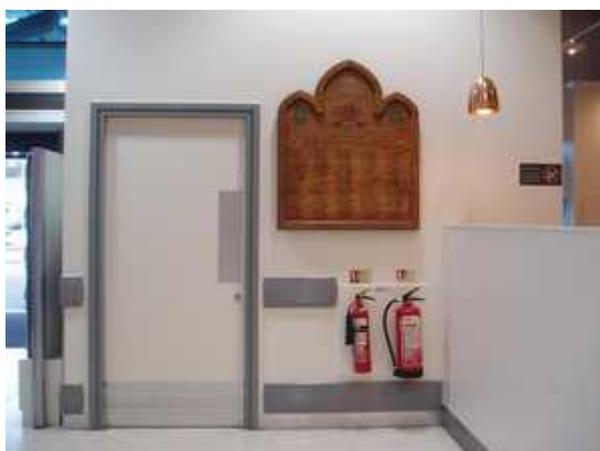


*'We thought it was the right thing to renovate the memorial board at the same time as the shop was undergoing work in honour of those who lost their lives in conflict'.*

The memorial was originally displayed at the bottom of Smith Street but the chairman of the Le Riches Group at the time, John Burley, came forward to make a replacement. Since then, the memorial has been situated at the supermarket. John Brehaut, chairman of the Western Branch and treasurer of the Central Branch of the Royal British Legion, said he was pleased to see the memorial returned to its former glory and added that he felt it incredibly important to honour those who gave their lives for the war effort.

The photographs above and right show the board in its current position in the Waitrose store.

**(Editor's Note:** I understand that there is a copy of this board in the Constables' office in St Peter Port. I now realise that I should have asked the question far earlier than now, but do wreaths get placed nearby during the Remembrance fortnight or would this be seen as risk to Health and Safety give the presence of the fire extinguishers?





The second memorial (or triptych) St Peter Port Shrine

## RSM Snowdon Malzard, 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion

The story of Snowdon Malzard is doubly interesting in that, apart from his military service during the Great War, he was one of the many young migrants who, before the Great War, had left the Island of Jersey for pastures new, or in his case, the vast plains of Canada, attracted by advertisements that carried the offer of free passage and land in the western provinces. Busy forging a new life for himself, War was then declared!



Snowdon was born on the 28<sup>th</sup> November, 1888 to Gordon and Rebecca Malzard of Prospect House on Mont Fallu in the parish of St Peter. He features in Jersey's Censuses for 1891 and 1901, but by the next Census, he had flown the coop. In fact, he had flown it more than six years before when he had left Jersey for England on the mail-boat with five others, Reg AJ Boullier, John C Nicolle, Stanley E Le Brocq, and brothers, Edward A and Charles A Remon, towards the end of January, 1905. After disembarking, the party were soon heading northwards to the port of Liverpool, from there to embark once more, this time aboard the Canadian Pacific Railway's SS Lake Manitoba. Departing on the 24<sup>th</sup> January, the ship headed to St John in New Brunswick and where the snow covered landscape would have been considerably different to that which they were all too familiar with back in Jersey.

Having spent a week or more at sea where their transport had probably met rough seas and had also needed to dodge the odd ice floe or iceberg, they would now have to endure the backside numbing prospect of a railway journey with CPR that whisked them further westward to Vancouver. In just three weeks or so, Snowdon and his fellow travellers had covered more than 5,000 miles and had moved north in latitude terms by about six minutes!

Undoubtedly the conditions that immigrants were to face in the early days and months in this new environment would prove tough, less so for the peasant farmers from Europe than for the Jersey lads who were familiar with a more benign way of farming. But, at 160 acres, those parcels of land, provided by the Canadian Government, were far larger than they might ever have in Jersey. But, in the case of the Remons, both would be back in the Island when the 1911 Census was taken, while Stanley Le Brocq would later be found serving with the South Staffordshire Regiment during the War. Of Reg Boullier and John Nicolle, nothing further has been found. But, given that he later enlisted in Canada, Snowdon had clearly managed to make a living, and had even found the time to serve with the 6<sup>th</sup> Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles, one of the units that formed Canada's Militia.

Snowdon soon volunteered, and enlisted in the Canadian Army on the 15<sup>th</sup> March, 1915 at New Westminster in British Columbia, and with his prior Militia service recognised, he was given the rank of Lance Corporal. It would appear that he was to be a member of the 47<sup>th</sup> Battalion, but we find him with the 30<sup>th</sup> Battalion which was, at the time he transferred on the 4<sup>th</sup> June, 1915, based at Shorncliffe Camp in Kent. It seems from other accounts that the 47<sup>th</sup> Battalion sent three drafts of approximately 250 officers and men in May, June and October of that year before it arrived in England in November, 1915 with 1150 officers and men. By that stage, Snowdon had been in France for three months and was now with the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, having again been transferred on the 28<sup>th</sup> August, 1915, while being sent to catch the next troop transport sailing to Boulogne-sur-Mer.

As an aside, it is interesting to consider his transfer cycle, from the 47<sup>th</sup> Battalion to the 30<sup>th</sup> Battalion, and then on to the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion in France. This reflected the wider requirement for casualty replacements, while at a personal level it may have indicated that he was very much to the fore with his previously acquired military skills in the Canadian Militia. Having arrived in England at the end of February, 1915, in April the 30<sup>th</sup> Battalion became the 30<sup>th</sup> (and later the 1<sup>st</sup>) Reserve Battalion and remained at Shorncliffe Camp at Folkestone, while the 47<sup>th</sup> Battalion did not reach France until August, 1916.



**Snowdon Malzard's Cap Badge**

There is little to note from his service record from his arrival with the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion until the 4<sup>th</sup> April, 1916.

We may presume that, during this period, he was engaged in the 'quiet' routine of everyday trench life enlivened by the occasional bombing, shelling and the crack of a sniper's bullet when an injudicious head looked out over a parapet, all of it interspersed with periods with the Corps, Divisional or Brigade Reserve, training and the seemingly overly frequent inspections by this or that GOC.

(If the reader is further interested in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion's activities during this period and the remainder of the War, they can find the Battalion's War Diaries via the following link:

[http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202\\_e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html)

Alternatively they can visit the website's link page).

For Snowdon, the 4<sup>th</sup> April, 1916 was a red letter day. He had his pay, travel documents and a leave pass for nine days in his pocket, and was soon heading off to England and from there he would catch the next mail-boat to Jersey. It appears that this was the first time back in the Island since his departure at the outset of 1904, and lest there is any doubt about it, his accompanying photograph, the Lance Corporal's stripe prominent, was taken in Jersey by Joseph D Tynan at 41 Bath Street.

Returning from his leave it seems that little had changed regarding the War as it had affected the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion. One reads the Battalion's War Diary and the events for April and May, 1916 are each concisely contained on half of one sheet. The covering pages for each month are three sheets in number. One could almost think that there was not a War on, even though the Battalion was in the Ypres Salient! For June, July and much of August the pattern continued with the phrases 'Beautiful day', 'Very hot day', 'Quiet' and 'Very quiet' being frequently used. On the 7<sup>th</sup> June Snowdon was promoted to the rank of Corporal, and this would be followed some seven weeks later with another promotion, this to Sergeant on the 27<sup>th</sup> July, 1916.

But, circumstances now changed. On the 12<sup>th</sup> August and the next three days also, the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion marched out of the Ypres Salient and into France, where they reached Eperlecques with, it was noted, very few cases of sore feet. At Eperlecques, over the next eleven days, they now underwent further training which included assaults, and this was probably a good indication that they were heading to the Somme. Indeed, in the early hours of the 28<sup>th</sup> August the Battalion entrained at Arques, and via a route that took in Etaples and Abbeville, reached Candas where they got off and marched to billets, an exercise that was repeated for a few more days until they reached their billets at Albert on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 1916.

It was not until the 7<sup>th</sup> that the Battalion moved up to the frontline a few miles north of Albert. The War Diary entry for this day states that:

*'Bright and warm. Bn. moved to front line and took over from 14<sup>th</sup> Bn. In an awkward situation. Lt. Walker wounded. Certain officers and ORs left in ALBERT'.*

The following day, the 8<sup>th</sup> September, 1916, the Battalion's situation warmed up, metaphorically as well as meteorologically, for the War Diary advises the reader that:

*'Numerous casualties owing to gap exposing flank. Gap filled and consolidated. Major Casey and Lt. Worsey killed and Lt Mogg wounded. Fine'.*

It was on this day that Snowdon received a wound, in the shape of a rifle bullet, and contusions to his head. The War Diary entry is, to say the least, very sketchy as to what actually occurred, but it does suggest that the Battalion's position was exposed to enfilading fire, and that the job of dealing with the Germans was given to one company, possibly two. As a Sergeant, Snowdon would have been out in front encouraging the men in his platoon to go forward.

Seriously wounded, Snowdon would now be sent back for medical attention. It is a remarkable testimony to the quality of the medical services organisation that, on the 13<sup>th</sup> September, he was admitted to the Wharnccliffe War Hospital on the outskirts of Sheffield. However, these five days had included him being operated on at No 22 General Hospital, at Camiers, where the offending bullet had been removed, and to ensure that his condition was sufficiently stable to be evacuated by sea and then to undertake the lengthy train journey north.

A further operation to examine the cleanliness of the wound took place at Wharnccliffe, and this proved satisfactory, his hospital notes indicating that it was both clean and, later, that it had 'healed rapidly', so much so, that he was transferred to the Canadian Convalescent Hospital, at Hillingdon House in Uxbridge, on the 13<sup>th</sup> of the following month. Recovery continued, and from the middle of November, 1916 he was employed in the Hospital's Post Office.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> January, 1917, he started to complain of bell-ringing noises in one ear and of recurrent attacks of giddiness and difficulty in walking in the dark. He was now transferred to the Canadian Ear and Eyes Hospital at West Cliff in Folkestone, for examination, where he was diagnosed as having Concussion Deafness and was kept in for treatment and further tests. Now he contracted scarlet fever, and was held in isolation for six weeks! Eventually, Snowdon would be discharged from hospital on the 5<sup>th</sup> April, 1917 with the medical Category Alll which was assigned to 'Returned Expeditionary Force men who should be AI once 'hardened''.

One can imagine that the process of 'hardening' included frequent route marches, PT, weapon training, square bashing and fatigues morning, noon and night. However, military training in the latest form of tactics would be given. Throughout this period, Snowdon was again at Shorncliffe Camp, on the strength of the 1<sup>st</sup> Reserve Battalion, but through most of July, he attended a course at Seaford, at that time the Regimental Headquarters of the British Columbia Regiment. At the beginning of August, he was now promoted to the rank of Company Sergeant Major, and then, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1917, he was posted back to the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion. However, it appears that he did not reach them until the 12<sup>th</sup> and it may be that he was given embarkation leave before he went to France, and perhaps he returned to Jersey again. The Battalion's Orders on the 14<sup>th</sup> December noted his arrival and assignment to No 3 Company in paragraph 1351.

From this point on, the Battalion's War Diary began to contain lengthier daily entries. Much of the Battalion's time between the beginning of January and the end of July in 1918 is spent in and out of the trenches in the Loos sector, although there is a brief spell at Dainville and in the tunnels at Arras in April. The Diary contains a daily weather report while the activities in the trenches tend to be covered by frequent references to 'Situation Normal' and 'Stand To'. It was noticeable that the Battalion was incurring the 'drip-drip' of daily casualties while in the trenches, an unnamed Other Rank killed by a sniper here or two men wounded there, thanks to a 'pineapple' or a 'whizz-bang'. Officer movements going on leave, being posted or attached were religiously recorded as was the notification of gallantry awards to all ranks. At the end of February, Snowdon Malzard was promoted to the rank of Warrant Officer Class 1, and appointed to become 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion's Regimental Sergeant Major, a role that saw him responsible for the men's turnout, cleanliness, drill, training, and above all, discipline.

In early-August, the Canadian Corps were moved, in considerable secrecy, to the front-line in front of Amiens at 10 p.m. on the 7<sup>th</sup>. The following morning, they, the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion amongst them, now advanced. From this point on, the Battalion would now be regularly engaged as the Allied Armies advanced, and of course, the casualties rose with this. For example, a successful assault on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September saw the capture of some 600-700 Germans, and many others undoubtedly killed. However the Battalion's casualty figures for this action totalled 127, of which 25 were killed. Sadly, that is the arithmetic of war.

Throughout the '100 Days' men were still able to take their leave, and we find Snowdon in Jersey during October, however, his return to the front, on the 13<sup>th</sup>, was delayed for about four days, apparently because of disruption to the Islands' mail-boat services as the ships were diverted to carry supplies to maintain the impetus of the Armies' advance in France.

Then the Armistice was declared. On this day the Battalion had been out of the line since the 18<sup>th</sup> October, and were lodged at Auberchicourt, and, oddly, the War Diary makes no mention of this momentous event. The Battalion now steadily advanced into Germany as part of the British Army of the Rhine, and would reach Overath, some 15 miles east of Cologne, before returning to Vaux-et-Borset in Belgium, where it appears that it now started to shed men for repatriation to Canada and their subsequent demobilisation. The War Diary was closed on the 28<sup>th</sup> February, 1919.

Having received a 'Mention in Despatches' (LG 31448), to go with the 1914-15 Star, British War and Victory Medals, for his services, Snowdon returned to England on the 15<sup>th</sup> March, 1919, and then on the 10<sup>th</sup> April he boarded the SS Carmania at Liverpool, bound for Montreal where he disembarked on the 18<sup>th</sup> April. A week's train ride to Vancouver followed, and on the 25<sup>th</sup> April, 1919, 429119 RSM Snowdon Malzard was demobilised from the Canadian Army, was considered to be in good health even allowing for his now healed head injury, and was now able to pick up the strands of the civilian life that he had left behind just over four years previously. One would have expected him to resume his farming in Canada.

Or perhaps not! Among the names listed on the SS Scotian's passenger list of those landed from Montreal, at Liverpool, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July, 1919 we discover that Snowdon Malzard is included. He gave his occupation as Farmer and his address to be Prospect House in Jersey, but also, he indicated that it would be permanent and therefore, a return to Canada was not intended. It appears that, in just two months, he had settled his Canadian affairs, disposed of what land he may have owned, had bought himself a one-

way ticket and, we presume, collected a banker's draft to be presented in Jersey. What had happened?



**Prospect House in the mid-1930s, with Gordon Malzard**

To answer that, we might first consider Irene Pontius's diary entries for 1920. Irene was Snowdon's sister and she was on leave at Prospect House from China at the beginning of the year. Unfortunately her diary for 1919 is missing, while it should be noted that Snowdon was known as 'Sotie' by his family. The entries are as follows:

**1<sup>st</sup> January:** [In Jersey]. An uneventful day. It poured and blew this afternoon. Mother and Father went for tea at Kath's; Gordon is recovering well from mumps. One year today since Nan (Edna?) died.

**2<sup>nd</sup> January:** Lovely day. We ironed. Reb and Ken went to the Larbalastiers.

**3<sup>rd</sup> January:** Snowdon and Tony have not been well today. Jack came this morning to ask about Sotie.

**4<sup>th</sup> January:** Sotie no better this evening. We went for the Doctor who says pleurisy is the trouble.

**5<sup>th</sup> January:** A very miserable day. Poor old Sotie is very seriously ill. The Doctor fears pneumonia. Tonight at 8.30 a nurse arrived for Sotie.

**6<sup>th</sup> January:** Sotie had a bad night but was a little better this morning. This afternoon he was much worse. Tonight we had to send for the Doctor again. We were all nearly heart broken when he said there was very little hope.

**7<sup>th</sup> January:** After a ghastly night for us all, Sotie died this morning at 7.30. We are all heart broken at our loss and feel we never can go on again. It is all so sad. We shall miss him terribly. A ghastly day with people in all the time.

As well as being Snowdon's sister, Irene Pontius was also the grandmother of Suzette Waterhouse, and along with the extracts from Irene's diary, Suzette recounts that:

*'Actually the rather startling family story passed on to us was that Snowdon died of a broken heart as his Canadian sweetheart was raped by Canadian soldiers (we presume in Canada) and died as a result of this. She is mentioned often in his letters as Harriet and he names her sisters. The Vancouver forwarding address in the records seems to be her family home.*

*I have been able to work out that she is Harriet Taynton from Vancouver and have identified all her family. In mid-1919 the shipping record shows her going to visit her sister in Kansas. Then the trail completely disappears and I can't find anything about her death even though I can find out when all the rest of her family died and where they are buried.'*

One cannot but be moved by the account of Snowdon's death, and while the Doctor could not register the Cause of Death as being 'Broken Heartedness', Harriet's fate, if true, clearly had a bearing on Snowdon's actions and, later, on his spirit. As to whether the story is true, there is strong circumstantial evidence to indicate that it is. Certainly, following the Great War, whilst the Canadians were waiting to board ships returning them home, there were a number of incidents of indiscipline, even killings, mutinies and riots. By the time men had reached the west coast of Canada, some would have been straining to break free from the disciplined environment that several years of military service had instilled into them, and a few drinks would have helped that process. In a simple word, they may have become wild. As to Harriet's 'disappearance' it does suggest that an assault had been regarded by her as shameful, and a marriage to Snowdon unthinkable. If this was so, both she and Snowdon were both victims, of that act and the War itself.

**(Author's Note:** At the outset, this was simply intended to be a short piece for 'Faces Remembered' while it was considered a possibility that Snowdon's wounding might have been linked to his death. However, as has been seen, his story has had a much darker finale to his brief life than was ever anticipated. His service file is currently held in the website's Members' Area if anyone wants to study it. Finally, thanks must go to Suzette Waterhouse for sharing the information regarding Snowdon Malzard. The interpretation of that information is mine alone.)

### **A Great War Old Victorian in Honolulu?**

Casually surfing the web about month ago, I keyed in 'Cyril Edmund Edmonds' only to find a link to the accompanying image of a grave marker to a Lieutenant-Colonel of that name, buried in the Punchbowl Crater Cemetery in Honolulu, Hawaii.



Given that the JRoS lists an OV with that name, having served as a Private with the US Army during the Great War, the obvious question was whether they were the same man? At first pass the dates of birth of 'both' are consistent, while the other data gathered (see pages 48 and 49) seems sufficiently credible to say 'Yes'. If that is correct, then it also appears that Cyril's name should now be added to Victoria College's WW2 Memorial.

However, to be absolutely sure, it has been possible to locate Cyril's grandson, probably his only one, and I posted a letter off to him on the 5<sup>th</sup> November setting out the reason for the enquiry. As this item is being written (the 12<sup>th</sup>), it is too early to have received a reply. While it will undoubtedly surprise the grandson, it is far preferable to going through the bureaucracy of obtaining the service records.

### **The 40 and 8 Society**

While looking through material regarding Cyril Edmund Edmonds (previous item), I chanced upon 'A History of Trenton 1679-1929' on the web, and discovered the following extract. Clearly the American Army was equally struck by the '40 Hommes, 8 Chevaux' wagons on the 'Chemins de Fer'. It was an interesting way to remember that all too familiar method of transport.

*'In March, 1920 the first effort was made to organize a play feature for the American Legion. Many legionnaires believed there should be some such unit, and Joseph W Breen, a veteran of two wars, conceived the idea of the 40 and 8 Society. The title is taken from the legend on the French 'side-door Pullmans,' so familiar to the travelling doughboy. Its members are known as 'Voyageurs Militaires' and the candidates as 'Prisonniers de Guerre.' The initiation ceremony is called a Wreck and is staged by a 'Wrecking Crew.' All officers of the organization are designated by terms used about the railroad stations of France.*

*On 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 1922, Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer George Dobson came to Trenton with the wrecking crew of Voiture No. 127 of Middlesex County and instituted the Trenton branch of the organization.*

*Immediately following the initiation an election was held and Richard Stockton, Jr., was elected the first Chef de Gare de Voiture No. 235, of Trenton, to serve for one year. Since then the following veterans have held this post: James E Mitchell, Samuel P Scott, Harry Evans, CE Edmonds, William Wharton, Charles W Blakesley.*

*Of the many activities which the Society has fostered perhaps the most important is the child welfare fund which it inaugurated. This fund is raised through payment of a percentage of each Voyageur's dues to the child welfare committee of the American Legion.'*

### **Jottings From Guernsey By Liz Walton**

At the beginning of October I attended the first full meeting of the committee coordinating the centenary commemoration of the Great War in Guernsey. Present were politicians from Culture and Leisure, including Deputy Paul Le Pelley who will be chairing the committee, the Lieutenant-Governor's ADC, Major Marco Ciotti, Alun Williams representing the Education department, Jason Monaghan, head of Museum Services and fellow Group member Russell Doherty who is well known to many for his wide knowledge of the Bailiwick's military history. Representatives from the media will be invited to future meetings. The role of the committee will be largely to coordinate and facilitate events to be staged by parishes, churches, schools, youth groups etc. Problems discussed were overkill, i.e. this has to be sustained as an ongoing project over five years, and the fact that 2015 is also the year when 70 years of Liberation will be celebrated. As ever, funding

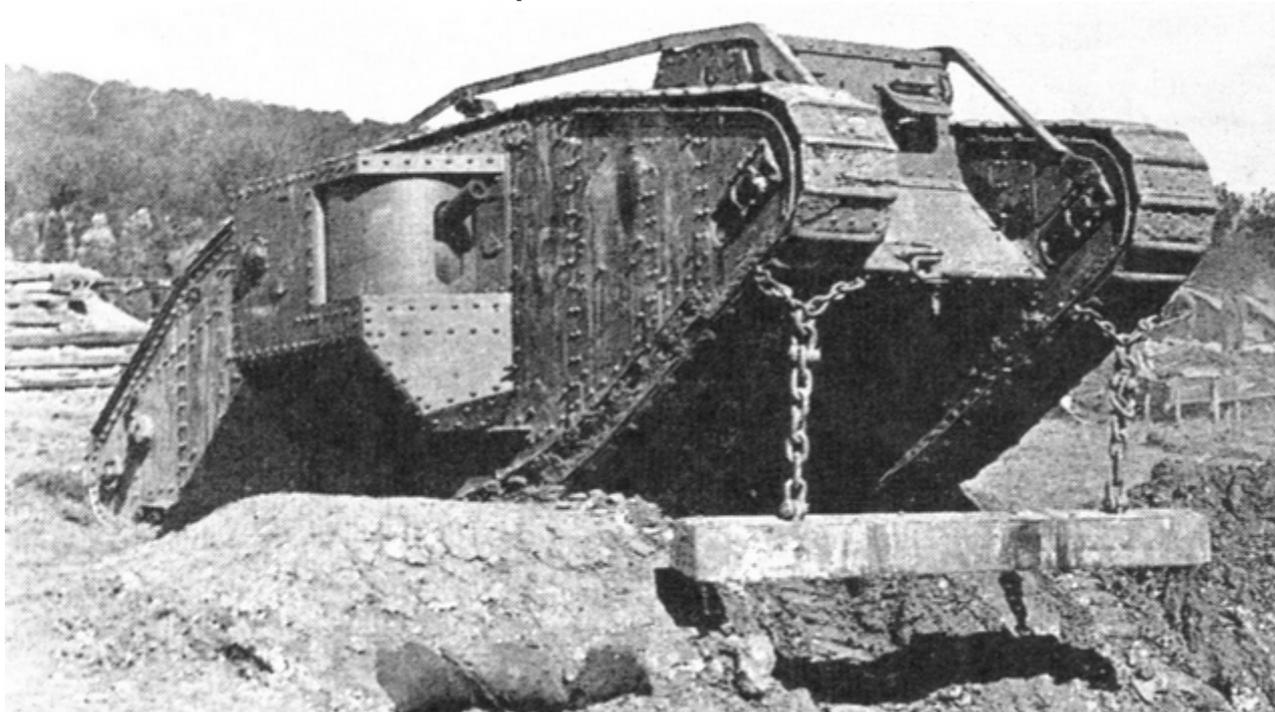
was also a concern. However ideas were exchanged, some basic principles were agreed upon and different committee members have various tasks to undertake before reporting back. Mine included discussing the possibility of the Guernsey Press running an 'In Memoriam' column on a weekly basis for the duration. This has now been discussed with the Editor of the Guernsey Press and I await a final decision.

I also had a meeting with Dawn Gallienne from the Guernsey Philatelic Bureau re a commemorative stamp issue as they are interested in the possibility of one stamp featuring local women and the war. Various possibilities were discussed and materials were photographed. I will report back when I hear the outcome of this meeting.

The Workers Educational Association (WEA) is looking to feature Guernsey and the Great War as the topic for the Raymond Falla Memorial Lecture next year. Hopefully there will be more on this to follow.

Finally work on my book continues following a meeting with Matt Harvey of the museum service to look at possible illustrations and maps. It is to be called 'A Guernseyman Goes To War' and should come out in December of this year. It will tell the story of the experiences of a Private in the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry, with his experiences (told in his own words) set against the bigger picture of the events of the time. It will be published by the Guernsey Museum Service.

### **C'était pour brouiller les Pistes**



**A Mk 4 Tank, the type commanded by Edward de Faye at Cambrai and Gauche Wood**

Having avoided clichés in 'From Gauche Wood to Grouville' in Journal 50, I now have to try to dodge the use of 'red herrings', this time with regard to finding out what happened to Second Lieutenant (2Lt) Edward de Faye. I had put forward the 'wrong map reference' theory in that Journal, so, when in France in September, it had to be explored, and taking the wrong road when heading out of Peronne to Bapaume for an early lunch proved fortuitous when I found that it led straight on into Gouzeaucourt (the D917).

As members will recall, the area to be investigated was the area around the 1917 site of a Royal Engineers Bench Mark (see the map on page 48 of Journal 50) on the single line rail track that lies to the east of Gouzeaucourt and runs approximately north-south. Turning onto the Villers-Guislain road (D16), there was a convenient place to park a few yards from what must have been the house, in more recent times, for the guard looking after the level crossing when it was active, and with that, it was straight down the road track that runs roughly parallel with the rail track. I was mildly surprised, and yet I should not have been, at the correlation of the trench map with the contours, and at how little has changed in the 96 years since the map was drawn up. Of course, the D16 has been tarmac-ed as has the road track, while there are modern buildings on the site of Quentin Mill but, the linear features retain the same direction within a degree or two.



The above photograph, looking north, is taken where the track crosses the rail line (57c.X.1.c.2.7) about 50-75 yards south of the Bench Mark's original location. The taller trees on the skyline mark the Quentin Mill site and at the top end of the 'puddled' track, there is the north-south road track.

I set out with two objectives in mind, the first being to see whether there was still some physical evidence of the Bench Mark. It was a long shot, but as can be seen from the photograph, the vegetation alongside the rail track was very overgrown and it would have taken days to have cleared it away, not a few minutes during a casual visit and being equipped with only a pen and notebook! However, the other objective was to gauge the contours and compare them with the graves photograph (see page 37 of Journal 48). In that there was clearly scope with the terrain, but it was inconclusive given the poor quality of the image, and I was there just two days before the equinox, so that the light and shadows were not right. The photographs taken are largely a mixture of brown and green, and I won't bore people with empty fields and cloudy skies, save for the photograph of Gauche Wood below taken from the approximate position of the Bench Mark to the Wood's north-west.



Still, it was a pleasant walk in the fresh air, and as I subsequently discovered some ten or so days later it was highly likely that the 'wrong map reference' theory was clouding the issue (as the French phrase in the title implies) of where Edward had been buried, and that it was where it had been recorded in his WO file (at 57c.X.1.c.8.2).

What had prompted this change of mind? Some few months ago I had sought to place a letter in the WFA's 'Stand To' magazine seeking help in identifying the names on the grave markers other those of Donald Tinkler and Edward. It was recently printed, and while in France I received an almost immediate response from a retired Lieutenant-Colonel, who had served in the Royal Tank Regiment, and who among a number of other projects, is studying the action at Gauche Wood. As they say, discussions are ongoing, but, in a pooling of information, he has very kindly provided me with the copies of two Battle History Sheets (BHS), one for Edward's tank A.25, the other for A.28, which was commanded by a 2Lt TJ Shaw.

I have never previously seen a BHS, so receiving these was doubly interesting. As its name suggests, it is a post-action report and contains a number of headings to be completed, casualties, hours in action, ammunition expended, number of messages sent by pigeon, and so forth. Then there is the space for a more lengthy and descriptive 'Report on Action'.

Comparing the two BHS in terms of the 'Report on Action', it is a very much a case of chalk and cheese. A.25's report was descriptive, but about half the size of A.28's, which was also far more detailed in terms of providing map references and other information. The reason for this is simple, 2Lt Shaw was in command, and from his position in the tank up along side of the driver, he could see where his tank was at any one time, and was aware of what was happening around his position. Edward had been killed, and the NCO who had subsequently provided the report, would not have been aware of map references before the tank had been struck. His view was that of the Wood solely through his gun-sight! Sadly because of this, A.25's report is of limited value although it does suggest that Edward was killed at around 10.00 hours, given that the tank had started at 06.30 hours and that it had been in action for about 3½ hours, and that it had emerged at the west end of the Wood based upon sightings of the British infantry line.

Turning to A.28, the report states that the tank had started at 06.10 hours and that the time in action was about 5½ hours, thus in theory it would have stopped at around 11.40 hours. But the report also informs us that it did not leave the Gauche Wood area until

13.20 hours for a rallying point at Revelon Ridge. Therefore, at first pass, there appears to have been a period of at least 100 minutes when the tank was 'sat idle'.

There is a rationale for this period. First, while it was moving forward to the east of Gauche Wood, A.28 suffered a broken fan belt and could not continue. 2Lt Shaw then dismounted to find other tanks while instructing his NCO to get the tank back under the cover of the Wood. Rejoining the tank, the fan belt was replaced in about 15 minutes and he rallied some six or seven tanks, who had returned for presumed infantry support, with the intention of returning to Villers-Guislain. However, now 2Lt Shaw's Section Commander came up, and given that there was no artillery and infantry support immediately available, 2Lt Shaw was ordered to stand by and await reinforcements, and, at the same time, be ready to repulse any German counter-attack. Can one presume that all of the seven tanks were there until the departure at 13.20 hours?

If there were six or seven tanks so gathered, where was this laager? As has been mentioned, A.28's report was detailed, and 2Lt Shaw informs the reader that he was at 57c.X.1.c.8.3. If this map reference is correct (and I should say that I believe one that he quotes elsewhere in the report is not), then it places him, and more than fifty other men, at a position some 50 yards north of the spot where Edward and his driver were originally buried at 57c.X.1.c.8.2!

If this interpretation of the BHS information is correct, if A.25 was struck just to the west of Gauche Wood, if the laager's map reference is correct, if there were fifty odd men, and if the 'idling time' of 100 minutes is a viable figure, it is possible that a burial could have taken place in the period before the tanks headed off to Revelon Ridge. There are a lot of 'ifs', but when combined, they can provide a scenario that is consistent with the data in Edward's WO file. Clearly, they offer a solid argument for rejecting the 'wrong map reference' theory that placed the burials by the Benchmark.

2Lt Shaw makes no mention of Edward's burial in A.28's BHS, why not? It can only be because it would not have been relevant to how A.28 was used when it was not 'idle' but running. Edward's un-named NCO, beyond listing the four casualties, makes no reference either. Perhaps he was not pressed on the subject?

So, this is a piece of research that is still continuing. Thanks to the 'Stand To' item I have very recently received news from another source that new data may be forthcoming, and I am not yet in a position to discuss it, never mind to analyse it. Therefore, all I can do is to close with that time-honoured phrase of, '**To be continued**'.

**Postscript:** 2Lt Shaw's first names were Thomas Joseph, and looking into his background, it was found that he was awarded the MC for his work on the 1<sup>st</sup> December, 1917 (London Gazettes 30530, 30801 and 30997 refer). Oddly it appears that he has two citations for the same award, but LG 30997 does make the conscious link to LG 30530 which gazetted the MC, and appears to be consistent with the events in A.28's BHS. If so, LG 30801 may have been for efforts at Cambrai. His medal card notes that in late-1925 he was at the Seale Hayne Agricultural College at Newton Abbot.

Perhaps Thomas wrote of Edward's death and burial in his letters home, a diary, or in other papers that may have survived. Now that is an interesting thought!

## A Visit to Verdun, 2013

Having had to cancel our planned fortnight on the Somme in June/July, the memsahib and I spent a few days on a 'whistle stop' tour there as a form of re-familiarisation exercise, while also taking in Gauche Wood as described in the previous article. So, we headed down from Albert to Verdun, encountering a *déviaton* on the outskirts of Péronne, which attracted the attention, I fear, of a flashing speed camera, or I hope not. (For those of you who can recall last year's trip report to Verdun, I met the pretty policewoman with another speed camera, so maybe there is a trend emerging?)

We again stayed at last year's water-hole, the Bernier's first rate gîte in Charny-sur-Meuse. It is to be recommended as Alan Bertram, who visited us while we were there, can vouch. However, this year the intention was to take life more steadily rather than undertake a frenzied series of trips around the countryside. However, there were still some grave markers to photograph including the four at Douaumont, which incidentally, is still being renovated, and which also caused some cloak and dagger skulduggery on my part that is subject to the Official Secrets Act! This year, discounting the fact that there is no Junction 31 on the A4/E50 Auto-route, two items stood out.

**Some interesting Battlefield Archaeology was discovered:** When visiting battlefields, there can be a tendency to stick to well trodden tourist trails (and I'm certainly guilty of that). But, one grave marker photographing trip to Pierrepont also led to two interesting items of German construction. For, alongside the main road (D66) near Mangiennes, we spotted the bunker pictured below.





The obvious leading question is whether it was a Great War structure, or whether the Germans had built it during World War 2. German bunkers litter the Channel Islands and there are features in this bunker that are directly comparable with the Islands', such as the stepped embrasures for the field and machine guns. This area was in German hands for most of both Wars, and Whilst a WW2 answer might be feasible, this and similar examples, could have been used as a model from one war to apply the best features in the next.

What is striking, however, is the apparent quality of the concrete, it is better than the material used in the German blockhouses in the Ypres Salient, and that leads to an argument for WW2. Has anyone any idea on this?

Now, another question, what do you do with leftover naval guns? As one would expect, in this situation, the Germans were as innovative as ever, digging big holes, lined them with concrete and installed the guns, pointing them at Verdun and the surrounds. One such example of what they achieved is pictured below, and it can be found to the west of Duzey in *Le Bois de Warphemont*. Sadly, the gun has long gone for scrap, all 220 tons of it, and the pit has six to eight feet of rainwater, yet it is still an impressive structure.



Understandably, there were other structures including a command post and a shelter for the gun crew, but unfortunately safety considerations meant that these were locked. One suspects that there was some passage connecting these to the gun pit. Two further structures were accessible though. The one shown below is the 'output' end of one of two ammunition tunnels each of about 150 yards in length. The tunnels would provide cover for the shells, and would allow the crew to prepare them to be fired in relative safety. Given that each shell weighed about three-quarters of a ton and was about seven feet long, it was clearly necessary that small gauge railway lines ran through the tunnels and, presumably, up to the gun pit where the shell would be directly lifted by a crane from a dolly onto the gun's loading cradle.



There are some vestiges of railway track in the gun position, but sadly no comprehensive indication of any network of tracks. Even the dollies used to carry the shells would have been substantial and would not have been manhandled 'off-rail', even when unloaded. The other ends of the two ammunition tunnels converged as can be seen on the next page where the channel carried the railway line in from a railway station about 600 yards away, where the Germans brought in the unprepared shells by rail and transferred them.

As to the naval gun itself, an example is shown overleaf, and while it is not the one installed in *Le Bois de Warphemont*, one can gauge its overall size from members of the 74-strong gun-crew provided by the German Navy. It had a 15 inch (380mm) bore, and it fired a shell weighing in at 1680 pounds (750kg) at a steady rate of 8 shells an hour. After some modifications to the gun pit, it was able to strike a target area, albeit imprecisely, some 28 miles (45km) away. With that in mind, consider what might have resulted in 1914 if Germany had overrun France, captured the Cotentin, and there was no truce?



**A Champagne Monday was had:** Well, it was anything but, a day that left me rather flat as opposed to feeling bubbly! The plan had been to visit eight cemeteries to photograph

graves in the Champagne region between Verdun and Reims in a 6-6½ hour period that included a lunch stop. The reality was five in 8-8½ hours, although the memsahib and I did get lunch, if a little late! Mistakes? Well, I made a few, perhaps the biggest ones being inadequate preparation, overly relying on a Michelin France atlas, and an expectation that the signage to cemeteries was up to the level of that of the CWGC.

The first two mistakes tend to go hand in hand. While the CWGC provides directions and GPS for those using SatNav, the French equivalent appears not to have a similar facility. So, it is advisable to get a very detailed map of the areas to visit and not just to place too much reliance on Michelin's 1/200.000. In other research I had used the excellent Geoportail facility ([www.geoportail.gouv.fr](http://www.geoportail.gouv.fr)) which now has a link on the website, and in retrospect, it would be sensible to have run off suitably sized maps as the example on page 50 shows. In fact, that may be appropriate for CWGC searches also, coupled with the use of their handbook of cemeteries.

For me, the CWGC approach to signage is the benchmark. The fact that they are painted a dark green ensures that they stand out from the normal signs that populate French roads. They also tend to be situated on the logical access routes, though some fail that test. There are times that I've seen them on the way out and not on the way in! The French signs, by comparison, are what I'd call 'bingo' signs, very much the luck of the draw if you see one. They are white with a *poilu's* head and the tricolour, and although I saw a few that Monday, they were not on my list to visit! There are, of course, the risks that road changes might occur and the perennial acts of vandalism, but none of 'my five' fell in that category and in two cases, I had to call in on the *Mairie* and the Fire Station! Two were discovered after I had overshot and saw them in my rear view mirrors, and the last was a fluke by first getting lost trying to find a place to eat in Chalons-en-Champagne!

As an aside, signage giving directions to the American Meuse-Argonne Cemetery was appearing at some 20 miles out. It is also curious to note that, given that the majority of French cemeteries are fewer and larger than British ones, few apart from those such as Notre-Dame-de-Lorette and Douaumont seem to have visitors.

At Suippes I located the main entrance to the cemetery, but the grave was at the opposite end, so that turned out to be a 600-700 yard round trip! Chalons was even worse. It is a joint civilian and military cemetery that is long with a path running down the middle and a wire mesh fence separating the two. Then, I parked at the rear entrance, to find that I had to walk to the other end to access the military, and then to discover that the grave was at the top near the rear entrance! So, two round trips totalling some 1000 yards. Souain-Perthes-lès-Hurlus offered a different problem. I discovered that, with my list of names and references, I could not find the right markers. Fortunately the register was available, and I was able to revise my list with the correct references. However, it was not clear whether our website data was inaccurate when it was originally created, or that the French had recently revised their listings. Although the cemetery has been refurbished recently, I suspect that it was our, well my, data that was wrong.

Navigational disasters apart, it does appear to be an interesting area, one that is rarely visited by the British. Mourmelon-le-Grand, for example, witnessed some of the early record-breaking flights by Henri Farman, while the cemeteries are evidence of the French battles in the area. But, it is also a sizeable military training area of Salisbury Plain proportions, and one should not be surprised to see the odd Leclerc tank heading in your direction, or to hear the occasional crumps of shells landing on their target areas.

## **CWGC Non-Commemorations**

Again this has proved to be a very quiet quarter. However, the Metropolitan London Archive is in my sights, and I will be visiting it at the end of November to locate hospital records for John Breban. It is a new area of research.

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

### **Being Progressed**

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

### **Pending**

Owen, Guy  
De Ste Croix, Harold P

### **TBA**

Anderson, Frank B  
Touzel, Walter H  
Ferrer, Amant

### **Not for Submission**

Mourant, Sydney A  
Surguy, Sidney  
Pirouet, Charles A  
Syborn, George T  
Le Cocq, Clarence E  
De Caen, Raymond  
**Malzard, Snowdon**

### **Rejected by CWGC**

Adams, Frank H  
Vibert, John E

### **With the CWGC**

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

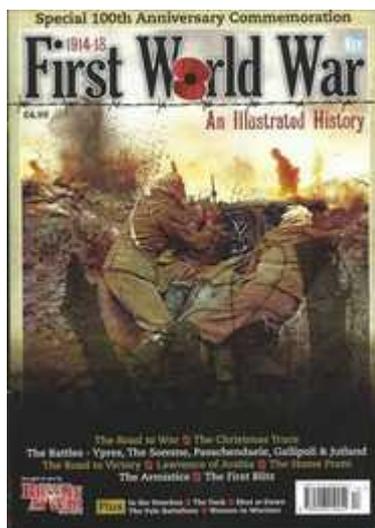
\* With assistance from  
the 'In from the Cold'  
Project Team

## **Around the Press and Television**

Invariably, during the two to three weeks immediately running up to Remembrance Day there tends to be an increase in the number of human story items that feature the two World Wars. This year is no different, with the discovery that the youngest British soldier to serve on the Somme was only twelve years old when he enlisted for example.

As forecast in Journal 50, there have been items regarding on Cannock Chase, the latest being shown on BBC TV a few days before this Journal was put to bed. Viewers were able to see the interior of the barrack hut as well as the fully excavated Messines model, which has now been covered over once more. In terms of TV drama, there was 'The Wipers Times' shown back in September. Liz Walton has supplied a review which features below, so there are no comments on this programme from the Editor, other than to remind readers of Ian Hislop's Jersey link through his mother's birth in Jersey and that his grandfather, William Beddowes, had served as a permanent staff SNCO with Jersey's Militia and later helped set up the RJGB.

Mention was made of the (Sunday) Telegraph publishing a monthly supplement which is sponsored by Lord Ashcroft, and in case you missed that fact at the beginning, it is mentioned on every other page subsequently! It is now a quarter of the way through the planned programme of twelve issues. I cannot say that I am over-enthused by it, but at the same time, I am unable to say why. The fourteen pages (there are also two full pages of advertising) average a quarter page's worth of photographs while the contributors such as Kate Adie and Nigel Steel are of note. It is possibly because the articles do not link with each other and are not chronological.



On a more positive note, the 'First World War: An Illustrated History' has begun appearing on shelves in newsagents and supermarkets in the last few weeks. Priced £4.99, it does look to be good value, is well illustrated and gives the reader a good overview of the Great War from start to finish. Produced by the people who put out 'Britain at War' on a monthly, it contains 130 pages of which only 7 are adverts.



If there is one thing to credit the French for, then it is the Great War magazines that they produce, whether in a series or as a standalone publication. One of the more recent is *Tranchées*, and it is of the same quality as *14-18: Le Magazine de la Grande Guerre*. It is priced at 7.70 Euros, published quarterly and while it understandably focuses on French efforts during the War, it gives reasonable space to the other combatant nations, 10 out of 80 pages on the Battle of Amiens, for example, in the issue pictured above. 'First World War: An Illustrated History' is comparable to both French publications.

**'The Wipers Times', BBC2, 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2013  
By Liz Walton**

The programme was described by its writers Ian Hislop and Nick Newham as a satirical comedy or a comedy drama. Ian Hislop is said to have come across the story some ten years previously while working on a documentary for Radio 4. The Wipers Times was a trench magazine produced by British soldiers from the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Sherwood Foresters (Nottingham and Derbyshire Regiment). In early 1916 they were stationed in the front line at Ypres (known to the troops as Wipers) and came across an abandoned Belgian printing press. They renovated it and decided to produce their own magazine. It was a war journal unlike any other because instead of being a traditional document of record it was a satirical newspaper produced amidst the chaos of the trenches. Newham notes 'It was this printed lampoon of the Great War, written under fire, that we have attempted to celebrate on the screen.'

The television programme consisted of episodes of drama based on the original text interspersed with genuine film footage from the period. In general this technique was very effective and good use was made of lighting and sepia tones to add atmosphere to the 'new' sections. However some of the acting was rather wooden, the irony heavy handed

and at times characters came across as caricatures to the extent of it being reminiscent of a student revue. I also found details such as uniforms being far too neat for soldiers sheltering in the ruins and hair styles not of the period rather annoying.

Despite these reservations, overall the programme did reflect the 'feel' of the Wipers Times. Sections such as the burial party scene and the related poem were very moving and the irony which is such a feature of the original text (as in the weather forecast giving odds for 5 to 1 mist, 11 to 2 East wind or frost and 8 to 1 Chlorine) was well interpreted on the whole. If at times it appeared a little overdone it is probably because there was a concentration of articles which in reality would have appeared in the journal over a fairly long period of time. It certainly gave viewers a feel for what made the Wipers Times so different from other soldiers' journals which tended to either record the horrors of the time or take a sentimentalised poetic view. Many of the contributions were in the form of poems but the extract below reflects the Editor's view on this and the general tone of the journal: 'We regret to announce that an insidious disease is affecting the Division, and the result is a hurricane of poetry. Subalterns have been seen with a notebook in one hand, and bombs in the other absently walking near the wire in deep communication with their muse. Even Quartermasters with 'books, note, one' and 'pencil, copying' break into song while arguing the point re 'boots, gum, thigh'. The Editor would be obliged if a few of the poets would break into prose as the paper cannot live by poems alone.'

Overall the programme was well worth watching and hopefully it has inspired viewers to go back to the original text and enjoy it in context and in its entirety.

**The Ballad of the Naked Knees  
A Tribute to a Hardy Race  
Dedicated to Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig**

As if on cue! Liz's article on The Wipers Times, and its Editor's dislike of too much poetry being submitted, conveniently leads this Editor into the inclusion of the following Ballad, looted from another soldiers' paper of the time, the US Stars and Stripes, that was published between February, 1918 and June, 1919. As an 'official' publication, it lacks the anarchy of 'Wipers', but a few satirists still managed to sneak in under the duckboards.

I've marvelled oft at airmen's feats,  
I've wondered at the engineers,  
I've seen men thrive on measly eats.  
I've seen men conquer all their fears;  
But, when the pibroch sounds sae shrill  
And Highland plaids sweep the breeze,  
I get the highest sense of thrill  
At seeing Scots with naked knees!

How do they stand it, rain or shine,  
Winter or summer? I don't know;  
With army trousers, my limbs I line  
Whene'er it's thirty-two below.  
But they? Along their column sweeps  
With never a rheumatic wheeze  
It fairly gives a Yank the creeps  
To see those Scots with naked knees!

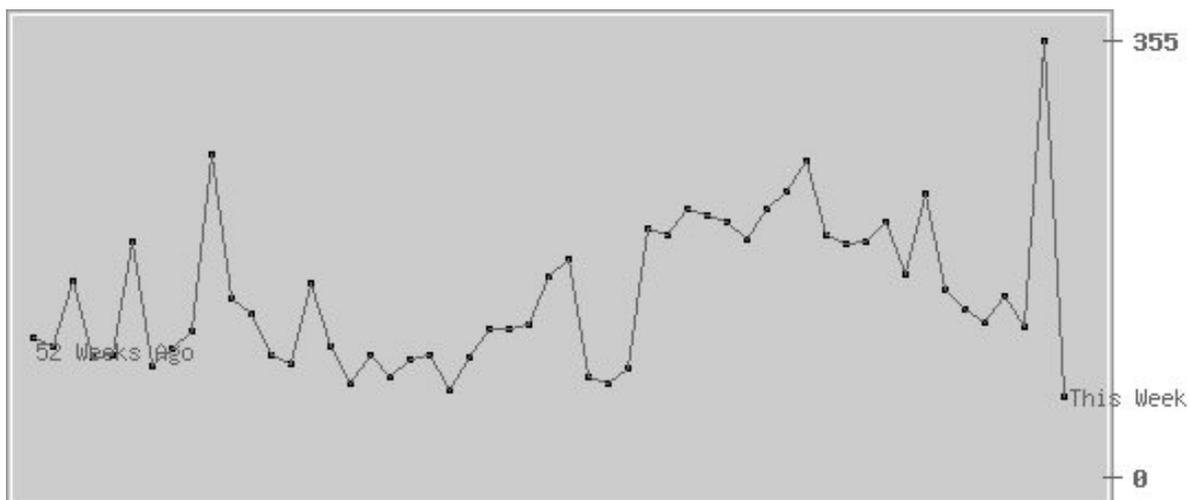
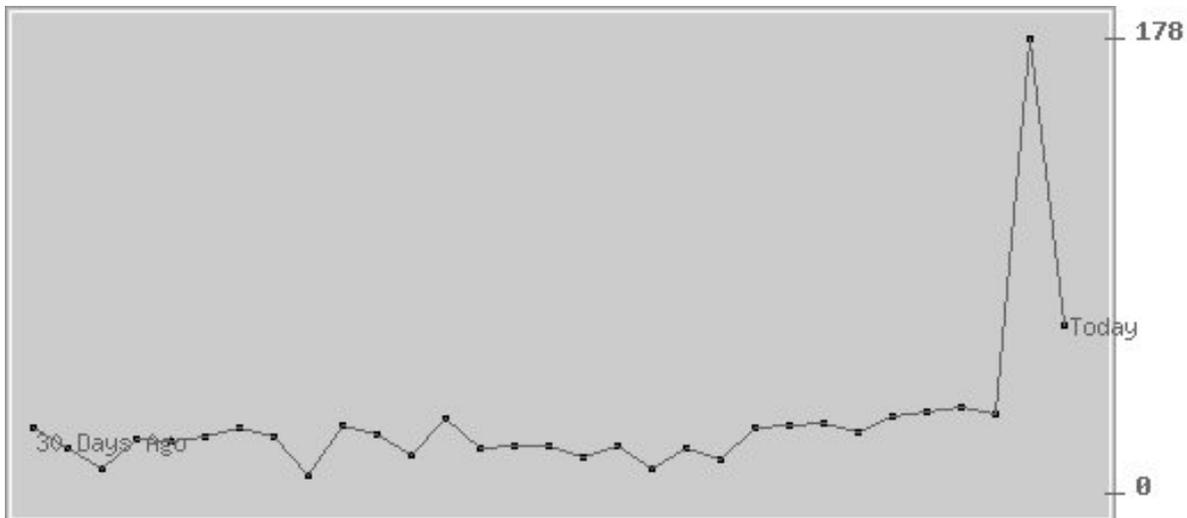
Have they in Scotia nae Red Cross  
To furnish them with kneelets knit?  
Or have they orders from their Boss  
To bare themselves and thus get fit?  
I'm fairly hardy, but I vow  
That I in such a garb would freeze;  
It makes me shiver, even now,  
To see those Scots with naked knees!

L'Envoi.

Sir Douglas Haig, this song to you  
I dedicate - accept it please;  
I know how Britain 'sees it through'  
When I view Scots with naked knees!

## Website Workings By Roger Frisby

The total number of website visits has now reached around 36515 an additional 2584 visits since the last Journal was published in August. There has been a sharp increase in daily use since the 10<sup>th</sup> November, and that is probably related to Armistice events.



**Recent Website Visit Activity**

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

- Guernsey Roll of Honour – 1465 names (up by 1)
- Guernsey Roll of Service – 5294 names (up by 189)
- Jersey Roll of Honour – 1637 names (up by 1)
- Jersey Roll of Service\* – 7428 names (up by 18)

\* Jersey RoS is updated in batches.

The website is occasionally updated in terms of new links being added. One has been added for the Stars and Stripes that was referred to above. The other is a very good site on 'British Military Nurses'. Do check out the 'Links' menu for the occasional updates.

## Photograph Requirements for the Rolls of Honour

For those travelling in the British Isles we still need photographs to add to our Rolls of Honour from:

Alfreton, Derbyshire	Manchester Southern
Burnley, Lancs	Sunderland
Camberwell, London	County Cork, Ireland
Dunfermline, Fifeshire	Downpatrick, Northern Ireland
Gosport, Hants	County Donegal, Ireland
Liverpool	

Full details can be found in the Members Area of our website, and if advice is required, please contact Roger.

### Cemetery Visits By Roger Frisby

Our Indian summer tempted me to make a West Country Grand Tour in September. I had spent some time acquiring cemetery plans as I've found it impossible to find some graves without them. Even so, I needed on-site assistance in some cases.



**The grave of Guernseyman CSM Charles Chayter at Falmouth**

A lot of help was needed at Falmouth to find this grave. They are planning to put a lot of effort into this part of the cemetery, tidying graves and clearing undergrowth, and have promised to send a photograph when this is complete. As a reward for several hours there, I treated myself to a nice meal of Falmouth oysters and Cornish sole at Rick Stein's! The round trip covered Beer, Crediton, Plymouth, Falmouth and Reading. Then, tempted by a £38 return fare for myself and car, I made a whistle-stop tour of Northern France and Belgium in October to capture some of our remaining Roll of Honour photographs. Lille, Ploegsteert, Halle in Belgium, La Longueville and Soissons were covered during this trip.



**Soissons Memorial**

To visit the Soissons Memorial a digital gate code has to be obtained from the CWGC French office at Beaurains, on the outskirts of Arras. The last time I visited, it was a public holiday and the office was closed! There was no mistake this time! We have six men remembered there.



**Soldat Emile Emmanuel Le Rudulier is remembered.  
At the Nécropole Nationale Bois Roger, near Soissons**

In contrast to the CWGC cemeteries, the French ones are almost without visitors. Large and well kept, I usually seem to be the only person there.

Having a whole day to travel from Soissons to Calais for my return ferry, I took a leisurely non-motorway route via the coast and came across this lovely old lady at The Chemin de Fer de la Baie de Somme:



**It was midday, and in France, so she sat there all alone,  
simmering gently, whilst her minder was away eating lunch!**

The line saw service in the Great War, particularly during 'Operation Michael' in 1918. In fact it has seen service in three wars. It was occupied by German forces in the Franco-Prussian war (1871-1873) and also during the Second World War.

### **Out and About**

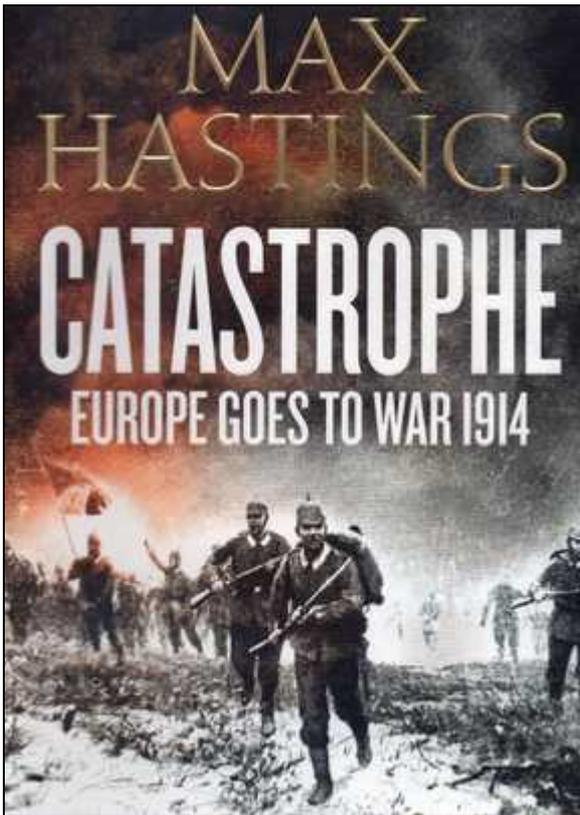
**Looking Back:** Daniel Benest, Alan Bertram, Roger Frisby and I have recently been in France and Flanders, with related articles from Roger and myself to be found in this Journal. Ian Ronayne's Verdun Tour with Go Battlefield Tours in September was cancelled due to insufficient demand.

Ned Malet de Carteret visited Kew and the IWM in late October, even pub lunching with 'Mr Gallipoli', Nigel Steel, from the IWM. He reports that work is still underway there for the forthcoming reopening in 2014 for the start of the anniversary of the Great War, but that areas such as Lord Ashcroft's VC display remains accessible.

**Looking Forward:** Alan Bertram has already booked to go to Ypres over the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> August. I am staying near Hesdin for a fortnight in June, and will again be heading to Verdun for another fortnight in September/October.

Kew is on my agenda at the end of this month, along with the London Archive visit covered elsewhere.

## Book Reviews



**Catastrophe**  
**Europe Goes To War 1914**  
**By Max Hastings (2013)**  
**(William Collins - £30.00)**  
**Review by Peter Tabb**

Many of us will have been wondering which historian it would be who would produce the first blockbuster in advance of the 100th anniversary of the start of the Great War, particularly since there are so many of them and the Great War itself has proved, particularly in recent years to be a very rich and still very much untapped source.

Since the sad demise of Richard Holmes, Max Hastings has probably been elevated to the status of being my favourite historian. Not, of course, that the death of Richard Holmes in any way diminishes the value of his many works but it does mean he will produce no more.

Max Hastings comes from a journalistic background having edited several national newspapers and his father, Macdonald Hastings, was also a well-known writer and television presenter. Having something of a journalistic background myself, I warm to the style former journalists tend to adopt when they turn their copywriting skills to longer works but also admire their ability to ferret out a plethora of facts (and sometimes fantasies).

There is little that is fantastic about Catastrophe other than its sheer bulk – it comprises well in excess of 600 pages and being printed in 8-pt Minion there is an awful lot of words on every page.

Anyone already familiar with any of the author's recent works will not be surprised at the bulk because his *All Hell Let Loose* - described by the *Sunday Times* as the best single-volume history of the Second World War ever written – and *The Korean War*, his history of what has largely become a forgotten conflict, leave little for any other historian to turn over. So it is with *Catastrophe* albeit this is Hastings' first foray into the Great War and clearly there is no intent for this to be a single volume history since it deals only with the first five months.

Max Hastings is not content to tell a story simply on its own merits, however compelling that story may be, but insists of putting forward his own views so the reader is left in no doubt as to where this particular historian stands. In this work these views will clash with those promoted by *Oh What a Lovely War!* and latterly *Blackadder Goes Forth* that the Great War was an appallingly great waste, particularly of human life and was tribute only to man's stupidity in thriving on his ability for self-destruction.

This work deals with the events of 1914, before and after the various declarations of war. In that year Europe was plunged into the 20<sup>th</sup> century's first terrible act of self-immolation. Max Hastings seeks to explain both how the conflict came about and what befell millions of men and women during the first months. In his view the evidence is overwhelming that Germany and Austria have to accept the principal blame for the outbreak. While what follows was a vast tragedy, he argues passionately against the 'poets' view', that the war was not worth winning and what's more, vital to the freedom of Europe that Germany should be defeated.

His narrative of the early battles will astonish those whose images of the Great War are simply of mud, wire, trenches, artillery and steel helmets. He describes how the French army marched into action amid unspoiled rural landscapes, clad in uniforms of red and blue, led by mounted officers, with flags flying and bands playing. The bloodiest day of the entire war fell on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 1914 when the French lost 27,000 dead. Four days later, at Le Cateau, the British fought an extraordinary action against the oncoming Germans, one of the last of its kind in history. In October, at terrible cost, they held the allied line against massive German assaults in the first battle of Ypres. In the same period there were brutal struggles in Serbia, East Prussia and Galicia, where by Christmas the Germans, Austrians, Russians and Serbs had inflicted on each other three million casualties.

The British retreat from Mons is, not surprisingly, covered in considerable detail. In Belgium and France that August the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) suffered the consequences of the Asquith government's policy, reprising that of many British administrations throughout history, of pursuing gesture strategy (**Editor:** And so it continues). Ministers committed an absurdly small army to the continent (after all, if it was all going to be over by Christmas, why not?), where it became entangled in a clash between major European land powers. Only as a consequence of luck, French mass and German fumbling did the BEF escape a disaster. Notwithstanding, on the 25<sup>th</sup> August Lieutenant Colonel Gerhard Tappen, Chief of the *Operationsabteilung* of the German General Staff, declared with satisfaction: 'In six weeks we shall have the whole job done'.

Given that this book covers only the period to the end of 1914 – fittingly the ultimate chapter is titled 'Silent Night, Holy Night' – it is truly a momentous work of scholarship. Suffice it to say that the Notes and References themselves take up almost 30 pages and bibliographic references a further ten. Max Hastings is not afraid of going into quite incredible detail which in the hands of a lesser writer could become not only boring but also irritating but far from stifling the narrative such is his skill that the narrative flows even though he manages to make those five months cover 18 chapters. The book is comprehensively illustrated with maps and photographs.

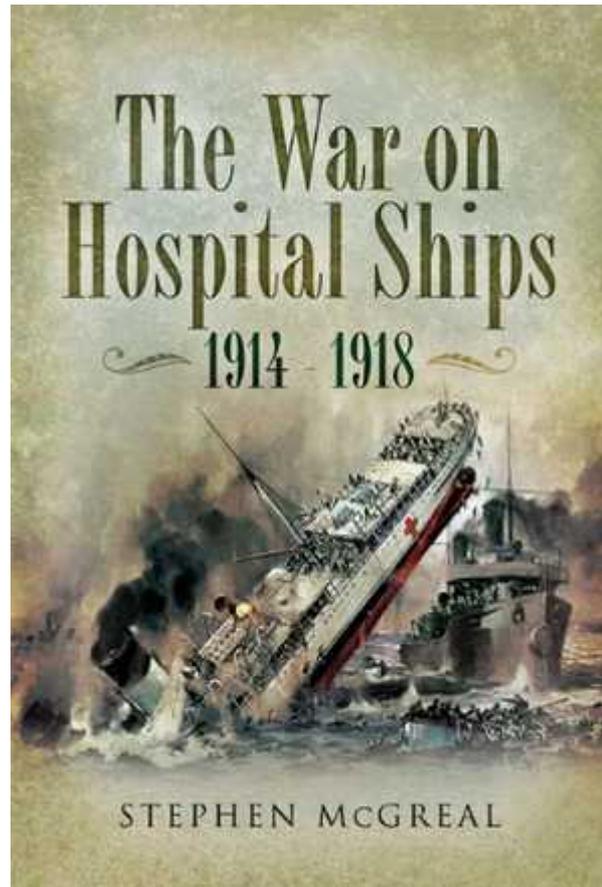
The blurb inside the front cover states that the book offers some answers to the huge and fascinating question 'what happened in Europe in 1914?' through Max Hastings' accustomed blend of top-down and bottom-up accounts from a multitude of statesmen and generals, peasants, housewives and private soldiers of seven nations. The narrative pricks myths and offers some striking and controversial judgements.

Until now Max Hastings' output as a war historian has concentrated on World War II or later. His foray into the Great War makes for compelling reading.

**The War on Hospital Ships 1914-1918**  
**By Stephen McGreal (2008)**  
**Pen and Sword Books (£19.99)**

This is almost a curate's egg of a book, in that it is good in some parts, and less so in others.

The role of the hospital shipping fleet was vital in getting men who were injured or ill back home or to places where they might be treated or could recuperate in better equipped medical facilities, or simply to be discharged if they were unlikely to be cured by treatment. While others such as the Austro-Hungarian Empire had a number of ships, one inconveniently sunk by the French, Britain would be the largest operator, with 110 or so vessels registered as hospital ships at various times throughout the war. Of this number, fifteen would be lost to mines or torpedoes, while two others, the Rohilla and the Letitia, were wrecked after running onto rocks.



Vessels assigned to the hospital role were registered with the Red Cross in Switzerland who would inform all of the belligerents that such and such a ship was converted to this role. In addition to fitting these ships out with wards, operating theatres and other medical facilities, they were painted white with either a green or a red band running horizontally and the Red Cross clearly displayed. At night, lights illuminated the ship from stem to stern. In terms of their visibility, they would stick out.

Given the variation in ships' sizes, the number of beds provided would also vary. HMHS Britannic (a sister ship to the RMS Titanic that was mined on the 21<sup>st</sup> November, 1916) had provision for 3310, while the former cross-channel steamers such as the Dieppe, Newhaven and Stad Antwerpen would gallantly bring up the rear, with places in each for 165 men.

Hospital ships were regarded as neutral, they were not to undertake any activity considered to be contributing to the prosecution of the war, such as communicating the sighting of a belligerent vessel to their own country, nor could they carry men who were considered fit. Those on board should fall into one of three categories, the ship's crew, the medical staff and, of course, the patients. Belligerent powers were entitled to stop and search, and to give whatever orders deemed necessary. A ship heading westwards across the Atlantic to Canada, say, with a number of patients, would obviously have to make the return voyage with the wards empty. Broadly speaking, such were the ground (?) rules.

But, there was obviously the much wider context of the Great War, and understandably the war at sea. This is where the book becomes a patchwork of information, not all of it 'joined at the hip' with other relevant material. Taken individually, the author recounts the

loss of the various ships, but there is little to make the wider intellectual connection. One can be reading of the War at a particular stage and then suddenly, 'Oh, we've lost the hospital ship Galeka'. It lacks flow. In presenting that wider context, the author also resorts to expressing opinion without attempting to explore the issue. So, the generally accepted high loss of life during Third Ypres is emotionally described as, 'The callous squandering of life'. Now, while that may be actually so, with no facts as back up, such statements do not add to the book and the use should be considered irrelevant. In reviewing the book, one senses that the stories of the hospital ship losses, in themselves, were found to be not quite enough to justify their publication so that the additional context was then added.

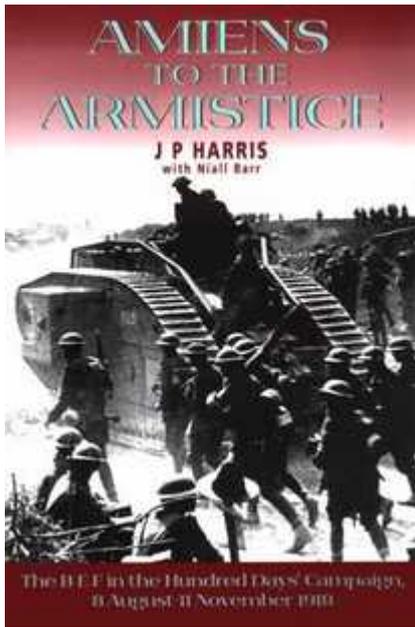
In fairness however, the author does address the changing nature of the war at sea, with particular regards to the comparative lull in U-Boat activities following the Lusitania's sinking and then the resumption of unrestricted sea warfare. Thus, it is interesting to note the shift in the manner that the fifteen hospital ships were sunk. The first seven were lost to mines in a seventeen month period from mid-November, 1915 with the last being sunk on the 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1917. The other eight were all torpedoed, coincidentally also during a seventeen month period, from the 30<sup>th</sup> March, 1917 until early-August, 1918. Of course, in both batches, German submarines had delivered the means of sinking, but clearly torpedoing a hospital ship was far more deliberate, whereas mining was discriminate.

There were also a small number of vessels that struck mines or were torpedoed, but they were salvaged to sail another day and have been excluded from these two periods. The author does not attempt to draw any conclusions from these facts indeed, he might not have analysed the data or had regarded it as insignificant statistically. However it does support the equation of 'Unrestricted Maritime Warfare = Hospital Ship Torpedo-ings'!

The book is very well illustrated with photographs of many of the hospital ships, their wards and the personalities of all sides of the conflict. He provides a list of the 110 ships, their owners, when each ship was built, the period of requisition and the number of beds. Similarly, where there was loss of life, those who died are listed by ship and, where appropriate, their ranks, service numbers, units and place of burial or commemoration are listed. This data is again just listed, and not analysed.

Some attention is rightly given to the loss of HMHS Llandoverly Castle, an event with some Channel Islands significance given that two crew members, Martin Kadrewell and Sidney McAllen, are both named in the JRoH. Describing its sinking as heinous, the author does not hesitate to remind readers that the captain of the U-86, First Lieutenant Helmut Patzig, ordered the shooting of some of the survivors who had managed to board lifeboats, an event for which he was later charged to face in the German courts after the war. But he was never punished given that he had fled from Germany to the free port of Danzig. At this time, the Allies had become somewhat indifferent to involvement in Germany, while the Germans were not exactly break into a sweat trying to locate him! As to his guilt, the fact that the sinking of the Llandoverly Castle was never recorded in the submarine's log is a strong indicator that he was guilty of a war crime.

In summary, while the book is occasionally disjointed and the information is often presented without even cursory evaluation, it is still worth reading. It would not be a book that would appear on my bookshelf, but if the war at sea or the medical services are of special interest, then perhaps it should appear on yours.



**Amiens to the Armistice**  
**By JP Harris with Niall Barr (1998)**  
**Published by Brassey's (£25)**

So you recognise the tank on the cover of this book? Yes, I thought that you did, as the image was also used for AJ Smithers book, 'Cambrai' that was reviewed back in Journal 49. It was actually photographed in August, 1918, and NZ troops are seated in the foreground. The author is a Historian at Sandhurst, and unsurprisingly it is a book that focuses on the command of troops in the field rather than the individual heroics of a company here or a soldier there. One reads of the issues that young officers passing through the RMA may one day face should they ever achieve the rank of general and command large formations.

So it tends to be a little dry in its style and there is a suspicion that it has been 'lifted' from a particular course of study, while it is also clearly written 'top down'. Thus, it deals with the interaction between the higher echelons of the BEF, GHQ, the Armies, then the Corps and Divisions. Infrequently, the next level, i.e. the Brigade is reached and only in a few cases, are Battalions mentioned.

But, the strength of this book is in the timeline of the battles, and the author is very careful in trying to 'bound' the events of one battle before writing of the next. This does not always occur in the book, not least because the five British Armies were not always attacking at the same time, so there is a need to go back chronologically from the conclusion of one Army's attack to the preparation of another Army's. However, it does not detract. The maps for the various phases are well drawn although a few have keys to the symbols that seem to be 'out of sync' with what was on the maps themselves. Like the text, the formations do not go below the Divisional level.

Looking at the personalities, Haig tended, as he had done since becoming C-in-C in 1915, to be somewhat over-optimistic for most of '100 Days' and had anticipated that the War could be over by Christmas 1918. In this he had to ensure that the Army Commanders kept the momentum, even Horne, who was regarded as cautious. However Haig had the 'wobbles' in mid-October, where pessimism set in. Was this because he now foresaw that success by Christmas was becoming unlikely and that the Allies would have to dig in over the winter, allowing the Germans a breathing space to recover? If so, it is likely that he saw that the British advance was likely to outrun the supply lines supporting it and that rations, shells, ammunition and the other necessities for prosecuting the War would become slower in reaching their intended users. The Germans meanwhile could expect a new intake of men to fill the ranks in 1919, and even with the naval blockade of Germany, the Allies were not totally certain if Germany was beaten.

Then, the book gave the appearance of fizzling out a few days into November, 1918, and at this point, one wondered whether it was writer's block! But, now there were no major attacks by this Army or that Army to write about. From the 5<sup>th</sup> November onwards, the Germans were retreating as two British Armies, the Third and the Fourth, pushed forward. Their retreat was covered by rearguard parties, mainly comprising of field artillery and

machine gun positions, while the columns that were heading eastwards faced continual harassment from the air. By the 9<sup>th</sup>, the retreat was becoming a rout, with the Germans running so fast, that the British struggled to keep contact. Then, on the 11<sup>th</sup> November, 1918 the Armistice was signed, the Germans were, indeed, beaten, and not stabbed in the back as the Nazi party (NSDAP) would later claim!

The author looks at what enabled the British Empire's forces to win through, and in so doing, plays down the suggestion that the all-arms Battle of Amiens was the pattern for success in subsequent Battles. He states that it was never repeated since the ingredients were never the same in any subsequent battle, given the particular conditions at the time. Similarly, while the Germans may have fielded more divisions in any one battle, they were mere shells of their former selves, and in terms of infantry the British were far stronger numerically. Morale was also a factor, and although they were weary, the men's morale was high, while the British, as opposed to the British Empire, were showing that they were just as capable as those from the Dominions. After September, the Australians had become 'used up' and with few reinforcements were becoming indisciplined. But by November, Haig had again 'bucked up', however, he tended to downplay his Armies' success during the 100 days, and this attitude has tended to continue until comparatively recent times.

Summarising, one gets a very clear outline of the timeline of the battles that the BEF was engaged in and the considerations for each. There is a sense that, working with the Allies, that the strategic arrangements with Marshal Foch as the generalissimo were paying off, while it should not be thought that the BEF were very junior partners. The book tends to the specialist reader who wants to study one or more elements of the campaign in further detail. That said, it is a recommended read, and any member who has that degree of interest should acquire a copy, but they may wish to note that it is out of print, and that new or second hand copies on Amazon cost somewhat more than the retail price.

### **Back to School – A Talk on the CWGC**

As part of my secret life as a North Lancs WFA member, I had the opportunity to return to school this month, this time to attend a talk on the CWGC being given to members of the History Society at the Lancaster Girls Grammar School by Admiral Sir John Kerr. Of the years following retirement from the RN, Sir John, seven of those were engaged as a Commissioner, the final three years, as Vice-Chairman. In an hour's talk, it was clearly going to be 'broad brush', and given that the age of the Society members was in the 15-18 year old range, clearly Sir John had to consider them, as opposed to a few of us 'oldies' ranged along the back row!

Although much of the ground that he covered was familiar, it was still an interesting talk. The Commissioners, drawn from the former dominions and others from various walks of life, effectively set the standards and maintain the overview on behalf of the contributing nations. The Duke of Kent is the Patron, a role which is always undertaken by a member of the Royal Family, and one that the Duke has been active in for some 40 years. The Chairman is the UK's Secretary of State for Defence, and given that, it is the Vice-Chairman who is the 'puller of strings' in ensuring the CWGC's good governance. I would suggest that it is a far more important role than the term, 'Vice' implies. Meeting the CWGC's standards and undertaking the actual work, i.e. the 'operations', is the responsibility of the Director-General and his management team and staff.

There are 1.7M men and women commemorated from both World Wars, in 23,000 locations spread over 153 countries. Interestingly, some 13,000 of those locations are in Britain. The CWGC has a budget of around £64M (2012 figures) and it is currently met annually by provision from the UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and India, on a proportional basis, according to the number of war dead from those nations. Pakistan is sometimes in, sometimes, such as at present, out. The UK also pays for the war dead of the other commonwealth nations, and I can think of the African Rifles as one such example.

If we look at the Channel Islands war casualties as are listed, I would suggest that a dominion, such as Canada, would cover those Islanders who served in their military, whereas the UK would cover that category, and also casualties in the Islands' Militias prior to the Military Service Acts coming into force. In a sense it equates the Militias with the African Rifles. The UK budget size is just under 75%, so a few more or less Militia war dead will not make that much of a difference! With 23,000 locations, it is impossible for the CWGC to have the staff to look after each one, for some locations might just have one or two graves. So, many of those sites are maintained on a sub-contract basis with the Commission's inspectors visiting sites once every three years.

Sir John looked at the history of the CWGC and the key personalities such as Fabian Ware, Edward Lutyens, Gertrude Jekyll and Rudyard Kipling. There had been debate as to whether commemoration should have been more functionally in that a 'Great War peoples' university should have been built along with other similar projects, and that the burials should have been simpler. However, Lutyens won the day for the classicists, and we see that today in the cemeteries and memorials that are present in France and Flanders. Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll frequently cooperated on projects, and it was Gertrude who determined the English garden feel for cemeteries, although she also saw that the plants used were suitable for the climate and soil of where a cemetery was to be sited. Given the many sites, it is unsurprising that the CWGC philosophy is tailored to the local conditions, Gallipoli's graves having small, flat headstones because of the risk of earthquakes and the horticulture being driven by the need to conserve water for example.

It was also interesting to note that the CWGC's 'all ranks are equal in death' stance and the nil repatriation rule were defined by Winston Churchill.

The talk was accompanied by a Power Point presentation, 'driven' by his wife, and this illustrated cemeteries and memorials around. It was difficult to gauge the girls' reaction, but we 'oldies' learnt a few things about the CWGC. I may have the odd complaint now and again about administration at Maidenhead, but overall the Commission does an excellent job that its founding fathers such as Ware and Kipling foresaw. It was an hour well spent.

A final thought from me, given Sir John's figures. Commemorating each individual whether he or she is in a known grave or their name is on a memorial, costs £37.50 per annum.

### **Odds and Ends**

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

After a few mishaps with the recent E-mailings seeking Journal articles, I have re-jigged the old Journal Distribution Lists which, to put not too fine a fine a point on it, had become very shambolic! In the E-mail advising that this Journal was now on-line, I was going to ask those who I've missed off one or other list to advise me that they had not received the E-Mail!!! However, a penny dropped, and so through this Journal, I'd ask you to let me know if I have inadvertently missed you off.

**Jersey Archive:** The final Archive 2013 talk on Jersey's streets is on the 21<sup>st</sup> December and is on Highlights of the Jersey Film Archive

Call 833300 or email [archives@jerseyheritage.org](mailto:archives@jerseyheritage.org) to book your place. Free entry. All talks start at 10 am.

**Jersey's Militia Pay Lists, 1914-1917:** This is still a stop-go activity with the emphasis very much on stop at the moment with other work taking greater priority.

**Chester Cecil Church:** With the start of the next cycle to identify further casualties imminent, I shall be keeping an ear to the ground as to the situation regarding Chester Church. My understanding is that this may be the final annual cycle of the programme, and that future identification will be on an *ad hoc* basis. As it stands, just under half of the 250 sets of remains have been identified to date.

**Faces Remembered:** Time and space has caused this item to be omitted from this Journal. Apologies, but it will resume in the next issue.

**Liz Walton – Authoress:** An update on 'A Guernseyman goes to War' can be found in Liz's Jottings from Guernsey on page 23.

**Great War Commemorations:** A States-run Committee is now looking at the various aspects of the Great War's commemoration in Guernsey. This has been covered in pages 22 and 23. In Jersey, a Bailiff's Committee has been working away for about 9 months, but any news of progress has not been forthcoming.

In Guernsey, there are discussions under way with Guernsey's Press and Philatelic Bureaus while there are similar considerations beginning in Jersey. Daniel is anticipating the receipt of prices for an update of the JRoH.

There does appear to be some progress in the various, but my concern is that is either a little late or not very transparent.

**Watering Holes:** On the subject of watering holes, when you're next on the Somme, give thought to have a light lunch in the English-run Old Blighty Tea Room at La Boiselle (check their website for timings). Similarly, The Corners Pub in Albert is a very good brasserie with an excellent evening menu, although it might become a little raucous as the evening progresses. We again lunched at La Romance in Bapaume this year and found the meal disappointing, but Ian and Ned will be pleased to note that the pretty blonde waitress still works there!

**CWGC Visit:** Having covered Admiral Sir John Kerr's talk, the present CWGC Vice-Chairman, Air Chief Marshal Sir Joe French will be in Jersey on a familiarisation visit

during the week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> November. Vic Geary will be meeting him at some stage on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

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

### **Enfin**

As ever, my thanks to those who contributed to this Journal for their inputs, both large and small.

Regards  
Barrie H Bertram  
15<sup>th</sup> November, 2013

### **Journal Issue Dates For 2014**

Journals 52, 53, 54 and 55 are planned to be published on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February, May, August and November, or very shortly after those dates. As ever, I shall be looking for articles by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each of those months.

## Cyril Edmund Edmonds – Summary of the Data and their Sources

20 <sup>th</sup> Apr, 1898	Date born according to his headstone at the Punchbowl Crater Cemetery, Honolulu, HI.
Q2 of 1898 (Apr, May, Jun)	Born to Clement Weller and Ellen Edmonds, according to UK BMD Register, reference King's Norton 6c/466.
31 <sup>st</sup> Mar, 1901	Living at 17, Small Heath Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham with parents, according to 1901 UK Census. Father is a Traveller (Salesman) in the Cycle business. Born in Edgbaston.
1 <sup>st</sup> Apr, 1911	Living at 10, Norbury Avenue, Norbury, Croydon with parents, according to 1911 UK Census. Father shown as a Rubber (Mechanical) Importer. Born in Edgbaston.
Sep, 1912	Enters at the start of the Third Term at Victoria College in Jersey. Register Number 3163. Shown as the son of CW Edmonds of 10, Norbury Ave, Norbury, London SW.
14 <sup>th</sup> Mar, 1913	Death of Clement Weller Edmonds, 10, Norbury Avenue, Norbury, Surrey. Ellen Edmonds as widow granted Probate in London on the 9 <sup>th</sup> May, 1913. According to the England and Wales National Probate Calendar.
Not Known/1913	Left Victoria College according to the College Register, date not stated. This was very likely the consequence of father's death.
23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug, 1913	Sailed from Southampton to New York on board the SS Philadelphia, shown as a 15yo Student, born in Birmingham according to ship's manifest.
30 <sup>th</sup> Aug, 1913	Arrived New York, shown as a 15yo Student, born in Birmingham according to Ellis Island Records.
1917 - 1919	Served as a Private with the 2 <sup>nd</sup> ASN Regiment, US Army according to Victoria College's Register of pupils, and its Book of Remembrance. The exact dates are uncertain. It is of interest to note that he had been in touch with the College, directly or otherwise, for the entry to be made.
Not Known/1923	Became a naturalised US Citizen according to New York County Supreme Court. The exact date is not known, but understood to be during 1923.
1918 - 1929	'Voyageur Militaire' of the 40 and 8 Society. For a one year period, was 'Chef de Gare de Voiture No. 235', of Trenton, part of the American Legion according to 'A History of Trenton 1679-1929' hosted on the Trenton Historical Society web site.

- 1930 Residing in Trenton, NJ, 31yo and married to Mary Miller Edmonds, 27yo, US born daughter of Scottish migrants, James and Mary Miller. Shown as English born and entered US in 1913 according to the USA Census for that year.
- 1940 Residing in Trenton, NJ, now 41yo, married to Mary Miller Edmonds, now 37yo. Had a daughter, Mary Ellen, 9yo (born 1930/1931). Shown as English born according to the USA Census for that year. Employed as a Salesman for a Rubber Factory.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec, 1944 Died from non-battle causes and was buried in Punchbowl Crater Cemetery, Honolulu, HI. A Lieutenant-Colonel in the US Army Ordnance Department, enlisted in NJ.
- 1948 Mary Ellen Edmonds graduated from the Trenton Central High School according to Trenton Historical Society web site.
- Dec, 1979 Mary Miller Edmonds died, with Obituary in the Trenton Times on the 7<sup>th</sup> December, 1979, according to Trenton Historical Society web site.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2011 Mary Ellen Edmonds Golden died, 80yo, a graduate of Trenton High School. Obituary on the 'Dignity Memorial' web site. The first photograph of Mary is with her father, in uniform, with the Ordnance Department badge, a flaming grenade, discernible on his jacket collars.

Notes:

1. King's Norton, Harborne, Small Heath and Edgbaston are all suburbs of Birmingham and tend to merge into each other. Similarly, Norbury and Croydon are now part of Greater London.
2. The 'Rubber Connection' is interesting in that Clement Edmonds had been working as a Rubber Importer in 1911, and that Cyril Edmonds was a Salesman for a Rubber Factory in 1940. Had Cyril been subsequently assisted by his late father's colleagues to come to the USA to work and live, given that Trenton was the location of many rubber manufacturers?



Longitude : 4° 21' 05.5" E  
Latitude : 49° 08' 13.8" N