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IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO FELL



**1st February, 1916
to
30th April, 1916**

Addendum to Journal 58 - September, 1915

04. Court, Stephen Charles

February, 1916

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 01. Allen, William Percy | 08. Ollivier, Pierre Marie |
| 01. Pagnier, Joseph Louis | 22. Boinville, Charles Auguste Eugène |
| 03. Marshall, Henry George Levett | 24. Du Feu, Alfred Charles |
| 08. Louis, Auguste Marie Joseph | 28. Loret, Henri Franck |
| 08. Martin, Henri François | |

March, 1916

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 02. Hibbs, Laurence Bosdet | 17. Hopton, Edward Michael |
| 02. Jepson, Edwin | 17. Pengelley, Bertie Alexander |
| 02. Martin, Cecil Stephen Bignold | 18. Farley, Albert |
| 02. Robertson, Robert Frederick | 18. Le Cras, John (Jack) |
| 03. Downes, Frank | 18. Rabet, Pierre Ernest |
| 04. Payn, John de Caux Balleine | 19. Walton, Thomas |
| 05. Symonds, Harry Gordon | 20. Nicolas-Dudemain, Louis Alexandre FA |
| 07. Wright, William | 23. Hamon, Alfred de Gruchy |
| 08. Davey, Arthur | 23. Lainé, Edwin |
| 08. Heriz-Smith, Ambrose Joseph Cocks | 24. Monsell, Eric Ryder Emly |
| 09. Fincham, George Edmund Heygate | 24. Topp, Leonard Richard John |
| 14. Renouf, Albert | 25. Lynch, Michael Thomas |
| 15. Taylor, Arthur Edward | 27. Tothill, Geoffrey Ivan Francjs |
| 16. Barrasin, Auguste Daniel | 30. Le Huquet, W |
| 16. Goodman, Henry | |



IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO FELL



**1st February, 1916
to
30th April, 1916**

April, 1916

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 01. Johnston, George Mitchell | 18. Kriekenbeek, Ronald Edward Elliot |
| 03. Dumaresq, James | 18. Le Penneec, François Marie |
| 04. Nerac, John Philip | 19. Breban, Louis |
| 04. Pengelley, Frederick | 20. Vallois, Ernest Alexander |
| 04. Sabot, Victor Pierre | 22. Bamuel, Vicor Leon Louis |
| 05. Butler, Frank Augustus | 22. Cabeldu, Horace Edwin Herbert |
| 06. Le Ruez, Wilfred Charles | 22. Dobbs, Arthur Hugh |
| 08. Blandy, Claude Milberne | 22. Domaille, Harold C |
| 09. De Carteret, Nicolas | 22. Fairlie, James Gordon |
| 09. Hopwood, Edwin John | 22. Mauger, Sylvester |
| 09. Maitre, Auguste Jean | 23. Harding, Arthur Bert |
| 09. Osborne, William | 23. Le Moignan, Philip Charles |
| 10. Birkby, Henry Alexander | 25. Weston, Norman Leslie Hallam |
| 10. Carré, Hilary John | 27. Barney, Montagu Middleton |
| 10. Dauny, François Jean Marie | 27. Gillingham, James Clifford |
| 10. Shiers, Samuel George | 29. Fulton, Cecil John |
| 15. Quinn, James William | 29. Huxford, George Edgar |
| 16. Bree, Arthur | 29. Le Sauvage, Ernest |
| 16. Roquet, Paul Marie Joseph | 30. Mauger, Bertram Edward |

Hello All

'2016 A Year of Great War Anniversaries', so the headline in a recent mailshot from a well-known specialist battlefields tour operator stated. Undoubtedly it is a correct statement, but then, so were 2014 and 2015, and so will 2017 and 2018 be, indeed, every day is a Great War anniversary for one or more of us, albeit that it might be the 98th, the 99th or whatever. And of course, anniversaries will become more distant as the time gap increases from the day itself. It was only last June that they had the 200th commemoration of Waterloo with over 6,000 reenactors for example.

The headline proved to be a reminder of having attended a talk at the Kirkham Grammar School back in December, given by the noted historian, Professor Sir Hew Strachan, in which the subject was how the Great War has been looked at in the hundred years since, and whether events being held are an act of celebration, commemoration or remembrance. It does read as a debate about the interpretation of this word or that, but the Professor pointed out for example, that we cannot remember, after all, we were not there! Of course, we might remember a great uncle coughing away, his lungs damaged by gas, but his actual gassing? No. However, what came over from the talk was the sense that as the years have progressed, the tone of remembrance and commemoration has changed as the population has also altered in outlook, often due to external influences, the poetic view of Sassoon and Owen for example. There were also expressions of celebration, with monuments erected showing successful troops, while Sheriff's 'Journeys End' was meant to show 'it as it was'. But, we have to come back to 2016, or is it to go forward? How will the Great War be commemorated in future years?

Barking!

Like any major government undertaking, prior to the run up to the centenary events for the Great War, a committee was established to formulate the programme and to consider what might suitably be included throughout the period covered. Professor Strachan with his extensive knowledge on the history of the Great War was invited to become a member of that committee. Another member was General Lord Dannatt, the Chief of the General Staff, between 2006 and 2009, and who, after retirement, was given the honorary post of Constable of the Tower of London. A few years ago, at one of the regular committee meetings, the Lord Dannatt turned up with a cracking idea that he tabled. Professor Strachan's reaction was to describe the idea as 'Barking Mad', or words to that effect.

In recounting this anecdote at Kirkham, Professor Strachan acknowledged that perhaps his 'Barking Mad' description was misplaced given the manner in which the 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' installation with c.890,000 ceramic poppies at the Tower of London caught the public imagination!

The Front Cover

Thanks must go to Mr Graham Hooper, the Great Nephew of Elsie Gladstone, for allowing the Group to use her photograph which appears on the front of this Journal. Although born in India, and having boarded in Bedford and Bristol at the time of the 1891 and 1901 Censuses, she moved to Jersey when her father, Cecil Ernest, retired from the Indian Civil Service c.1910, but then died in Jersey in November, 1913. It appears that he was a first cousin of William Ewart Gladstone, the British Prime Minister in the 1800s. Her mother, Florence Elliot (née Campbell) would remain in Jersey until after the Great War, and died in Leigh, Lancashire in 1933.

Elsie also had four sisters, three of whom would serve with Jersey's BRCS VAD Detachments, namely Florence, Rose and Gladys. It is not known whether the fourth sister also did war work.

The photograph is fascinating in that it depicts what must have been her accommodation at the time with the duckboard to help her keep out of the mud. Unsurprisingly, it was all very rudimentary with the wires overhead supplying the power to one or two light bulbs, and one suspects, little if any heating.

GLADSTONE, Miss ELSIE M. Entered Guy's Hospital as a Probationer in June, 1912, and on completion of her training in July, 1915, joined the Civil Hospital Reserve, and served on a hospital ship before going to France. She contracted influenza which was followed by pneumonia while working at the 48th Casualty Clearing Station in France, and died on January 24th, 1919. She was awarded the Royal Red Cross 2nd Class, but did not live to receive it. She was buried in France with military honours.

There has been some debate as to the unit that she was serving with at the time of her death, but she was with 48 Casualty Clearing Station (see above, taken from the Guy's Hospital Reports) which was based in Namur at the time of her death and where she was buried, and not in France.



Recipients of the Order of Royal Red Cross, 1st Class are Members of the Order and are permitted to use the initials RRC after their name, whereas Recipients of the Royal Red Cross, 2nd Class are Associate Members and are permitted to use the initials ARRC. The RRC is the upper award in the picture above (Courtesy of DNW)

Awards made during the Great War period (1914-1920), were 943 RRCs, 5079 ARRCs, and 79 Bars.

The Royal Red Cross

Having learnt more about Elsie Gladstone, it seems an opportune moment to look at Royal Red Cross awards, thanks to the help of the Group's 'medal specialist' Mark Bougourd.

The order was instituted on the 27th April, 1883, and was classified as a decoration in a similar fashion to the MBE and the BEM. Originally the order was only conferrable on ladies of the various nursing services. This changed in 1976 with men becoming able to receive the order also. Awards are made irrespective of the recipient's rank.

The Great War saw an unprecedented rise in nurse numbers and in November, 1915, the Order of Royal Red Cross order was extended into two classes. A further change followed in 1917, when Bars to the first class order were introduced.

Clearing the Battlefields By Paul Barnett

[Editor's Note: The following article is a report on a talk given at the meeting of the Western Front Association's East Kent Branch that was held in July 2015, and which written by Branch member, Paul Barnett. It was originally published that Branch's newsletter, *Between the Lines* No 58 Autumn/Winter 2015, which Paul also edits.

Paul Barnett's report has reached these pages in a 'round the houses' manner! As well as being a Group member, Elizabeth Morey is Chairwoman of the WFA's New Zealand Branch, as well as editing that Branch's newsletter, *Communication Trench*, which I regularly receive. The most recent CT carried the article below, and with many thanks to her for her assistance, and subsequently, to Paul for giving his permission, I have been able to include it in this Journal. Oh! Best I thank the speaker as well!

The report contains a number of facts and figures, which it is thought will be of interest to Group members. We see the Memorials, Cemeteries and the associated horticultural work as near perfect in terms of commemorating the Great War dead, this reflecting the wisdom, effort and skill by countless numbers since the inception of the concept of war graves being established during the Great War. But to counter that, there was a far grimmer, gruesome and filthy side of the coin, one that preceded what we see in Cemeteries today and which was no less a vital task. Many will doubt whether they could stomach that work, I for one certainly could not. Nonetheless, gruesome or not, we should understand it, and we can read of it below.]

The East Kent Branch was treated to an extremely interesting talk on a subject that most of its members have probably never considered when visiting the vast array of CWGC cemeteries across France and Belgium, namely the way in which the remains of the fallen on the battlefield were recovered both during and after the war.

Dr Peter Hodgkinson, whose talk was fully illustrated with slides throughout, began by challenging the Branch with a familiar image of the 21 bodies that were found in a mass grave at Arras in 2001, apparently with their arms linked. Three or four shoulder flashes of the Lincolnshire Regiment had been found, and it was known that the Regiment's 10th Battalion – otherwise known as the Grimsby Chums – had been in this area for four days around the 9th April, 1917. Speculation had concluded that this must be a mass grave and, since there were forty men and only one officer, Lieutenant Cox, that had been casualties the body on the right hand side, which appeared to be set slightly apart, could perhaps be that of the Lieutenant.

So from only three or four shoulder flashes the conclusion had leapt to one specific body being 'identified' as a possible officer. But Peter reminded the Branch that the Official History had both the Grimsby Chums and the Royal Scots 'hopelessly mixed up' in this area, and the grave was close to another where three Royal Scots had been found. The evidence to support these all being Lincolnshire men was limited.

The media had made much of the arms apparently being linked, these were after all 'Chums' were they not? Peter pointed out that the usual form of burial in the British Army had soldiers' arms crossed across their chest, and it was in fact decay and the weight of the soil pressing on the bodies that had produced the apparent effect of the arms being linked. To illustrate this point, he showed a slide of a German burial from the Hohenzollern Redoubt, where the same effect was apparent. The right hand corpse did appear to be

slightly apart from the rest, but this could easily be because the trench had been filled from the left and at the end there was some space left over, or conversely filled from the right and at the left hand end the burial party ran out of space. This clearly demonstrated the romanticising of the burial, which was undoubtedly a recent innovation.

In the Napoleonic War, the men were little valued and usually received a primitive and often unmarked grave. It was only during the Crimean War that the Government was forced to take responsibility for war graves, and assigned the Office of Public Works, who were normally responsible for the nation's parks, to maintain Crimean War graveyards. The major change in public attitude to the recovery of battlefield remains came with the American Civil War, when the first organised burial parties and uniform war cemeteries began, where officers and men received the same headstones. The 650,000 dead of the American Civil War represented about 3% of the USA's population at the time, whereas the British dead of the Great War represented 2.2% of the UK's population.

British attitudes had changed by the Boer War, in which many soldiers were volunteers. The general public wanted the bodies of fallen soldiers recovered, and the first British war cemeteries began. At this time the recovery of remains from the battlefield was undertaken by the Royal Engineers, while the Guild of Loyal Women compiled registers of those who had been killed and began marking graves with crosses. After the Boer War, this work was taken over by the South African Graves Association, a voluntary body which would subsequently run into difficulties.

The Great War galvanised the whole issue of body recovery and memorialisation. The BEF was initially wholly unprepared for the scale of losses in 1914, and it was not until September, 1914 that a British Red Cross unit under Captain Fabian Ware was sent to France, initially with the task of looking for graves on the line of the retreat from Mons. The Graves Registration Commission was then formed in 1915, and in February, 1916 it became the Directorate of Graves Registration and Enquiries (DGRE), also headed by Ware who was by now a Brigadier-General.

To give an idea of the size of the problem, Peter looked at the Somme offensive. There were 206,000 dead in this offensive, 99,000 of whom were identified. 53,000 were unidentified in unknown graves, and another 53,000 were lost [or not found]. This was a good comparison of the overall division between the three categories throughout the Great War, with roughly half the dead in named graves, a quarter in unknown graves and another quarter (c.250,000) still missing.

It was the massive losses of the Somme offensive that first revealed the organisational deficiencies of the British Army in this respect. Until this time there had been no organisation for burials in the middle of a severe fight, and subsequently, at Corps level, the role of burial officers was established. It was not until August, 1916 that a pamphlet, *SS456 Burial of Soldiers*, set out details of the proper method of burying the fallen. This required that all papers and other effects were removed from the body and one identity disc, the other being left on the body. The effects were to be placed in a small white bag, and the top secured with the man's identity disc tied round it.

In May, 1917, the DGRE was re-organised and expanded. It was also in that month that the Imperial War Graves Commission (IWGC) was established to consider the post-war construction of cemeteries. This was viewed by some at the time as almost too late for the morale of the British Army, when soldiers on leave at home were bitterly complaining about the dead being left on the battlefield. Arrangements had been made as to how and

when bodies were to be collected, but as to who was to undertake this task was largely an *ad-hoc* affair. The clearance of battlefields and the burial of bodies were both unpleasant and unpopular tasks, and Peter provided several quotes to illustrate the gruesome nature of this job, which was clearly a grim task.

After the war had ended, the DGRE established the Graves Registration Unit. In November, 1918, this had a number of priorities: first to concentrate an estimated 160,000 isolated graves, with 44,000 already being lost to shellfire; then to concentrate smaller cemeteries into larger ones, and only then to locate and identify the missing 500,000 men. This work began ten days following the Armistice, with the initial effort being devoted to establishing accommodation and supplies for those doing the exhumation work. For the Dominions, the Canadians were tasked with searching Courcelette on the Somme and Vimy Ridge, and the Australians with Pozieres and Villers Bretonneux.

The weather immediately created difficulties, with January, 1919 being cold and hard, and the frozen ground stopped work. At the time, five or six men were required per body to exhume it and transport it to a cemetery, but once the ground thawed this figure rose to nine men per body. Manpower rapidly became a problem; in March, 1919 it was estimated that 12,000 men would be needed, but by April this had increased to 18,000 and at the end almost 20,000 men were required. Many men answered the call to volunteer, especially given that the work paid 2s 6d per day, and men naturally wanted to recover the bodies of fallen soldiers. At the same time there was separate operation using Chinese labour to recover munitions from the battlefields.

To search the battlefields, a survey officer would select a square area of 500 by 500 yards to be examined, and would determine the number of remains that were anticipated, based upon the DGRE records. Once on the ground these were found to be entirely inaccurate, and Peter gave the example of one 1,000 by 1,000 yards square where the information indicated that there were eleven isolated graves but in fact careful examination revealed sixty-seven!

Exhumation squads were made up of thirty-two men, and it soon became clear that experience was the only way to indicate where to dig. The men were looking for rifles or stakes in the ground, sometimes with helmets or equipment hanging from them; partial remains might be on the surface, or poking through from the ground, and rat holes sometimes had small pieces of bone or equipment that the rats had brought to the surface. Discolouration of grass, earth or water was another sign that bodies were buried underneath.

Each squad was provided with pairs of rubber gloves, two shovels, stakes to mark the location of graves, wire-cutters, stretchers and canvas and ropes for collecting the remains. Creosol was provided as a disinfectant. The remains were to be wrapped in creosote-soaked canvas, and the bodies carefully searched for identification purposes. Many of the techniques being used to identify bodies in 1919 and 1920 were the same as those used in modern battlefield archaeology.

All did not proceed smoothly to plan with the Australian working parties. They were described by one officer as the 'roughest lot I have ever seen' and in two weeks there were two strikes asking for better means of handling the bodies, more resources, better food and no ceremonial parades. The officer in charge of the Australian exhumation parties was Charles Kingston, a Gallipoli veteran who had won the DCM and had risen from the ranks to become a Second Lieutenant in 1918, but was now in charge of all the

Australian recovery work. A phenomenal drinker, who insisted that his men call him 'Charlie the Bastard', he had invented his own 'Amiens cocktail' involving a mixture of rum, whisky and sauce. In 1920, the Australian Government, concerned at reports that it had received, ordered an inquiry into the alleged irregularities at Villers Bretonneux. This found that 'Kingston was drunk most of the time, that drunkenness was both frequent and common amongst the men and loose French women were seen visiting the camp, some of whom were found half naked in the hut'. It concluded that Kingston was 'wholly unqualified and unfit for command' and he was removed, being replaced by Major Alfred Allen, a non-drinking and non-smoking Quaker.

The extent to whether similar problems were faced in the British camp is unclear, but there were reports that not enough materials were being provided, with an example given of only 200 shovels for nearly 500 men.

In January, 1920, the paper strength of the exhumation companies was established at 5,000 men but the actual strength was only half that, with up to 500 men regularly reporting for sick parades. Some of this was possibly psychological in nature, and there was some evidence that some of the men who volunteered for the work were those who were least keen to return to civilian life, and may have been psychological misfits. The high degree of drinking and insubordination in the exhumation units could be perhaps be partly attributed to this, but also to the gruesome nature of the work.

The IWGC had a very poor view of the work being undertaken by the DGRE, regarding it as very inefficient and focussing far more on finding the numbers of bodies, often at the expense of identification.

Exhumation work was undertaken on all the battlefields of the war across the globe, and Peter showed some slides of work that was being carried out in Mesopotamia and Gallipoli. A Major Leese was in charge of work on Gallipoli, and by October, 1919 he wrote that, to date, almost 10,000 bodies had been identified. Another significant character on Gallipoli was the Reverend Charles Edwards, often known as the 'Fighting Parson'. Edwards had won an MC for his gallantry in rescuing the wounded on Gallipoli and so had a personal interest in finding the bodies of the fallen. It was Edwards who discovered the missing men of the 1/5th Battalion, the Norfolk Regiment [of 1999 film 'All the King's Men' note].

By April, 1920, the main ways of identifying bodies located had been:

- 20% by their identity discs,
- 25% were confirmed by their identity discs, having been identified by other means,
- 30% were identified by other methods, and
- 25% remained unidentifiable.

This was therefore a 75% success rate. But as the task continued in France and Belgium, so the identity success rate fell away.

By May, 1921, the DGRE was only undertaking exhumations for identification where it had the time to do so. Of the 600 bodies being recovered per week in May, 1921, only 20% were identified. At this time the Australians were claiming a 50% success rate when finding 70-100 bodies per week in areas allegedly already cleared. The focus had shifted from identifying to simply finding bodies.

In August, 1921, there was a major change. The DGRE certified that with the exception of certain areas the whole of the battlefield area of France and Belgium had been searched for isolated graves, and the Army withdrew from operations. The work was passed to the IWGC under the direction of Edward Gell. He had begun the war as a Second Lieutenant in the infantry and ended it as Lieutenant-Colonel in charge of the 2/7th Royal Fusiliers, and being taken prisoner of war on the 21st March, 1918. Gell was one of the two people responsible for choosing the three bodies for the Unknown Warrior.

At this point, 204,651 sets of remains had been concentrated, leaving some 300,000 still to be found. Peter said that it was entirely clear that the Army had withdrawn before the job was finished, and the IWGC had noted that when the DGRE search parties were finally disbanded in October, 1921 at least 200 bodies per week were still being found.

This led to questions in the House of Commons, and the Secretary of State for War was forced to come to the House and make a statement. He claimed that the whole of the battlefield area of France and Belgium had been searched at least six times, and in places where the fighting had been heaviest at least twenty times. However, Peter was able to quote several witnesses who had visited the battlefields in 1921 and had found them in the same state as when the Armistice had been declared in 1918, and clearly not properly searched. A number of areas such as High Wood and Bourslon Wood, where the undergrowth was thick and brambles had grown in profusion, were considered impossible to search systematically.

This was one of a number of reasons why the searches had not been fully completed. Other contributing factors were unfavourable weather, overly broken ground, diminishing British manpower over time and difficulties presented by private land owners who wished to re-cultivate their land. In addition, it was also clear that the DGRE had simply run out of funds and selected a purely arbitrary point to stop work.

The IWGC started to use local manpower, and as time passed relied increasingly on local reporting of bodies that were found as the ground was levelled and new works and roads constructed. In 1932-36, 4,079 bodies were recovered, 52% of which were found by those searching for munitions, 30% by farmers and 18% by French exhumation parties (looking for French casualties of the war).

The job ended in 1939 when war broke out again. By 1921, 204,651 bodies had been found, in 1921-28 a further 28,000 were recovered of which 25% were identified, and between 1928 and 1937 approximately 10,000 more were found.

In conclusion, at the time when the cemeteries were created, the likelihood was that only a very small percentage of the bereaved would ever visit them. Filling the graves was no sacred task, and was often carried out in a harsh environment with little sentimentality. The task to recover 500,000 dead was gargantuan, and how many more of the 'unknown' could have been identified if more resources and time had been devoted to it will never be known.

Joseph Leonard Wells

Reading through the previous article, I was reminded of Jerseyman, Joseph Wells, who was killed on the 24th August, 1918 whilst serving with the 3rd Battalion, Australian Pioneers. The Adjutant would note on the day following the Armistice in 1918 that:

During the attack on the village of La Neuville [Les-Bray] the Company to which Pte Wells belonged were [sic] advancing. One of a few stray shells fell near him and he was hit in the forehead with a shell splinter and died immediately. His remains were buried in the Military Cemetery at La Neuville (Sheet 62D.L22.c.32.35) and a cross has been erected by the members of this Battalion.

But, Australia House would then write just under three years later that, 'all efforts to locate his grave have been without avail'. Had his mother, Alice, who wanted to see his grave in 1922, inadvertently stirred matters up?

*Mrs AM Wells
Henley Beach PO
Adelaide
South Australia*

22nd December, 1924

Dear Sir

I thank you for the medals, they are lovely.

I want to let you know I have seen my son's grave, I went to England and France in 1922. His comrades had all given so clear a description of where he was buried that Australia House sent to France and I found it just as the Graves Commission had said a lovely cross erected by his comrades, the grave well attended and flowers growing on it, as it had not been registered until I went I have to think kindly of the French people whoever attended it. I might add he is the only Australian and Britisher in that French cemetery and I hope they will not disturb it. The cross is so nice it might well be left there. But should the Commissioner decide otherwise I left a notice at Australia House to have that cross forwarded to Perth where it will be placed on the grave of my late husband and their memorial stone. His father died in 1918 as well.

My one wish now is to go to Bray once more, and I hope to do so.

*Yours Truly
Alice Maud Wells*

Compliments of the season.

It does seem so, for the Graves Registration Report Form (AFW 3372) for the Communal Cemetery at La Neuville Les-Bray is dated 1st June, 1922, and carries the solitary name of Joseph Wells lying in Row 2, Grave 6. Given that date, it appears that for the 3½ years from November, 1918, no one had done anything about officially registering where he was known to have been buried. Alice Wells' hope that Leonard would remain at La Neuville Les-Bray would not be realised, and he was exhumed and re-buried at Villers Bretonneux in 1928. One suspects that her request for the temporary cross being sent to Perth was also not met!

The Cabeldus of Kobe, Japan

Back in December, a Guernseyman by the name of Mike Martel who is currently researching Old Elizabethans (OE) who served during the Great War asked whether Horace Cabeldu, who had been an OE, had also attended Victoria College? A simple

question just requiring a Yes or No response, or so one would have thought! The jury is still out with the answer, but that question did lead to a young couple who, remarkably, upped sticks and left Jersey to set up a Tailor and Outfitters' business in Japan.

But first, we look at Horace whose full name was **Horace Edwin Herbert Cabeldu**. Horace was the youngest son of Philip and Letitia Cabeldu, and was born in St Helier, Jersey on the 12th July, 1883. It is suggested that he was educated at Victoria College in Jersey, and then he later finished his education at Elizabeth College in Guernsey between 1899 and 1900 (EC Register Number 2915 showing surname as Caheldu). The only current indication that Horace had been an Old Victorian was the following article in Jersey's Evening Post of the 22nd June, 1915:

An Old Victorian in the Trenches. A recent issue of the Japan Chronicle publishes several letters from the Front written by an Old Victorian, Private H Cabeldu of the 10th Battalion, Canadian Volunteers, son of Mr and Mrs Cabeldu of Coby [Kobe] and a relative of Mr FE Cabeldu of Roseville Street. In one of his letters he says

"After going into the trenches several times one takes it as a matter of course, but the first time of going in I shall never forget. We moved up quietly (no talking or smoking) along a well-made road with tall trees on either side and houses more or less knocked to pieces by shells. Along the road troops were lined up and would enquire "who are you?" "Canadians" would be the reply and we'd ask "who are you?" "so-and-so Regiment" they would answer. Then further on, now and again, in a low tone would be "Goodnight chums". All this seemed so solemn. Then a couple of stretchers with wounded passed by. We then proceeded three paces apart into the trenches where a different atmosphere met one. All the solemn part is over and everyone is cheerful. We are well supplied with tobacco in the trenches".

It is interesting to note that Mr Cabeldu has two other sons engaged in war service, the elder has been at Woolwich Arsenal for several months and the younger joined the New Army on the 1st January, 1915.

In contradiction of the Evening Post's article, there is no record in the College's Register that Horace did attend, though it appears that for much of the time between 1883 and 1899 he was living in Jersey. Given that his two elder brothers had also attended Victoria College, and at least one sister was attending the Jersey Ladies College at the time of the 1901 Census, it does seem strange that he appears not to have also followed in their footsteps. Similarly, there is no evidence of Horace's two brothers having served, although Walter had been in Britain from 1899 to 1908 when he had married. Did the Evening Post article imply Mr FE Cabeldu's two sons and not Philip's?

Horace was staying with his brother, Walter, at Thornbury, Cedars Road, Hampton Wick at the time of the 1901 UK Census, and sailed from London to Kobe aboard the SS Malacca on the 2nd October, 1902. He was only in Japan from 1902 to 1903 and was employed in his father's company. He is not mentioned any further as being in Japan, and it is assumed that he then headed to Canada to work, as an Accountant, for he was certainly there when the Great War broke out.

Horace enlisted with the 1st Canadian Contingent at Valcartier on the 22nd September, 1914, being assigned to the 10th Battalion. He was reported as being wounded and missing whilst serving with that Battalion during the Second Battle of Ypres, and is noted by the CWGC as having died between the 22nd and the 23rd of April, 1915. He has no

known grave and is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing in Ypres, and in addition, he is also commemorated on the Yokohama Foreigners' Great War Memorial, although his surname is spelt as Cabledu.

Turning to the family, we start with Horace's father, **Philip Samuel Cabeldu**. Philip's connection with Kobe dates from 1870, two years after the opening of the port to foreign trade. He was a native of Saint Helier, where he was born on the 19th December, 1840. He sailed out to the Far East in a paddle-wheel steamer and arrived there with his wife, Letitia Bridget Caroline, in Kobe on 4th July, 1870. Their first child was born in the middle of 1871. In all, they would have three sons, Philip, Walter and Horace, and two daughters, Letitia and Evelyn.

Messrs. P. S. CABELDU & Co.	
<i>Beg to solicit an inspection of their New Summer Stock. Their Tailoring Department is replete with the most Fashionable Goods, including Light Striped Serges; Mixed Wool and Cotton-Serges of exceptionally good wear, unshrinkable, price for Coat and Pants</i>	
Light Striped Serges; Mixed Wool and Cotton-Serges of exceptionally good wear, unshrinkable, price for Coat and Pants	\$ 12.50
White ditto for Rowing, Tennis, and Cricketing Pants	5.50
Self-coloured all wool Twill Flannels, Coat and Pants	12.50
Thin Cotton and Wool Flannel Coat and Pants	8.70
Ditto Pants	4.00
White Twill Crepe Coat and Pants	9.00
Ditto Pants	4.00
Coloured Flannel and White Crepe Shirts	3.50
White Cotton Drill Coat and Plants	8.00
Ditto Pants	3.50
Union Drill and Duck Coat and Pants	9.75
Ditto Pants	4.50
Crepe Sleeping Suits	2.50
Silk Crepe Sleeping Suits	3.50
Black and Grey Mohair Coats	7.00
Super Grey Mohair Coats	12.02
White Vestings, &c.	

By 1871 Philip had founded his own company operating as Messrs PS Cabeldu and Company, Tailors and Outfitters, Kobe #3. In 1874 he moved to Kobe #16 always living and working there.

In addition to his business in Kobe he also tried to gain a foothold in the Osaka #13 Concession. He was well acquainted with the technical adviser of the Imperial Government Mint, a Mr William Gowland, but this connection did not contribute to the success of his business in the Osaka branch and he had to close it after only one year. The main seat of his company remained in Kobe, and still existed many years after the Meiji era. His three sons also worked in his company at various times.

He arrived at Liverpool from Quebec with his wife and their daughter, Evelyn, on the 22nd May, 1920, and would die in Bournemouth, three months later, on the 25th August, 1920.

Letitia Bridget Caroline Cabeldu. Philip's wife Letitia was born in St Helier in 1847, her maiden name being Anthoine. She was probate for her husband's estate when he died. Letitia later died at 29 Woodville Road in Ealing on the 1st October, 1929.

Philip Arthur Frederick Cabeldu: Philip Arthur was the eldest son of Philip and Letitia and was born in Kobe in 1871. In 1890, after his education in Jersey at Victoria College between 1883 and 1887 (VC Register Number 1940), he came back to Japan together with his brother Walter, and both started to work in their father's company.

In 1893 the brothers moved to Yokohama and established W and A Cabeldu and Company, Scientific Cutters, Practical Tailors and Outfitters, Yokohama #80. In 1895 they had to abandon the company. Then, in partnership with Charles Thwaites, Arthur founded a new company operating under Cabeldu, Thwaites and Company Import and Export Merchants, Sole Agents for Japan of the Waverly Bicycle Company (Indiana), located at #18-A, Kobe. This partnership lasted until 1899 when he changed to the Insurance Agency of the Pollak Brothers at Kobe with the right to sign per pro. and in 1900 he also worked in Yokohama #26 for this company.

In 1901 he was again living in Kobe, now employed with EH Tuska, Agents for Howes Scales and Remington Typewriters. In that year also, he married Lilian Eliza Thornbrough. From 1902 to 1905 he is not shown as being in Japan, but in 1906 he became partner in his father's company. He died during the Great Kantō Earthquake on the 1st September, 1923 and was buried in the Foreigners' Cemetery in Yokohama.

Walter John Alfred Cabeldu: Walter was Philip and Letitia's second son, and was also born in Kobe on the 5th April, 1872. In 1890, after his education in Jersey at Victoria College between 1883 and 1888 (VC Register Number 1941), he came back to Japan together with his elder brother and both started to work in their father's company in Kobe.

After he and his brother had to abandon W and A Cabeldu and Company in 1895, Walter left Japan for a while. He was living at Thornbury, Cedars Road, Hampton Wick at the time of the 1901 UK Census, but in 1908 returned to Japan where he later joined the Freemasons. Walter would die in Sidney, BC, Canada on the 14th July, 1928, being survived by his wife, Ellen Margaret, and three sons, Frederick Norman, Edward Horace and Henry Arthur. A daughter, Violet, had died in Tokyo on 1909.

Another generation and another War! Frederick would serve with the Canadian Army throughout World War 2, rising to the rank of Brigadier, and being awarded the DSO and Bar for his outstanding leadership as CO of the 1st Battalion, Canadian Scottish Regiment from D-Day, and then as Commander of the 4th Canadian Infantry Brigade. He also received the CBE and the French Legion d'Honneur and the Croix de Guerre.

Letitia Jane Cabeldu: Letitia Jane was the eldest daughter of Philip and Letitia and was born in Kobe on the 3rd January, 1874. She was attending the Ladies College in Jersey at the time of the 1891 UK Census. In 1897 she married Charles Thwaites in the Union Protestant Church of Kobe. Charles was approximately 6 years her senior. Charles was still alive in 1935 and may have died on the 2nd February, 1947.

Letitia and Charles had one son and one daughter. Charles Bertram Thwaites, born in Japan (or in Eastbourne, Sussex, this is not clear?) in 1898, was Killed in Action on the 29th September, 1916 while serving on the Somme with 5th Battalion, Royal Highlanders (Black Watch), and is buried in the CWGC's Knightsbridge Cemetery at Mesnil-Martinsart. Like his uncle, Charles is also commemorated on the Yokohama Foreigners' Great War Memorial. Vera Jane Thwaites, born in Japan in 1904, was married to Harold John Armstrong and granted probate of Letitia's estate in 1935.

Living at Woodville House in Ealing, Letitia Jane was a frequent trans-Atlantic traveller, and returned from her final voyage on the 3rd May, 1935. She died in Oxfordshire on the 12th July, 1935.

Evelyn Matilda C Cabeldu. Evelyn, Philip and Letitia's youngest daughter was born in Kobe in 1882. She never married, and in the 1891 UK Census she was living with her grandmother, a Mrs M Anthoine, in Colomberie, St Helier, Jersey. She was probate for her mother's estate when the latter died, while Evelyn would die in the Worthing area in 1956.

Concluding the look at Horace's family, given that Jersey men and women were venturing far and wide in the 1800s, it is still remarkable that Philip and Letitia went to Japan, which many Islanders of that period would have regarded it as, to totally misquote Neville Chamberlain, a far-away country populated by people of whom they knew nothing! In a very small way, and even if it was solely through the sale of cricketing flannels, the presence of the Cabeldu family was contributing to the modernisation of Japanese industry and the rise of Japan as an imperial force to be reckoned with in the early 20th Century.

It is also surprising to see that Horace and Charles Bertram Thwaites are commemorated in Yokohama (see below), a far stretch from the more familiar stamping grounds of Ypres and the Somme. Yet, the question remains as to whether Horace Cabeldu attended Victoria College or not?

The Yokohama Foreigners' Great War Memorial



The Memorial, pictured on the previous page, is located in the Yokohama Foreigners' (or Foreign General) Cemetery near the city's Motomachi district. There are 83 names recorded, 61 British, 15 French and 7 American, with just some of the British and all of the French and the Americans listed on the sunny side. It is quite detailed for each person, listing the full name, the rank, the unit, the cause (e.g. KIA, DOW, etc) and date of death, and where the death occurred (e.g. Verdun, Guillemont and so forth). Work is currently in hand to assess the British list of names to see if there are any other men with CI connections, and, so far, Kenneth Sven Blad who attended Elizabeth College (EC No 3193) has emerged.

CHARLES S. BERIGNY
KENNETH SVEN BLAD
GEORGE HOLYOAKE BOX, D. F. C.

GEORGE BARCLAY BUXTON, M. C.
HORACE EDWIN CABLEDU
GEORGE CRELLIN CARTWRIGHT

ARTHUR HILL STURROCK
CHARLES BERTRAM THWAITES
DAVID MITCHELL TOMLINSON

Readers interested to learn more of the Cemetery should visit the following website:

http://www.yfgc-japan.com/history_e.html



**Yokohama Foreigners' Cemetery
The Main Entrance and a General View**

Acknowledgements: The photographs of the Memorial and the views of the Cemetery are courtesy of Group member Jason Cronin who was in Yokohama at the beginning of this month.

A Plod through Canadian Service Records

It was noted in Journal 57 that these records were becoming available on the Canadian Library and Archive website, but that loading and viewing an individual's papers was slow. Indeed, the word 'slow' should be preceded by 'painfully'! However, one soldier on, and at the time of writing this article, the records analysis for those men in the JRoS with the name commencing 'G' is being completed. That for the men in the JRoH has been suspended, and this occurred to avoid keeping two working copies on the go, and if any new names are identified or the JRoH, then an amendment note is passed to Roger. The records analysis, by the way, is to fill the gaps in the JRoS as to Awards, Ranks, Units and so forth, and to correct errors and update the information that is held.

As one steadily works through the records there are several patterns emerging. Each record includes the man's pay and allotment details on ledger sheets. While there is no need for these to be examined currently, the sheets may become the material for a future study, and particularly so, to consider those who were receiving the allotments. Similarly, a man's dental records are included, from just prior to demobilisation. As well as trying to assure *'mens sana in corpore sano'*, the Canadian authorities were endeavouring to ensure that each man had a good set of 'chompers' when he left the Army!

Men's medical records went into great detail, understandably so, given the fact that ailments and injuries required treatment at the various hospitals, casualty clearing stations and dressing stations. There were two common threads.

The first was the proportion of men who succumbed to their carnal desires, only for their efforts to be rewarded with a sexually transmitted disease discreetly categorised as VDG or VDS. It is widely recognised that the Australians had a greater proportion of VDG/VDS casualties per head than the other nations, but one senses that the Jersey Canadians were keen to redress the imbalance.

The other thread was the percentage of Jersey Canadians who had been wounded. It is felt that the 'Canadian' figure is higher when compared with the percentage of wounded Jerseymen who were serving in the British Army. What might be the reason for this? The best that can be offered, is the suggestion that proportionally, there may have been more Jersey Canadians serving with the infantry than there were 'Jersey British'. Whilst Jersey Canadians served in other branches of the CEF, the CEF was highly dependent upon the BEF's resources and support that was being provided. This may be worthy of further examination.

A man's service with the CEF was comprehensively charted, even exceedingly so, in his collection of the Army Form B103, the 'Casualty Form – Active Service'. However, whether the forms are comprehensible is a different matter with acronyms abounding everywhere! Some like SOS (Struck of Strength) and TOS (Taken on Strength) are easily recognisable from equivalent British documentation, but the Canadian military managed to produce a new crop, particularly with the units created to perform various administrative functions. The clue to these may be where a particular unit is based, but it would need a far more detailed study into each man's file than can be achieved at present.

Turning now to individual records, as ever, some interesting facts emerge. **Wilfred de la Haye** appeared on the 1919 JRoH&S in each 'half', once as de la Haye, the other as Delaney, having served with that surname. Whilst having replicated that original error, his service file was reviewed and found to contain a transcription of the following letter (tidied up), that offered a somewhat bloodthirsty explanation as to why he served with that alias:

Mrs MM De La Haye

July 3/16

Dear Sister in Law

In receipt of your previous letter to hand of today stated date June 19/16. Very pleased to hear from you. Well as regards your letters which you state you have written to me quite a few times during my presents in Canada. I might say that I have often made inquiries about mail that has gone astray, this has happened the same with my Lady Friend's letters. So I presume this kind of carelessness was through the General Headquarters Post Office in Ottawa, that's where all letters are sorted for the west part of Canada.

I see by your letter that I should have my name spelt the correct way. My reason for doing this was because the rejected me the first time I joined the colours on account of shooting with the left eye as my right eye is kind of weak. Consequently, I made up my mind that I was determined to see the Front, especially to have the opportunity to snipe some Germans.

If there is any difficulty about this matter, why then I am willing to stand for the trouble as I presume that I am doing my duty for King and Country. I am at present about 8 miles from the front line trenches and according to what I hear there is going to be a change before very long as our artillery and infantry is making big attacks and advancing every day so I guess it won't be very long now before it will end. I suppose about another week from now I shall likely be in the trenches enjoying the best of health killing Germans.

This is about all the information that I can give you concerning about the war still pretty hard but it can't be helped. Our orders are that we mustn't mention anything about what part of France they are fighting. I enclose these few lines wishing you the best of respect.

From Yours Truly

W Delaney, No. 105721, 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles

Did he snipe any Germans? We may never know, but they certainly had his range a few months after that letter was written to his sister-in-law. The letter itself was part of a submission to the authorities that the true family name was de la Haye and not Delaney.

There are some names that are looked at in a little more detail elsewhere in this Journal. 'A Double Desertion' takes in **Malcolm Cavey**, while **John Ramsey Biscoe** and his brother **Vincent Henry Biscoe** appear in 'Victoriana'.

The 1919 JRoH&S carried the name of a Canadian Sapper by the name of AJ Donoghue which had been interpreted as **Arthur James Donoghue**, thanks to the only one out of 23 Donoghues having the initials 'AJ'. Simple logic one might argue. After four or five attempts at examining the 104 pages that are contained in his file, there is nothing on record that indicates a connection with Jersey, so meriting a 'Further Investigation Required' entry. The nearest that one can get to Jersey is that he went to live in

Fortuneswell on the Isle of Portland following a medical discharge in Canada. But, with 60 miles of separation, that is stretching the link!

Looking anew at the Canadian data, there is also a Sapper Albert Donoghue listed, who came from Jersey, and one wonders whether the authors of the JRoH&S had mistakenly interpreted 'AJ' to be Albert? Looking at the Attestation Forms, Arthur and Albert enlisted about five weeks apart! Yet, Arthur's story is not complete. The reason for his medical discharge was Pulmonary TB, in effect at that time, a death sentence. Following this up, according to the Probate Register, he died on the 4th March, 1921, and was living at the same address as was shown in his service record. The date is within the CWGC's criteria, and they have been contacted. At the time of writing this, a Death Certificate is awaited to show whether TB was the cause of his death.

The last man we look at is another chap who lied about his age was **Stephen Charles Court**, (the true surname was Cort) who born in Jersey on the 10th September, 1870, had deducted two years from his age when joining the First Canadian Contingent at Valcartier. He had seen previous service with the Royal Marine Light Infantry (service number 6138), and with the 2nd Royal Canadian Regiment (service number 7034) in South Africa.

Stephen's father, and his grandfather before him, both Jersey born, were Master Mariners, and appeared to have largely sailed out of Llanelli in south Wales. His mother was a Welsh lady, while young Stephen would live in much of his first 20 or so years in Llanelli. In 1891 he was a boarder in Llanelli, and I suspect that by this time his parents had separated, for his father would go on to have a couple more children in London! A year later he had joined the RMLI, and subsequently went to Canada. Links with Llanelli were maintained, and in Canada in September, 1903, he married Emily Rees born in 1877, in nearby Llangennech.

The Courts remained together in Canada for the next nine years when Emily returned to Llanelli and Stephen stayed on as a civil servant. Then, with the outbreak of the Great War, he presented himself at Valcartier. There followed the departure from Canada to Plymouth, and then to Salisbury Plain, to be followed in 1915 by the move to France. However, his unit, the 16th Battalion, went without him in the February as he had contracted measles, and had remained behind at Bulford's Military Hospital. Eventually fully recovered, he would eventually catch up with the Battalion in late April, 1915. Then, on the 4th September, 1915, Stephen Charles Court was killed near Messines in Belgium. The news that a loved one had been killed would have come as a body blow to any man's family back at home. Six days later, at what would be about the time that the dreaded 'Regret to inform you...' telegram would have reached Llanelli with the sad news, his widow, Emily Court died!

WW1 Battlefield Tour, 4th to 8th September, 2017 By Steve Foote

The Guernsey Society are planning a follow-up to our successful 2013 tour of the WW1 Battlefields to coincide with the centenary of the Battle of Cambrai. We have once again teamed up with [Battle Honours](#), the award-winning battlefield tour organiser, to produce a tailor-made tour which will take in the major activities of the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry and the Guernsey Irish Companies. Non-members welcome. If you would like to join us, or would like further information, please contact Keith Le Page (keith_le_page@guernsey-society.org.uk).

CWGC Non-Commemorations

As was mentioned in 'A Plod through Canadian Service Records', Arthur Donoghue's non-commemoration has been forwarded to the CWGC.

Accepted

Norcott, Gerald *
Dustan, John
Cudlipp, Herbert
Blanchet, Jean
Warne, Alfred
Bailey, Alwyn C
Leopold, Archibald
Cheney, Walter A
Le Morzédec, Henri
Mutton, Harold C *
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
Godfray, Edwin de V
Rundle, Cubitt S
Vautier, Alfred P *
Handford, Albert H

Being Progressed

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

Pending

Owen, Guy
De Ste Croix, Harold P
Tite, Winter JS
Troy, Edward J

TBA

Marsh, William H

Touzel, Walter H
Ferrer, Armand
Anderson, Frank B

Not for Submission

Surguy, Sidney
Pirouet, Charles A
Syborn, George T
Le Cocq, Clarence E
De Caen, Raymond
Malzard, Snowdon
Mourant, Sydney A
Baudains dit la Gerche, PG

With the CWGC

Marquand, Clarence D
De Gruchy, Alfred
Anstee, Laurence WL
Ruff, William C
Beckford, Edwin W
Donoghue, Arthur J

Rejected by CWGC

Vibert, John E
Adams, Frank H

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

Robins and Maugers By Brian Mauger

have been researching my family's Great War history. My maternal grandfather, Harold J Robin, served with the 6th Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment and when this battalion was disbanded he then completed an officer training course and served the last few months of the war as a Second Lieutenant in the 8th Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment.

He died in 1976 having told his family little or nothing about his wartime experiences. My mother found, amongst his possessions, a map showing plans for the last attack that he was involved in, and his officer's whistle, presumably the only souvenirs that he was able to retain from his time on the battlefield.

I used the whistle to referee sports matches for younger boys when in the 6th form at school, which made me curious about the circumstances in which it might have been used during the war. However, it took another thirty years for me to start attempting any research. Whilst much of the National Archives has been and continues to be digitised and made available through the internet, there is still too little information on the service and experiences of Guernsey men who served in the war.

Obviously all those involved have been dead for many years, so much of my knowledge is based on small snippets of memory from various family members, which gives a small and very incomplete picture of Guernsey at war and the huge impact that it had at the time and onwards to the present day.

My very general family history in the war, set out below, represents very little detailed research. I have acquired a couple of individual service records and some regimental war diaries from the national archive, read the roll of service on the CIGWSG website (*thanks to all those who have put in such an effort to compile this. I realise from my own small research what a mammoth task this must have been*), read a few of the limited number of the books relevant to Guernsey men's service in WWI and very briefly visited a few sites during a recent visit to my in-laws in Belgium including Guillemont, Ginchy, Thievpal Memorial, Ieper and its surrounds, including Wyttschaete). From my reading of journals on the website, this will be nothing remotely unique and common to many or most members.

However, it does occur to me that every family will have small chunks of memories and stories of how the war effected them, which will diminish over time as people pass away. This is a record for my family, as currently I am the only member interested in the subject, but I hope that the younger ones might be curious in the future. It is also a small record of the sacrifices made by the generation of our grandparents and great grandparents and provides a glimpse into Guernsey society at the time.

It is therefore more of a Hello! Magazine article than a piece of academic work, but am submitting it to the forum in case any elements may be of interest to members. I also include a summary of my reading on the Third Afghan War in 1919 (close to the Great War, if not actually part of it!) in which a relative served. It is all a 'work in progress', one which I hope to add to over time.

Robin Family

My maternal grandmother was first engaged to a man other than my grandfather. My mother remembers that he was a Tostevin, possibly Michael, and that he died during the war. The Roll of Honour in *Diex Aïx* by Eddie Parks mentioned that a man of this name died in May, 1918. I searched through the obituaries in the old copies in the Guernsey Press retained in the Priaulx Library until I found one which confirmed that Michael Tostevin had died of influenza as a prisoner of war. Recently I have been able to check this against the Roll of Honour on the CIGWSG website which confirms his death, that he was a Corporal with the 2nd Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment and is buried at Tincourt Cemetery on the Somme (not one I had time to visit in my recent holiday, unfortunately), but indicates he had double pneumonia rather than the 'flu – similar and perhaps a consequence of this. Therefore, my mother and her offspring would not be here without the war.

My maternal grandfather, Harold Robin, was in France from the end of December, 1915 with the 6th Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment. He was there until the end of the war with the

exception of undergoing a six-month long officer training course at Rhyl in Wales, up until May, 1918, returning to the front at some point in August as a Second Lieutenant with the 8th Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment. I have read the war diaries of his two regiments for the periods of his service. He would have most likely been involved in major actions on the Somme, near Guillemont and Ginchy, Messines Ridge, Paaschendale, and the more mobile part of the war from August, 1918, advancing from near Guillemont again, through to Le Cateau by the time of the Armistice.

The war diaries record a minimum of 1,783 casualties, dead and wounded, over these periods. The front line strength of the 6th Battalion when it first travelled to France was approximately 1,000, but was reduced due to manpower shortages over the course of the conflict and was disbanded around the time he became an officer cadet. My grandfather had the campaign medals awarded to all veterans, but these were unfortunately lost when my parents moved house a few years ago. It is therefore safe to conclude that he was a very lucky man to emerge physically unscathed. The lack of decorations during long front line service might also indicate that while he might not have been the most heroic soldier, he must have been a careful and perhaps skilled one, which enabled him to survive.

Although his service records show no physical injuries, my mother believes that he did have some sort of mental breakdown, but does not know if it was during or after the war.



During the Occupation, the Germans interned all men who had served as officers in the first war, to remove those who might organise resistance from the population. In common with many Islanders, Harold spent several years in the internment camp at Laufen as a result. He left a diary, which is a very dull read, mainly comprised of descriptions of the meals each day, but must reflect better treatment than most other internees and forced labourers of other nationalities experienced. He was bored, but survived with his health.

He attended annual reunions of the Royal Irish Regiment until just prior to his death in 1976, when he was being cared for at our home by my mother. A couple of former comrades continued to visit until his death and I remember them arriving at the front door in blazers with their medals on their breast pockets. They would go straight into the front room and shut the door, which remained tightly shut until their departure, other than for my mother to deliver tea. I presume they did not want anyone hear their reminiscences. I attach a photograph (see above) from the final reunion which he attended, probably in 1975 or 1976. He is the only seated person.

His service records include letters written from Guernsey in June 1918, presumably from a period of leave following his officer training, relating to his deployment back to the front. My mother has a couple of pictures which he must have been able to bring back during this visit: one which must have been of all the members of his course and another of him in a

football team, signed by all the players – something for possible future research, if I can ever decipher the signatures.

I also attach a second photograph (see below). This is a postcard and on the back is written 'Me and my chum, Harold Robin'. It is only a guess, but he must have visited the family of a former comrade who had been killed, who passed on the photograph. I can think of no way of identifying who the other soldier might be, but if any forum members have other resources which might do so, I would be happy for this to be shared.

Harold had a brother, Cyril Robin who served in the RGLI. He lived in England after the war and was an occasional visitor to Guernsey until his death when I was still relatively young. The most memorable thing about him for me as a small boy was his pipe, which he attempted to smoke, but which would only stay lit seemingly for just seconds at a time. He would refill it using his middle finger, as the top of his index finger was missing. The Roll of Service on the CIGWSG site indicates he received his wound on 11th April, 1918. One of my cousins, his granddaughter, has said that the only thing he mentioned to her about the war was that he felt guilty about leaving his comrades and that he had in some way let them down. Without wishing to doubt my great uncle's bravery and integrity in anyway, I have read that one way a soldier might try to obtain a 'Blighty' wound would be to hold their hand above the trench parapet until it was shot by an enemy sniper or cause a self-inflicted injury, as hand wounds were unlikely to be fatal, but a soldier who could not fire a rifle was useless in conflict and would be discharged, although such wounds would be regarded with great suspicion.



**Harold Robin, standing left
With unknown friend.**

(Editor's Note: Looking at the date that he was wounded, i.e. the start of the Battle of the Lys, I strongly doubt that Cyril's missing fingertip was a SIW).

My paternal grandfather, Bernard John Mauger, was just too young for active service in the war. The CIGWSG Roll of Service shows him as a member of the Guernsey based 109th Company, Royal Garrison Artillery. He also spoke very little of his experiences, but told my father that he was due to be shipped to the Crimea when the Armistice was declared. He also told my uncle that he had had the Spanish Flu and his recovery delayed his deployment and contributed to the lack of front line service. He did live until the 1990s, so was alive at the point where I became interested in the war and I did ask him what he did in the war. He said that he made it as far as a platform at Victoria Station prior to the

Armistice, where his company was billeted overnight. He woke to find a group of American negro soldiers sleeping next to him, which prompted him to check his wallet to make sure nothing had been stolen. This was not an anecdote which made me particularly proud, so I did not enquire further. However, this might have been representative of social attitudes at the time, particularly amongst soldiers from Guernsey who might never have travelled far from the island before.

Bernard was one of four brothers. His two older siblings also served during the war. The eldest was Claude, who the CIGWSG Roll of Service shows as being in the Royal Army Service Corps' 644 (Home Service) Employment Company, Ex-Wiltshire Regiment. My father only discovered after his death, coincidentally via Cyril Robin, mentioned above, that Bernard had suffered a physical handicap as a result of a school sports accident which might explain his lack of front line service.

The other older brother, Alan, served in the 9th Divisional Ammunition Column, initially as Driver, but was promoted to Captain by the end of the war. His name is neither shown in the Roll of Honour on the CIGWSG website, nor on the Smith Street memorial in St Peter Port, but he was gassed and wounded, and died as result of this after the war. He married and fathered a posthumous son. However, contact was lost with this branch of the family. My father is also call Alan, we presume, in memory of his uncle.

His service records show that he remained in the army following the war and served in India and went to Afghanistan during the Third Afghan War in 1919.

He served with the 101st Battery, 21st Brigade RFA which was deployed from Hyderabad to Quetta in May 1919 at the start of the brief war, which reached a conclusion by August of the same year. This area of the campaign saw only one significant action when the British undertook a surprise attack on what is described as the second largest fort in Afghanistan, at Spin Baldak near Chaman, where a portion of the British forces were based.

He may not have seen much significant action, but it would have been an arduous assignment as can be seen from my notes below.

Alan Mauger left the army in 1921 and died in 1924. The service records include a begging letter from my great grandfather requesting that a pension continue to be paid to his widow and young son, stating that he had invested his savings in a carpentry business (his occupation prior in the war is described as 'electrician') and his family had no assets on which to survive. The request was refused on the grounds that he had married after he had resigned his commission.

Third Afghan War

A government report on the campaign from 1920 discusses the political background and lessons of the war, as well as the military details. It is imperialist in tone and does not reflect well on the empire and its attitudes to a modern liberal eye.

The British regarded Afghanistan as a buffer state which protected its territories in India from Russia. This had resulted in two previous wars in the 19th century in which the imperial army invaded Afghanistan to protect this status and to counter Russian activity to enhance that country's influence. Neither were particularly successful. British policy aimed

to secure a united Afghanistan under a ruler strong enough to quell internal dissensions and repel foreign aggression.

The report describes the situation on the Afghan/Indian border, known at the time as the Durand Line. On the British side there was an area occupied by the Pathan tribes, nominally British subjects, but which was almost independent with loose control being exercised by the Indian Government's Political Officers. The Pathans' sympathies lay with Afghanistan for obvious cultural reasons. The British feared a spread of any conflict arising from the Afghan rulers and the warlike Afghan tribes to the Indian border tribal areas.

The Afghan population was described as '... bigoted Mohammedans, susceptible to a call to religious war'. The Afghan ruler, the Emir, who exercised absolute autocratic power, declared a jihad against British rule in India in 1919.

In 1915 a Turkish and German mission had gone to Kabul in an attempt to secure a treaty between Germany and Afghanistan. This failed, but helped generate a clamour for a war with India and created dissatisfaction with the rule of the Emir Habibullah. Eventually the Emir was murdered in February, 1919.

Habibullah's son, Amanullah succeeded him as Emir, but was immediately faced with adverse public opinion. He secretly prepared for war with India in the hope of placating the population. This included attempts to promote an uprising in the border areas of current day Pakistan. In unrelated events, Indian revolutionaries incited violence in various locations. The report states prompt military responses were initiated and that the rioters were 'cowed by heavy casualties'. The Emir used this as an opportunity to move troops to the frontier and on the 3rd May, the first hostile acts were committed by Afghan regular troops and the Indian Government reluctantly declared war.

There were no significant advances into Afghanistan in the war due to a lack of transport and supplies, a result of the recent diversion of resources to the Great War. There were no roads or railways in Afghanistan and rivers were not navigable, making territorial gains in mountainous Afghanistan difficult.

The weather was very hot in the campaign, 6 degrees Fahrenheit above average during the summer. Some of the fatalities described in the detailed action reports arise from heat exhaustion, but on one day in May there were casualties at Chaman from both chilblains and heat exhaustion due to the extreme variations in temperatures. The climatic and mountainous conditions, together with a lack of clean water supplies made epidemic diseases common.

There were relatively few British Army casualties (most of the fighting force was comprised of Indian troops) during the war. After the capture of Spin Baldak in the Quetta area, action appears to have been mainly defensive on the British side, with the Afghans employing guerrilla harassment tactics and not engaging in large actions. Not a great deal has changed in 100 years!

A peace was negotiated in August, 1919 as it appeared that neither side was likely to achieve further military advances. Spin Baldak was returned to the Afghans and the area returned to normal conditions.

It appears no great lessons were learned from history in more recent times.

Unknown Islanders

The list of 27 Unknown Islanders buried in the cemeteries remains as shown below:

Guernseymen:

Outtersteene Cemetery	II.E.32	II.H.53	II.H.60	IV.A.44	IV.A.50
	IV.A.53	IV.E.28	IV.E.30	IV.E.31	IV.E.32
	IV.E.34				

Trois Arbres	II.K.11	II.K.26	II.K.27	II.L.2	II.L.4
	II.L.5	II.M.26	II.M.31	II.M.35	II.O.24
	II.O.25	II.O.27			

Jerseymen:

Bazentin-Le-Petit	A.3	Poelcapelle	XXII.D.20
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Cerisy-Gailly French	II.A.6	Outtersteene Cemetery	II.H.59
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If you are visiting a cemetery and you spot an Unknown Islander, do please advise of the cemetery and grave details.

A Double Desertion

It is clear that, as more and more data from official sources emerge and finds its way onto websites, we can often build up a more rounded picture of an individual's Great War service, albeit that it is an incremental process, since not all the relevant data is out at the same time. But at the same time, it can be a case of the more that we find, the less we know! This is certainly true of Malcolm Cavey.

From our point of view, Malcolm's name first featured in the 1919 JRoH&S, and at the time we were assembling our JRoS for the web (back in 2001/2) all that could be established was his regimental number and unit, given that the cost of printing black and white Medal Index Cards for more than 7000 men was prohibitive. We could not pick up on the fact, noted on his MIC, that he had deserted from the 3rd Hussars on the 10th October, 1916.

Then the Canadian Attestation Records were released around 2008, and Malcolm again appeared, this time enlisting into Lord Strathcona's Horse on the 23rd September, 1914 at Valcartier, having already had a year's service with the Canadian Engineers. He was allocated the service number 2721, while stating that his father, Allan Mathew Cavey who was living in Jersey, was NOK, and that his own date of birth was the 7th January, 1895. Subsequently, the N&MP's publication on the men serving in the First Contingent of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1914, showed that Malcolm was in the Regiment's 'C' Squadron.

To establish whether there was only one Malcolm or not, and whether he was entitled to the 1914-15 Star, the MIC entry emerged, as did a couple of conflicts with the statements in the Attestation Record, when compared to BMD records that can be found on Jerripedia. The first was that his date of birth was actually the 7th January, 1897. There is nothing unusual in suddenly 'ageing' by two years, given that many young lads were 'telling porkies' about their age to get into the action, however, his parents were Matthew Francis and Jessie Theresa (née Pluck) Cavey. Allan Mathew Cavey could therefore not be Malcolm's father, and certainly not his NOK, given that the only individual by that name had been Malcolm's older brother born on the 27th August, 1891. Furthermore, thanks to

help from group member Vic Geary, it was found that Allan had died on the 21st June, 1907! In Malcolm's case, the 'porkies' were multiplying by the minute.

Malcolm spent comparatively little time at Valcartier, for within days of his enlistment, the CEF were boarding ships at Quebec, to take men, horses and equipment across the Atlantic. On the 3rd October, the convoy set sail for Southampton, but then was diverted to Plymouth.

The War Diary for Lord Strathcona's Horse notes that the Regiment travelled on HMTS Bermudian and moored up in Plymouth Sound during the afternoon of the 14th October. It was joined the following day by HMTS Monmouth which had carried the horses. Disembarkation and loading up took place on the 16th October, and at 02.00 am on the 17th, the Regiment left Plymouth's Mill Bay Station for Patney and Chirton Junction where it arrived at 07.00 am. Having unloaded, a baggage party remained behind to follow the main party which marched off for Pond Farm Camp (somewhere on Salisbury Plain) to the east of Market Lavington, and this was to be the Regiment's home until early 1915.

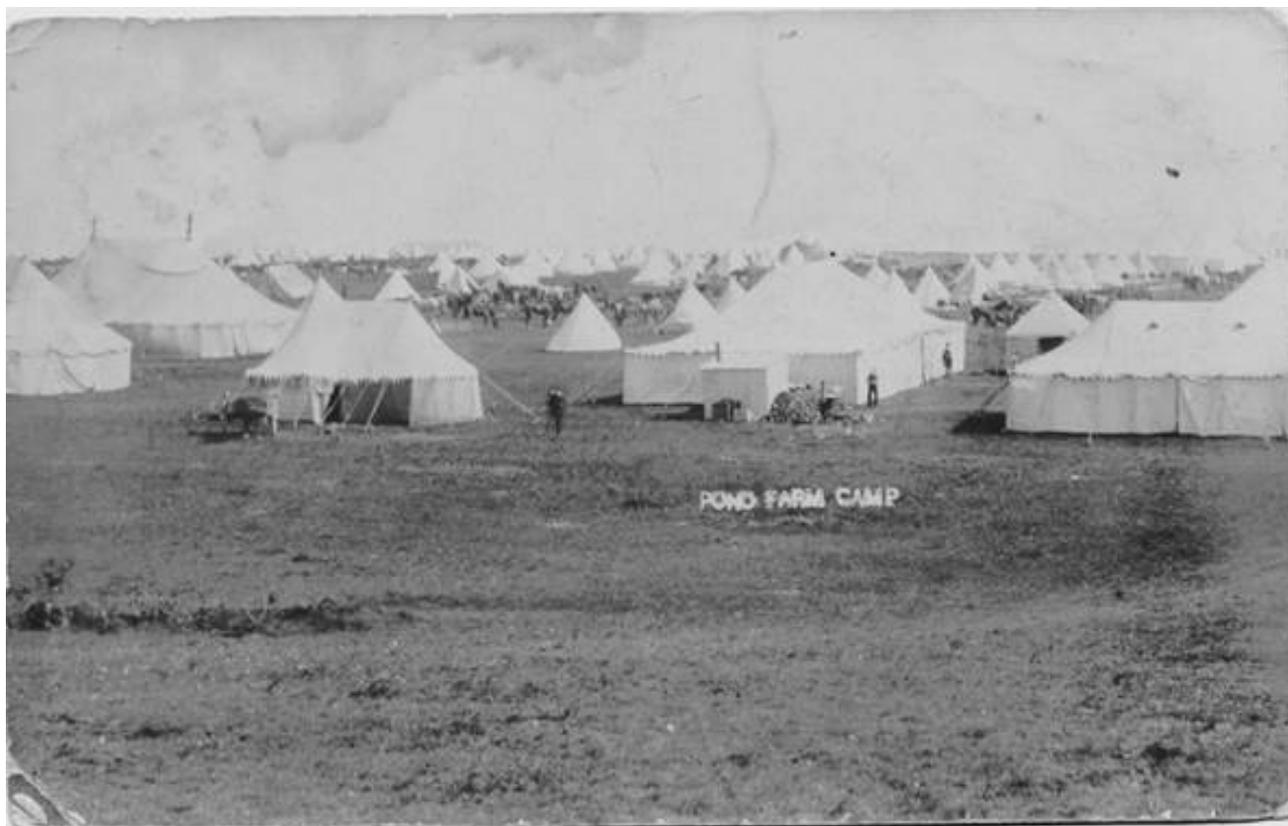


Patney and Chirton Junction

Reading through the War Diary for this period, the weather for the remainder of October was largely wet and showery, with mud very much under foot. November was no better, with wind to add to the misery, the Orderly Room marquee blowing down on the 11th! But, there was the training, supplemented by men taking part in the Lord Mayor's Show and visits by the sovereign.

It was on the 15th November, 1914 that Malcolm was reported as being 'Absent without Leave', coincidentally this being the same day as the Church Parade being cancelled

because the men had got wet through during 'morning stables'! Then, having failed to show up after three weeks, on the 7th December, he was no longer regarded as absent, and was now categorised as a 'Deserter'. It is possible that since the CEF was a new and inexperienced organisation, there was no attempt at getting him back, and he would be one of the ninety-four men who had deserted whilst on the Plain, and, many of those it is suggested, seeing the CEF as little more than a free ticket to return home to Britain.



Pond Farm Camp (On a dry day!)

Yet, Malcolm had clearly not tired of wearing khaki. We find him having qualified, while serving with the 3rd Hussars, for the British War and Victory Medals in 1916, given the date of his second desertion. Before that, he would have been with the 9th Reserve Cavalry Regiment which was the training unit supporting the 3rd and the 7th Hussars with reinforcements, based initially at Shorncliffe in Kent, and from autumn 1915 at Newbridge in Ireland.

Desertion is a serious offence in any Army, but his second 'British Army' desertion was more serious in that it occurred whilst he was on active service in France, and a Court Martial would have had no compunction in passing a sentence that he be executed. By comparison, the 'Canadian Army' desertion, because his Regiment was not 'under orders for active service' at the time, would have attracted a prison sentence with hard labour. Irrespective, any medals, save the Victoria Cross, would be forfeit. Needless to say, Malcolm Cavey did not face a firing squad, while it is unclear whether a prison sentence was handed down to him. His Canadian records show that in 1920, he confessed to having been a deserter in 1914, and his offence was amended to that of 'Misconduct', suggesting an element of post-War leniency by the authorities.

Two more pieces of data emerge. The first is that a Malcolm Cavey (a soldier) had sailed on the SS Ibex on the 4th January, 1916, probably to Weymouth after Christmas leave, having stayed at 2 Union Street, the Oxford public house run by Percy and Lydia Pluck.

From the 'British Army' standpoint at this time, his stay in Jersey was legitimate, and his leave pass would have been in order.

The second is that a Frank Malcolm Cavey died in Birmingham in the first quarter of 1973 and that his date of birth had been the 7th January, 1897! The Canadians had been lenient, and the British must have been so subsequently. In any case, it would have been bad form to hang deserters after the war, and ill-advised, not least the Bolshevism lurking in the dark corners.

The Jersey Archive

Now, for the fifth year in a row, Jersey Heritage, will be holding the next 'What's your Street's Story' series of Saturday morning talks at the Archive between 10.00 and 13.00 on the dates shown below:

20 th February	– Tours of the Archive
19 th March	– Millbrook
16 th April	– Stopford Road
21 st May	– Sion
18 th June	– Great Union Road and Aquila Road
16 th July	– St Peter's Village
20 th August	– La Motte Street
17 th September	– Gloucester Street
15 th October	– The Weighbridge
19 th November	– Longueville
17 th December	– La Rocque

You will be able to add any or all of the dates directly to your Tablet, Laptop or PC, by visiting the following link:

<http://www.jerseyheritage.org/whats-on/what-s-your-street-s-story->

If you wish to attend, please book by ringing 01534 833300, or emailing:

archives@jerseyheritage.org

Where Was I?



Answer: The PoW Camp at Blanche Banques

Philatelic Matters



The Isle of Man Post Office will be issuing the two sets of stamps, that are depicted above, on the 17th February. The Jutland issue is a miniature sheet showing the opposing Admirals, Jellicoe, Scheer, Beatty and Hipper set against paintings of the battle. The Somme issue is a set of six stamps that looks at the technology that was used, i.e. the artillery, aircraft and the tank, as well as the either side of the coin in terms of the human cost, the wounded, the dead, and the missing.

The partially obscured bottom right stamp shows the Thiepval Memorial, while John Singer Sargent's 'Gassed' is very well known to most of the Group. As best as can be determined, the backgrounds above are marketing illustrations only.

Victoriana

A casual look through the College's Register is generally the starting point for any change or addition to our record of the OV's who served during the Great War and, on occasion, to prompt the College to add another name to its war memorial. So, having had **Edwin de Visme Godfray** added as a casualty on the CWGC's Debt of Honour Register back in

2014, it was recently discovered that he was an OV (2580) and the College have now been advised of the omission.

We look now at the Biscoe brothers, and in fact there were two sets of two, the first of whom can be dealt with quickly. **Joseph Seymour Biscoe** (2204) and **John Melville Biscoe** (2205) were Anglo-Indian by birth, their father an Army Major, and attended between 1888 and 1892. Both would serve in the South African War with Lumsden's Horse. However, John sadly died in 1905. In 1900, Joseph, would be commissioned (LG 27211) by the C-in-C in South Africa, Field-Marshal Lord Roberts, directly into the West Indies Regiment, and would serve in Jamaica with that Regiment throughout the Great War. At some stage he transferred to the Leicestershire Regiment while a son would die in the Second World War.

The other two brothers were **Vincent Henry Robert Biscoe** (OV 2241) and **John Ramsay Biscoe** (OV 2535). Neither men are listed in the College's Book of Remembrance, but it is likely that John was inadvertently listed as JR Bisson in the 1919 JRoH&S. Whether these two were related to Joseph and John is unknown at present, but their father, Vincent Ramsay Biscoe was also of military stock, becoming a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. Young Vincent (who will be referred to for convenience as Bobby) was two years older than John, and had attended College for about a year in 1888/1889, a period which coincided with the presence of the Loyals' 2nd Battalion in Jersey. John would attend there about eight years later. They had a third brother, Charles Hilton Biscoe, but he did not attend College.

John Ramsay, who we look at first, would see service with the South African Constabulary and the Johannesburg Mounted Police over a period of 5½ years. Then he went (back?) to Canada where it appears that the family had settled. Joining the Canadian Militia's 44th Lincoln and Welland Regiment he would be commissioned, and on mobilisation in 1914, his Regiment would be assigned to guarding canals, docks and other ship facilities in that area of Canada around Niagara Falls, the threat being perceived as a real one of sabotage by Fenian and German sympathisers across the Niagara River in New York State.

A year after the War's outbreak, John would attest as a member of the CEF and was given the rank of Major. An eastbound ship would take him to England, arriving on the 5th May, 1916, where he would remain for the next three months. He was assigned to the Canadian Infantry's 19th Battalion, sailing from England on the 2nd August, and arriving the following morning at Boulogne-sur-Mer. Two days later he was with his new unit in the Ypres sector. Before too long, he would be returning in the other direction, for on the 14th August, 1916 he was seriously wounded, and would be in an English hospital cot by the 19th of that month.

In John's case, the phrase 'seriously wounded' barely encapsulates the damage. A High Explosive shell landed and had exploded very nearby, and this had resulted in wounds to the right side of his head, neck and shoulder. Unsurprisingly, there were shards of metal in those parts of his body and these would progressively be extracted at the various medical facilities as he was moved further to the rear. However, some of his jaw and rear teeth had been taken away, while his nose had been forced out of place. His service file contains numerous medical reports with lengthy descriptions of his condition that are incomprehensible to the layman, suffice to say that his right side was facially paralysed, he was deaf in one ear, he had difficulties with his vision, and he could only eat soft foods because he was unable to chew solids. Set that alongside the obviously visible physical scars from the wounding and the operations.

Returning to Canada, he would be discharged in May, 1918, having been on active service just over a fortnight, and would die on the 21st October, 1946!

We turn to Bobby, asking oneself where one should begin, for his military career was somewhat chequered to say the least! As far as can be determined, he entered the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) at Kingston, Ontario in 1897, however, he did not see the full course out, being shown the door for drunkenness and insubordination in February, 1899, while seemingly revelling in the soubriquet of 'Robert the Devil'!

There followed spells with the Royal North West Mounted Police, in South Africa with the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles, the Transvaal Constabulary and the South African Constabulary from which he was discharged as 'Unsuitable'! Thereafter, he served briefly with both the Canadian Scouts and as a Lieutenant in Pieter's Light Horse. All of this was during a period from the 1st June, 1899 to the 6th July, 1902! He then would serve in Somaliland with the Mounted Rifles. At the outbreak of War, he was with the Canadian Militia's 103rd Calgary Rifles.

Like so many other Canadians, he would turn up at Valcartier to join the Canadian Infantry's 10th Battalion in September, 1914 in the rank of Sergeant with the service number 20281. At the beginning of January, 1915 he transferred (not admitted) to No 1 General Hospital and would not head to France until late April, 1915 joining No 2 Stationary Hospital at Le Touquet. There he fell sick with acute indigestion and was sent back to the UK for sick leave, extending it a few days and forfeiting pay for the absence.

There is no indication of a general lack of fitness that would have prevented him serving with the 10th Battalion as an infantryman, indeed, obviously not, because his next step saw him commissioned (LG 29333 dated 12th October, 1915) as a Second Lieutenant in his father's old unit, the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, an action which saw him formally discharged from the Canadian Army. Then Bobby's service file later shows that he is back with the Canadians!

As best as can be ascertained, he had gone to the Loyals' 7th Battalion, that had been in France since July, and then was placed in front of a General Court Martial, at which, according to LG 29607 dated 29th April, 1916, he was 'Dismissed the service'. His Medal Index Card for his brief spell in the Loyals' may offer a clue to his 'crime' in that it notes that medals prior to the 15th May, 1916 are forfeit, and the reason given was that his 'Former service was not truthfully declared'. Either he had omitted some facts, or he had made untrue claims. But, what is curious, is the fact that whatever he had stated, it had taken the best part of six months to emerge, and had not merited a lesser sentence such as a Reprimand. Infantry regiments are also family regiments, and it seems that someone knew what Bobby had been up to and had talked! More work is needed, and it will be interesting to read his War Office file (WO 339/44980) at Kew.

He continued with the Canadians for the remainder of the War, his wife Janet Dick Innes, whom he had married in London in 1905, had been receiving his allotments of pay, while she worked at the Ministry of Munitions in London. It appears that he was on the training staff at Crowborough for a time, and while there would be slightly injured in what was a grenade accident. After 1919 we lose sight of him, though there is a likely candidate in the shape of a Chief Cook Vincent Biscoe on board the SS Griffco in 1935, on the west coast of America, with the right age and height. Finally, it appears that he died on the 14th December, 1953.

(Editor's Note: The RMC was originally opened at Kingston, Ontario in 1876, with its first Commandant being Lieutenant-Colonel Edward O Hewett, RE. In yet another family connection, Colonel Hewett was the uncle of John Ramsay and Bobby, having married Lieutenant-Colonel Vincent Ramsay Biscoe's sister, Catherine)

Bringing to Victoriana to a close is a brief look at **Robert Sylvester John Faulknor**, and it is coincidental to note that he was also commissioned into the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment

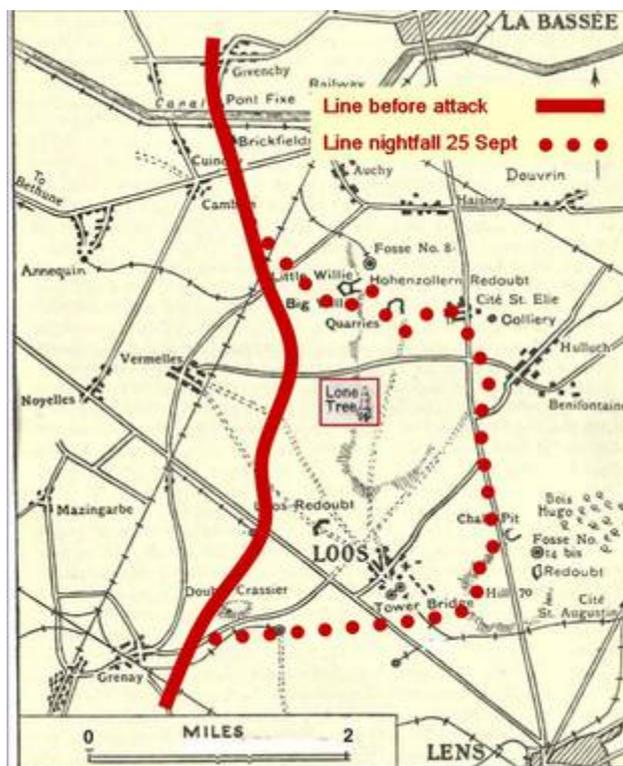
Reading the article that was copied from the 4th October, 1915 edition of the JEP one finds that is consistent with the contents of his War Office file (WO 339/6784), and lacks in a few minor details only.

His unit, the 1st Battalion, King's African Rifles, had helped to fend off the German forces trying to capture Mombasa, and effectively that was the last serious attempt by the Germans at taking British territory, although readers of Edward Paice's 'Tip and Run' will of course know that the East African campaign lasted until the bitter end of the Great War, and then a little more!

Lieutenant (as he then was) Faulknor was wounded in the shoulder on the 7th October, 1914, left Mombasa on board the SS Matiana four weeks later and was back in England on the 4th December. He would attend Medical Boards in London, Jersey and Felixstowe where the Loyal's 3rd (Reserve) Battalion was based, He was declared fit for general service in late-May, 1915, and would return to the 1st Battalion in June.



Captain Robert Sylvester John Faulknor



He was initially reported missing during the Battle of Loos, and like so many other casualties, the authorities were not immediately certain as to where he was. To establish whether he was killed, and where his body might be, a number of men were interviewed as to their recollections of the Battalion's actions and what they saw of Robert Faulknor's fate. Their statements contained in his WO file are shown in the table overleaf.

<p>From: 6891 Bdsmn WG Trigg, at No. 9 Camp, Harfleur on the 7th October, 1915</p> <p><i>I am a Stretcher-Bearer and saw Capt Faulknor lying dead close to a German parapet where he had been gassed and shot by a bullet in the first attack, which took place at 6.30 a.m. and which failed. It was after the third attack, which was successful and which took place at about 4.00 p.m. that we went out for the wounded and then it was we saw him. Sergeant Tucker was in charge of the Stretcher-Bearers and could confirm this.</i></p>	<p>From: 10581 Pte A Hind at No. 11 Gen Hospital, Boulogne on the 15th October, 1915</p> <p><i>He was my Company Commander. We attacked, but were held up by some German barbed wire which wasn't cut. We lay there and I saw him hit. Next night the Stretcher-Bearers carried him in with a bullet through the head. I saw his body. He was buried with Lt Clements and 2Lt Livesey? I think in Vermelles church yard. He was a fine officer, and the company were (sic) terribly sorry when he was killed.</i></p>
<p>From: 9290 Sgt JStC Miller at No. 23 Gen Hospital, Etaples on the 16th October, 1915</p> <p><i>I did not see this myself, but was told it by Sgt MacNamara. Capt Faulknor, CSM Rumney and Sgt Cassidy were all together at the Lone Tree outside Loos when we made the big advance. Sgt MacNamara found these three dead on the barbed wire of the German trenches. Two of them were well-known runners in the regiment and led the charge. They were all buried at the Lone Tree.</i></p>	<p>From: 6593 Sgt GA Field on leave at the EFN Boulogne on the 27th October, 1915</p> <p><i>This officer was killed during the advance on 26th September, soon after we took the first line of trenches. We took four lines, and advanced to the Chalk Pit on the left of Pylon Towers pit. He was killed long before we reached that position. I do not know what happened after. He was shot somewhere in the body I know.</i></p>

It is an interesting look at what four men stated what they had seen or were told. Robert is believed buried in St Mary's ADS Cemetery, Haisnes Cemetery, which is close to the Lone Tree's location, as is Second Lieutenant Alan Livesey. However, CSMs Cassidy and Rumney are listed on the Loos Memorial. Lt Clements was not killed. Sgt Miller's report puts Robert at the Lone Tree while Sgt Field's has him 'long before' the Chalk Pit, some 1½ miles distant. Clearly, there were contradictions, but who can blame those men?

In the Media - Around the Press and Television

A combination of ignorance and downright mischief-making? You may think that, I could not possibly comment! In the last week or two The Times has carried a number of articles on an 'Australians ban British from war memorial' theme which has subsequently been picked up by some of the more rabid tabloid press. The theme hinges on the simple fact that the Australians are going to hold a ceremony at Fromelles on the centenary of that battle, and that 'They [the Australians] want to airbrush out the British' or that '...they want to ban them'. Pretty inflammatory stuff, provocative and liable to cause one to choke on their weety-bangs at the breakfast table! I might have choked on my porridge had I not been making (expletive deleted) comments. But, then I remembered the facts!

Back last July, people were being invited to bid for places via a special website at the forthcoming centenary commemoration to be held at Thiepval on the 1st July this year.

Visiting the website, attendance was to be limited to 8,000 to 10,000 UK and Ireland residents, a statement that prompted an enquiry as to:

- Whether residents of the Crown Dependencies were included or not – They were!
- What arrangements were there for the dominions, i.e. Australia, Canada etc.

The advice received on the second bullet was that the dominions were to conduct separate events. All this was reflected back to Group members in Journal 58.

The Australians have clearly chosen Fromelles as the site for their event, with a limit of some 3,200 attendees, over the only other likely candidate, namely Pozières. There are logistic considerations to be considered. As members know, Pozières is on the main road between Albert and Bapaume, and with several thousand visitors likely to be milling around, it would be a recipe for accidents. Meanwhile, those who know Fromelles would agree that the area is rather constricted, and given that it is a dedicated Australian event, would also agree that it should be 'Australians First'. After all, they will have come a long way for it!

To reiterate, the articles were inflammatory, not exactly The Times' finest hour, and the theme was regrettably being exacerbated by one 'noted' UK military historian sallying forth with his own provocative comments. Neither government appears to be making clear, or if so, it is not being reported, the actual intent at Fromelles.

While on the Australian theme, many may have missed 'Anzac Girls', a series broadcast on the More 4 channel. Based upon the diaries and the lives of real nurses, it provided a realistic view of nursing, so said the memsahib. I saw very little of it myself, but would agree. It is available on DVD and Blu-ray.

As has been previously mentioned, The Times has featured a brief look at articles of a century back. Though I am uncertain of when it occurred, the Daily Telegraph adopted the idea, replacing the Second World War items.

Otherwise, there has been little of note apart from the odd personal stories of the 'thanks to the discovery of Grandad's diary' variety. These tend to be backed by comments from this or that organisation, possibly as back door advertising for populating certain websites with family history material.

The Official Somme 2016 Event at Thiepval

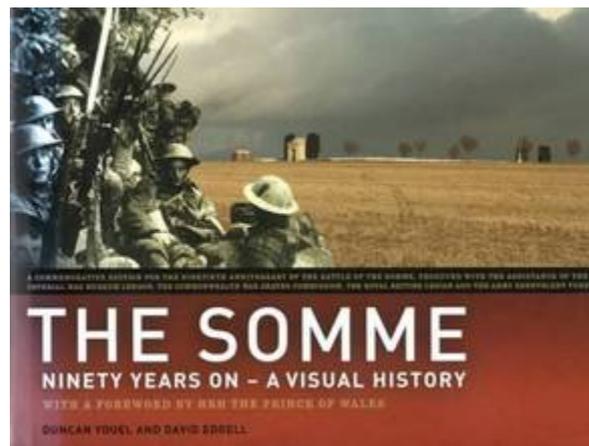
Members will be pleased to hear that Roger Frisby was successful in having his name drawn out of the hat and will be attending the event at Thiepval. I am sure that he will be sharing a large portfolio of photographs subsequently. In a further comment on the logistics surrounding Somme 2016, the nearest accommodation that he could find was at Abbeville.

It is advised that any other members who plan to visit the Thiepval Memorial between now and the 9th July, should be mindful of restricted access while it is being readied for the ceremony, and for the clear up afterwards. One assumes that the Visitors' Centre remains open. More detailed information can be found via the following link, and it is recommended that members might like to check it before any planned visits:

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/80800/THIEPVAL%20MEMORIAL>

Book Reviews

The Somme
Ninety Years On – A Visual History
Duncan Youel and David Edgel
(Dorling Kindersley - £25.00)
Review by Peter Tabb



It may seem a little bizarre that I am reviewing a book that by its own title is already ten years out of date. This is possibly because 'The Somme – One Hundred Years On' has yet to be published although I am sure we will not have long to wait.

Of all the costly battles of the Great War, the Somme has a particular resonance for the British Army. On that first morning in July, 1916, on an 18-mile front, almost 120,000 men climbed out of their trenches and began a steady walk into No Man's Land. By the day's end, nearly 60,000 of them had fallen, either killed or wounded – the worst casualties ever suffered by the British Army on a single day. Today, the Somme has become part of the collective British psyche.

The book richly lives up to its title of being a visual history allowing the reader to journey to the front line of the Somme and see how the battle unfolded, with archive images, maps of the key military aspects of the campaign, panoramas of the battlefields and interviews from the Somme today. This book has an accompanying DVD and between them they reveal the Somme as it was then and explores the legacy of the Battle ninety years on. A genealogical section is also included to help the reader trace any ancestors who took part in this pivotal conflict.

The book is about as near as the reader can get to experiencing 'living history' from his or her armchair and, unlike many histories of the Battle, takes the reader into not only the minutiae of the battle itself – which lasted from the 1st July, 1916 until the 18th November of the same year – but also the principal events which occurred up to the summer of 1916 which are summarised in pictures, captions and accompanying text. Similarly, later on in the book the aftermath of the Battle is summarised as are the events leading up to the Armistice in November 1918.

When the Western Front had been sketched in during the early months of the war, the Germans had arraigned themselves comprehensively along the Somme. Across the entire British attack front of the 1st July, the Germans had chosen their ground very carefully, taking maximum advantage of the terrain and 'digging themselves in' so effectively that the massive barrage that preceded the British infantry's advance was largely ineffective. As they were to do so often (and were to do once again in the Second World War) throughout the war.

On the Somme the Germans had created deep, reinforced shelters with multiple exits and these were often large enough to accommodate an entire garrison for a trench. These entrenchments were also usually sited behind thick tangled belts of barbed wire, normally around thirty yards wide. The book explains very clearly the difference between the German and British and French attitudes towards trenches. For the British and French trenches were intended to be purely temporary devices to be left behind in the advances

into the German lines. The German trenches were built to a much higher standard since the Germans intended that they were there for the duration.

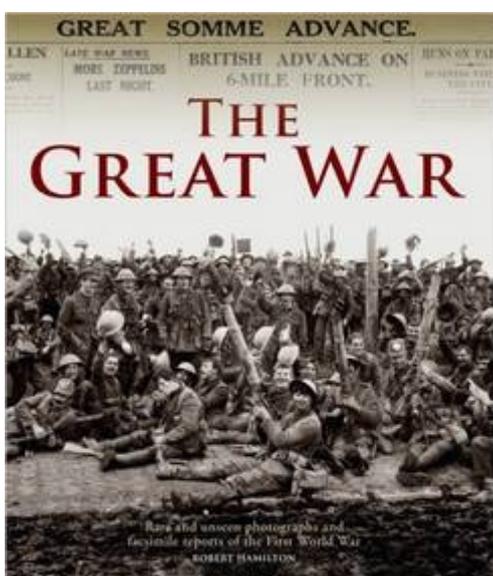
On the 21st February, 1916 the Germans had launched their assault on Verdun, their intent to 'bleed the French Army white'. Although the British Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Douglas Haig had intended to launch a major assault across the front, the assault on the Somme was brought forward to relieve the pressure on the French by diverting the attention of the German forces.

How this was achieved is described in meticulous detail supported by photographs of 'then and now' and while the book is very much pictures supported by captions, the individual battles within the battle are treated in considerable detail and any reader who wants to know what happened at the Somme, how and why it happened, and what happened afterwards and what it all looks like now will not be disappointed and will be very much better informed.

The book also benefits from a foreword by HRH the Prince of Wales as well as Brigadier Tim Gregson MBE, Military Attaché in Paris, Major-General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO OBE, Controller, the Army Benevolent Fund and Piers Storie-Pugh MBE DL, founder and head of Remembrance Travel for the Royal British Legion.

Duncan Youel and David Edgell have been collaborating for a number of years on projects that have explored contemporary British culture and lifestyles. As part of the design collective M2, one of their most recent projects has been the design of the visual displays and films in the Visitor Centre at Thiepval. Having taken three years to complete, the Centre has received universal acclaim and having visited it myself and frankly being concerned beforehand that a visitor centre would detract from the awesome lonely majesty of Sir Edwin Lutyens' Thiepval Memorial. Fortunately, the Centre has been built well away from the memorial itself and I found the facilities available and the histories of the battles did enhance our visit, particularly the surprising amount of film footage of the battle being shown continuously.

While I am confident that there will be many new books published this year about the Somme (and I will be sorely tempted to buy them provided that I can create some more space for them in the study), this one will do very nicely for the time being.



The Great War
By Robert Hamilton
Atlantic Publishing 2014
(£40.00/\$75.00)

If you want a weighty tome on the Great War, this is it! It weighs in at 5¼ lbs, and it is clearly meant for those coffee tables that have strong legs. The price is just a little eye-watering, so one wonders if the blurb 'Rare and unseen photographs and facsimile reports. The complete story of the First World War' is justified. One has to say that the answer is a qualified No. Most of the photographs will already be known to a large percentage of Great War researchers such as on the front cover, for example, showing the Northumberland Fusiliers.

The answer is probably different if one considers the more casual reader who has barely touched upon the War, and it will very likely appeal to many, assuming that its price is not challenging to the pocket or the purse.

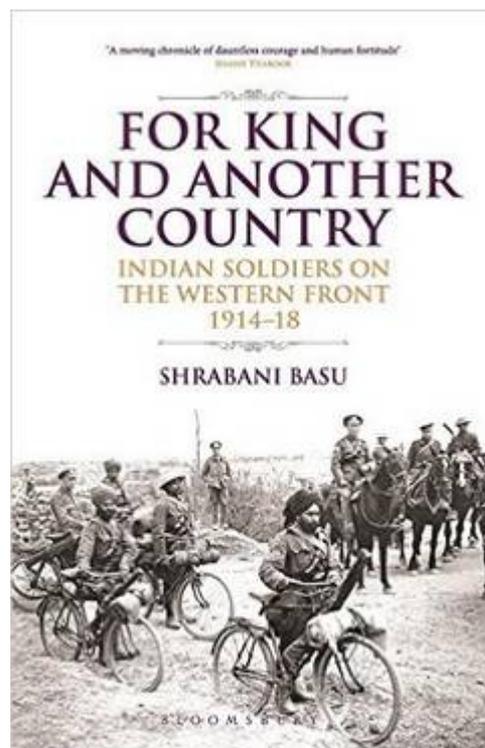
In terms of presentability, it is an excellent product, balancing many well selected photographs, text, maps and copies of newspaper articles, all of which being taken from the Daily Mails of the day. Each year of the War is looked at in its entirety and then topics such as shell shock, key events and battles have separate sections. Jutland has five pages allocated, while the Middle East in 1916 merits four. The book is not Anglo-centric, as battles involving the Russians, French, Americans, Italians and others are also covered, as well as the enemy nations.

Turning to maps, a frequent area of criticism in past reviews, the majority are taken from the Daily Mail and are mainly of the 'birds eye view' variety, giving a better sense of perspective and contouring, as opposed to the more usual (Mercator?) map projection. There are the more usual maps, in colour, and showing the sweeping movements of two sides engaged in a particular battle such as the Brusilov Offensive or Verdun, but the choice of colour lets them down with just the use of various shades of blue and green. A useful key is hidden a few pages into the book providing the reader with explanations of military symbols, but one might wonder why reference to Airborne and Parachute formations is made?

In terms of the book-buying public as to where it 'fits', the nearest book that it can be compared to is HP Wilmott's 'World War I' published by Dorling-Kindersley, where even the first Chapter in each is titled 1914 'The Road to War'! Wilmott's book at just £20.00 is more colourful and varied in content, and seems suitable for 9 to 15 year olds. Hamilton's book would probably suit the 13 to 17 year olds, and the casual browser, although the recommended retail price would be a deterrent. The price is the drawback, and that is largely why a 'No Buy' recommendation is made. It would not have been a book that I would have normally bought, but a copy in a second-hand shop, in first-class condition and costing £9.99? Just right for two grandsons!

For King and Another Country
By Shrabani Basu
(Bloomsbury Press, RRP £25.00)

Subtitled 'Indian Soldiers on the Western Front, 1914-18', this is a book that has been highly praised in a number of newspaper reviews, and it is about a subject that all of us should be far more knowledgeable of than we may actually be. Former CDS, Lord Richards regards it as 'A beautifully written book' while Ian Hislop that it is 'part of our history that should be declared not forgotten'. In that sense then, it is a book that should promote more research into India's contribution, and indeed, there are many interesting facts. But Shrabani Basu is a journalist, and she has written the book journalistically, and not as a historian might. In a number of instances, she is not going to let the facts in the way of a good story, as the following might show.



She tells the tale of Lieutenant Indra Lal 'Laddie' Roy who, in a short space of time in July, 1918, would become India's first recognised air ace, being credited with eight individual victories, and another two shared. He would sadly be on the receiving end on the 22nd July, 1918 over Carvin, when he was shot down and killed. He was undoubtedly regarded as an excellent young fighter pilot, and as Miss Basu goes on to say, *'Even the Red Baron paid tribute to the brave Indian teenager and dropped a wreath from the skies where Laddie fell'*. One might be moved to tears at reading of such chivalry shown to an opponent by Manfred von Richthofen, and even more so, when it is recalled that the Red Baron had been killed three months previously.

There are a few other minor howlers, and from time to time the story is padded out, with three pages alone devoted to Franz Ferdinand's assassination for example, and another page on the fact that Wilfred Owen was dead. Similarly, there are areas that should have been covered, not least the structure of the Indian Divisions and how they fared from mobilisation in India to arrival at Marseilles. She describes men coming down from hill villages and then the next we hear of them is in a trench line. There are typos such as Indians being interred in Brighton's Royal Hospital as opposed to interned. Were there any maps and photographs one may ask? Yes! And what were they like? Yes, now where is the magnifying glass? The solitary map is woefully small, but in fairness, it should be said that some of the photographs are

Anyone who wants to read the book deserves far more, and no one should expect such deficiencies in a book retailing at £25.00, given that the 'meat' is just under 200 pages. Early on the temptation was to close the book and to read something else, but once through the guff barrier, there is still much to interest.

The Indian Army was thrust into a European war less well equipped than it should be, but it was the only sizeable standing force readily available from the British Empire. The Indians were more than happy to take part, and certainly the Indian Princes supported the idea with the vision of dominion status and greater political autonomy post-War. As for the British military administration, Miss Basu does paint a positive picture of the efforts they made to address the religious, dietary and cultural needs of the different sects, races and tribes, recognising the caste system and even recruiting the 'Untouchables', who would find themselves doing the menial tasks that a member of higher caste would have not touched with a barge pole. Addressing the needs, quite easily achieved in India, demanded extra effort on the battlefields, the hospitals and even in carrying out funerals.

Interestingly, one learns that recruiting was focused in the mountainous areas of India (then including Nepal and Pakistan) as the races in those areas were considered far more warlike than those from the southern plains. This is recognized in regimental names such as the Baluchis, Garwhalis, Sikhs and, of course, the Gurkhas (or Goorkhas).

From their arrival in France, the Indians were made to feel welcome by the French, and in a similar vein when injured men had to be taken to Britain for medical treatment, they were feted by the British. There were Committees set up to provide for comforts for the Indian troops, while King George and Queen Mary would pay regular visits. But, controls were also put in place by the hospitals to limit convalescing soldiers who were able to walk out, to do so for a few hours every other month, a form of internment then. One suspects that this result from a fear that the Indians might question why they had so little back in their country and would seek equality with the sahibs and memsahibs, something that might also be anathema to the Princes.

Ian Hislop's '...not forgotten' is an important point, and indeed applying it to the Indian contribution should recognize that it is a relevant one for the dominions and colonies throughout the British Empire. Indeed, surveys have shown that less than 20% of those asked knew that New Zealand had taken part. Responses about other nations fared little better! It is not felt that Miss Basu has adequately advanced the case for redressing the 'not forgotten' issue, and should. Nor, has she tried to address the strategic importance of the Indian Divisions (along with the British Territorial Force) appearing in the line towards the end of First Ypres, a time when the men of the BEF were on their chinstraps, and the average infantry Battalion's strength was around 15-20% of its war establishment.

She is far better at appreciating the Indians' moods while they were on the Western Front. Trench life was alien to their idea of warfare, they arrived with only tropical clothing, the weather was too cold and wet, there was the poison gas, they had little news of life back home, and they were so far away from home that a leave pass would have had little value. In conveying this, she has been able to access some of the many letters that were censored. Additionally, Miss Basu has been correct at reflecting the Indian soldier's courage, his pride in serving the King, his country and his regiment, drawing on their lives ranging from VC winners to the lowest 'Untouchables', however, the book omits the subject of the British officers in the units. This was an area that merited inclusion, as did a discussion of how the deficiencies in equipment were resolved, and how the BEF coped with a force who wouldn't eat bully beef.

Wise after the event, the book should be borrowed and not bought, and the Indian soldiers on the Western Front deserved something a little better.

1500 Guernsey Poppies By Liz Walton

The project began in September, 2014 when I created a Facebook group called '1500 Guernsey Poppies', having seen pictures of the Tower of London display and also coming across a project in the National Museum of the Royal Navy in Portsmouth whereby local residents were invited to contribute to a community project called 'A Sea of Poppies'. Handmade poppies commemorating the men lost at sea in the Great War would be displayed in the Museum. I wanted Guernsey to recognise its men and women who died as a result of the war in a similar fashion, but could find no official channels for doing this. So I decided to start the project myself and see where it went, while the number 1500 is a near approximation of the number of people with Guernsey connections who died as a result of the Great War.

From the outset it was decided that there were to be no committees, funding or sponsorship (as that involved officialdom and book-keeping) or to be under the umbrella of any organisation which would limit the freedom to do what was wanted. It was to be a true community project with people donating their time and small amounts of inexpensive materials to create something that belonged to the community. The best way of communicating what was being done seemed to be through social media so the Facebook page came into being.

The first post said:

'Can you please sign up here with how many you think you or your group can make? I'll pin the post so that it will stay at the top. I'll make a start with 5 poppies and 5 cornflowers. Only 1405 poppies and 55 cornflowers needed after that.'

It was posted with some trepidation as there were doubts that there would be any support, but it was decided to go ahead anyway. If we only ended up with just a few poppies, they could be sold in aid of the Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes, so there was nothing to lose.



Within two weeks, I was inundated with poppies so the next decision was where and how to display them, and before long, a lady by the name of Sue Queripel kindly offered to help. The first idea was that they would be displayed in the Sunken Gardens behind the War Memorial at the top of Smith Street for the period when the Field of Remembrance was open. However, delays within official bodies who needed to give their various permissions meant that this was not possible. The idea nearly folded at this stage, but the management of Hirzel House, which is across the road from the memorial, asked if we could put on an indoor display for the reception following the dedication of the replacement St Peter Port war shrine at the bottom of Smith Street. We only had a couple of hundred poppies at this stage but they were hastily assembled into garlands and wreaths and Sue and I set up our first display.

The display brought in many more poppies, plus additional publicity, and as a departure from the wreaths and garlands it was decided to make a panel where each poppy or cornflower represented a local man lost in 1914, a total of 77. This was quickly completed and went on display with the other items at Footes Lane stadium for the festival of sport in December which commemorated the Christmas Truce.

Things moved on very quickly after that, and in 2015 we began to receive invitations to create displays in various venues including the Priaulx Library. The most exciting one was being invited to decorate the Town Church for the service which formed part of the centenary reenactment of the Guernsey Irish contingents' departure in April, 1915. We also visited the Easter History Festival in Castle Cornet, the Viaer Marchi (the National Trust of Guernsey's traditional market held in Saumarez Park), a ceremony at the Fire Station (formerly the St Peter Port Militia Barracks) which was part of the international recognition

of the nightly Menin Gate ceremony and the Tourist Information Office along the seafront. In November we returned to the Town Church for Remembrance.



During this time the collection continued to grow and be assembled into different display items so by the end of 2015 we had about 1200 poppies plus all of the cornflowers that were needed. We are now into 2016 and have almost reached our final total. Display items now include a wooden vase with wooden poppies produced by a local woodturner, a panel representing those lost at sea, wreaths with the crests of the two Guernsey Irish regiments and one for the RGLI and several small pictures, bunting and wall hangings.





Poppies have been created by men and women, by school groups, Guides and Brownies, Church groups, patients at the Hospice Day Centre, Women's groups, Craft groups and many individuals. Some have made large numbers of poppies, some have made only one. It was intended that there should be no set pattern. Each poppy is different, just like the individual that it represents. A panel is still to be assembled for local airmen and one WRAF member lost as a result of the war and the project will then be complete. We already have several bookings for 2016.



The poppies are on display in the Guille Alles library until the end of February. Arrangements are still to be finalised for some venues including the Airport and the former Market buildings but they will definitely be going to the Viaer Marchi again in July, and back to the Prialx Library in September and October before moving to the Town Church

in November. All in all, it has been a very rewarding project to be associated with and all the people who have contributed to it can be proud of their achievement.



A New Parish War Memorial in Jersey

The competition for Island architects, designers, sculptors and artists to come up with a design for a St Helier War Memorial closed on the 1st December. Progress to meeting the projects has been good, with the highlighted items below, concluded:

- December, 2015 - Review of all design proposals and creation of a shortlist
- January, 2016 - Interview of shortlisted candidates
- February, 2016 - Public exhibition in the Town Hall
- March, 2016 - The winner is announced

Several dates have been advised as to when the publication will take place, but it appears that it will be during the week commencing the 29th February. The project's end target is to meet a November, 2018 commemoration date. It was hoped that this Journal would carry photographs of the three to five designs, but having only one design's photograph, it would have been unfair featuring it as it may have inadvertently influenced the final selection. In any case, for those in Jersey who can make the exhibition, do try to visit it, and it would be appreciated if photographs could be provided for the next Journal.

The Local History Fair at Jersey Library By Ian Ronayne

The Jersey Library in Halkett Place was the venue for a Local History Fair, organised by Helen Barette and Julie Grady on the 23rd and the 24th January this year. Ned Malet de Carteret and I dutifully manned the CIGWSG stand from 9.00 am until 4.00pm (at which

point we the departed for a well-earned pint). The Group's lack of representation on Friday was pointedly explained on the sign kindly set-up to mark our presence (Editor: should that be absence?). *'CI Great War Study Group: only present on Saturday'*.



Saturday Soldier, 1st Class Ned!

We were clearly regarded as Saturday morning soldiers then! (They also serve!)

We were one of around eight stands – the Société Jersiaise, CI Family History Society, Jerriais Society and Jersey Archive, as ever, were the usual neighbours. The Postcard collectors and the Bus Appreciators were new, and both attracted decent interest. The CI Occupation Society were also present, complete with artefacts and veterans signing books, a hard act to compete against!

There were plenty of the usual visitors, familiar faces who always come along. And there was a sprinkling of newcomers, some of whom stopped to discuss WW1 family matters. While the level of 'hits' were low, it was a great day. Great company, great atmosphere and great fun. More next year I hope.

(**Editor:** Unfortunately, we could not parade the 1st Battalion of the Friday Fusiliers, in part due to individual work commitments. For example, one of our members, Jason Cronin, very kindly offered a few hours on that day, but a meeting in England on the Thursday, might have meant travel issues on his return. Liz Walton also wanted to attend from Guernsey, but the high cost and the fragility of Inter-Island travel services at present is a deterrent, not only for her, but generally for most of us expatriates also! Perhaps we need to think how such events, for they are important to us, can generate more 'hits'.)

Emile Audrain's early Army days (1911-1914)

Introduction: It is generally accepted today that the Hampshire Regiment (and its successor regiments) is recognised as Jersey's 'county regiment'. There is an argument to support this given that the survivors of the Jersey Overseas Company were transferred to the Hampshires from the Royal Irish Rifles at the beginning of 1918, and then in 1939, a contingent of Jersey's Militia forming part of that Regiment's 11th Battalion.

However, data appears to indicate that, certainly in the years leading up to the Great War, there was a greater number of men who had left the Island to join the Dorsetshire Regiment as opposed to the Hampshire Regiment. One such young man was Emile Alexandre Audrain who had been born in St Helier on the 28th March, 1894, the third child of Pierre Marie Audrain and his wife Amelia Valerie du Feu. We do find him living with his parents in Dorset Street in 1901, and in 1911 at 7 Providence Street in St Helier with his now widowed father.

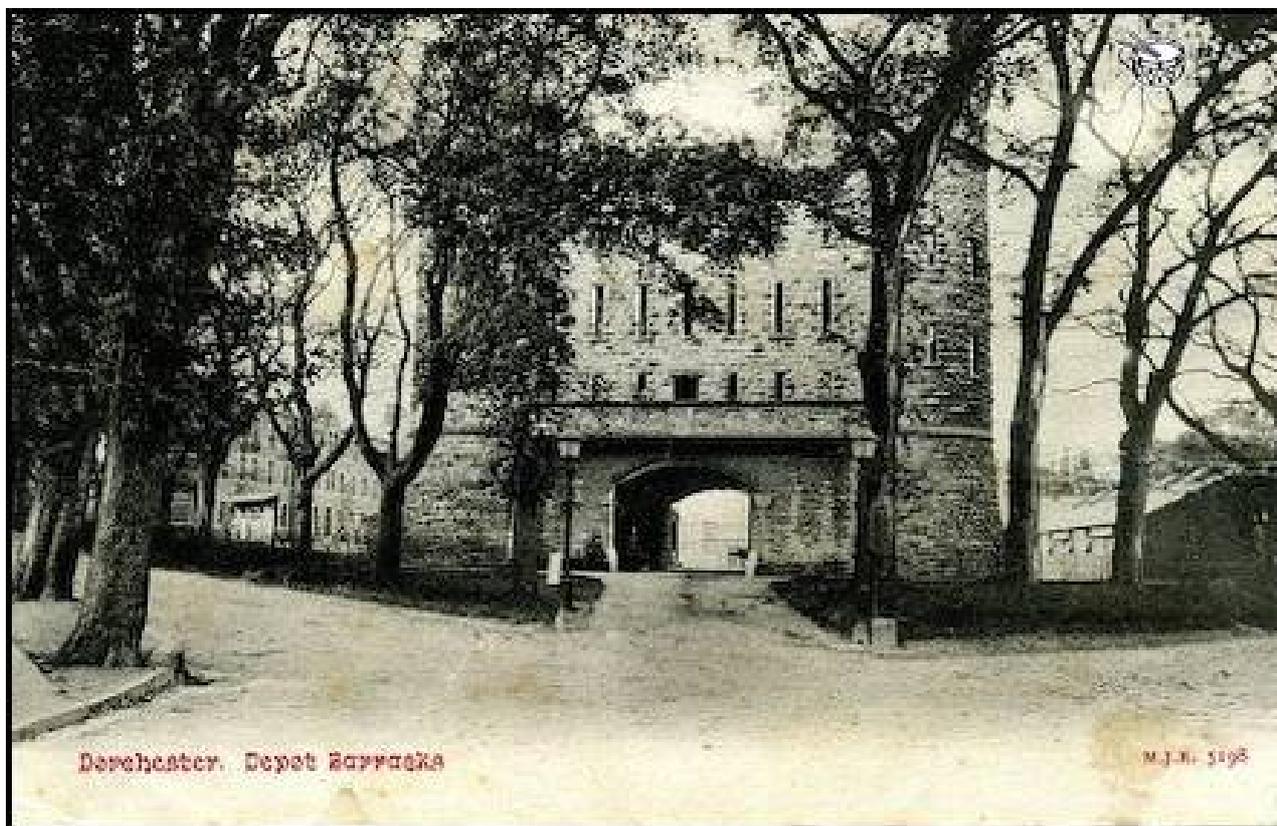
Depot Days: But what of his military service record? Virtually nothing in terms of his service papers is available on Ancestry and Find My Past, and it is likely that either, they were part of the 'burnt' records, or, since he served beyond the Great War, they may be

retained by the Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow. However, there is some help at hand with the photograph below.



It shows Emile (with the red cross on his chest!) with his fellow Jerseyman, Henry Foard Werry, with the badges of the Dorsetshire Regiment clearly visible on the caps and collars. As to their regimental numbers, Henry had been allotted 9219, Emile 9220. Henry's record has survived, and it is probably safe to assume that it can be also used as a template for Emile's early service for part of the time. Both young men attested at the end of August, 1911, and a week later would take the mail-boat service from Jersey to Weymouth. A mere few hours after docking they would enter the imposing gates of the Dorsetshire Regiment's Depot at Dorchester.

The Depot (below) would be the men's home for the next three months where they would be issued with bedding, uniforms and equipment. Long hours of drill, training and cleaning would be the order of the day, save on Sundays when they would just attend Church Parade having cleaned their uniforms, and if they were allowed, to go walking out in Dorchester.



**The Dorsetshire Regimental Depot at Dorchester c.1900
(Today, The Keep is the home of the excellent Regimental Museum)**

Drafted Out: On the 7th December, 1911 they, along with others of their intake, would be posted out to the Dorsetshire Regiment's 1st Battalion, then based at Blackdown Camp in Hampshire. It is probably at this stage that Emile applied to become a Drummer. In January, 1913, the 1st Battalion moved to Belfast, where they would be found at the outset of the Great War.

However, before that momentous event, Henry and Emile would go their separate ways.

As a general principle, infantry Regiments each had two Battalions, one as the 'Home' Battalion, the other as the 'Overseas' Battalion. The requirement was for the 'Overseas' Battalion to be kept up to its manpower establishment, whilst the 'Home' Battalion was responsible for providing the annual drafts to replace those men overseas who were reaching the end of their service. Men, who had completed their service with the colours and were now on the reserve, would be recalled to bring the 'Home' Battalion up to its manpower establishment in times of emergency.

Thus, Henry found himself on the draft being sent to the Regiment's 2nd Battalion that was stationed in Poona, India on the 23rd September, 1913. Sadly, he would later die of malaria having been taken Prisoner of War following the Siege of Kut in 1916.

One might think that Emile had avoided Henry's fate by joining the 1st Battalion's Corps of Drums, pictured overleaf, along with Emile who is second from the right (One presumes that the three in the centre were kneeling or seated, and not that short!). But that can never be foreseen and in any case, the 1st Battalion, and Emile, would be very much in the thick of it out in France, the year following Henry's departure for sunnier climes.



Mobilisation: War Diaries do not normally go into great detail concerning the most junior of soldiers, at least, not unless something out of the ordinary had occurred, such as the

award of of a medal. However, they can give an indication of where a man might have been whilst he had been serving with a Battalion. But, it is not foolproof, and of course, had an individual been wounded and was moved back through the medical facilities for treatment, no Battalion could account for a man's location at a particular time. Thus, although much of Emile's story henceforth is War Diary based, Emile kept a diary and would also buy postcards!

The 1st Battalion, the Dorsetshire Regiment received the order at 5.39 p.m. on the 4th August, 1914 that they were to mobilise the following day.

The next ten days proved to be hectic for the Battalion. As early as 7.30 a.m. on the 6th August, just over a 100 Officers and Other Ranks arrived in Belfast from Dorchester to help bring the strength to its wartime establishment, the 7th saw another 440 men to be followed on the 8th with a further 60 Regulars and Reservists. The CO could report that his Battalion was up to its establishment to the next higher formation in the chain of command, HQ, 15th Brigade, on the 9th August, with some 200 recruits and men medically unfit to go overseas to remain behind. Meanwhile medical examinations were carried out, route marches, training and field firing exercises were also conducted, whilst kit in the shape of the men's spare khaki uniform and pair of boots was withdrawn in accordance with War Office instructions. In fairness, the War Office would compensate the men subsequently. The Battalion's last full day in Belfast, the 13th August, would see it attending a Divine Service in the city's Cathedral.

All in all, this period would have been one of confusion, orders and counter-orders, punctuated by equal measures of frustration and excitement, and a feeling that this was what joining the Army had all been about. It would be difficult to say exactly what Emile was up to at this particular time, but as a very junior Drummer, he would have been caught up in the general hub-bub of a Battalion suddenly on the move to war.

Deployment: On the 14th August, 1914 the Battalion would embark at Belfast on board the SS Antony (a Booth's Line ship that would be sunk in March, 1917 with the loss of 55 lives). The Battalion's transport would be loaded first starting at 8.00 a.m., a task hindered somewhat by the fact that only one crane and two horse cradles were available. The men followed at 1.30 p.m, and the ship was able to set sail at 3.25 p.m.



A smooth passage followed, with much of the time spent on cleaning and inspecting weapons and personal kit, lectures, and grabbing as much rest as possible whilst the going was good. Docking at Le Havre at 4.00 p.m. two days later, disembarkation was the reverse process, and with some of the same problems experienced at Belfast, not least the single crane, insufficiently strong enough to take the heavy wagons!

By 8.00 p.m. the Battalion had formed up and marched off to the Rest Camp which was reached two hours later. The transport would follow that evening, but then being hindered by another Battalion's movements, would not show until the following afternoon!

The following evening, the Dorsetshire Regiment's 1st Battalion, as part of the 5th Division commanded by Major-General Sir Charles Fergusson, boarded railway wagons at Le Havre and journeyed overnight via Rouen, and a cup of coffee at 4.30 a.m., to Le Cateau. From there, the entire Battalion marched to Ors, arriving there at 5.50 p.m. on the 18th, where they were to be billeted. Picquets were now mounted at key points, given the possibility of German cavalry units roaming the surrounding French countryside.

The march to war now seemed leisurely with the Battalion enjoying their billets in Ors for the next few days, but, at 03.30 a.m. on the 21st August, it marched out in the general direction of the enemy, covering 15 miles to reach Gommegnies and another night in billets. This was to be the start of many days of foot-slogging for the Battalion, but before leaving Ors however, the drums and other instruments would now be left in storage, thereby lightening the drummers' load.

Enemy Encounters: Further foot-slogging followed the next day, with Battalion crossing into Belgium and reaching their billets at Dour, which lay about 10 miles to the south-west of Mons. At midday on the 23rd August, the Battalion was ordered to send two companies to dig in at Wasmes. Later, advised that 3rd Division were withdrawing from Mons, the Battalion, with the other three Battalions of 15th Brigade were to take up a blocking position that allowed for the 3rd Division to pass through. Then at about 5.10 pm., the Germans started shelling and about twenty minutes later, German scouting parties were spotted about 1000 yards in front of Dorsetshires' positions. For Emile, and many of his fellow soldiers, this was their first taste of modern warfare, although there were no casualties on this day.

That all changed on the 24th, with the Battalion now more heavily engaged in a fighting withdrawal, and in part were losing contact with the other Battalions on other side, while the Dorsetshires' themselves still had their companies spread out. The War Diary notes that the First Line Transport was ambushed, yet thanks to the Transport Officer, a Lt Margetts who made good use of his revolver although wounded in the shoulder, all carts were saved except for an ammunition cart. The withdrawal that day, which saw the Battalion go through Blaugies and on to Saint Waast Lez Bavay where they bivouacked the night, was at a cost of 134 casualties to the Battalion, with 12 men being killed.

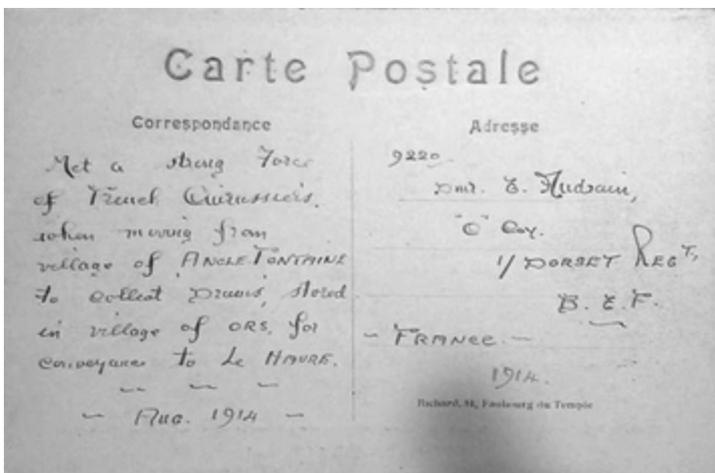
Emile Audrain was keeping his diary, and for that day he noted some of the events:

- *The Battalion came into action at 3.15 a.m. with murderous artillery fire seeing the trenches being shelled.*
- *The village was set on fire and a temporary hospital collapsed causing the wounded to be evacuated.*
- *At noon the Battalion received orders for an immediate general retirement.*
- *The Battalion's machine guns put up a deadly fire, and this was mentioned in despatches.*
- *The Transport was heavily shelled during a temporary halt, and German cavalry appeared.*
- *Lt Margetts was wounded and a Sgt Kelly was killed.*
- *Loss of an ammunition cart and a supply wagon containing the day's rations.*
- *15th Brigade's Commander, General Count Gleichen leads his Brigade away from a village to avoid encirclement.*
- *Total casualties were about 150 killed, wounded and missing.*

There is a reasonable degree of correlation between the two accounts, however it is unclear as to how contemporaneous Emile's account was, given the reference to the machine guns' 'mention in despatches'.

A Musical Interlude: At 2.00 a.m. on the 25th, the Battalion again set out on its retirement, via Bavay (Bavai), and along the old Roman road (today's D932) that runs alongside the Fôret de Mormal, to Le Cateau. Twelve hours later they reached Troisvilles, where they were to bivouac for another night. It was during this march that Emile, surely with a few of his fellow Drummers, was sent off on an errand, for his diary entry on that day notes:

Sent at 12.00 p.m. by Lieutenant-Colonel LJ Bols, CO of the Battalion to Ors to fetch drums, flutes, etc which had been left there on the advance, and to have them conveyed as far back as Le Cateau where I was to meet the Battalion.



Met a strong force of French Cuirassiers when moving from village of ANGLEFONTAINE [sic] to collect 'Drums' stored in the village of ORS for conveyance to LE HAVRE.

The diary entry can be complemented by the postcard above which indicates that Emile parted from the 1st Battalion at Englefontaine (the correct spelling of the village's name) and headed off to Ors. Whilst the card and the details on the reverse are not contemporaneous, meeting 'a strong force of French Cuirassiers' would have been most likely, given that General Sordet's French Cavalry Corps was in the area and would also be involved in the Battle of Le Cateau the following day.

That Emile was diverted to collect the drums in such a manner may seem odd, given that Battalions were streaming back before the advancing Germans. But these drums represented a Regiment's prestige in the absence of the 'Colours'. Yet, a comparatively junior soldier would have required a written order from the CO to help him discharge his task in the general situation that existed. Emile successfully discharged his task in collecting the drums, for his diary entry continues:

Rapid advance of the enemy. Arrived at Le Cateau about 3.00 p.m. on Hospital Train. No signs of the Battalion so took drums as far as Busigny, proceeded to Engineers HQ to report and advised to take drums back to St Quentin, arriving there about 10.30 p.m.

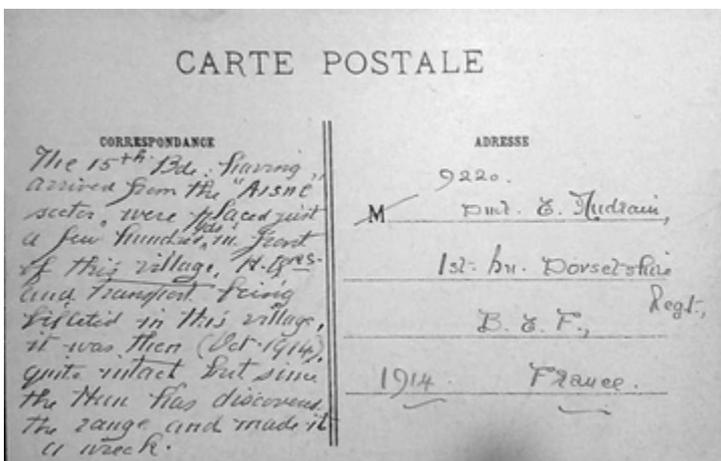
By the time that Emile had arrived at Le Cateau, the Battalion was in position in Troisvilles, 3-4 miles to the west, and such was the confusion, no one at Le Cateau was in a position to know where the Battalion was. Given that the distance between Le Cateau and St Quentin is about 21 miles, Emile and the others, now encumbered with their instruments must have marched at a rather brisk pace. But then the enemy were advancing rapidly behind them, or so it was thought!

Retirement: Meanwhile, the next day would see the 1st Battalion engaged in the Battle of Le Cateau where two German Divisions would attack the 5th Division deployed to the west of the town. The Dorsetshires were not greatly pressed, and would commence retirement, under fire, from about 4.20 p.m and would be billeted at Genève, albeit uncomfortably, given that their supplies had not reached them. Their casualties for the 26th August were mercifully light with 35 men wounded or missing. Then the following morning at 3.00 a.m., the Battalion set out for Ollezy, first passing through Estrees and Bellenglise, before stopping at St Quentin at 1.00 p.m. for an hour's break where some food could be had. It had departed well before the incident known as the 'Surrender at St Quentin' had arisen..

St Quentin was a magnet for much of the British Expeditionary Force. Some units had arrived in reasonably good order whilst other units were turning up in dribs and drabs. Many footsore soldiers just arrived on their own. One can assume that Emile and the others were now reunited with the Battalion, although what happened to the drums is, at present, unclear.

Largely untroubled by the Germans, the Battalion would now continue with its retirement until the 5th September, 1914 when it was billeted in a chateau's stables at Gagny in the eastern suburbs of Paris. There it would receive its first reinforcements of ninety men, and the welcome orders that at last, after ten days of marching away from contact with enemy, it would be resuming the offensive on the following day at 5.00 a.m. Duly setting out at that time on the 6th, that and the next two days would see the Battalion move eastwards until it reached its billets at Charnesseuil at around 6.30 p.m. on the 8th September. Whilst heavy firing had been heard to the Battalion's left and right for those three days, it had not been disturbed by the Germans, save for a brief encounter with a patrol that had fired a few desultory shots before quickly leaving the scene.

About Turn: Continuing its advance, the Battalion would cross the Marne on the 9th, and, when attempting to take a Battery position, would suffer a further 46 casualties, 9 of whom were killed or later died of their wounds. However, the next few days they continued with the indications of a hurried departure having been made by the Germans who were very conspicuous by their absence. Crossing the Aisne by raft in the evening of the 12th September, the Battalion, having taken part in the Battle of the Marne would now continue forward to take part in the Battle of the Aisne. But by this time, the Germans having hold of the higher ground, had dug in, and within a few days from there, a continuous line of trenches would spread northwards and south. During the 14th and 15th September, the 1st Battalion took 47 casualties, two of whom were killed, while a further four were reported missing. Then, for three weeks from the 16th September, when the Dorsetshires left the Aisne sector, no casualties were reported, not even of men who were being hospitalised for ailments. During this period, the Battalion shuttled in and out of the trenches, stayed in its billets, prepared and repaired the defences and kept equipment clean.



The 15th Bde, having arrived from the 'Aisne' sector, were placed just a few hundred yards in front of this village, HQrs and Transport being billeted in this village, it was then (Oct 1914) quite intact but since, the Hun has discovered the range and made it a wreck.

As implied in Emile's postcard above, the Dorsetshires left the Aisne Sector for the village of Cuinchy, this taking place on the 7th October. The Battalion went via Compiègne, where they boarded a train that was to take them to Abbeville via Amiens. Some confusion reigned when on reaching their destination, the Railway Transport Officer ordered them back down the line to Pont Remy, only to be ordered forward again by another RTO to what was the correct destination. However, this proved impossible, and so everyone got off at Pont Remy, an exercise completed at around 2.00 a.m. on the 8th.

La Bassée: The Battalion set off about an hour later and spent that, and the next three days, on the march save for one stretch when the Battalion boarded London omnibuses that had been provided to carry them part of the way. At 7.00 p.m. on the 11th October, the Battalion reached that night's billets in a Béthune street.

The following is a transcript of the War Diary for the 12th October. (It originally featured in an article 'William Stephens – An Old Contemptible at 18' from CIGWSG Journal 29).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(As an aside, it is of interest to note that some locations were referred to by giving a bearing from a letter in a village name (e.g. 'detected just south of 'U' of Guinchy'). The maps at this time were French and largely of the Napoleonic period. Later, the maps

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

The attack was to continue the following day, and the War Diary recorded the events as transcribed below:

05.30 a.m. In accordance with Bde orders, Bn moved at 5.30 a.m. as follows: Firing Line 'B' and 'C' Coy, Support 'D' Coy, Reserve 'A' Coy. The machine gun was in position in house on north bank of canal near I of Pont Fixe. Advance was slow in order to give units on right and left time to get up in line.

07.20 a.m. Report to Bde that Bn had reached line 200 yds east of track running south from E of Givenchy and that advance had been checked to enable Bns on right and left to come up into line. Also that there appeared to be little opposition in front. Situation remained the same until 09.00 a.m.: the village of Cuinchy on south bank of canal being not cleared of the enemy.

09.10 a.m. OC Dorsets reported situation to Bde stating Bn position was the same as reported at 07.20 a.m.

11.20 a.m. Enemy shelled Bn very heavily from north easterly direction.

12.00 noon Hostile machine gun opened heavily enfilade fire at short range on our right flank near canal bank. 'B' Coy commenced to withdraw as their right was exposed.

12.30 p.m. OC Dorsets reported situation and asked for artillery support. Enemy's artillery and machine gun fire increased in volume and firing line gradually fell back on trenches occupied by support.

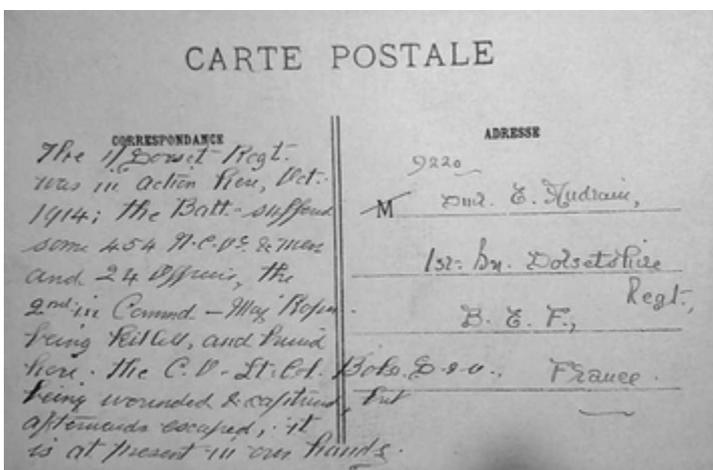
12.45 p.m. Major Saunders sent to dispose reserve company and to inform artillery commander of situation.

01.45 p.m. Germans advanced from east end of Givenchy, some carrying lances. About 250 suddenly appeared from the left rear of 'C' Coy. These were mistaken for French cavalry and fire was not opened on them. About a Battalion appeared 900yds from left of 'C' Coy. As soon as it was seen that these were Germans, fire was opened on them. The Germans advanced holding up their either one or two hands. This was taken as a sign of surrender and some men left the trench to go towards the Germans who then closed in rapidly, driving in our men and enfilading the trench. The position of remaining lines now became untenable. Lt-Col Bols and Lt and Adj't Pitt remained to the last in the trench in which they had been all day. Lt-Col Bols was severely wounded in attempting to get away and Lt Pitt was killed. The retirement was skillfully covered by the Reserve Company ('A' Coy) under Capt WAC Fraser who in turn retired to a position in buildings about Pont Fixé and a new line was established from Pont Fixé to factory, the line being there being continued by 2 Coys, 1st Devons along Pont Fixé-Festubert Road. Enemy made two attacks on 'A' Coy and Devon Coys during the night but were repulsed.

Casualties: 51 Killed, 152 Wounded, 210 Missing.'

Emile's postcard overleaf showing the ruins of Givenchy overleaf reflects some of that and the previous day's fighting. He writes of 478 casualties whereas the War Diary lists 456. Either way, the number represented nearly 50% of the Battalion's wartime establishment.

Emile would have thus had an even chance of being a casualty. And, four Jerseymen would be killed over those two days.



The 1/Dorset Regt was in action here, Oct 1914; the Batt suffered some 454 NCOs & men and 24 Officers, the 2nd in Commnd – Maj Roper being killed, and buried here. The CO, Lt Col Bols, DSO, being wounded & captured, but afterwards escaped, it is at present in our hands.

Emile also mentions the CO being wounded and captured. In the War Diary's Remarks column it noted that, 'Colonel Bols was taken prisoner by the Germans who told him to wait for the ambulance. He waited till dusk and then returned to our lines'! Clearly, German ambulances were less frequent than were London omnibuses!

Waking up on the morning of the 14th October, the 1st Battalion's situation was that 'A' Company was holding its position in buildings at Pont Fixé, and such were the heavy casualties from the previous two days, 'B', 'C' and 'D' Companies had been reformed into a single Composite Company, and were placed half a mile along the north bank of the La Bassée Canal. The casualties were mercifully light at three wounded that day, even though German shell continued. However, on the evening of the 16th, respite came with the Battalion being relieved and returning to billets. The respite was brief, and on the 22nd,

the Battalion was in trenches at Violaines taking over 100 casualties amongst the officers and men, namely 7 killed, 24 wounded and 111 missing.

For the rest of October, the Dorsetshires alternated from billets to moves, to Festubert, Neuve Chapelle and Strazeele. Although the titles of battles would not be determined until much later, in fact by Whitehall's Battles Nomenclature Committee in 1922, they had fought through the Battle of La Bassée (officially 10th October to 2nd November, 1914), itself part of the wider Battle of First Ypres.

Quiet days: The 1st Battalion was taken by omnibus to Neuve Eglise, on the 1st November, and were in trenches in Ploegsteert Wood, having marched there the following day. By this time, the BEF's 84 Battalions had suffered considerably in terms of its casualties, and only nine could be categorised as being at 'Medium' strength, a definition that meant that they had between 300 and 450 men. Reading through the Battalion's War Diary for this period, it is clear that there were no reinforcements coming through. Many of those previously recorded as missing would not return either, for they were dead, and the lesser category of 'Weak' might have applied.

Although the Germans had one last serious attempt at taking Ypres in November, the sector that contained Ploegsteert Wood was comparatively quiet. But still they prodded and poked, and regularly threw a few shells towards the British. The Battalion moved from trench to billet and then back again, while it is disconcerting to read an entry, 'Quiet day, one killed, two wounded'. Throughout November and December, the Dorsetshires averaged one casualty per day. In late December, they marched into Bailleul, and spent New Year's Eve and a well-deserved rest in billets. We will leave them there for now, as we will Emile Audrain who would be one of a small band who left Belfast in 1914 and who made it through the war relatively unscathed.

Fermata: Emile Audrain would continue soldiering through the next four years of the Great War and beyond reaching the rank of Company Sergeant Major, being assigned a new number 5719140 and retiring on the last day of 1933. By 1941 Emile, was living in St Brelade. He died in 1983.

Sadly an older brother, Ernest Peter, died in 1920 as a result of his war service and be buried in Higher Broughton, Manchester (see JROH).

The end of 1914 is a convenient point at which to pause, particularly since there is no material that is immediately available in Emile's handwriting that could be currently used. To work through the Battalion War Diary would add little of value as the History of the Dorsetshire Regiment 1914-19 is widely on sale!



Author's Notes: As most will know, the War Diaries of most British units are readily available via the National Archive's website. In the case of the 1st Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment, the references are:

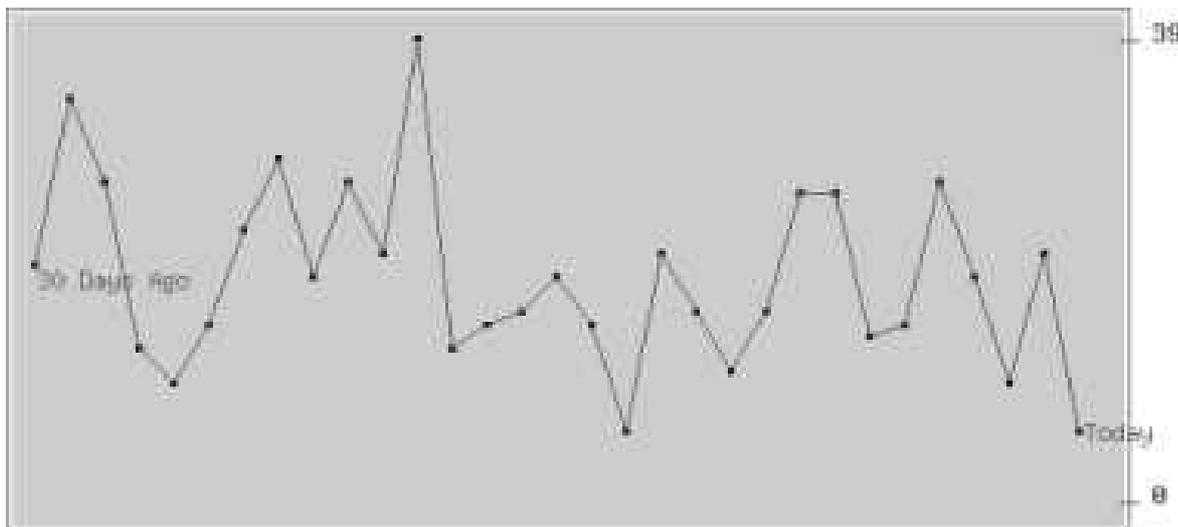
- WO 95/1572/2 covering the period 1st August, 1914 to 31st December, 1915, when the Battalion formed part of 5th Division.
- WO 95/2392/1 covering the period 1st January, 1916 to 31st March, 1919, when the Battalion formed part of 32nd Division.

The three postcards were the catalyst for this article, with the images very kindly coming from a 'non-traditional' source, namely from a gentleman in Italy, who we thank, by the name of Luca Ciceri who lives about 20 miles south west of Milan, having acquired them on E-Bay. But, it does appear that these three cards are part of a wider collection that Emile would assemble. There are at least another 20 that Jason Cronin has very recently acquired, and these are yet to be evaluated. Meanwhile, Emile's diary is understood to be in the possession of the Regimental Museum.

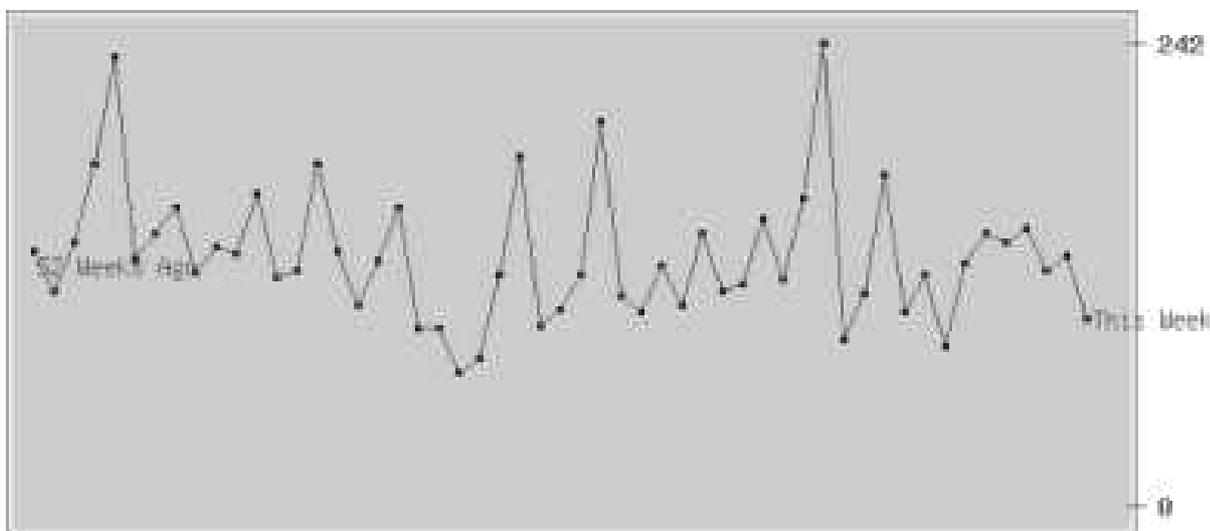
Website Workings By Roger Frisby

The total number of website visits has now reached 57,200, an additional 1,460 visits since November, when the last Journal was published.

Recent Website Visits



The Past Month



The Past Year

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

- Guernsey Roll of Honour – 1473 names (Unchanged)
- Guernsey Roll of Service – 6532 names (An increase of 8)
- Jersey Roll of Honour – 1661 names (An Increase of 2)
- Jersey Roll of Service – 7548 names (Unchanged)

The Rolls of Honour and Service: Since our last Journal, we have received several headstone/memorial photographs from around the world, including from Egypt, Australia & New Zealand. Most of these were supplied by volunteers for Find-a-Grave.com. We have many requests outstanding from locations that we are unlikely to visit and I am hopeful that these will be fulfilled in time.

We have been given access to a large number of scanned pages from the Guernsey Press containing dozens of photographs and details of Guernseymen who served in the Navy during the war. I am slowly adding individual web pages for each man with details updated from their service records and census returns where possible.

More and more original records and documents are now appearing online and this makes searching so much easier.

As mentioned elsewhere, the working copy of Jersey's Roll of Service is currently being updated to reflect the data that is emerging from Canada, and so far, this has involved 150 records. Another 100 changes have also been included, some of which members may have advised. In the pipeline for investigation, inclusion and amendment as appropriate, there are about 130-140 RAF names that have been identified thanks to FMP.

The vast French armies and the horrific losses that they suffered has made identification of French Channel Islanders very difficult but more of their documents are becoming available now. I'm hoping to be able to find many more of their resting places along the Western Front and to visit and photograph them wherever possible. Any help with searching will be welcomed.



As the spring and summer approach, my thoughts are turning to visits once more. This year will be very different as I am pleased to say that I have been successful in the ticket ballot for the UK national commemorative event to mark the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme, at the CWGC's Thiepval Memorial on 1st July, 2016.

More details of this will follow in a future Journal, meanwhile readers can visit the event's official website via the link below:

[More details here](#)

Ronayne Writes

St Helier War Memorial: After an open competition, the preferred memorial has been narrowed down to one of three potential designs that will be installed opposite the Cenotaph. I have seen the plans for one, which included an interesting model of a mourning soldier. All three designs will go on public display with a final decision in March.

Jersey WW1 Memorial: Frank Falle's project to erect a memorial on the Weighbridge to all in Jersey who left to serve in WW1 is gathering pace. I understand that final design is complete and the work of commissioning may have begun. The plan is to unveil on the 1st July, 2016, with the full support and participation of officialdom. Coincidentally, I have been in contact with a group from the Royal Ulster Rifles Association about a visit to Jersey they are planning to commemorate the Island's WW1 connections with Ireland. They will be here for the memorial unveiling.

Guillemont Memorial: The project by Chris Stone and Colin Egge to erect a monument to Jersey's WW1 fallen in Guillemont is also progressing well. The stone is done and the land has been donated in the village. They plan to unveil the memorial on the 4th September, 2016, potentially in the presence of the Lieutenant Governor and the Bailiff.

School Tours: School WW1 tour arrangements progressing, with schools presently selecting the pupils who should be participating. The planned dates are from the 20th to the 23rd June.

Arts Project to Commemorate WW1: The Arts Trust have been allocated £10,000 for this year and next to fund arts projects commemorating Jersey's involvement in WW1. They are asking for submissions.

Walks and Talks: I have been 'booked' by La Rocquier School for two mornings in May to talk to pupils about Jersey history, research and writing, followed by a 'war walk' around their local area.

I am also providing a number of walks for the CI Heritage Festival in April, including St Ouen's Bay in WW1, which includes a visit to the former POW camp at Blanche Banques.

Later conflicts: Still not of our era I know, but several Occupation tours coming up, including two for Leger again. I manage to squeeze in WW1 wherever possible!

Faces Remembered

The Group was contacted by a lady in Scotland called Susan Strang and whose grandfather Frank and his brother Lionel had been members of 110 Company, Royal Garrison Artillery, having previously served with the Royal Militia of the Island of Jersey from the outbreak of the Great War.

- Frank was a Private in the Militia's 3rd (Town or South) Battalion, with the service number 4588.
- Lionel was a Sapper in the Militia's Engineering Company, and he had the service number 40.

In March, 1917, when Jersey's Militia was disbanded and conscription came in, Frank and Lionel were both called forward and joined the Artillery Company, and it is highly likely that

this was at the same time given the proximity of their service numbers, 149058 and 149069 respectively. At this stage, information ran out on Frank, but there was still more available for Lionel, namely that:

- He attested on the 4th May, 1917, and was medically certified as A, even though he had flat feet.
- Around the 30th June, 1917, he joined 462 Siege Battery, RGA at Prees Heath in Shropshire.
- On the 7th July, 1917 he was promoted to Acting Bombardier (unpaid!)
- On the 7th September, 1917 he was posted to the HQ Unit at Prees Heath, suggesting a fitness issue. Indeed, he had been downgraded to Bii.
- On the 29th November, 1917, he returned to Jersey and rejoined 110 Company but now having been medically upgraded to Bi.
- On the 15th May, 1919 he was discharged from the Army, with a reserve commitment and returned to civilian life.

Given their service number proximity it was assumed that Frank also attested and headed off on the same days as had Lionel. So it proved, for Susan subsequently provided the two photographs that appear on the next page, showing a group of twenty men on board a mail-boat about to leave, and the same group, with their Sergeant Instructor, sitting outside a hut at Prees Heath with the board stating that the men were the Jersey boys with 462 Siege Battery.

From what little information that has been gathered about the RGA, it appears that as the War progressed, Siege Batteries destined for overseas were assembled from scratch in that they brought together a number of men, who after initial training in particular disciplines, were now trained to function as a team. There was comparatively little scope for cross training, a Gunlayer could not do a Signaller's job say.

Siege Batteries would progressively be sent abroad, so that, as a hypothetical example, 461 Battery went to France at the end of December, 462 would be there in January, and 463 would follow on in February. But, there came a point where that ceased, and instead of being deployed as a separate unit, some Batteries reached France, only to be broken up and its members sent to existing Batteries as required.

As best as can be determined, it is thought that 462 Battery was broken up. Looking at others in the range of service numbers from Jersey, most are shown as Base Details, with just one in 462 Battery.

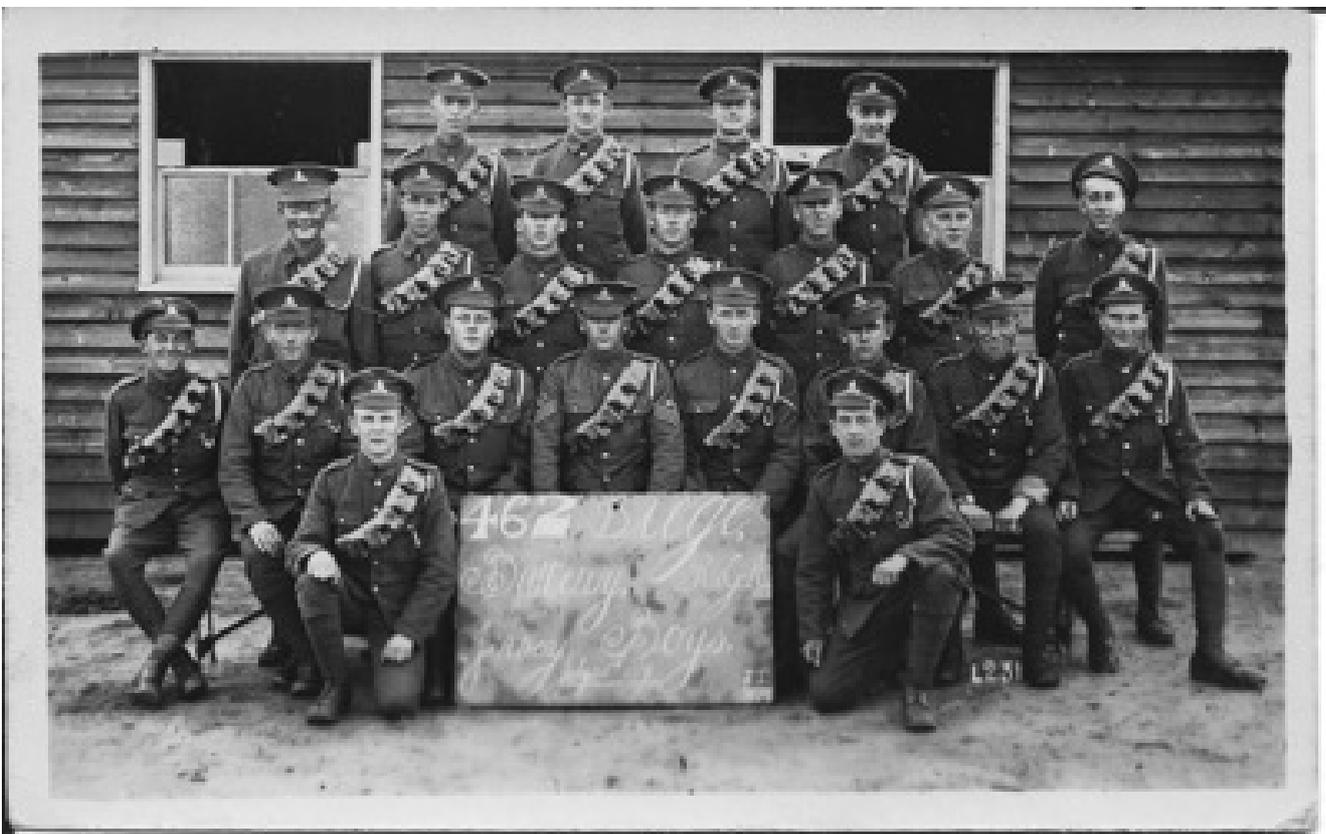
Frank (pictured right) certainly reached France, for he was awarded the British War and the Victory Medals, while he was recorded as belonging to Base Details, i.e., awaiting a unit.

Can anyone identify any of the other men? It may be that Lionel's service record can help. The first photograph which shows the men on the mail-boat at the Albert Pier, was taken in late June, 1917, and their names may have been in the JEP.





The second, taken at Prees Heath, must have been taken before early September when Lionel was transferred.





If only every soldier had been as considerate and as diligent as Emile Audrain in putting their details on to their photographs and postcards, how easy life would be for we researchers? But, that might take the fun out of researching!

The above photographs fall in the 'lack of detail' category, but, as Jason Cronin and I found out, there was enough information available to determine that he was 18679 CQMS Claude Hamilton Reynolds who was born in St Brelade. The collar badge C/4 showed that he was with the 4th Battalion while the medal displayed in the right hand photograph was the DCM. The badges of rank indicated that he was a Sergeant, Colour Sergeant or CQMS. But there were no Jersey men who immediately matched those three pieces of data. Fortunately, I chanced to acquire RW Walker's book on DCM recipients a year or so ago and very quickly compared a list of about potential SNCOs from our Rolls with the book. Claude's name and number soon came up, and after reviewing the full list, we could confirm that this was he. The citation for his DCM award, as a Sergeant, (in LG 29824) reads, *'For conspicuous gallantry in action. He assumed command of his platoon and handled his men throughout with great courage and initiative.'*

Incidentally, an older brother, George Francis, would also be awarded the DCM, while another, Alfred William who had joined the RN in 1900, had been lost at sea at some date in December, 1901 when HMS Condor had foundered on a voyage between Canada's west coast and Hawaii.

Interestingly, Claude Reynolds now a CQMS, again features in the London Gazette, in a somewhat thin issue numbered 31388. Dealing with mentions made in connection with British operations in Archangel and Murmansk, he was mentioned in dispatches whilst attached to the 'Malamute Company' based at the latter port. 'Malamute' as subsequently discovered is a breed of Alaskan dog used to pull sleds. It would be interesting to know if he met the Major E Shackleton referred to further on in this Journal!

Billy Doos Notes from France

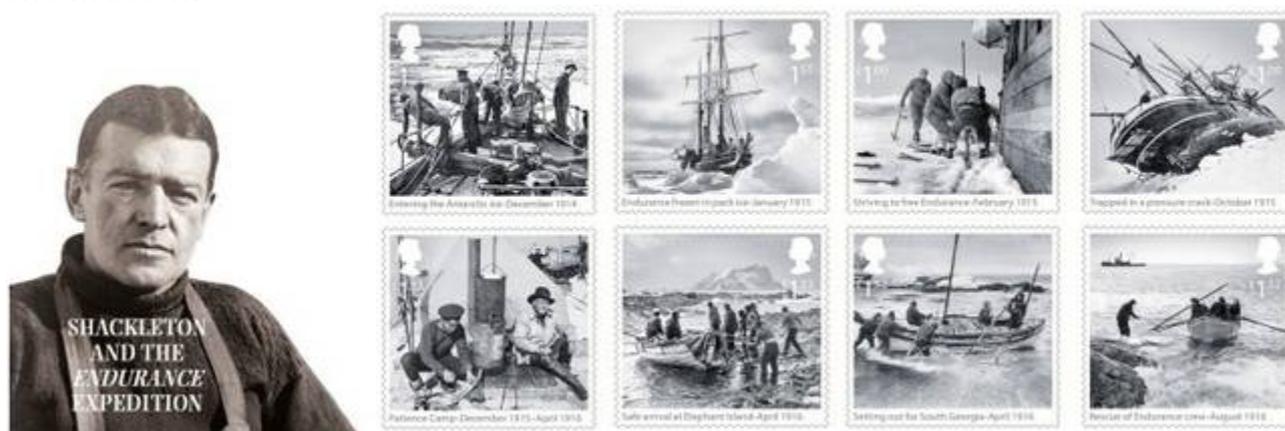
Since writing the warning as to the ease of access to the Thiepval Memorial up until late July, I have been advised that many of the sites on the Verdun battlefield will be closed for some period (the minimum of at least a week, before the official commemoration takes place on the 29th May, 1916. This will include the Ossuary at Douaumont and a number of the forts. This will be for setting up stands and seating, and obvious security reasons given that Frau Merkel and M Hollande will be in attendance.

That might explain the German officer sighting referred to in Billy Doos (Journal 59).

A brief note on Verdun is that the Memorial at Douaumont is reopening on the 21st February.

Ernest, Endurance and other Early Efforts Island Connections

In early January, the British Post Office issued the set of stamps commemorating Sir Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition ('Endurance Expedition') that is shown below:



The expedition itself is of interest in a number of respects, and not just that the story is one of fortitude, but that it also went ahead against the backdrop of the Great War, with the Endurance sailing southwards from Plymouth a few days following the Imperial government's declaration of war on Germany.

Looking briefly at the expedition, the intent as its name implied, was for a party from the Endurance to cross the Antarctic from the Weddell Sea to the Ross Sea, via the South Pole. In the latter stages from the pole to the Ross Sea the party would collect rations that had been deposited along the planned route by a party from another ship, the Aurora. That was the intent, but Mother Nature had a different plan!

The Endurance arrived in the Weddell Sea in the middle of December, 1914, but by the 19th January, 1915, had become stuck in the packed ice and from then on, it would be steadily carried northwards (a case of going with the floe?) by the ice. The build-up of ice increased the pressure on the ship's structure, and eventually Shackleton gave the order to 'Abandon Ship'. The members of the party then had to move into tents on the ice, and remove what they would need and what could be carried or borne by sledge. The three lifeboats were also recovered. On the 21st November, 1915, the Endurance sank, and the

Weddell Sea party, 28 men in all and with no communication to the outside world, had to head northwards, hauling the lifeboats, to reach the open sea, a goal that was achieved in April, 1916. With supplies slowly running out, the dogs had to be killed, and were to supplement the food stocks along with seals. Clearly, Sir Ernest had long since abandoned his aim of crossing the Antarctic.

Having reached open water, the three lifeboats were launched, and the party set off. Various landing points were considered by Shackleton, but he eventually decided upon Elephant Island which was reached just after a week after leaving the ice. Many of the men were feeling the strain but a camp was set up at a safe point on the Island. Even so, no one knew where they were! Ten days after reaching Elephant Island, Shackleton, having decided to seek help, set out with five others to reach South Georgia in one lifeboat. Although the Falklands were closer, the prevailing winds would be in their favour when making the 800 mile voyage to South Georgia.

Sixteen days later the party landed, and a few days after that were split in two as Shackleton head off to cross to the whaling station at Stromness. By the 21st May, 1916, the six were all together again and Shackleton set about rescuing the other 22 men on Elephant Island. After several abortive attempts, they were rescued on the 30th August.

The Endurance's crew were fortunate other than one man having his toes amputated following frostbite, the Aurora's crew less so. The ship had left Australia in December, 1914, and anchored in Ross Bay a few weeks later, with its Captain then organising the setting up of depots for Shackleton's party. In May, 1915 the Aurora broke away from its anchorage during a storm and was then carried some 1600 miles in the drift ice. Once free, those on board sailed the damaged vessel to New Zealand, where it was repaired before returning in January, 1917 to recover the others of the party who had survived, and had continued setting up the depots with what had been unloaded before their ship had vanished over the horizon. After all, they could not be aware of Endurance's fate.

What seems remarkable is that when the survivors returned home, a number headed off, almost immediately, to take part in the Great War, two later being KIA, another dying from illness. As for Shackleton, he later received a commission, and as Major would go to Murmansk. Thanks to the persistence of the Expedition's photographer, who saved as many of his plates as he could when the ship was breaking up and sinking, we can see events at various times during the Endurance Expedition. The photographer was the Australian, Frank Hurley, who would go on to capture many of the familiar scenes of the Great War that we see today.



Desolation, an ocean apart

One also wondered whether there were any Channel Island connections with the expedition, and, so it proved with discovering that Jerseyman Austin Philip Bichard Le Gros joined the Aurora in late 1916 as Second Officer, shortly before it was to head off to rescue the Ross Bay party. After doing this in 1917, he joined the Australian Engineers as a Sapper (number 19849) in the 5th ALH's Signals Troop, and would serve in Palestine and Egypt.

Another crew member was Clarence Charles 'Chips' Mauger, the Aurora's Ship's Carpenter, who was understandably thought, initially, to have had Irish family roots, having been born in Galway in 1893. However, his father was a Guernseyman, Henry T Mauger, who was a Chief Officer with HM Coastguard Service, and he had been stationed in Galway in the 1880s/1890s. 'Chips' Mauger was instrumental in helping the Aurora safely reach New Zealand, in that he set up a jury rudder when the ship's rudder had been damaged as it was carried northwards by the ice. Reaching safety and enlisting in 1916, he would later serve as a Private (number 17084) in France with the 1st Battalion of the Otago Regiment.

Before anyone goes down with snow blindness, the last expedition to look at briefly is the British Arctic Expedition of 1875-1876 led by Captain George Nares, with the objective being to find the North Pole. Man-hauling sledges over the snow, one party reached latitude 83.34°, but the men's health suffered, particularly from scurvy, the clothing was inadequate, and so an about turn was ordered. One finds four Islanders under Captain Nares, Guernseyman Daniel Girard and Jerseymen, Nathan Norris, Frank Chatel and William Ferbrache. The last of those four, William Ferbrache, was born on the 28th December, 1852 and had enlisted on the 1st January, 1873, and was an Able Seaman at the outset of the expedition. Later commissioned, he would still be serving at the end of the Great War, approaching his 66th birthday.

As we know, Islanders pop up everywhere, and it seems that going on expeditions to the Arctic and the Antarctic was no exception. It may be that the interesting subject of Islanders taking part in Polar exploration is another much neglected one, and worthy of far more research.

Out and About

Looking Back: Nothing reported.

Looking Forward: A number of Group members will be travelling far and wide in the months ahead with the approximate dates as follows:

- Steve Bailey, organising a tour for colleagues at Verdun (20th-23rd May)
- Ned Malet de Carteret, to the Orkney Islands for Jutland event (end May)
- Ian Ronayne, Jersey schools tour, the Somme and Ypres (20th-24th June)
- Barrie Bertram, battlefield touring, the Somme and elsewhere (9th-26th June)
- Barrie Bertram, battlefield touring, Verdun and elsewhere (22nd Sept-9th Oct)
- Daniel Benest, battlefield touring, the Somme (24th June-3rd July)
- Roger Frisby, the Thiepval event (1st July)
- Liz Walton, the Somme (TBA)

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. I am currently receiving 'rejection' or 'no contact' messages from the following partial E-Mail addresses:

Facebook: It has been suggested that the Group looks to making use of Facebook to reach a wider audience for our work and to get more two-way dialogue going. The suggestion is being discussed, but there is a need for some of us (me especially!) to better understand the mechanics of using it. More to follow in due course.

Help Still Sought: We're still 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 2nd (Reserve) Battalion, RGLI and the RJGB, while 109 and 110 Companies, RGA were formed. But any data as to the command structure under the two Lieutenant-Governors would be of interest. If you can help, please contact Mark Bougourd.

Guernsey Volunteer(s) Still Needed: We have four men buried in Guernsey at Candie, Foulon and St John's whose graves need finding and photographing. If you are able to help, please contact Roger Frisby who will send you details.

Chester Cecil Church and Fromelles: No further progress.

Edward de Faye and Gauche Wood: The proposal to search Gauche Wood for the remains of Edward de Faye and his driver, Albert Voice, has remained high on the agenda. Having been submitted to the States of Jersey in early November, it was recently turned down on the basis of cost. My personal view was that the rationale was weak given that the sum, which would be no more than a five figure amount, was trivial given that the States has reserves and investments exceeding £2Bn. However, I would hold that view, would I not?

Notwithstanding, the proposal is being tailored with a view that it be made more suitable for commercial and other interested parties to consider supporting the objective, either in its entirety or for particular elements.

The Reverend David Youngson's Appeal: The JEP has recently carried an appeal from the Reverend who is seeking any information that might assist him in having the grave of an unknown officer of the Royal Irish Rifles identified as being that of Second Lieutenant Adolphe Barbier Amy from Jersey. In fact, he has two officer unknowns, while he has worked on this project for the last eight years. He has already been pointed to our website page, but if anybody can help, his Email address is: david.youngson@ntlworld.com.

I am familiar with some of his past research in that, a few years ago, he published a book on padres who died in the Great War called 'Greater Love', of which I have a copy.

Somme 2016 Commemoration: I have received news from Clarence House that the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall will be attending along with the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry.

Jersey's Militia Pay Lists, 1914-1917: Work has resumed, albeit slowly.

Journal to Website Transfers: There are a lot of articles appearing in past Journals that could also feature on the website with a limited amount of editing. A repeat call for authors to give thought to see what might feature on our site and supply fresh copy?

Headstones: Liz Walton spent a few hours recently, trying to clean up AB John Helman's civilian headstone. If you're in a local cemetery where you know that Great War dead are buried there, can you give the headstone a quick examination, and if needed, highlight those that may be in poor condition.

Enfin

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

What has struck me with articles in this and previous Journals, were the many and varied places that Islanders reached prior to the Great War, such as Kobe and Yokohama or what they were involved in, for example polar exploration, throughout the length and breadth of the world. For such small communities, the Islands enjoyed a remarkable global reach well before that term was ever thought off. We know that many Islanders headed off to the dominions, to farm newly given land from scratch in Canada for example, or to sail into and out of ports in the eastern colonies of Empire. But, for an Islander to do likewise today?

Ian Ronayne, if I recall correctly, makes the point that the Great War opened up horizons for Jersey men who had never left the Island, or indeed the parish where they had been born (I understand that even Grouville was an alien land to many!). On reflection, I would suggest that he is partly correct. Solely in the context of Jersey, the horizons were there, the means to reach them were not always. Now, the equation has changed to one of narrow horizons and more wealth per capita, while an aversion to risk has become the new paradigm.

Those Islanders who joined up in the wake of the events of 1914, or who were already serving, knew what might happen to them throughout the course of the War, and indeed for some 3,000 lost lives, it did. Our Islands' histories should be reappraised and enhanced to recognise the roles played by all of those risk-takers, be they having served in the military or in simply selling cricket flannels to the Japanese!

Kind Regards
Barrie H Bertram
17th February, 2016

The Journal Issue Dates for 2016

The four Journals for 2016 are currently planned to be published on the 15th of February, May, August and November respectively, or very shortly after those dates. As ever, I shall be looking for your articles by the 10th of the month, and will send out a reminder about 2-3 weeks beforehand.