

**JOURNAL
62**

**Channel Islands
Great War
Study Group**
www.greatwarci.net



**August
2016**



**'General Salute, Present Arms'
At Thiepval
1st July, 2016**

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IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO FELL



**1st August, 1916
to
31st October, 1916**

August, 1916

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 01. Adams, Frank Herries | 17. Flux, Charles Thomas |
| 01. Jefferys, Ernest William | 17. Russell, Thomas |
| 01. Neyrand, Charles Jacques AM | 17. Stone, Frederick William |
| 01. Powney, Frank | 18. Bailey, Stanley George |
| 03. Courtman, Walter Herbert | 18. Berty, Paul Charles |
| 03. Hamon, Alfred | 18. Marriette, William Henry |
| 03. Loader, Percy Augustus | 18. Meagher, William Edward |
| 03. Wimms, John Basil Thomas | 18. Warne, Albert Edward |
| 05. Dallier, Léon Eugène | 19. Churchill, Samuel George |
| 05. Du Heaume, Herbert Thomas | 19. Hill, Charles Percy |
| 05. Villalard, John Francis | 19. Le Cocq, Yves Morris E |
| 06. Muspratt, Frederic | 21. Le Venois, Léon |
| 08. Rouault, Laurent Pierre | 23. Collings, Eric d'Auvergne |
| 09. Sinnatt, William Hardie | 24. Cleal, Edward A |
| 10. Falla, Edward | 24. Gould, Patrick Wallace |
| 11. Mitchell, Clifford George William | 24. Herauville, Louis Eugène Auguste |
| 12. Davis, Howard Leopold | 24. Le Rossignol, Wilfred |
| 12. Game, Ambrose Edward | 26. Capewell, Louis, Joseph |
| 12. Hibbs, Jeffery | 26. Harel, Pierre |
| 12. Jeanvrin, Aimé Ferdinand | 26. Le Marquand, Edward Charles |
| 13. Balston, Louis Alfred | 27. Guerin, John Francis Marie |
| 15. de Garis, Harold | 28. Greig, Ronald Henry |
| 16. Bessin, Charles | 28. Guerin, Léon Maximilien |
| 16. De la Haye, Clarence John | 29. Le Masurier, John George Walter |
| 17. Fleury, Ernest | |

September, 1916

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 01. Holley, Alfred | 03. Dimmer, George |
| 01. Mockett, Percy | 03. Falla, Fred |
| 01. Purkis, Henry Samuel | 03. Fisher, Percy Edwin |
| 03. Batiste, James Edward | 03. Gumbley, Donald Charles Beric |
| 03. Bennett, John Edgar | 03. Hawtrey, Ralph |
| 03. Cherry, William Henry | 03. Hichens, William Thomas |
| 03. Collings, Charles William | 03. Johnson, Ernest Emile Victor |
| 03. Coquelin, Eugène | 03. Kehoe, Albert Edward |
| 03. De Carteret, Henry James | 03. Le Lièvre, Cyril ET |
| 03. De Carteret, Peter | 03. Le Page, Harold |



IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO FELL



1st August, 1916
to
31st October, 1916

September, 1916 (Continued)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 03. Martel, Nicholas G | 08. Graham, Charles Walter |
| 03. Mitchell, Wilfred J | 08. Le Huquet, John Edward |
| 03. Mudge, Harold F | 09. Austin, Charles Henry |
| 03. Ozanne, Basil Clarence | 09. Barnes, Charles John |
| 03. Ozanne, John Stephen | 09. Bisson, Henry John |
| 03. Pattimore, Clifford Duncan | 09. Blanchet, Jean Baptiste |
| 03. Roberts, Lionel John | 09. Brehaut, James T |
| 03. Williamson, Arthur | 09. Brint, Stephen |
| 04. Bertho, Pierre Marie | 09. Butland, George |
| 04. Du Heaume, Charles | 09. Cauvain Henry (Harry) Bennet |
| 04. Tirel, Paul Joseph | 09. Duquemin, Phillip John |
| 05. Bainbridge, Eric Edgar Fothergill | 09. Edmonds, Harry William |
| 05. Bullock, Frederick Charles | 09. Gallienne, Walter |
| 05. De Gruchy, Stanley Roberts | 09. Male, Arthur Joseph |
| 05. Hamon, John Francis | 09. Nicholson, Eustace |
| 05. Torode, Arthur | 09. Olivry, Sidney John |
| 06. Auffret, John | 09. Pearce, George Edward |
| 06. Bertram, Rolf Guillaume dIV | 09. Pirouet, Arthur John Francis |
| 06. Blampied, Charles Garnet | 09. Rueland (Roland), Peter Frank |
| 06. Buttery, Charles Henry | 09. Scott, Richard |
| 06. Carre, John Francis | 09. Thomas, Charles |
| 06. Carver, Harold | 09. Wood, Edward Albert |
| 06. Du Heaume, Reginald | 10. Queripel, Fred |
| 06. Even, Yves Marie | 10. Salmon, Alfred James |
| 06. Laffoley, John Winter | 11. Bichard, Alfred |
| 06. Luce, Edward | 11. Cluett, John |
| 06. Marshall, William Frank | 11. Sohier, Bernard |
| 06. Reynolds, Harold Robrough | 12. Gardiner, Walter T |
| 06. Sweeney, William Dennis | 12. Stagg, Hedley Charles |
| 06. Vasse, Peter Louis | 13. Anderson, Max Edward Alwyn |
| 06. Vautier, John Raymond | 13. Pederson, Thomas William |
| 06. Vibert, John | 13. Toplis, Roy Herrick |
| 07. Amand, Philip | 15. Anderson, John |
| 07. Burton, Herbert George | 15. Benson, Eric William |
| 07. Druce, Cecil | 15. Bisson, Clarence Charles George |
| 07. Trory, Albert James | 15. Bull, John James |
| 08. Falla, Edgar | 15. De la Haye, Wilfred |



IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO FELL



**1st August, 1916
to
31st October, 1916**

September, 1916 (Continued)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 15. Rowe, Albert | 22. Fould, Albert Gustave |
| 15. Sheers, Leonard | 22. Smith, Francis Henry |
| 15. Thiebot, John Francis | 23. Brooke-Murray, Kenneth Algernon |
| 15. Wherry, Bert Alfred | 23. Le Bas, Arthur |
| 16. Allen, Edward Leonard Bisson | 23. Misson, John Philip |
| 16. Durnford, Henry Charles | 24. Baudet, Louis Frederick |
| 16. Jones, Robert | 24. Gautier, Louis Mathurin |
| 16. Le Rougetel, Bertram | 25. Rogers, Charles Alfred |
| 16. Leggatt, Leonard Wilfred | 25. Tremel, François Joseph |
| 16. Tew, Thomas | 26. Baker, Harry Charles |
| 17. Bottomley, Wilfred Murray | 26. Gallichan, Raymond John |
| 17. Downton, Clifford Henry | 26. Hugo, Cyril Julius |
| 17. Gregg, Charles James Winter | 26. Syvret, Francis Philip |
| 17. Guillou, Félix | 27. Echlin, Frederic(k) St John Ford North |
| 17. Huxford, Harry Archibald | 27. Martell, Thomas Raymond |
| 19. Amy, Adolph Barbier | 28. Richards, Keen Alma |
| 19. Burette, Joseph Eugène Desire Albert | 29. Godel, Ebenezer Marrett |
| 20. Glasse, Charles | 30. Falle, Leslie Philip |
| 21. Chapelhow, Alfred John Lee | 30. Loughery, George R |
| 21. Werry, Henry Foard | 30. Rabet, Jean Baptiste Marie |
| 22. Bogie, Andrew William | |

October, 1916

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 01. Astley, Aston Giffard | 07. Knapp, Edward Molyneux |
| 01. Crespin, Charles William Victor | 07. Maindonald, Edwin Walter |
| 02. Le Grand, Arthur Philip | 07. Smith, Ernest Duhamel |
| 02. Vaughan, Gilbert Edward | 08. Findlay, Kenneth CVampbell |
| 04. Beale, Oscar Child | 09. Gruchy, Charles Herbert |
| 04. Knight, William Harold | 09. Langlois, Francis Philip |
| 04. Prior, Arthur Charles | 09. Romeril, William |
| 05. Addenbrooke, Arthur | 09. Wood, George Guilbert Beaton |
| 05. Millais, Geoffrey Guille | 10. Blampied, John |
| 06 Le Calvez, François Yves Marie | 10. Colohan, James |
| 06. Perkins, Thomas Alfred | 10. Leale, Frederick Reginald |
| 07. Condrieux, Louis | 10. Sellier, Henri Lucien |



IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO FELL



**1st August, 1916
to
31st October, 1916**

October, 1916 (Continued)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 11. Vernon, William Walter | 19. Hale, John |
| 12. Chaffe, Percy Arthur | 19. Renouf, Edward |
| 12. Forrester, John Mathieson | 20. Copp, Arthur |
| 12. Rose, Harry | 20. Mackay, Arthur Jack |
| 13. Launay, Jules Paul | 23. Crespin, Albert Victor Stamp |
| 14. Minahan, Michael | 23. Legg, Francis (Frank) E |
| 14. Norton, Frederick William | 23. Luce, Philip John |
| 16. Traisnel, Yves Marie (Desire) | 23. Robins, Charles Albert |
| 17. Doudic, François | 23. Williams, Frank Lee |
| 17. Goss, Percy Frank | 25. Coughlan, Julius Edward |
| 17. Le Blancq, Edgar Arthur | 27. Hauenstein, Jack (Jacob) |
| 17. Walden, Harold Eugene Montague | 27. Johnston, Hugh Bertie Henriques |
| 18. Bonner, Arthur Herbert | 29. Guillaume, Jean Baptiste |
| 18. Taylor, Charles Vinden | 31. Ottley, Kendal Coghill Glendower |
| 19. Gard, Ernest Stanley | 31. Turnbull, James Lindsay |

Hello All

It will not have escaped few people's notice that the past few months have seen a large number of events commemorating Great War anniversaries, be they be large or small. There have been those with a multi-national flavour such as Verdun, Jutland and the Somme, while at the other end of the scale, local events such as the sounding of whistles at the time, a century ago, that men were leaving the relative safety of their trenches and going over the top. Whatever the scale may be, each commemorative event is invariably a structured act of remembrance.

But, in a brilliant piece of street theatre, a very different and quite remarkable event took place in many of the UK's cities and towns throughout the 1st July where squads of khaki uniformed young men, the 'Ghost Soldiers', silently paraded at bus and railway stations, marched through shopping precincts, along pavements and sat outside public buildings. Just standing, lying or sitting wherever they had briefly settled, they would remain silent, and whenever approached by shoppers or commuters, they would hand out a card with the name and details of one of the dead from the first day of the Somme. After a while, the squad would suddenly burst into singing 'We're here because we're here...' to the tune of 'Auld Lang Syne', reminiscent of the Tommies as they trudged along the *pavé* in France all those years ago. The appearance of some 1,500 'Ghost Soldiers' around the country was, as would be expected, well-staged by the National Theatre, but in no sense is that different from more formal events which also need careful stage managing.

Yet, what did it achieve? One would suggest that it brought a unique, 'in your face' way of remembrance to countless people rather than an expectancy that all of those people would have been present at their local war memorial. From what could be determined from the various video clips to be found on the Internet, many of those who witnessed it were moved to tears at the sight and sound of the 'Soldiers', while for others there was the slow dawning that this was about the Somme. There would have also been, no doubt, some who would have asked, 'What is the Somme'!

Perhaps there were some of those who collected a card, who will follow it up by looking for the man's entry on the CWGC website, Ancestry or FMP, while commuters will tell their work colleagues of what they had seen on the railway station concourse as they hurried through. But hopefully, all will have taken the time to reflect upon a major event in the nation's history that has had a major impact on the way we are in the one hundred years since.

The appearance of the 'Ghost Soldiers' was both a brilliant and unique tribute to the men on the Somme. One cannot see it being repeated, nor should it.

The Front Cover

An aerial view of a detachment of the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, arriving at Thiepval prior to the commencement of the Service of Remembrance, receiving the Salute from the combined Anglo-French Guard of Honour drawn from the Irish Guards and *L'École Spéciale Militaire de Saint-Cyr*. To be more accurate, it was the guns that received the 'General Salute', and not the personnel. Whereas most line infantry regiments have colours in the form of the sovereign's colour standard and the regimental colour standard, on those occasions when units from the Royal Artillery parade their guns ceremonially, then those guns are regarded as the Regiment's colours and are afforded the due honour of a General Salute.

CWGC Non-Commemorations

This last quarter has been very quiet given other events that have been going on in a busy summer, however, having accepted Alfred Handford, the CWGC are looking to erect a headstone over his grave in approximately six months' time.

Yet, Stanley Barette's name, already on the JRoS, has very recently emerged as a result of trawling through RAF records where his appears to show that he died on the 31st March, 1921, eight months after an early discharge, and within the qualifying time for the CWGC to commemorate him. However, what seemed to be a fairly simple matter is less so, given that there is no official record of death in either Jersey or the UK. Twice before the War (in 1905 and 1911) he went to the USA and Canada. Then, in January, 1921, a Mr S Barette travelled to St John, NB, Canada. Was it just a coincidence, or that Mr Barette was 'our' Stanley? And, if he was Stanley, did he die in Canada or the USA? His details are being double-checked, and it is hoped that Jersey's Chief Librarian, Helen Barette, will be able to provide some family information next month, when the builders have left!

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
Donoghue, Arthur J
Hannis, Alfred W *

Being Progressed

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

Pending

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

TBA

Touzel, Walter H
Ferrer, Armand
Anderson, Frank B
Marsh, William H
Barette, Stanley

Not for Submission

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

With the CWGC

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

Rejected by CWGC

Vibert, John E
Adams, Frank H

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

** A submission of Ira's
name to the CWGC is
imminent.

Philatelic Matters

On the 4th August Jersey's Post Office issued a further set of stamps, pictured below, to commemorate the Great War, with the theme, this year, being battles, namely First Ypres, Gallipoli, Jutland, the Somme, Aqaba and Passchendaele. In addition, there is also a miniature sheet (not illustrated here) that commemorates the Battle of Cambrai.

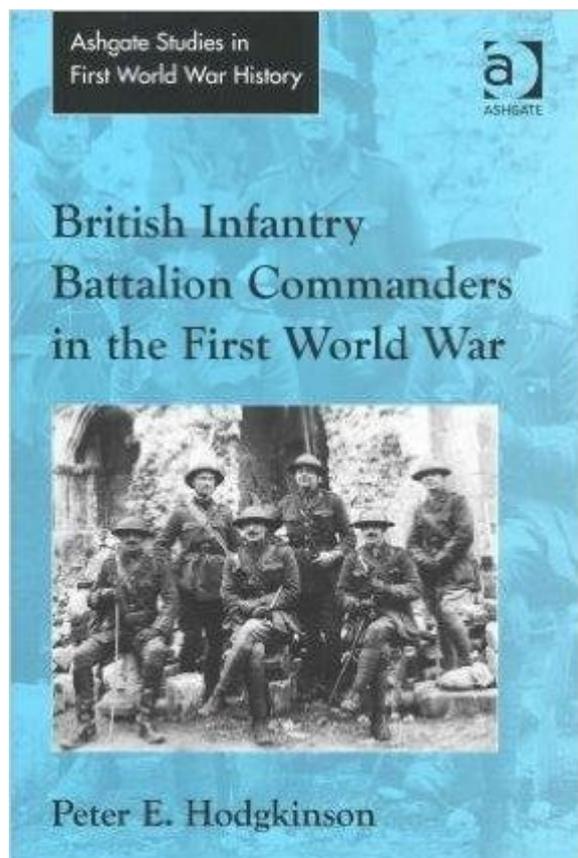


Oddly, the simply styled designs by Chris Wormell, a widely admired London based illustrator, are quite good, and relate very well to each individual stamp theme, whilst the intelligent use of colours is very effective visually. Having said that, Jersey Post should not get off lightly from any criticism, and should be taken to task over the choice of Aqaba as one of the representative battles. The other six battles can be looked at in a number of ways, the strategic importance, the use of technology, the casualty rates, the durations, the involvement of the former dominions, the global consequences since, and the impact on the general public's present day view of the Great War. Aqaba, as a battle, does not fit with any of those considerations, having been fought in less than one day, for example, with fewer than 600 Turkish and Arab casualties combined. Of course Jutland also lasted a day, but the fact that the German High Seas Fleet never again set sail to fight was of strategic import. But, given that we are talking of Jersey stamps, Aqaba excepted, the stamps can be seen as having connections with the Island due to greater involvement in those battles by Jerseymen. Where is Aqaba's?

So, has Jersey Post fallen into the 'anglo-centric' trap yet again? Why no recognition of the French? Why no thought as to the Battle of Verdun being the theme of one stamp? At the time of the 1911 Census, around 20% of the population were French, of which some 2,500 would go to serve France, of which, a goodly proportion would surely have been involved at Verdun given the rotation of the French divisions that occurred between February and December, 1916. Many of their descendants still live in the Island today or at least retain their links with Jersey. Granted that the French were involved at First Ypres, Gallipoli and the Somme, those stamps cannot convey what a separate Verdun stamp would have achieved regarding the French.

The conclusion can only be one of disappointment at an opportunity to remember our French forebears being sadly missed!

Book Reviews



British Infantry Battalion Commanders in the First World War **By Peter E Hodgkinson** **Ashgate Publishing (£70.00)**

Based upon the author's dissertation for a Doctorate, and given the eye-watering, minimum price tag of £70.00, one soon questions whether a book such as this offers value for money. Weighing in at 265 pages, one soon notes a 20% reduction to that figure with the usual front- and back-end requirements for any book, as well as the 'Intentionally Blanks'. Thus, in terms of the book's 'meat and two veg', one is left with 210 pages to digest!

The author sets out his stall with the first sentence to the Introduction, 'This book examines the evolution of the Battalion Commanders of British Infantry Regiments during the First World War', and by so doing, he seeks to answer the following four key questions in a chronological order:

- How and where resources were found from the small officer corps of 1914 to cope with the requirement for Commanding Officers (COs) in an expanding army,
- What was the quality of the men who rose to command an infantry Battalion,
- Beyond simple overall quality, exactly what qualities were perceived as making an effective CO, and,
- To what extent did a meritocracy develop in the British Army by the Armistice?

However, in the author's undoubted enthusiasm for the subject, the stall soon gets kicked over and the fruit and veg are scattered everywhere as he immediately starts presenting his arguments in the Introduction, sometimes to counter the opinions of others, with the result that any opportunity for a different book structure is lost.

The question of CO quality is, without question, a highly important topic, given that a CO, in normal circumstances a Lieutenant-Colonel, is the most senior rank in the Army to directly command a body of men, given that Brigadiers and those above them, are there to direct formations. So, one would expect that the requirements for CO quality should be bench-marked in Chapter 1, after all, the author is writing of an evolution. The reader however, finds in an excellent Chapter 6 that he addresses some of these issues, but when evolving, there is a need for a starting point, and what better than from the situation in August, 1914? One would have liked to have seen a discussion of what the War Office saw as the job description, if you will, whereby a CO could be judged, along with performance criteria for his Regiment. After all, the author reminds the reader at the outset on page 1 that Napoleon Bonaparte was reputed to have said that, 'There are no bad Regiments, only bad Colonels'!

With the outbreak of war, the author points out that the demand for further COs soon showed, first of all to cope with the Army's expansion in terms of the numbers of infantry Battalions raised, but also to fill the gaps due to attrition, which also increased as the additional Battalions were fielded. It is interesting to note that the author adopts a broader interpretation of what constituted 'attrition', given that 58% of regular COs, in post with deployed Battalions in August, 1914, were no longer there at the outset of 1915. Whilst most readers simply see it as to mean those killed, wounded, missing and imprisoned, in his calculations, the author rightly includes those COs promoted, moved sideways into staff roles, illness, or in a number of cases, were presented with the military equivalent of a P45. After all, in whatever fashion that a CO departed, a vacancy was created as a result.

COs, both as replacements for the existing and newly raised Battalions had to be found, and, with the expanded Army, the 5,000+ COs that have been identified by the author during his research would have provided leadership to 1,762 infantry Battalions for just a few days to a few years. Under normal circumstances, those replacements would generally have been expected through the promotion of regular officers to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, but attrition affected that source and given that, the number of COs would also include those officers from the Special Reserve, the Territorial Force and Kitchener's New Armies. Along with the regulars, these three elements would, in varying proportions, become the source, alongside the 'dug outs' and men commissioned from the ranks. A small number of the latter would indeed be appointed as Lieutenant Colonel in a brief military career of 2-3 years following commissioning. One also sees that the average age of COs understandably decreasing in the four years of war, and it is clear that fitness and stamina had a part to play.

There is of course the evolutionary aspect, and not just through age and the broader range of candidates. The 1914 COs were, almost to a man, greatly experienced thanks to earlier active service in South Africa, the Sudan, Egypt and the many other places wherever the British Empire had raised its flag. In general, they would have become COs largely due to their seniority within the Regiment (It is not a coincidence that no two officers of the same rank in a Regiment had the same seniority date, one had to be junior to the other!). Others further down the rank structure, many 'dug outs', and former rankers would have also shared those experiences, but for those who had joined during the war, that experience was soon acquired in the very hard school of front-line service. But in due course this would be supplemented by the establishment of a Senior Officers' School where the most up to date doctrines could be taught along with the skills to command a Battalion. At the same time, the School provided opportunity for an exchange of views between the aspiring COs.

The author covers the foregoing in his book and has also used a number of vignettes covering elements of the various COs' careers and, in some cases, their fate to support his thesis. This provides a very welcome human face to what might be otherwise regarded as a dry account. One particular CO of considerable note who is brought to the reader's attention was Lieutenant Colonel Ivor Thord-Gray, a Swede, and for whom service as a British CO during the Great War was just a three-year interlude in a military career that also saw him serving with thirteen countries, a number too many to list individually here!

There has been much research that underpins the content of the book, and the author should be lauded for the work that has been undertaken. However, there are two areas of concern with that. The first is the Bibliography, a dozen pages long, which lists the references which he had consulted. There may be a risk that, in quoting passages, myths might be interpreted as fact. The second concern is that he has forgotten the oft repeated

cliché that ‘a picture is worth of a thousand words’ for the book is devoid of photographs and illustrations. One feels that, where analyses had been undertaken, the author could have presented the results visually via graphs, pie charts, bar charts and other such formats to reduce reliance on describing the results in lengthy prose.

Overall, the author has answered the four questions that he had set himself, and showed that COs had carried a heavy load on their shoulders in terms of getting their Battalions capable of waging war whilst maintaining unit morale. Most COs were very much up to the mark, although of course, as in many other enterprises, there were some who were not fit enough for the task and would have to be replaced. Meanwhile others would suffer mental stress such that the War Office soon recognized the need for COs to be rested for lengthy periods away from the front-line. By and large, and despite the criticisms above, the book is a credible addition to the ongoing debate about the command capabilities within the British Army during the Great War. Finally, this brings the reader back to the question of whether a book such as this offers value for money at £70.00.

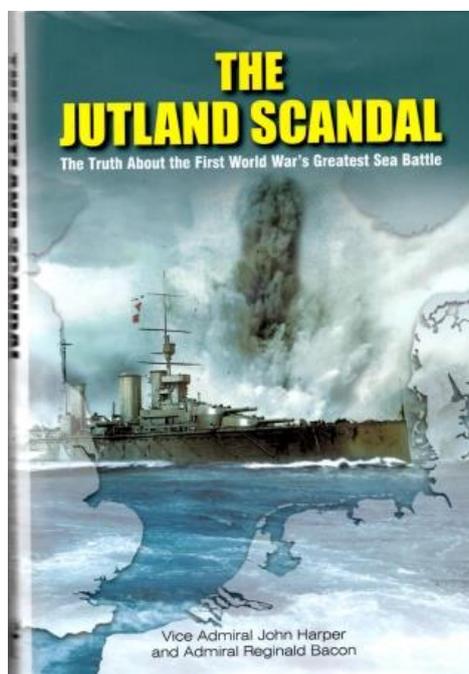
Sadly, the answer must be ‘No’! But notwithstanding, the subject very much merits a wider audience, and it would be unlikely for the book to appear on Public Library shelves anytime soon. Perhaps a solution might be to revisit the structure, expand the book’s content to 450 pages or so, include illustrations as well as the front- and back-end requirements, whilst looking to retail at £30-35.

Postscript: First, reader’s may recall Peter Hodgkinson’s name as he was the presenter of the talk ‘Clearing the Battlefields’ in the report by Paul Barnett which featured in Journal 60. Next, I found that my name featured in a list of names that were acknowledged for providing information. However, I have no recollection of that! Finally, Peter Hodgkinson has created a website, <http://www.ww1infantrycos.co.uk/>, listing the COs that he has identified to date.

The Jutland Scandal
The Truth about the First World War’s Greatest Sea Battle
By Vice Admiral John Harper and Admiral Reginald Bacon
(Frontline Books - £25.00)
Review by Peter Tabb

Never before and never again will there be a sea battle like Jutland. So proclaimed the first book I ever read about the Battle of Jutland by naval historian Captain Donald McIntyre.

Before Jutland the largest naval clash had been between the Royal Navy under the command of Vice Admiral Viscount Nelson and the combined fleets of France and Spain at the Battle of Trafalgar which had involved a total of 76 ships.



At Jutland there were 261 ships with the Royal Navy’s Grand Fleet outnumbering the Kaiser’s High Seas Fleet by a ratio of three to two. Both forces consisted of a main Battle Fleet force of battleships and a secondary Battle-Cruiser Fleet, both fleets supported by cruisers and destroyers. The Grand Fleet’s Battle Group comprised 24 battleships and 3

battle-cruisers, 14 cruisers and 51 destroyers. The Battle-Cruiser Group comprised 5 battle-cruisers, 4 battleships, 13 cruisers, 29 destroyers and 1 seaplane carrier.

The Grand Fleet Battleship Group (and the Battle Fleet as a whole) was commanded by Admiral Sir John Jellicoe in HMS *Iron Duke* and the Battle-Cruiser Force by Vice-Admiral Sir David Beatty. Opposing this force were the High Seas Fleet under the overall command of Admiral Reinhard Scheer in SMS *Friedrich der Grosse* whose Battleship Group consisted of 22 battleships (of which three were old and slow pre-Dreadnaughts) supported by cruisers and torpedo boats (the German equivalent of the Royal Navy's destroyers) and 5 battle cruisers led by Admiral Franz Ritter von Hipper in SMS *Lutzöw* also supported by cruisers and torpedo boats.

Since 2016 is the 100th anniversary of the battle that took place on the 31st May 1916, before reviewing this particular view of the battle, it is worth taking a closer look at the participants.

First the ships. In 1906 First Sea Lord Admiral John 'Jackie' Fisher, with the introduction of the all big-gun HMS *Dreadnaught*, rendered the world's battle fleets obsolete. With its 12-inch main armament and, down below, its Parsons turbines, *Dreadnaught* could outgun any other ship afloat and, by virtue of its revolutionary motive power, could catch any ship that tried to run away from it. The one nation most caught out by Fisher was Germany whose Kaiser was determined that his fleet should match that of his uncle King Edward VII. The race was on and by 1914, the Royal Navy had 29 Dreadnaught battleships to Germany's 17, and 8 battle-cruisers to Germany's 5.

However, there were significant differences between the British and German ships inasmuch that the Royal Navy's battleships were built for a world-wide role and thus offered much more space to accommodate the crew, more space for provisions including ammunition and much more space for fuel (despite their turbine machinery the British Dreadnaughts were still coal-fired). By contrast, the German ships were designed principally for operations in home waters, thus much more space could be devoted to defensive armour. In terms of armament the Royal Navy tended to have larger guns ranging from 12-inch to 15-inch whereas the German guns were mostly 11-inch and although of shorter range, thanks to the German pre-eminence in optics, generally much more accurate.

The principal capital ships at Jutland were the battleships, but a very significant part of the battle would involve the battle-cruiser forces of both sides. The British battle-cruiser was essentially a faster, heavily armed but only lightly armoured battleship, once again designed for a world-wide role. The concept was Fisher's but enthusiastically espoused by the First Lord of the Admiralty Winston Churchill who saw these vessels as the cavalry of the seas. With the benefit of hindsight we can see just how flawed this concept was, illustrated by the destruction at Jutland of the battle-cruisers *Invincible*, *Indefatigable* and *Queen Mary* by plunging shellfire because of their thinly armoured decks over the magazines (and demonstrated again in 1941 when the last of the breed, HMS *Hood*, was sunk by plunging shellfire from the German battleship *Bismarck*). Unlike the Royal Navy's battle-cruisers the High Seas Fleet's battle-cruisers were sleeker versions of the battleships being just as heavily armoured and armed but with less girth and being several knots faster.

The role of the battle-cruiser force in both fleets was to scout ahead of the main battle force and lure its opponents to battle.

It was always the intention of both fleets to draw the other into a battle that would result in its destruction. For the Royal Navy sweeping the seas of the German fleet would allow the blockade that was slowly (but too slowly) strangling Germany to be totally effective. From the German point of view the destruction of the Grand Fleet would lift the blockade. Thus each commanding Admiral worked on a strategy that would lure a section of the opposing fleet to sea and allow a larger fleet to overwhelm it.

In the early moves of the Battle of Jutland, both fleet commanders felt that they had achieved their primary objective. Although both sides were already adept at reading each other's radio signals, all sorts of communication problems meant that although both entire fleets were actually at sea, both commanding Admirals thought that only parts of their opponent's fleets were.

In the ensuing battle the Royal Navy lost more ships and more men than the High Seas Fleet but it was the Germans who scuttled back to their base leaving the Grand Fleet master of the North Sea and the blockade intact. Both sides claimed victory but the High Seas Fleet never went to sea again except to be interned whereas the Grand Fleet was ready to sail into action the following day. Why then 'The Jutland Scandal'?

For a Britain that always expected its navy to deliver Nelsonian victories, at best a bloody draw was not the result the Parliament and the people anticipated. But that was what they got and someone had to be found to take the blame.

'There seems to be something wrong with our bloody ships today' was the famous quote of Vice Admiral Sir David Beatty to his Flag Captain as they both observed the champion gunnery ship of the Grand Fleet, the battle-cruiser HMS *Queen Mary*, blow up, one of three vessels of that ill-fated class to be destroyed in a hail of the enemy's battle-cruisers' gunfire.

In fact, it was not 'today' that there was something wrong with the ships, but something that had been incorporated into their very design and had been an integral part of them since their launching – the thinness of their deck armour and the faulty design of their ammunition delivery which relied upon open hatches through which to convey the shells and their propellant charges from the magazines to the guns. A shell hitting the deck could too easily have its explosive force and fire directed straight to the magazines deep inside the hull. This is what happened to *Queen Mary*, *Invincible* and *Indefatigable* and also very nearly happened to Beatty's flagship *Lion* (a sister ship of *Queen Mary*) had it not been for the heroic closing of the magazine doors under fire by Major Francis Harvey, RMLI who was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross for saving his ship.

But it would not do for the dashing Beatty (the youngest admiral since Nelson) whose handling of the battlecruiser force was critically hindered by his insistence on using flag signals rather than signal lights. In the smoke of battle his signals went largely unseen and, in particular, his supporting battleships, the Fifth Battle Squadron under the command of Vice-Admiral Hugh Evan-Thomas, the most modern and most heavily armed ships in the fleet, were ineffectual because they had no idea what was going on since they were unable to read their Admiral's signals and ended up being ten miles behind the battle-cruisers having sailed off in the wrong direction. Thus Beatty hazarded his fragile battle-cruisers unnecessarily with the result that they fought an opponent that was materially superior to them with the results we have seen. There was a similar failure to keep Jellicoe informed as to the disposition of the German fleet (his principal role). Despite this Jellicoe succeeded in positioning his ships to good advantage, relying on closer cruisers for the

final knowledge of the Germans' position. So much so that, despite the dearth of intelligence from Beatty, had it not been for a near suicidal 'death ride' of Hipper's battle-cruisers and a panicky 'battle turn away' by Scheer's fleet, the Germans would have fallen into Jellicoe's trap. One criticism that could be levelled against Jellicoe was that he failed to follow up his advantage into the smoke-filled evening and oncoming night but his lack of intelligence as to the High Seas Fleet's disposition was sufficient to call for caution, particularly after the Royal Navy's losses so far. Before dawn the following day both fleets had limped back to their bases.

Jellicoe was removed from command of the Grand Fleet in November, 1916 by being promoted to First Sea Lord but largely because the man who, in Winston Churchill's words, 'could lose the war in an afternoon' had, in the view of many, very nearly done so. His successor was the newly promoted Admiral Sir David Beatty.

After the conflict Jellicoe was blamed for failing to use his perceived armed might to defeat a weaker opponent while his subordinate received the plaudits for leading the enemy towards destruction, denied only by his commanding Admiral allowing the beaten enemy to slip away under the cover of darkness.

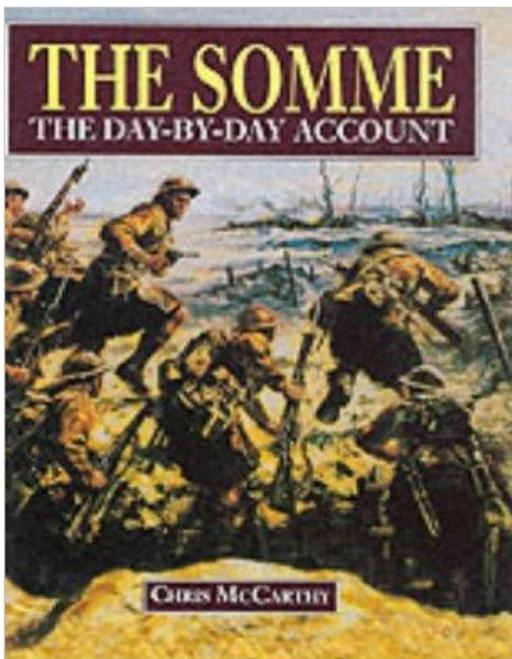
In May, 1917, a nearly starving Germany declared unrestricted submarine warfare in the attempt to inflict upon Britain that which Britain was so effectively inflicting upon Germany and with significant success. Nevertheless, by November, 1918, Germany had had enough, typified by mutiny and revolution among the crews of the once proud High Seas Fleet.

On the 21st November seventy ships of the High Seas Fleet sailed to the Firth of Forth to be interned, watched by the Grand Fleet's commander, Admiral Beatty, who ordered the German ships to lower their ensigns and not raise them again until given permission to do so. This was, in fact, an illegal order since the German fleet had not surrendered, it had, so far, only been interned. A few days later the German fleet sailed to Scapa Flow where it remained (while its future was being discussed by the victors) and on the 21st June 1919, Admiral Ludwig von Reuter gave the order for the ships to be scuttled.

After the war a report of the battle was prepared by the Admiralty. Before the report was published, Beatty was appointed First Sea Lord and immediately requested amendments to the report. When the authors refused to comply, he ordered it to be destroyed and instead had prepared an alternative report which was highly critical of Jellicoe. Considerable argument broke out as a result, with significant numbers of servicemen disputing the published account, including Admiral Reginald Bacon who, with Vice-Admiral John Harper, wrote this book about the battle, criticising the alternative account sponsored by Beatty and highly critical of Beatty's own part in the battle.

Whilst the Royal Navy did suffer the greater losses, the authors were convinced that it had nevertheless won the day, that proof being that while the High Seas fleet itself never posed any significant threat again, the Grand Fleet could have gone back to war the following day. That was Jellicoe's victory.

Postscript: Peter provides an interesting insight into ship design issues and naval politics, implicitly recommending the book to others. But he also poses a conundrum. Given that the Kaiser wanted 'his place in the sun', and that the German Navy knew of the RN's design philosophy to have ships with global reach, the Germans had adopted a different approach seemingly more suited to home waters, i.e. the North Sea. One wonders why?



The Somme: The Day-by-Day Account
By Chris McCarthy
(Arms and Armour Press, £20.00)

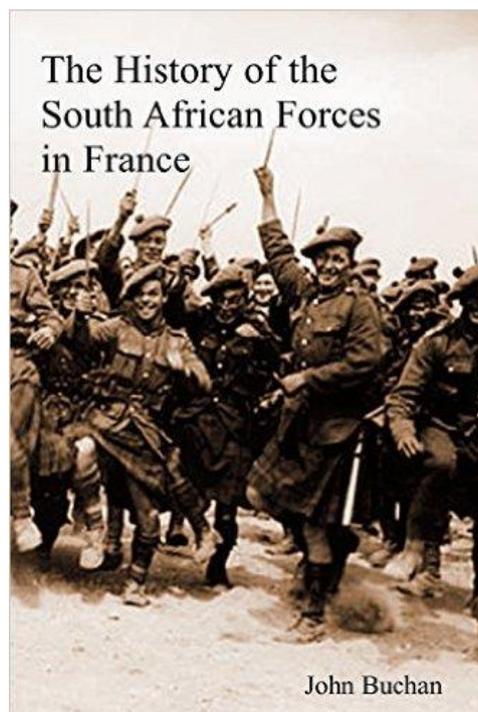
A book that is what it is described to be on the label. It provides a snapshot view of what was occurring on any day. Tuesday, the 4th July for example, saw a temperature of 70°F, and the weather overcast with thunderstorms (sounds familiar?). In XIII Corps sector, the entry for the 18th Division reads, 'Marlboro' Wood was occupied at night, unopposed', while it notes that, 'The 9th Division was relieved by 30th Division'. This data can be related to a conveniently placed map showing the frontage and boundaries of XIII and other Corps, and, also of their Divisions. Marlboro' Wood (actually Bois Leclerc), can now be located some 1200 yards SSW of Bazentin-Le-Grand.

Of course, not every day could be as simply described, nor could a Corps' or a Division's activities. The book does, in many cases, briefly refer to activities at the Battalion level as are those the 7th Royal Irish Rifles on the 9th September, 1916. Meanwhile, three days earlier the entry for 16th Division notes that, 'Patrols sent out from the left of the Division suffered heavily from fire from Quadrilateral'. Reading that, one wonders whether that fire would have caused the deaths of Reginald du Heume, Harold Carver and John Vibert?

The book has plenty of photographs and maps of reasonable to good quality, averaging either one or other per page and a Division's inputs are accompanied with the Division's sign (such as 16th Division's shamrock). Overall, it is a useful ready reference, and, on that basis, it should feature on most people's bookshelves. As to the price, that is a different matter, and perhaps anyone who may be interested should look at the second-hand market for a copy.

The History of the South African Forces in France
By John Buchan
(N&M Press, £18.00)

We tend to get submerged with accounts dealing with the larger dominion forces, the Australians, the Canadians and the Indians in particular, while it often seems that the contribution of the smaller components can often get side-lined. This reprint (of the 1920 book) is a reminder of South Africa's valuable contribution, the more so as the author reminds the reader, that it was the only dominion whose country physically abutted that of any German territory, namely South West Africa (today's Namibia). That, coupled with unsympathetic feelings in some quarters after the Anglo-Boer War as well the nascent East Africa campaign, resulted in the provision of an infantry Brigade, and a number of other units, left for the UK in August, 1915 to equip and train.



To take the South African Brigade first, it comprised four battalion sized Regiments. The 1st South African Infantry was drawn from the Cape of Good Hope Regiment, the 2nd from the Natal and Orange Free State Regiment, the 3rd was the Transvaal and Rhodesia Regiment, and finally the 4th was from the South African Scottish Regiments (1st and 2nd Transvaal Scottish, and the Cape Town Highlanders). The Brigade would, in April, 1916, become part of the 9th (Scottish) Division, replacing the 28th Brigade, and later, in February, 1918, be reduced to three Regiments with the disbandment of the 3rd and the absorption of its men into other three Regiments. There were periods in 1918 where numbers in the remaining Regiments were so reduced such that a composite Regiment came into being, at which time the Brigade was moved to the 66th (2nd East Lancashire) Division with which it saw out the War.

Turning to the other units, a Heavy Artillery Regiment would be formed from units that had campaigned in SW Africa and would comprise five Batteries. The Batteries, the 1st to the 5th, would be affiliated to the Royal Garrison Artillery, becoming the 73rd, 74th, 71st, 72nd and 75th Siege Batteries in that order, and issued with 6-inch Howitzers. Additionally, No 1 SA General Hospital would be formed along with 1st SA Field Ambulance, while there would be a SA Signal Company affiliated to the Royal Engineers. There were two Light Railway Operating Companies (Nos 7 and 8), later converting to broad gauge railway operations, becoming Nos 92 and 93 Companies, a Miscellaneous Trades Company, and six Auxiliary Horse Transport Companies (Nos 2, 5, 8, 10, 11 and 22) manned by Cape Coloured personnel.

Understanding the structure of the SA contingent is essential to appreciating its history, given that the author sets it out in considerable detail in the first Chapter before recounting the Brigade's history in the next 240 pages. Thereafter, five Appendices cover the other units with a further 70 plus pages. So, by its nature, the book is broad in its coverage.

The author highlights that having arrived, the Brigade quickly started to train, and be ready to leave for France in December, 1915. Surprisingly, it appeared that they would have gone there with the 16th (Irish) Division with whom they had been training. But in a bigger surprise, they were heading back to Africa, and at the end of the month had embarked for Egypt where they would be deployed to counter attacks being made on Egypt by the Senussi Arabs who had been persuaded so to do by the Turks. Disembarking in the middle of January, 1916, the Brigade was almost immediately thrust into action in a mixed force that also included New Zealanders, Australians and Indians, along with British Yeomanry. By late March it was all over, and in mid-April, the Brigade again boarded ship, this time bound for Marseille, with two Battalions eventually reaching their billets at Steenwerck on the 23rd April.

From this point on, the account becomes a balancing act between describing events at the Brigade level and at the Regimental level, when the first action of note is that at Bernafay and Trônes Woods where they encountered heavy shelling for the first time. In that first week on the Somme, the Brigade had over 500 casualties. Maintaining the wooded theme, Delville Wood soon followed, and in another week of fierce fighting, the Brigade experienced over 2300 further casualties, with the number of men on parade following the action at Delville Wood down to 750. Relief from the front line was now followed by refitting and reorganisation, coupled with the absorption of a reinforcement draft of some 2866 officers and men.

Two months later a return to the Somme battlefield followed, with the objective being to take the Butte de Warlencourt once the Pimple had been taken, the latter no more than a

hillock that could only draw itself up to a full height of 15 feet at a push! Again, the Germans fiercely fought to retain the Butte (which they did), causing the South Africans over 1,150 casualties in ten days when they were withdrawn to billets SW of Arras.

The winter of 1916-1917 was the most severe that France had seen for a number of years, and frost and snow were the order of the day as they took their turns in manning the trenches in the Arras sector and preparing for the Arras battle that April. Their action on the 9th saw the Brigade incur over 740 casualties but it achieved all the objects set. However, that was followed by three nights in frozen German trenches without blankets and, in many cases, greatcoats! A further attack unsurprisingly failed, given the conditions and German resistance, with another 720 to add to the casualty list. After this, the Brigade no longer fought during the remaining battle at Arras. The South Africans' next battle was at Third Ypres in September, and for this, they had made a careful study of how to deal with the German pillboxes and made appreciable advances having dealt with these, yet there were another 1250 casualties. A further 261 were incurred over ten days in October, holding the line before moving to Nieuport.

Then, resting from their exertions at Fruges, on the 30th November, the Brigade was sent forward to Cambrai on foot through snow, frost and driving rain, where the Germans had counter-attacked. Arriving on the 3rd December, that night they replaced the Guards at Gauche Wood, and taking over rudimentary trenches on the forward slope that needed much digging with persistent German shelling to endure.

The Brigade, now without the 3rd Regiment due to manpower shortages in the British Army and the restructuring of Brigades, were still there when the Germans launched the Spring Offensive and, by the 24th March, had been pushed back to Marrières Wood near Bouchavesnes (Bois Marières on some present day French maps). By now, the Brigade was barely 500 strong, and had been ordered to hold the ground 'at all costs'. Delville Wood is writ large in South African military history, but the lesser known action at Marrières Wood seems to have gone 'under the radar' (including mine). That afternoon, after a bitter fight, out of ammunition and with less than 100 men unwounded, the Brigade surrendered, and was no more.

Yet, for whatever reason, there were two companies and a number of men who, for whatever reasons, had not been in action at Marrières, and, within a few days, would be reformed as a SA Composite Battalion comprising 450 men and would move to Abeele at the beginning of April, 1918. Then, phoenix-like, within a few days, the SA Brigade was reformed thanks to a draft of men, bringing the Brigade strength up to 1,500 and the three (1st, 2nd and 4th) Regiments restored. Barely had the Brigade reformed, it was immediately thrust into the Battle of the Lys, trying to stem the German advances at Messines. During the three days here, the casualty figure was 639. But now being withdrawn from the line, the hoped for rest was not forthcoming as the Germans continued to push, while Sir Douglas Haig's 'backs to the wall' order would resound. By the 25th April, the Composite Battalion came into being once more. However, the SA Brigade remained, with the arrival of the 2nd Royal Scots Fusiliers and the 9th Cameronians, restoring it to its establishment. For the next ten days, the Battle of the Lys had continued, and the reconstituted SA Brigade had made an important contribution to its eventual outcome.

The summer of 1918 was quiet, by comparison to the battles at Delville, Gauche and Marrières Woods for example, with minor operations such as trench raids or mundane tasks being carried out, and in September the Brigade would transfer to the 66th Division. From this point on, the BEF was advancing all along its front, and the SA Brigade would

enjoy its share of overall tactical success as it leapfrogged the other two Brigades (the 198th and 199th) as they all pressed forward. When the Armistice took effect, the South Africans were at the most easterly point of the ground gained by the BEF in its advance, coincidentally ending in another wood, the Bois de Martinsart in Belgium!

As mentioned early, the book is very broad in its coverage, from addressing strategic considerations at the level of Foch and Haig, to looking at the work being carried out at the levels of platoons and companies. Writing the book was very much a balancing act, as is reading it to determine whether the SA Brigade was involved in a particular battle or not. The book is uncritical in its tone, and probably for three reasons. The first was that it was produced in 1920, and it is unlikely that that material critical of the war effort was yet emerging (there were many memoirs yet to be written!). The second was that the author had been Director of Information, and previously a member of the War Propaganda Bureau. The third is that, between those two posts, he wrote speeches and communiques for Sir Douglas Haig! Given that, he was not going to be in any way critical!

The Appendices provide interesting information regarding the other units, but by their roles they were assigned to other formations that were not necessarily South African. Along with a further Siege Battery newly created, the 125th, the original five Batteries were subsumed into the BEF's ORBAT, eventually being brigaded, along with two British Batteries, into the 44th and 50th (SA) Brigades. A further two Batteries, the 496th and the 542nd, later arrived in France, but these were broken up and men and howitzers distributed amongst the other SA Batteries. A ninth Battery, the 552nd, was also formed, but by the time that they were ready, the War was over. The histories of each Battery are very short, and largely cover dates, locations, changes of command and so forth. There was nothing 'out of the ordinary' that was written.

If one suspects that the Artillery account was written by someone other than the author, there is no doubt that that was the case for the Signal Company (as well as for the other units). Its account was the product of someone whose business was telegraphy and telephony as well as other forms of communications. At 36 pages, the account is half of the 'other unit' Appendices, and is very much a technical exposition of the work that was carried out by all ranks who had been especially chosen to be in the Company. There is a criticism here in that too many technical expressions are used which can baffle the layman (it succeeded with me!). Because of the Company's high level of skills, it was employed at Corps level, to establish and to ensure communication with its Division and the Artillery. (In top down fashion, it was for a Division's Signal Company to do likewise for the Brigades and the Battalions!) The Signal Company was highly regarded in terms of its skills, undoubtedly developed in establishing and maintaining communications in the open spaces of South Africa, and a reflection of the men's self-reliance.

Turning to the Medical Services, the 1st SA Field Ambulance was the only South African unit that served alongside the SA Brigade throughout, both in the 9th Division, and later with the 66th Division. Meanwhile, No 1 SA General Hospital would go to Abbeville and remain there throughout the War as No 1 SA Base Hospital. Arriving in mid-July, 1916, it 'opened its doors (tent flaps?)' a week later, and by the end of that year had admitted 6,436 men of which 3,032 were battle casualties. These figures were further broken down into discharge categories, and the same level of detail was provided for 1917 and 1918. One may wonder whether such information still exists for other Military Hospitals, probably not given that the majority of RAMC Unit War Diaries were disposed of. The South Africans also established their SA Military Hospital in London's Richmond Park, providing over 1,500 beds from July 1918, as well as doubling up as a depot for South African

medical personnel either bound for France or returning for other reasons. A few pages in the Appendices covers the tasks of the Light Railway Operating Companies and the Miscellaneous Trades Company. Again, it reflects the quality of the personnel employed, many of whom were laying and operating the railways in the African hinterland, with skills more than relevant to their work in France. Four of the Auxiliary Horse Transport Companies meanwhile were employed at the docks in Rouen moving munitions and stores to distribution points, the other two going onto forestry work.

But, it is when reading of the Auxiliary Horse Transport Companies, manned by the Cape Coloured personnel, that one questions why no mention of the SA Native Labour Corps is made throughout the book? After all, the SANLC, manned by black Africans, were no less part of the Forces that were sent to France. An accidental omission, or a deliberate one? One would suggest the latter, given that the author had been commissioned to write the book by the Union government! Maintaining South Africa's racial divide was clearly paramount in practice and in word, and where, in the book's conclusion that racial integration is discussed, it is between Briton and Boer.

The book, in summary, provides a very interesting overview of South Africa's activities in France (SANLC excepted), showing that there was much more than Delville Wood. As one would expect of an author of rollicking thrillers, such as 'Greenmantle' or 'The Thirty-Nine Steps', and poetry, there is often a 'gilding of the lily' in this work, a 'gossamer front' springs to mind when the weak defences offered by the British in March, 1918 are described. But, overall, there is much of value in the book, both in the main body, and also in the Appendices, where the work and role of the Signal Company and the other supporting unit can be cross-read into their British and dominion equivalents.

The Camera Returns by Roger Frisby

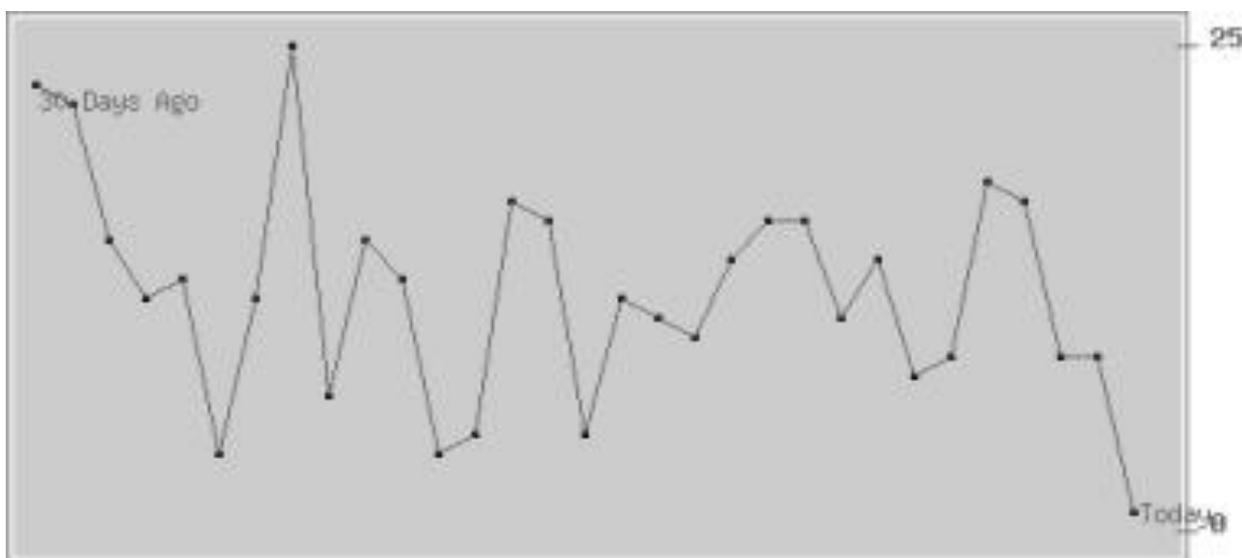


Two pictures, ninety-four years apart, above of the 37th Division's Memorial at Monchy-le-Preux near Arras, Nord Pas de Calais, which was sculpted by Lady Feodora Georgina Maud Gleichen (older sister of Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen, the Division's GOC, between 1915 and 1916), and erected in 1921. The picture left, shows Guernsey Salvation Army worker Ada Le Poidevin (centre) with her colleagues and a little dog. The had presumably come by motorcycle from their Salvation Army hut at Arras sometime in 1922. Although now surrounded by houses, the memorial is still in excellent condition, pictured right with Ada's niece, Liz Walton, in 2016.

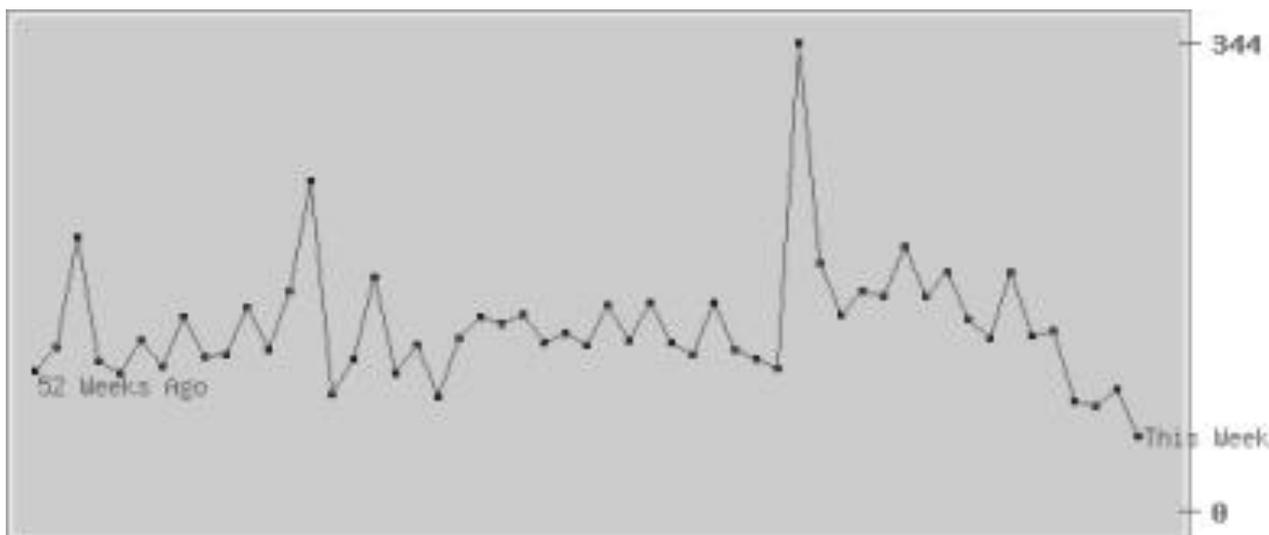
**Website Workings
By Roger Frisby**

The total number of website visits has now reached 61,120, an additional 2,020 visits since our May Journal.

Recent Website Visits:



The Past Month



The Past Year (The large spike corresponds to media coverage around the 1st July)

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

- Guernsey Roll of Honour – 1483 names (An increase of 2)
- Guernsey Roll of Service – 6584 names (An increase of 11)
- Jersey Roll of Honour – 1679 names (An increase of 2)
- Jersey Roll of Service – 7608 names (Unchanged) *

I visited and photographed a few more headstones on my way to the recent Thiepval commemorations and these are now included in our Rolls of Honour.

(*) An update, which is scheduled for the first week in September, currently includes a net addition of at least 90 further names as well as 434 amendments.

Unknown Islanders

The list of Unknown Islanders known to be buried in CWGC cemeteries is as shown below:

Guernseymen:

Honnechy Cemetery	II.A.18 II.A.40	II.A.19	II.A.24	II.A.25	II.A.26
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Outtersteene Cemetery	II.E.32 IV.A.53 IV.E.34	II.H.53 IV.E.28	II.H.60 IV.E.30	IV.A.44 IV.E.31	IV.A.50 IV.E.32
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Trois Arbres	II.K.11 II.L.5 II.O.25	II.K.26 II.M.26 II.O.27	II.K.27 II.M.31	II.L.2 II.M.35	II.L.4 II.O.24
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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.

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).

A Plod through Canadian Service Records – An Update

Records for men with surnames commencing 'J' and 'K' have been recently released, but, due to other commitments, they await analysis.

Billy Doos Notes from France

What a difference a year makes! Last year's June and July weather saw France sweltering in a heatwave, but for the same period this year, the dress of the day was invariably wet weather gear! Sadly, the weather in France was the least of that great nation's problems, what with general strikes and associated fuel shortages being threatened, the ongoing migrant problem at the Channel crossing ports, and the security crisis with the continuing sporadic terrorist attacks. However, personally speaking, those concerns fortunately impacted little, if anything, upon our travel arrangements, whilst it was comforting to being frequently surrounded by a dozen armed CRS officers breakfasting at the same time in the Ibis hotel at Coquelles.

In visiting a number of sites whilst on photographic sorties this year, one felt as if the builders were in, everywhere! Behind the Cemetery at Villers-Bretonneux there is work in progress to construct an interpretation centre that will open in 2018 (ANZAC Day?), while the Canadians, not to be outdone, are also constructing a centre that is scheduled to open next year (Vimy anniversary?). Meanwhile, the Historial at Peronne, the South African Memorial at Delville Wood, and the Franco-Australian Museum and Victoria School in Villers-Bretonneux were being altered or extended in various ways. However, the Historial itself was still accessible, while in Villers-Bretonneux the Franco-Australian Museum was temporarily lodged in the school hall, the Salle Victoria. The Salle provided a pleasant surprise in that its panelling is topped off with carvings of Australian wildlife such as the platypus.



Nieuport 10 Replica at Thiepval

The South African Memorial and the associated Information Centre were both closed, apparently for renovation, a particular disappointment having just read John Buchan's book (see Book Reviews) and wanting to compare data. Yet, there was not a single hard-hatted worker in sight! However, advice has since been received that both are again open throughout the week except for Mondays.

Others who attended will comment upon the ceremony at Thiepval on the 1st July, but, there was considerable effort being expended beforehand in laying temporary flooring, erecting tents for refreshments and off-loading Portaloo toilet facilities for the big day. However, for the two weeks leading up to the 24th June, access to the Visitors' Centre remained unhindered if occasionally a little muddy, while that to the Monument was controlled. As to visitor numbers, there appear to have been more this year than the corresponding periods over the last few years. Clearly the Centenary of the Battle has had an effect, supplemented somewhat by a large contingent of Northern Ireland football supporters who regularly made full use of the facilities at the Ulster Tower whilst waiting for the next match to be played, something that English supporters could not achieve!

With regards to Thiepval, many readers will already be familiar with the Visitors' Centre, and it has now been added to with the construction of a small museum, an offshoot so to speak from Peronne's Historial. In exhibit terms, much that is on display can be readily seen elsewhere, rusted coils of barbed wire, or a German machine gun on its stand. However, there is an excellent replica of George Guynemer's Nieuport 10 fighter (pictured on the previous page and below) to inspect, check oil levels, and if no one is looking, to kick the tyres to see that they are fully inflated.

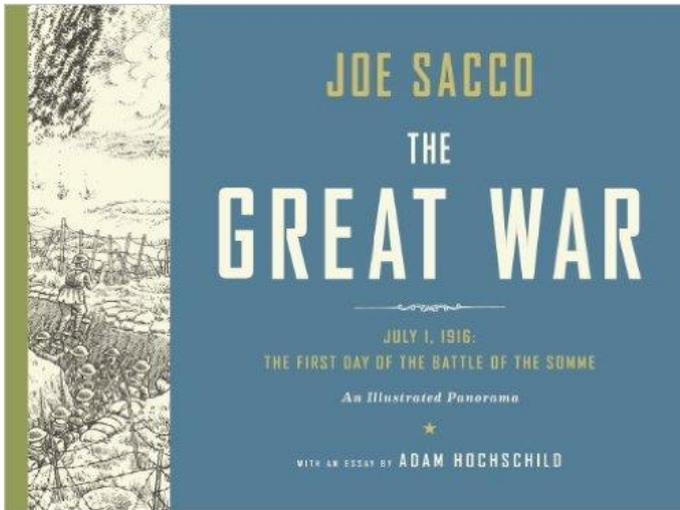


Nieuport 10 Replica at Thiepval

But, the *pièce de résistance* must be in the main *salle*, where, reminiscent of the Bayeux Tapestry, a backlit cartoon mural, more than 60 yards long depicts the First Day of the Battle of the Somme. This is a scaled up version of the 8 yard-long original work of cartoonist Joe Sacco, a Maltese-American. Mention cartoon, and one might think 'Beano'. But this is not so, as readers can judge from the long view shown right as well as the next few pictures. Very impressive!







If members would like to see more of the Sacco cartoon but cannot get to Thiepval anytime in the near future, they might like to look out for the book on Amazon, which is retailing at £16.59 at the time of writing, and which contains the full 8 yards!

In another commercial vein, it would not be a surprise if, within a few years, somebody would buy the rights to turning the work into a colouring book! I am certainly tempted to get my box of water colour paints out again.

Mention has not been made of this year's domestic arrangements for the memsahib and myself. A little unhappy with the gîte in Acheux-en-Amienois last year (too public, too ornate, poor Wi-Fi and parking facilities), we discovered a newly advertised gîte right in the middle of La Boisselle. Suitable for a couple for a fortnight, one would suggest that for two couples, a week's stay would be more appropriate. If members are interested, feel free to ask more.

Commemorating Verdun

Decisions, decisions! Should this be dealt with in 'Billy Doos', or as an item for 'In the Media'? The most obvious answer was as a separate article.

Members may recall that the official ceremony to commemorate the Battle of Verdun was planned to be held on the 29th May. Looking back over the immediate period following that event, little if anything featured in the British media as best as can be recalled, the lighting of an eternal flame by *Président* François Hollande and *Bundeskanzlerin* Angela Merkel inside the Ossuary at Douaumont being the only thing of note. At that time, the French TV websites for the France1 and France2 channels carried little more, seemingly interminable speeches, and a rather peculiar tableau showing the stampede, from the left and right hand ends of Douaumont's vast cemetery by some 3,500 German and French youngsters, the only events of note. Once the two sides met in the middle, they then indulged in mock fisticuffs before feigning death with a fairy tale character on stilts wandering through the recumbent bodies. Odd!

It was only about a month ago (after the Thiepval commemoration) that the following video was found on the YouTube website:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wl01mG83bk>

Members may wish to view some or all of the programme, but be warned, it is 3 hours 10 minutes long, from the France2 TV channel, while there appears to be a lot of 'talking heads' all too prepared to talk over what was going on. Commemorative events such as those at Verdun and Thiepval are rarely without a pause in proceedings, but, as ever, the BBC set the gold standard at Thiepval, and any comparison was a case of likening chalk and Camembert!

One gained the impression that M Hollande was taking his opposite number on a 'whistle stop' tour of the area, and in part that was understandable. Setting out by meeting the

burghers of Verdun with plenty of flesh pressing, there followed a visit to the *Deutscher Soldatenfriedhof* at Consenvoye where both leaders rightly paid their respects to the German war dead who are buried and commemorated there. Fleury-devant-Douaumont was the next port of call, where the *Mémorial* (the museum) was officially opened after its recent upgrade and refurbishment. That Hollande and Merkel could comfortably inspect the displays was a surprise given the presence of wall-to-wall dignitaries. As best as could be assessed from the video of the visit, it does look as if the *Mémorial* has been much improved, and I am looking forward to seeing it next month when I again visit Verdun.

The leaders' motor cavalcade now headed up to Douaumont to be greeted by a Guard of Honour provided by the two nations' services, as well as a detachment from the Franco-German Eurocorps. After a lengthy wait for the Guard to march off, the youngsters now ran on through the lines of headstones to indulge in their theatre, and this was followed by the speeches. From the point when the Guard had departed, the proceedings now took on the theme of peaceful reconciliation as opposed to that of commemorating the French and German fallen. M Hollande now emphasised the Franco-German relationship as being core to the European project of an ever-deeper political union. What was noticeable was that Jean-Claude Juncker and Martin Schulz, Presidents of the European Commission and European Parliament respectively, and were very much to the fore, standing alongside M Hollande and Frau Merkel, when the band struck up 'Ode to Joy'.

Given the foregoing, one must question whether the overtly politicised ceremony actually had any connection with remembering the dead of both sides. It was a question that many of the French to the right of M Hollande were posing. Similarly, given that the ceremony at Verdun took place just over three weeks before the UK referendum, one has the suspicion that the speeches and the tone of the event were subjected to a deliberate censorship of the British media to avoid reinforcing the arguments for Exit?

Around the Somme

With the extra significance of this year's Somme commemoration, it is not surprising that a number of Group members were roaming around the sector at various times during the latter half of June and the first week or so, of July. While dates did not always coincide, there were still a number of overlaps, the memsahib and I enjoyed a brief encounter with Ian Ronayne at Lochnagar Crater for example, whilst he was leading the latest Jersey Schools' visit to France and Flanders. But the different parties also visited different sites, so it is useful to compare notes. Therefore, thanks go to Daniel Benest, Alan Cross and Liz Walton for sharing their Somme 2016 tales in the next three items.

Our trip to the Somme sector, in commemoration of the Centenary. By Daniel Benest et Famille

Thankfully our drive up from St Malo on the 23rd June was uneventful, despite the threatened fuel shortages and Brexit, and we arrived in Rouen mid-afternoon. A parking space was found in the chaotic underground car park nearest to Hotel L'Europe and after freshening up we wandered off for some dinner which we had *al fresco* in one of the squares near to a Jeanne D'Arc memorial/church.

The following day we drove to Amiens, had lunch next to the cathedral, then visited it, wandered around the city centre, had an ice cream and then re-joined the road to Albert. We checked into the Hotel de la Paix being guided the last few miles by the Golden Virgin. Having negotiated our way past the amusing proprietor, we gathered ourselves for the

evening and went for a much needed drink in the Square. A couple of drinks later we vacated our windswept seats in order to stroll to the Corners Pub for a dinner with the **Bertrams**. As we approached the restaurant, the unmistakable Barrie and Margaret drove past and then a minute later Barrie drove past the other way *sans* Margaret. However, a short time later, with Barrie having found a parking space, we met up and a good time was had by all, but unfortunately, I could not tempt Margaret with one of my escargots.

Saturday morning was quite amusing by the fact that the proprietor at breakfast appeared to introduce himself as 'Oeuf'. I had not had my first coffee at that stage so I reintroduced myself as 'Daniel' and my wife 'Tracey'. This was met by a repeated 'Oeuf, Oeuf, Egg, you want sausage'. I decided to play along so I said 'Oui, full English s'il vous plait'. (Little things ...) This amused the English bods at the neighbouring table who said that I should go for it. 'It comes in a pretty bowl'. Well our six eggs certainly came in six little white bowls, however they looked as though they had been coming in the same bowls for a couple of days and had just been re-heated. The 'sausage' turned out to be a small mound of hot dogs. I knocked back a couple of each however the rest of party were less enthusiastic.



As we had been ticketless in the Somme ballot, Saturday at 2.00 pm was the time for our accompanied visit to the Thiepval Memorial. After that we visited the reception centre's centenary exhibits and its shop at the same time as it started to spit with rain so that was well timed. Later I remembered that we drove near Lochnagar and Sausage Valley, also Hébuterne and Serre Road No 2 Cemetery and I again found the grave (pictured left) of the 'Jersey penny man', the unknown soldier from the King's Own Royal Lancaster (KORL) Regiment whose remains were found near Serre Road No 2 just over ten years ago.

On Sunday we made our way, via Hesdin where we stopped for lunch, to our swanky gîte in Estrée-Wamin, a roomy cottage complete with Koi carp in the garden pond, a sauna, a hot tub and Sky TV.

Next day after being showered downstairs by the wife who was washing upstairs (Do French plumbers not use mastic?) we travelled to Abbeville where we lunched and shopped, then drove to the coast to a very picturesque St Valery-sur-Somme, where we wandered around, and took a few photos of the great steam train going past. (Note to self to return and take a trip on it next time). On the way home stopped at Pont Rémy train station which had been a transit point for troops during the Great War.

Tuesday we drove to Corbie, on the trail of the restaurant where my great-great uncle, Second Lieutenant Francis Hacquoil, obtained meat meals for the men of his RFA battery in May, 1916. The Hotel de Ville has subsequently emailed the location, thanks to a couple of old photos, and it appears to have been between the town hall and where we had coffee, waiting for **Liz Walton and Roger Frisby**. It was again great to put faces to

names. Next, our Jersey company drove to Péronne, via Cappy (nice little town), and had an excellent lunch, mine being a duck confit with vegetables and gravy plus beer, in the square opposite the Historial de la Grande Guerre. We visited the excellent museum and I thought there was more to see this time whilst the shop was also better. On the long drive back home we visited the CWGC Cemetery at Moeuvres, just west of Cambrai, to photograph Private Ernest Pallot's grave (of the London Scottish (14th Bn, London Regiment)) for a family friend and place a CWGC cross. A nice spot, beautifully tended, however, the cemetery is located next to a turkey farm!

Wednesday was a lovely weather day and we drove to Albert via Maily Maillet, had coffee and bought sandwiches, drove to the Ulster Tower, made use of the facilities by the cafe (Very useful for the female members of the group) and took good photographs of the wheat fields with an abundance of poppies growing though, in the direction of Beaumont-sur-Ancre. It was much busier than a few days earlier, with plenty of coaches and newly erected marquees. It seemed less official and more friendly than what was being organised next door at Thiepval. We drove through Beaumont Hamel, Auchonvillers and then decided on a walk around the Sunken Lane and Hawthorn Ridge. This developed into two-thirds of the Beaumont Hamel walk, as detailed in Paul Reed's *Walking the Somme* book. We ate our lunch with our backs to the wall of Hawthorn Ridge No 1 Cemetery and on our way back to the road, walked past Andy Robertshaw, the occasional TV historian, leading a group of Canadians. We followed the Sunken Lane up and turned left and along Watling Street and made the loop back to White City and past where Malins shot his famous footage of the Hawthorn Ridge mine being blown.

Thursday was dominated by the rain. We bought a few foodstuffs from Hesdin market, had coffee in Crécy (should have let the French have it!) and visited a partially turfed Wavans British Cemetery near Beauvoir Wavans, where amongst others, Flight Commander Robert Little DSO plus Bar, DSC plus Bar, RAF (Ex-RNAS) and Major James McCudden VC, DSO plus Bar, MC plus Bar, and MM, RAF (Ex-RFC) are buried.

Friday the 1st, July. THE DAY, however we avoided the Somme sector ironically, not having been successful with the tickets and drove to Arras. The French, you have to love them (?) had organised some kind of loud music festival at the Citadel so having parked a few streets away, as those to the Citadel were barred to cars, we walked to the Arras Memorial and paid our respects despite the booming pop music. Walking along the rows of graves, we left wondering whether gardeners had been pulled off this Arras sector to concentrate on the Somme for its centenary. The graves were fine but it was obvious the gardens had not been attended to for a few days with too many flowers that needed dead-heading! I left a little wooden CWGC cross commemorating my grandmother's first cousin, Cecil Waddington (KORL) who was killed on the 10th April, 1917 and John Myerscough (RMLI) who was killed eight days later, and who would have been my great-aunt's brother-in-law had he lived.

We had lunch by the Grande Place in the centre of Arras, wander around in the wet, and then drove off in the direction of Fampoux, Roeux and Gavrelle, the locations where Cecil and John had fallen 99 years previously. Using my *Walking Arras* book (again by Paul Reed), we drove around the area where the 1st Bn, KORL advanced on the 9th/10th April, 1917 and visited cemeteries of the sector including Sunken Road, Crump Trench and Roeux British. Crump Trench, alongside the motorway, was visited in the rain, was completely un-turfed and then I walked down the muddy track, in my deck shoes, with trees either side to the Roeux British Cemetery. It should have been called Mosquito Alley,

however, the site was found after 200 yards, up 10 or so steps. The site was beautiful and peaceful.



It was noticeable how many Household Battalion graves were found however I found only one KORL man. I returned to the car having had a word with the French CWGC gardener. **(Editor's Note:** The Household Battalion was formed as an infantry battalion in September, 1916 from men of the Household Cavalry Reserve Regiment. It went to France later that year, joining the 10th Brigade in 4th Division. It would disband in February, 1918 and the men would then be drafted to the Household Cavalry and the Foot Guards).

We drove to Gavrelle and sped after an ice cream van playing its tune and purchased three Magnums. I ate my Grand Marnier flavoured Magnum ice cream looking for RMLI and KORL graves at Chili Trench cemetery (as you do). As we travelled home we saw the Vimy Memorial on the ridge. I tried to find the Lonely House Cemetery as it appeared to have a Royal Naval Division connection with more than its fair share of RMLI graves but could not find it. When I got home I emailed the CWGC in France and they have informed me that these graves were moved to Point-du-Jour Military Cemetery.

Saturday, though mostly sunny, was blustery and we visited Montreuil market, photographed Haig (right) on his horse and had lunch. A trip to Azincourt followed and I took photographs of the 1415 field of battle and also ones of the nearby Chateau de Chabot Tramecourt.



We left the gîte on Sunday and drove down past St Quentin to Vailly-sur-Aisne in order to photograph the grave and cemetery of Lieutenant Frederick N Mollet (Hampshire Regt, attached RAF) for his JRoH page.

Vailly appears characterful enough to warrant a re-visit but at the cemetery I noticed the difference between the care of the CWGC and that of the municipal graves next door that were in the midst of being re-cycled! **(Editor:** Is that not the French Military Cemetery?)

Resuming our drive, we passed many signs for the Chemin-des-Dames on our way to Reims for lunch, Ricard and cocktails, then a walk inside the wonderful cathedral. The photographs of the inside have not come out too well which is a shame. We finished the day's travel at Troyes and had an *al-fresco* dinner, another wander around, and from our Hotel de la Gare, listened to the tooting delights of the French celebrating their Euro 2016 victory over Iceland till 2.00 am.



The neighbouring cemeteries of Vailly-sur-Aisne

On Monday we drove to Orléans via Montargis and Chateauneuf-sur-Loire (Ricard time). Then on Tuesday we drove back to Brittany and Cancale for seafood and rest via an unfortunate thirty-minute drive south at the start of the day and then back again courtesy of the wrong direction taken on the auto-route coming out of Orléans. Never mind, though a few blue words were mentioned at the time. We stayed again at the lovely Hotel Duguay-Trouin on the seafront. Finally, on Wednesday we had lunch with our French cousins in St Malo and then caught the Condor ferry back home that evening, having driven approximately 1450 miles during the trip.

On the Guernseymen's Trail By Alan Cross

On the 29th June, 2016 I was en-route to the Thiepval Memorial ceremony with Russell Doherty, leader of the Guernsey Military History Company, to see the places where the founders of the Guernsey Sporting Club had been involved in the Somme battles of early September, 1916. The first stop was at the village of Guillemont, captured from its German occupiers in the attack of 3rd September, despite the heavy losses that included nineteen Guernseymen of 'D' Company, 6th Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment (6RIRegt). In the next few days another five Guernsey volunteers serving with 'D' Company 7th Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers (7RIF), our Second Service Contingent also lost their lives in the attack on Combles. At the simple memorial cross to the 16th (Irish) Division alongside the Guillemont parish church we laid wreaths in memory of all these men.

We then visited the Guillemont Road Cemetery and found the grave of Private Eugene Coquelin of the Vale. Born in St Malo, he came with his parents to Guernsey as a child, and was killed in action on 3rd September 1916, aged 20. Outside the cemetery, we were surprised to see an unexploded shell, propped up nonchalantly against the perimeter wall. From Guillemont we followed the line of advance of 6RIRegt on the 9th September, 1916 towards the village of Ginchy, finding shrapnel balls and casings along the way. 6RIRegt suffered heavily in this attack and were forced to withdraw, with the loss of seven more Guernseymen of 'D' Company. 7RIF then reinforced the assault of the 16th Division, which was ultimately successful, but with the loss of six more Guernseymen, whose average age was only 20 years.

We next visited the Louverval Cemetery, dedicated to the men missing and with no known grave who fell in the Battle of Cambrai in November, 1917. This was a major engagement for the Guernsey conscript battalion, the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry, into which many of the original volunteers of 6RIRgt and 7RIF had been transferred. Another wreath was laid here 'in grateful and proud memory'.

Then on to the Monument to the Nations at Flesquières with its famous tank tracks embedded in the ground. It honours the regiments who took part in the Battle of Cambrai, including the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry.

The following day, 1st July, after the Thiepval Memorial ceremony, the third and final wreath was laid under the tablets commemorating Guernseymen whose graves are unknown, including 24 out of the 38 killed in these two actions.

This was a busy and an emotional visit, which left me with even more reason to admire the enormous resilience and courage of all those men.

The Commemoration of the Battle of the Somme at Thiepval, 1st July, 2016 By Liz Walton

The UK's national commemorative event to mark the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme was held at the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing on the 1st July, 2016. A public ballot for tickets to attend the event had been held in the autumn of 2015 and two members of the group were fortunate enough to have won pairs of tickets which enabled four of us, Alan Cross, Russell Doherty, Roger Frisby and myself, to attend.

We had to fill in numerous forms beforehand, and received large amounts of information about what we could and could not be able to do on the day, and more especially about travel as the area around Thiepval was in total lock-down. The reason for this was the high state of alert in France as result of recent terrorist activities, and the fact that it was a high profile event with members of the British Royal Family, many Heads of State and military personnel in attendance as well as a large number of members of the public.

It was a damp, grey morning when we set out for Albert airport where we had to park and take the coaches which were the only transport allowed within the exclusion zone. We had to go through security checks and searches and were wrist-banded before being allowed to board the coaches. These left in small convoys and travelled through roads where all the signs were blacked out. Armed personnel guarded every junction and closed the roads after the coaches passed through. Even farm tracks had an armed guard at the junction with the roads.

We were given a bag containing a programme of events and a number of souvenir items. In addition, we were also issued with a refillable water bottle as we were not allowed to take in any drinks, and a plastic rain cape since no umbrellas were allowed. On arrival at Thiepval we walked through displays of tanks and a WW1 plane and were taken to our seats. These were in the main area in front of the memorial itself, just over half way back and to the right.



The overnight military vigil under the main arch of the memorial was still in place.



The military vigil party pictured above included senior NCOs from Ireland, Germany, Australia and France.

Before the main ceremony started a specially edited version of the Imperial War Museum's film 'The Battle of the Somme' was shown on the big screens on either side of the memorial. This was accompanied by specially commissioned music played live by the BBC Symphony Orchestra.



Then the VIP guests began to arrive. They included the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Prince Harry, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, the British Prime Minister, David Cameron, a former President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Horst Köhler, and the French President, François Hollande. During this period, we were entertained by music from the Band of the Welsh Guards and *La Musique Principale de L'Armée de Terre*. It was all very stirring stuff with each band seemingly trying to outplay the other.

Throughout the ceremony itself we were asked not to take photographs but sadly some people (albeit a very small number) were waving cameras, iPads and mobile phones in the air. However, it was fortunately not enough to detract from the solemnity and emotion of the event. Despite the fact that thousands of people were present it was so quiet that you could hear birds singing in the trees alongside the Memorial. At one stage, when the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery rode into the park with their WW1 gun carriages and

you could hear the hooves and the wheels long before the Troop arrived. It sounded eery as they came up out of the mist and drizzle to take their place near the Memorial.

The narrators, Charles Dance, Joely Richardson and Jason Isaacs linked the readings and music seamlessly and every word could be heard clearly. Extracts from letters written by soldiers who fought on the Somme were read by relatives or by men and women from the same units who had the same regional accents. Extracts from accounts of the battle and poems of the period were read by the Prince of Wales, Prime Minister David Cameron, President François Hollande and the narrators.

One of the most moving moments was a performance in Gaelic of 'The White Swan', a love song by Donald MacDonald who served with the Cameron Highlanders and who wrote it during the Battle of the Somme for his sweetheart Maggie Macleod. The lone singer stood under the arch at Thiepval, accompanied only by a viola, guitar and harmonium. Other pieces of music included 'Keep The Home Fires burning' by the Morrision Male Voice Choir, accompanied by the Band of the Welsh Guards and a French popular song of the period, 'Le Madelon' performed by Le Choeur de l'Armée Française

The service itself began with a solo tenor singing the first verse of 'Abide with Me'. He was then joined by the entire assembly for the remainder of the hymn. The Archbishop of Canterbury then said prayers and Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission read the poem 'For the Fallen' by Laurence Binyon. The Last Post and La Sonnerie aux Morts were sounded before a two minute silence, during which time thousands of poppies and cornflowers fell from the roof of Memorial. The Royal Horse Artillery's guns fired to mark the end of the Silence, and the Reveille was sounded.

While the BBC Symphony Orchestra played 'The Banks of Green Willow' (its composer, George Sainton Kaye Butterworth was killed on the Somme and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial) wreaths were laid at the Cross of Sacrifice by the various dignitaries and representatives of nations that had fought in the battle. A lone piper played a lament, 'The Battle of the Somme' while French, English and Irish schoolchildren laid wreaths on each grave in the cemetery beyond the Memorial. Following the British National Anthem and La Marseillaise guests were able to file through and lay wreaths at the Cross. I laid one in memory of all Channel Islanders who fell on the Somme.

By this time the rain was pouring down and the rain capes were much appreciated. We collected packed lunches and ate them in marquees erected between the memorial and the museum. The huge crowds were such that conditions were not ideal to try to visit the museum and by then the sun had come out again so we exchanged experiences with other visitors and sat on the hilly areas awaiting our coaches back to Albert. Unfortunately, the journey back was somewhat delayed by people turning up at the wrong times for coaches, then again at Albert where everything went into lock-down while we awaited the delayed arrival of the Prince of Wales and the other members of the Royal Family who were flying back to the UK.

Apart from that everything went like clockwork and the organisers should be congratulated on creating such an impressive and moving event. Beforehand I had been rather concerned that creating such a huge event in times of high security would mean that the ordinary guests would feel as if they were on the fringes watching a performance but the atmosphere was such that it was a very emotional experience and I and many others shed a few tears during the ceremony. (Editor: Some of us did so too, watching it on TV.)

Finally, from Thiepval...

A New Zealand officer reading and reflecting upon the inscriptions on the headstones with, in the rear to the right, the BBC's outside broadcasting chalet.



Below, the departure of members of the military vigil party, heading back to their beds to enjoy a sleep in a few cases.



A view of the Thiepval Memorial rarely seen. I forget where it was exhibited, but I recently saw the inauguration ceremony's programme dated the 18th May, 1932. But as Group members know, the Memorial was actually inaugurated on the 1st August, 1932 by the then Prince of Wales and President Albert Le Brun of France. A rather unfortunate typo one may think? No, a rather more serious event occurred with President Le Brun's predecessor, Paul Doumer, being assassinated on the 7th May! Now, that was unfortunate, and in due deference to the French nation, the inauguration ceremony was postponed.



Wreath Laying



Liz Walton lays a wreath at Thiepval, to all Channel Islanders who died during the Battle of the Somme, following the Commemoration on the 1st July, while Russell Doherty also lays

a wreath at the 16th (Irish) Division Memorial at Guillemont on the Somme, in memory of Guernsey volunteers in 'D' Company, 6th Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment.

The Gosset Family

Have you ever read a book when a phrase, a word, or a name suddenly jumps out of the page at you, triggering some long-forgotten event or memory? It was so in my case, whilst reading the following passage in Peter Hodgkinson's book, 'British Infantry Battalion Commanders in the First World War' (See Book Review):

It was therefore of note that on the evening of Friday 13 March 1891, attendees at the Royal United Services Institute sat to listen to Colonel Matthew Gosset (who had commanded the 1st Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment, 1884–88) discourse on 'Battalion Command'. He viewed the topic as important because in an army where 'so much more is demanded of all ranks than formerly', battalion command was 'a much more difficult task than of old'. Having much to say on discipline, he observed that 'you cannot rule 800 men with rose-water'. He, however, wisely insisted that an effective CO must 'have the good will of the men. If he has not, he has no right to be in the position he holds.' He continued:

The commanding officer of a battalion is the life and soul of it – he must have his eye on everything, know everyone's wants, and never imagine, because he has established a good system, that it will keep going without a perpetual greasing of the wheels.

He reiterated the importance of the CO's relationship with his officers, and recommended the principle of decentralisation as 'one of the most important questions relating to command', realising (although he did not express it in this way) that 'giving enough responsibility to subordinates' increased a sense of ownership and enhanced the probability of responsibility being taken to ensure things went right. He viewed education and training as highly important and sought to ensure that each soldier had a grasp of his regiment's heritage. At the end of the discussion, the chairman, General AJ Herbert, a Crimea veteran, concluded that Gosset's presentation was 'the most instructive and most interesting lecture that I have heard for a long time'. To modern eyes, Gosset's observations may seem somewhat banal, but this would be an unfair judgement given the climate of the time: he was pre-empting material on leadership that Senior Officers' School would be expanding on and expounding a quarter of a century later.

One can discount the suggestion that Colonel Gosset's strictures might run the risk of being banal, the good advice then rings just as true in today's civilian workplace and it does indicate, on the Colonel's part at least, some forward thinking as to military man management (And the Army produced a Manual on it, I have a copy somewhere!). But what of the Colonel, having commanded a Dorsetshire Battalion, was there a Channel Island connection? The only good reason that I could think to prompt the question was being aware of the existence of Le Clos Gosset, just off the Bagot Road in St Saviour.

Thankfully, help was soon at hand with www.theislandwiki.org which contains the family tree of Jean Gosset (1650-1712) who came to Jersey in 1685, thanks to the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. The Edict, signed in 1598, had given the protestant Huguenots the same rights of worship as the Catholics, however, when the Revocation was signed, the Huguenots now fled France in their droves to avoid religious persecution by the Catholic

majority. The refugees would now find themselves in the UK, South Africa, Prussia and America. Jean Gosset turned up in Jersey, hailing originally from the Vendee, but coming via St Sauveur in Normandy. In subsequent years, descendants of Jean would settle in Jersey and acquire Bagot Manor.



Major-General Sir Matthew WE Gosset KCB
(Courtesy The Keep Museum)

Although he was not born in Jersey, Matthew William Edward Gosset was the seventh generation of Jean's family tree, being born in Beckenham, Kent on the 6th July, 1839, and dying on the 27th March, 1909 in Denham, Essex, having been knighted and promoted Major-General. However, using Ancestry, we find that it is through his father Arthur (1800-1886), a Major in the Royal Artillery, that we can establish the Jersey link, Arthur having been born at Bagot.

We also find Matthew's younger brother, Edward Frankland, a Lieutenant Colonel during the Great War who would command the 19th Battalion, King's Liverpool Regiment for just over a year from 1st September, 1914 as it was being raised by Lord Derby.

Spreading the net slightly wider looking into the Gosset family, many others appeared to fare well in their lives, naval and military service being a popular choice with a burgeoning British Empire. In addition to Matthew, another two, if not three, also reached the rank of Major-General, while there would also be a Rear-Admiral in their midst, along with many of lower ranks. One descendant, fifth generation Matthew, would marry Grace, the daughter of Admiral Sir Thomas Frankland, 5th Baronet, himself a descendant of Oliver Cromwell.



PTE. ISAAC C. GOSSET,
8th, Southland, Co.,
Missing.



Lieutenant W. B. Gosset
Royal Field Artillery. He joined the
regiment in December, 1912. He was
killed in action in November, 1914

Unsurprisingly there were also Great War casualties:

- Second Lieutenant William Beresford Gosset. The son of Beresford Smyly Gosset and Mary Jean Gosset (nee Davidson). KIA while serving with 115th Battery, RFA on the 1st November 1914, aged 20 and having been mentioned in despatches. Buried at Ypres Town Cemetery (Grave E2.12).
- 8/1245 Private Isaac Charles Gosset. The son of Charles Hilgrove Gosset and Helen Low Gosset (nee Morrison). Killed while serving with the Otago Regiment, NZEF on the 2nd May, 1915, aged 25. Commemorated on Panel 75 of the Lone Pine Memorial at Gallipoli.
- Major Claude Butler Gosset. The son of Thomas William Butler Gosset and Alice Lee Gosset (nee Bevan). Died of pneumonia while attached to 19th Signal Company, RE from the 6th Battalion, Cheshire Regiment on the 16th February, 1916, aged 36. Buried at Longuenesse (St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery (Grave II.B.28).
- Captain Rene Frankland Gosset. The son of Colonel Edward Frankland Gosset and Mary Mabel Gosset (nee Vidal). KIA while serving with 1st Battalion, East Yorkshire Regiment on the 25th September, 1916, aged 25. Buried at Serre Road No 2 Cemetery (Grave XVI.G.9).



In looking at the Gossets and the Great War, one cannot forget either that the Bailiff of Jersey during that period, (Sir) William H Venables Vernon, had also married Julia Matilda Gosset, and one could assume that she would have been privy to much that was going on in relation to Jersey's role.

Moving on to the present day, it appears that, save for Le Clos Gosset, the family's name has sadly vanished, other than on headstones in the Island's cemeteries. The www.theislandwiki.org website does provide some useful information, but it needs to be updated.

Perhaps Peter's reference to an officer, who would possibly come to be regarded as 'a modern Major-General' might be the catalyst for further research into the Gosset family in war and peace?

An unknown Somerset Light Infantry officer

The background of 23427 Pioneer Albert Victor Bonfield of 4th Divisional Signal Company, RE who enlisted in Jersey, and who, according to the CWGC Register of Honour, was killed on the 1st July, 1916, was recently being investigated, when, on his CWGC Burial Return, it was discovered that his remains were found in 1924, along with those of an unknown British officer, and both were buried at Pargny British Cemetery. According to the Return, both men's remains had been found at the map referenced location, 57d.K.35.a.51.16, which is in the vicinity of the Serre Road, near to the present day Serre Road No 2 Cemetery. Amongst the officer's remains there was a compass engraved or stamped with the name RC Strachey, and although the analysis may appear tenuous, it would suggest that the unknown officer was from the 1st Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry.

First of all, the location of the men's remains was in the area of the battlefield assigned to the Battalion. Secondly, and more pertinently, the only officer with the engraved name was Captain Richard Clive (or Clive Richard) Strachey, MC who was with the Battalion, and who would survive the War, dying in 1979. Thirdly, Pioneer Bonfield's unit was in 4th Division, as was the Battalion, and amongst other tasks it was there to provide telephone communications. Giving the foregoing, one could suggest that the unknown officer was tasked to observe and report back on the progress of the Battalion in its attack of the 1st July, had been accompanied by Pioneer Bonfield to lay out telephone wires and carry equipment, and had been loaned the compass by Captain Strachey to take bearings. Both men were probably killed by a shell.

Returning to the CWGC Register of Honour, the following four officers with the 1st Battalion were killed that day, and have no known graves:

- Lt Edward Crozier MacBryan
- 2Lt Ralph Ellis Dunn
- 2Lt Philip Clifford Knight
- 2Lt William Herbert Treasure

So, it is quite likely that the unknown British officer was one of those.

But, a further three officers from the 1st Battalion were killed the following day, and they also have no known graves, yet cannot be totally discounted:

- Lt Valentine Ashworth Braithwaite
- Lt Thomas Marriott Dodington
- 2Lt James Annandale Johnston

In addition to Albert Bonfield's link to Jersey, there is another with Lt Valentine Braithwaite who was OV General Sir Walter Pipon Braithwaite's son. Meanwhile, the Holts suggest that Lt Braithwaite was killed on the first day.

There were no officers killed on the 3rd and 4th July with unknown graves.

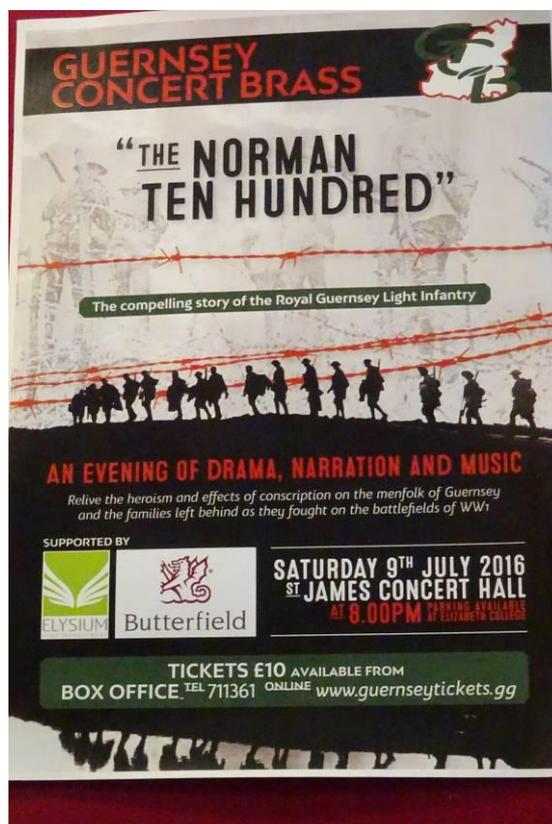
With regards to the compass, contact has been made with Kelvin Hughes Marine Systems in Enfield who are the successor company to Hughes and Son. They have advised that, regrettably, manufacturing and customer service records were destroyed during the blitz. From that point of view, it would be impossible to determine whether Captain Strachey was ever reunited with the compass, and if he saw it necessary to have it reconditioned or repaired.

This information has been forwarded to the Somerset Military Museum in Taunton Castle, in the hope that it might arouse interest amongst their researchers, who would surely be far more familiar with what happened to the 1st Battalion on the 1st July, 1916 as well as the days following, and that they might consider approaching the CWGC with a recommended name in the event that the evidence is sound.

Norman Ten Hundred By Liz Walton

For one night only, on the 9th July, the Guernsey Concert Brass and Chorus put on 'an evening of drama narration and music' telling the story of the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry. The event was held at St James' Concert and Assembly Hall (formerly the Garrison Church) in the presence of His Excellency Vice-Admiral Sir Ian Corder, KBE, CB, the very recently appointed Lieutenant Governor of Guernsey, and the Bailiff of Guernsey, Sir Richard Collas. The stage and the Dorey room where people congregated afterwards were decorated by the 1500 Guernsey Poppies project.

The story was told in the form of letters between a fictional couple, Louise and Albert and these were interspersed with pieces of music relating to the RGLI or that were popular at the time.



These included 'Light of Foot', the Royal Guernsey Militia's Quick March and a piece written specially for the evening by Alan West, the band's musical director. Called 'Cambrai' it was based upon an extract from the 'Chanson de Roland', a Norman marching

song later taken up by the RGLI, a 1916 press cutting having provided a fragment of the first theme and to this Alan added further themes and a bugle fanfare to create a full march. Other popular marches of the era played by the band were 'Colonel Bogey', 'The Vanished Army' and Elgar's 'Pomp and Circumstance March, No 4'. Alan West also arranged a selection of popular songs of the period into a medley for band and chorus entitled simply 'WW1 Memories'. One particularly moving piece was a setting for narrator and band of Laurence Binyon's well known poem 'For the Fallen'. This incorporated quotes from other pieces of music including Holst's 'I Vow to Thee My Country', 'It's a Long Way to Tipperary' and the Last Post. Another piece of music was a relatively modern piece entitled 'The Strangest Dream' which is a plea to end all wars.

The concert played to a full house and was very well received. The combination of stirring marches, quiet, reflective readings and sentimental old songs together with new arrangements and more modern music was a great success and was a very moving commemoration of the RGLI's short and tragic time as a fighting force.

(Editor's Note: Has anybody thought of establishing whether a CD is being produced by the Guernsey Concert Brass and Chorus (and others?) of the evening's programme? Or at least suggesting one? Thought that I would just ask!)

The Jersey Archive

The 'Blue' Registration Forms and Registration Cards and the Indexes of Birth continue to prove exceptionally useful, although processing the latter tends to be laborious. Meanwhile, a further name for the JRoH has now been found.

For the fifth year in a row, Jersey Heritage is 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 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

Museum Watch

Border Regimental Museum: At long last, thanks in part to a planned attendance to hear a couple of interesting talks on the Great War being given there, effort was made to visit the Border Regiment's Museum at Carlisle, although the Museum is now actually called 'Cumbria's Museum of Military Life'

Its website is:

(<http://www.cumbriasmuseumofmilitarylife.org/>)

and it is housed in the Alma Block which is located in the courtyard of Carlisle Castle. The Castle was the Border Regiment's Depot from 1873 until 1959, and the accommodation blocks are named after the Regiment's battles (including Gallipoli and Ypres), are also there.



It covers much of the county's military history since 1702, although Cumbria was only created as a county as recently as 1974, largely on the back of merging Cumberland and Westmoreland. However, these two former counties were added to with a chunk of the West Riding of Yorkshire as well as the area known as Lancashire over the Sands. The incorporation of the last mentioned area saw the towns of Ulverston and ship- and submarine-building Barrow-in-Furness, for example, becoming part of the newly created county.

For the Museum's part, its collection focuses on the Border Regiment ranging from its predecessors, the 34th (Cumberland) and the 55th (Westmoreland) Regiments of Foot, up until 1959 when the Regiment was amalgamated with the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment to form the King's Own Royal Border Regiment, and the more recent amalgamation in 2006 that produced the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment. In addition, the collection also deals with the artefacts from the successor Regiments following subsequent changes.



The Museum is well laid out, clean, whilst the displays are well-lit as can be seen in some of the accompanying photographs. Furthermore, one can read the signage! There are a number of TV screens, dispersed among the displays, recounting the Regiment's history. One comment from the public is that it is comparable to the Great War galleries at the IWM. One is tempted to agree, and whilst the IWM has more on display, Carlisle is less cluttered although there is little difference in the range of artefacts from those seen in other regimental museums of a similar size.



There is, of course, the obligatory trench scene complete with a soldier mannequin, but no rats were spotted, stuffed or otherwise! Currently, the temporary display room is given over to the Somme, but largely consists a display of letters and photographs.

If you are passing, access from the M6 Junction 43 is good, but you have to go past the Castle's front along Castle Way to loop back on yourself for the adjacent car park. There is a small (should I say *bijou*?) café in the Museum, which is a little nondescript. But overall, the Museum is well worth visiting if you've a few hours to spare when heading to or from Scotland.

Incidentally, the talks on the Border Regiment, particularly the Lonsdale Battalion, and Gretna Green's role in the manufacture of cordite were excellent, especially the latter one.

King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment: Lodged in the old Town Hall building with the City Museum, the King's Own Museum, <http://www.kingsownmuseum.com/>, is not as swish as the Border Regiment's, it is smaller, yet it is well-laid out in the space that has been allocated, and the temporary display rooms are in use for '141 Days: The Battle of the Somme'.

The '141' display is better than that of the Borders, but this is possibly due to the fact that the King's Own can bring out more from its store, whereas the Border Regiment's material is already in the permanent display. Oddly, among the more interesting displays there were the large scale aerial photographs of Guillemont and Ginchy, 'before and after'. The term 'moon landscape' is often used to describe areas that have been shelled, in the case of these two villages, some more stark term is required. The display also featured Private James Miller's VC pictured right.

Noting that Daniel Benest mentioned it in his article (see page 28), the collection of coins that included the Jersey penny were also on display. Some members may recall that some of our research had gone into trying to identify who the King's Own man was from the 87 names of those who were missing, some ten years ago, but regrettably without success. Perhaps the penny's 'reappearance' should be seen as a prompt for the research to be revisited given that there is more data available via Ancestry and FMP?



Access to Lancaster from the M6 is currently trickier, with traffic jams and Junction 34 being England's current 'Cone Capital'! Any museum visit would be more appropriate as part of an overnight break, while nearby parking is non-existent.

Visiting New Zealand? – Two excellent exhibitions to visit By Elizabeth Morey

If anyone is travelling to New Zealand in the next couple of years, there are two Great War exhibitions in Wellington that are a 'must' to visit.

Gallipoli: The Scale of our War at Te Papa. One of the exhibitions is 'Gallipoli: The Scale of our War' at Te Papa: The Museum of New Zealand. This exhibition was designed and crafted by Sir Richard Taylor and his team at Weta Workshop.



This exhibition features sculptures of seven New Zealand soldiers and one nurse. The sculptures are much larger than life (2.4 times human size) and are amazingly life-like. They all reflect the emotions experienced by the men and women of the NZEF during the Gallipoli Campaign. As well as the sculptures, there is so much more – all highlighting the experiences of Kiwis during the campaign.

The sculpture of the nurse is that of Charlotte (Lottie) Le Gallais. It shows her in her nurse's uniform, weeping as she reads a letter informing her of her brother's Leddie's death on Gallipoli, he having been killed four months earlier.

(**Editor:** To whet their appetites, Members may wish to visit the following link:

<http://gallipoli.tepapa.govt.nz/>

The Great War Exhibition at The Dominion Building, Pukeahu National War Memorial Park: The historic Dominion Building, in which the exhibition is housed, is located just behind Pukeahu National War Memorial Park which incorporates the New Zealand National War Memorial, the Hall of Memories and the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior. The Maori name for the area, Pukeahu, very fittingly means 'Sacred Hill'.

The Great War Exhibition (<http://www.greatwarexhibition.nz/>) was created by Sir Peter Jackson, Wingnut Films and Weta Workshop. The exhibition has many items from Sir Peter's own collection and covers New Zealand's involvement in the Great War, including the Gallipoli Campaign. Starting with a replica Belgian village in peace time, the visitor then progresses through a series of exhibitions covering the years 1914 (Over by Christmas), 1915 (Digging In), 1916 (Flesh and Steel), 1917 (Muddy Progress) and 1918 (Last Man Standing). Each of these exhibitions is entered by passing through a giant replica of a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone with the year engraved at the top. There is so much to see, and my particular favourites were the dioramas of Chunuk Bair and a small part of the Western Front.

Sir Richard Taylor, Sir Peter Jackson and the teams at Weta Workshop and Wingnut Films (all of the 'Lord of the Rings' and other movies fame) are extremely talented. Both exhibitions are highly recommended if you have a day to spare in New Zealand. They were opened in April 2015, and run until April, 2019.

(**Editor:** Elizabeth makes a very tempting case to visit New Zealand, if only to take in the Museums. Perhaps somebody will visit and report back at some time in the near future?)

Faces Remembered

Curious what a simple Book Review turns up, it was a surprise to see Lottie Le Gallais featuring, larger than life so to speak, in Te Papa's Gallipoli exhibition.

Looking far more attractive than her 13-foot high sculpture, Lottie is pictured in her nurse's uniform right. Her brother Leddie is shown below and below right, with their brother Owen. Owen would serve with the NZ Labour Corps, but survived the War, having been medically evacuated back to NZ from the UK on health grounds in early 1918.

As a general point, one wonders how many expatriate Islanders and descendants of Islanders took the opportunity to visit whilst they were serving in the UK or France. Did Lottie and Owen do so?

(Photographs courtesy Auckland Museum)



PRIVATE LEDDRA LE GALLAIS.
Auckland Infantry Battalion.
Killed in action



**The Battle of Jutland Centenary Anniversary Commemoration (31st May, 1916)
St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkham, Orkney and the Lyness RN Cemetery, Hoy
By Ned Malet de Carteret**

The morning of Tuesday the 31st May, 2016 saw a windy and overcast start to the day as Balfour Wylie (the owner of Scapa House Bed and Breakfast, my billet for four nights, and Deputy Beadle at St Magnus Cathedral) drove me to the Old Bus Station in Kirkwall where I joined up with 150 relatives of some of brave British sailors who lost their lives at the Battle of Jutland.

After a half hour delay we headed off in three coaches on the twenty-minute drive to catch the Houton ferry. Once upon the grey waters for a forty-minute voyage we could see, through the mist in Scapa Flow, HMS Kent (a Type 23 'Duke' class frigate) and the FGS Schleswig Holstein (a 'Brandenburg' class frigate) who were to be our guard ships for the day. In Kirkwall harbour was HMS Bulwark (an 'Albion' class assault ship) which was busy housing the RN Memorial Guard Party and the Band of the Royal Marines (Portsmouth), as well as undertaking various ferrying duties using their landing craft between Mainland and Hoy. Also, the Northern Lighthouse Board's vessel, the NLV Pharos, was moored in Kirkwall Harbour, and this was used as accommodation for the Royal Party. The ferry route took us over some of the still present scuttled German battleships from 1919.



On our arrival on Hoy several members from the coaches went to visit the Museum (I had already done so on the previous Sunday, having walked to the Old Man of Hoy (pictured left)).

I arrived at the hospitality tent at Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery and spoke to the Captain in charge of the Sea Scouts for Scotland and a young naval cadet from Northern Ireland who was to participate in the ceremony. The man in charge of the event, a Royal Marine, was working next to me assiduously for half an hour!

The Memorial Service from St Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall, remembering both German and the British sailors, was led by the Reverend Fraser Macnaughton, and was beamed to us on three large TV screens and so we were able to participate in the service remotely. The service was attended by Jersey's Bailiff, William Bailhache (Editor: Spotted him on TV). Prior to the Memorial Service, wreaths were laid at the adjacent WW1 Memorial archway by HRH Princess Royal (on behalf of Prince Philip who was indisposed) and the President of Germany, Joachim Gauck. The service from the beautiful red sandstone Cathedral included readings by both British and German serving officers and by David Cameron and the German President.

After the emotional service came to a close, we broke for a hot buffet lunch and soft drinks. The fellow Jutland relatives in my group consisted of those whose ancestors had fought with the battle cruisers, HMS Lion, Tiger, Queen Mary, Invincible and others of the 5th Battle Squadron, and the dreadnought, HMS Warspite. We were conducted to our seats outside the marquee on the terrace overlooking the Cross of Remembrance and cemetery.

The Band of the Royal Marines, The Stromness Royal British Legion Pipe band and the *Marinemusikkorps* (the German Navy Band) from Kiel entertained us before the arrival of the VVIP's and VIP's including the new First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Philip Jones and Vice-Admiral Andreas Krause, the Chief of the German Navy.



The Three Bands

(Ned's photograph encapsulates the bleakness that many of us associate with Scapa Flow)

The VVIP party consisting of HRH Princes Anne, her husband, Vice-Admiral Sir Timothy Laurence, the President of Germany, Joachim Gauck and the Prime Minister, David Cameron joined us at 14.30pm on Hoy for our service. They had been ferried across Scapa Flow by British 'P boats' ('Archer' Class Fast Training Boats, assigned to University RN Units, that provide young University educated Lieutenants with their first taste of command). HMS Kent fired a twenty-gun-gun salute to greet the Royal Party. Wreaths were laid by all of the Royal Party, dignitaries from Commonwealth countries (consuls) and the ranking Admirals at the Cross of Remembrance.

The service was conducted with readings given by relatives of those lost from Britain including Admiral Sir John Jellicoe's great-grandson, fifteen-year-old Joseph Herber Percy, whose relative was also killed on HMS Queen Mary and Vice Admiral Sir David Beatty's great-grandson, seventeen-year-old Ivo Beatty. German naval personnel also participated. Readings were also given by Princess Anne and Vice-Admiral Sir Tim Laurence. Hymns were sung and prayers said by both Chaplains of the respective navies. After the service my party was introduced to Princess Anne whilst others met David Cameron.

I then went to be interviewed by the BBC (Robert Hall) and finally I set off on my most important mission of the day, to lay my wreath on behalf of the Parish of St Helier and many Royal British Legion wooden crosses for various Jerseymen, including ones for Philip Renouf Le Cornu (HMS Malaya) and Walter Bertram de Ste Croix (HMS Hampshire) who have known graves. There are very few indeed for the 6,500 men who were lost at sea during the battle. Twelve men from the twenty-seven Jersey casualties were lost from the Parish of St Helier, namely:

PO 1st Class John Alexander de Caen (37)
Lieutenant Stanley Nelson de Quetteville (28)
PO Stoker Francis Gregory (34)
Surgeon Maurice Henry de Jersey Harper (26)
Ships Steward 2nd Class William George Hill (26)
Chief Armourer Charles Edward Humphrys (33)
Stoker Percy Nicholas Kendall (26)
Leading Stoker Frederick George Lufkin (28)
PO Albert Winter Reed (30)
Chief Cook Samuel Edward Rumsey (36)
AB Alfred Peter Tisson (20)
ERA 3rd Class Henry Wilson (24)

The other fifteen who lost their lives were:

Stoker 1st Class Henry Louis Cotillard (23)
Blacksmith Otto Drube (34)
Midshipman Dennis Gerald Ambrose Goddard (18)
CPO Stoker Richard Henry Gore (41)
Ordinary Seaman Victor Alexander Augustine Johnson
Armourer Philip Renouf Le Cornu (37)
Lieutenant John T Le Seelleur (27)
Midshipman Philip Reginald Malet de Carteret (18)
Leading Stoker William Philip Moyse (35)
Stoker Philip Poingdestre (21)
Leading Stoker Arthur Charles Pralle (33)
Leading Seaman George Touzel Vardon (31)
PO Stoker Alfred James Vigot (38)
PO William James Wakley (31)
CERA 1st Class Alfred Wakley (41)

As Members can see by their ages most of the men were not young.

The Royal Navy's newest Type 42 'Daring' class destroyer, HMS Duncan, and the German Navy's FGS Brandenburg had previously sailed for Jutland and were above the battleship wrecks during the afternoon to jointly cast poppies and forget-me-nots onto the cold waters as a mark of respect to the men who died. The whole experience was just so very moving, and I was immensely proud and privileged to have been there on this most special for me of remembrance days, one hundred years to the day that my great-uncle Midshipman Philip Reginald Malet de Carteret was lost on HMS Queen Mary along with 1,265 of his fellow sailors.

We must never forget them.

Ronayne Writes

2016 WW1 School Tour: Since the last Journal, another party of pupils and their teachers from Jersey's schools have been taken to the former battlefields in France and Belgium, with the focus on Jersey's involvement in WW1.

This second of the four planned annual tours went smoothly (the process is bedding in now), despite grim weather on days 1 and 2. We followed the same itinerary as last year, namely sites, memorials, museums and cemeteries. Interestingly, some of the teachers who were on their second visit commented that they got much more out of the visit this year. Time was taken to visit the graves or memorials of five men from Jersey who lost their lives. The experience, which included pre- and post-tour workshops, seems to have gone down very well with the majority of the students, who were a credit to their schools and to the Island. Meanwhile, planning for 2017 has already started.



The 'Class of 2016' at Vimy Ridge

The Unveiling of the Jersey Contingent Memorial and Somme Commemoration: On the 1st July, 2016, a modest crowd of onlookers gathered at the Weighbridge in St Helier to watch the Bailiff of Jersey and the Lieutenant Governor unveil the Great War Arch and memorial of the Jersey Contingent. Although modest, it was a decent turnout given the poor weather and the time of day, namely lunchtime.

Both monuments are the brainchildren of local historian Frank Falle, who was particularly taken by the Jersey Contingent's story, especially the number of medals that the small group won (for example, seven MMs in one day). Frank's persistence, badgering, appealing, fund-raising, delegating and supporting drove a number of individuals and groups to erect the memorials, no easy feat. Having been persuaded that they were a necessity, the States swung in behind the project, which was great to see.

The original plan was for the two monuments' unveiling to be part of a Somme commemoration ceremony held that evening at the Weighbridge. On police advice, however, the event moved to Howard Davis Park, given that there was little chance of a

minute's silence given that the Weighbridge is at the heart of St Helier's nightlife and it was a Friday!

The Howard Davis Park ceremony turned out well – a mix of images, speeches, music, readings and military displays. The setting was appropriate given Howard Davis' connection to the Somme and 1 July 1916.

Royal Ulster Rifles (RUR) Visit: Amongst those present at the ceremonies held at Howard Davis Park and at the Weighbridge were a group from the Royal Ulster Rifles Association. They had come across the Jersey Contingent connection with the Royal Irish Rifles (one of the predecessor Regiments to the present day RUR) and were seeking to renew old relationships.

They attended a special service at Grouville Church on the 3rd July, which is the location of a Jersey Contingent memorial and where many joint ceremonies in the 1960s and 1970s. At the request of the Reverend Lange-Smith, I gave a talk at both this and the earlier service on Jersey in the Great War, focusing on what was happening in the Island a century ago. It turned out to be quite an emotional affair, with the RURA party presenting a plaque to the Reverend and he reciprocating with sincere thanks. The group subsequently moved on to the headquarters of the Royal British Legion in St Helier, and I accompanied them, giving another talk on the Jersey Contingent.

The group had booked me on the following day for a guided tour of Jersey Occupation sites, although we included a stop at St Ouen's Churchyard to pay respects to Riflemen Joe Gionta, a member of the Contingent who lies under a RIR headstone.

The Unveiling of the Jersey Contingent Memorial at Guillemont: Also in Howard Davis Park on the 1st July was a huge granite stone monument destined for Guillemont on the Somme. This was the brainchild of Colin Egge and Chris Stone, who had both felt strongly that Jersey needed a commemorative point on the old Western Front.

The stone has now travelled to Guillemont, courtesy of the local Territorial Army unit, the Jersey Field Squadron, less a core drilled out that will be incorporated in a Royal Square memorial that is planned for 2018.

The Unveiling of the Guillemont stone, which is dedicated to the Jersey Contingent and all from Jersey who served in the war, takes place on the 3rd September, 2016. The date coincides with a major Irish ceremony taking place in Guillemont to commemorate 16th (Irish) Division, and the Guernsey Companies with the Royal Irish Regiment and the Royal Irish Fusiliers.

The Bailiff, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Chief Minister will be present, along with myself, having been asked, and feeling very honoured, to give a speech.

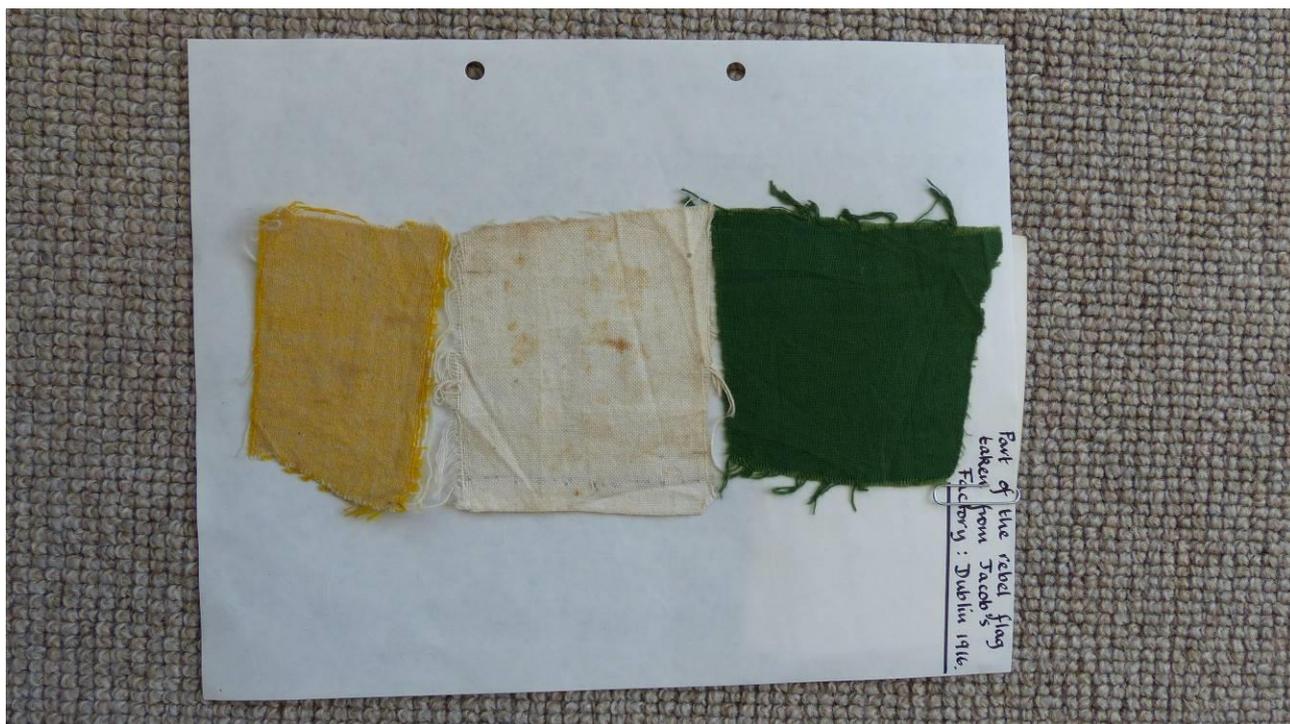
(Editor: It is extremely short notice, but tickets to the ceremony at Guillemont may still be available from the Bailiff's Chambers. Given the VIPs likely to be present (that includes Ian), understandably there are security concerns).

Talks: To the Probus Club in June on Jersey during the Great War.

Currently, there are further planned Great War talks scheduled for the Jersey Literary Festival and the Commonwealth Society.

Another talk is planned for the Channel Islands' Occupation Society where I will explore Jersey's British Army coastal artillery up until 1929.

Irish Tricolour: As a result of one of my Jersey Contingent articles being published in the Jersey Evening Post, contact was made with the grandson of a member of the Jersey Contingent. The grandfather had been in Dublin in April, 1916, and took part in suppressing the Easter Uprising. Amazingly, his grandson still has part of the Irish rebel flag that was captured at Jacob's Biscuit Factory. Talks are ongoing about its future, with a keenness to return what, for the Irish, must be a poignant and significant part of their history. (**Editor:** A personal view is that the item should remain in Jersey, with the appropriate Museum. Whatever the circumstances, it is part of the Island's history. Just imagine the IWM or the Regimental Museums doing that? There wouldn't be a pickelhaube left in Britain!)



The Republican Flag

Normandy Veterans' Association Tour

Finally, and I know that it was strictly not Great War (**Editor:** Tut Tut!), but I enjoyed a very good tour in July with a group of Second World War Normandy veterans from Jersey. What a privilege to be in France with the three of them, the youngest of which is 91.



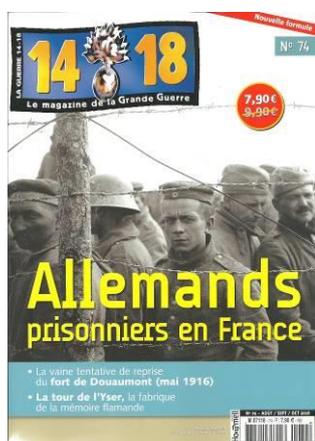
Jack Manning, Billy Reynolds and Harry Fenn laying a wreath in Bayeux Cemetery.

In the Media - Around the Press and Television

From the media's point of view, the major event to be covered has been the Somme commemoration at Thiepval on the 1st July, preceded by the vigil services there the night before, as well as at Westminster Abbey. The BBC, as ever on these occasions, hit the right note in terms of those being interviewed and giving due recognition to the occasion in terms of solemnity. But, of course, key to their efforts has to be the ceremony itself, the organisers behind the day, and the participants who all played an important part during ceremony. All of this had to have made the BBC's task that much easier. As Liz Walton has mentioned to be at the ceremony was very moving, but it was no less so five hundred miles away in front of a TV set.

As to the interviews and the narration, Huw Edwards the presenter, ensured the right balance between silence and speech, while of those being interviewed, I was impressed with Baroness Shirley Williams (as ever), and historians David Olusoga and Richard van Emden. It was probably the first time that I have seen Richard on a TV programme, but what struck me was on one occasion during the morning, he imperceptibly corrected something that Shirley had said with a gentle politeness. Manners maketh man!

Again, as Liz mentioned, the readings by actors and the various speakers flowed, and often, one could not distinguish between one and the other. Interestingly a week after the British referendum, Président Hollande both attended and gave a reading in place of his Prime Minister, Manuel Valls, who had originally been scheduled to do so, thus avoiding a potential diplomatic gaffe. With the benefit of hindsight, and having since seen the Verdun ceremony of some five weeks earlier, one wonders whether he also drew comparisons between the French and British approaches?



It was certainly a comparison that the Editors, both widely recognised historians, of *Tranchées* (No 26) and *14-18* (No 74) were intending to make. One would regard the running youths at Verdun as ridiculous as opposed to being blasphemous, while the other, leaving readers to form their own judgements on the youth scene, pondered why certain persons had others to carry their umbrellas at Verdun, whereas the Royal Family managed without any assistance on the Somme!

As ever, both magazines offer a broad spectrum of articles, many, obviously on French military matters, but, there is also a balanced look at the British Empire's contribution, with the latest issues including Austin armoured cars, the first tank action at Flers-Courcelette, the Falklands, rugby playing brothers from Sydney and a Canadian general.

Returning to the TV, the BBC screened Peter Barton's 'three-parter' titled: 'The Somme 1916: from Both Sides of the Wire'. An excellent series, if occasionally a little over-endowed with scenes showing Peter wandering through a field 'somewhere in France'. Three key points struck me. The first was the German defence in terms of dug-outs and the siting of machine guns. They had clearly made good use of their time in the Somme sector to ensure that what they had held since early 1915, they would continue to hold. They

invested in man-hours and in concrete to fortify positions, while making good use of the terrain to maximise the guns' range and crossfire. In addition, the Germans were the masters of improvisation, the shell holes (and there were many) serving as ready-made 'fox holes'.

The next is in terms of intelligence gathering, and one's jaw dropped at the crassness of officers and other ranks who were at the front with confidential orders, plans, notes and other such documents tucked into their pockets, and then who had the misfortune to be captured or killed where their bodies were accessible to the Germans. This was coupled with the fact that some captured British troops would 'sing like birds' when being interrogated by Germans who were regarded as being jolly nice chaps. There was little, if any, of the stereotypical 'Ve have vays of making you talk Britischer schweinhünd!'

The last point was that the Germans were encouraged to be self-critical, without fear of retribution, to highlight where individuals had made tactical mistakes, for others to learn from them, to attract ideas and to apply these generally, where relevant, in future actions. One wonders whether this counters the stereotypical view of the German military, or that if the Germans were being self-critical then, the British were not, and I would suggest that the British were also learning from their mistakes. But overall, one has to recognise that although pressed back, the Germans fought a better defensive battle than the British, an offensive one. A DVD of the series is now available.

As to the newspapers, it was surprising to see the coverage of the events at Westminster and at Thiepval in the press. While these frequently featured over three or four pages with the Duchess of Cambridge well to the fore, it was remiss of, certainly the more serious, papers such as the Times not to contain a supplement on the Somme battle of, say, eight pages.

Ned has reported on his trip to the Orkney's and his 'The Three Bands' photograph shows the bleakness, to which must be added BBC's broadcast which provided the sound of the wind blowing. On such a bleak day (and in early summer!), it must have been a challenge for all present, VVIPs downwards, keeping their focus to remember and commemorate the Jutland dead, while trying also to keep warm. Shown a few days prior to the anniversary of Jutland was the BBC2 account, commented by Dan Snow. It was a much better production than Channel4's, although again highlighting the fact that Beatty was a bounder, communication an issue in the smoke with the Squadrons some ten nautical miles apart, and the quality of gunnery. Terrifying experiments were conducted to show the vulnerability of the RN ship's magazines to fire and explosions, and for those crews serving in the gun turrets which were hit, it must have been a quick death. Interestingly, the programme visited the last surviving Dreadnought class battleship, the USS Texas which is moored up at Houston.

Channel4 featured the curiously titled 'Saddam goes to Hollywood' which, on the face of it, sounds unconnected with the Great War. The background was that the Iraqi dictator wanted to establish a film industry, and funded the making of an epic blockbuster as the nascent industry's first project. The overall film making approach was amateurish, it was taking place against the background of the Iraq-Iran War, whilst the British cast included one Oliver Reed whose nightly antics were much mentioned! As to the film, it was about the Iraqi Revolt over British rule after the Great War, and was titled 'Clash of Loyalties'.

Regarding the Great War link which generated interest in the programme, Reed played Lieutenant-Colonel Gerard Leachman who, before and during the War, was a British

political/intelligence officer much involved with the Arabs, and was widely respected by the various tribes. So much so, that airmen flying over Mesopotamia would carry notes, written in Arabic, saying that they were 'good chums' of the Colonel, thereby saving their necks and other body parts, if taken prisoner by the Arab tribesmen!

From the standpoint of Gerard Leachman, the programme, although interesting, did not cover the history his role with the Arabs in any fashion. As to the film, it was eventually put together in London and was sent to Saddam Hussein, but seemingly was never screened. Yet, there is several hundred film reels, contained in rusting cans, presently stacked up in a garage 'somewhere in Surrey'.

A Lance Corporal John Morrison of the 1st Battalion, The Black Watch was recently buried at Cuinchy following the discovery of his remains nearby in 2014. His identification, confirmed by subsequent DNA, was thanks to a spoon that was found with the remains and which had his regimental number engraved on it! In another Scottish story, letters from the 16 year-old future Queen Mother, which are being auctioned, shows how she took a shine to a Private James Harding, who injured, had recuperated at Glamis Castle.

Finally, the Battle of Fromelles was commemorated by the Australians, with some criticism in some quarters back in Australia that it was a costly event with the money being better spent on commemorations at home. But, as can be seen from Thiepval and the You Tube link (30 minutes in and immediately after the fly-past) below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISpqvhVbVH4>

Australian, and New Zealander, participation was not solely confined to Fromelles.

Islanders at the Battle of Jutland

Mark Bougourd has done some sterling work identifying 260 Islanders who were present at the Battle. He would welcome your input if you know of any omissions or amendments. He is now screening Merchant Navy war dead from the Second World War, to identify Islanders who also served in the Great War in the appropriate RoS.

Jersey Local History Fayre

Ian Ronayne advises that another Local History Fayre will be held in the Library in Halkett Place on the 27th and 28th January, 2017, at which the Group has been invited to attend. Ian has kindly agreed to be the coordinator, and would welcome other members to be involved on either or both days, and thereby hopefully refuting the accusation that we're just Saturday Soldiers! Please contact Ian directly if you feel that you can give support.

Captain Harold Ackroyd VC Commemorative Service

Ned Malet de Carteret advises that this will be held at Ypres on the 11th August, 2017, and would welcome being joined by Group members who might be in the vicinity. Please contact Ned directly for further details of arrangements on the day if you are interested.

Cornflowers for Remembrance

It does appear that Guernsey's Honorary French Consul has green fingers!



In a more serious vein, it was gratifying to see that the VVIPs, and indeed many others, were wearing the poppy and the cornflower in their lapels at the Thiepval commemoration, while many wreaths were also laid (see page 36) with a number of cornflowers included. It is nice to think that it all mirrors the Group's philosophy of '*N'oubliez pas les Français*'.

2016 Events in France Out and About

Looking Back: A number of Group members travelled far and wide and in many cases, very kindly provided the trip reports contained in this Journal:

- Ned Malet de Carteret, to the Orkney Islands for the Jutland events (27th May – 2nd June)
- Ian Ronayne, Jersey schools tour, the Somme and Ypres (20th-24th June)
- Barrie Bertram, battlefield touring, the Somme and elsewhere, and cemetery visits (9th-26th June)
- Daniel Benest, battlefield touring, the Somme (23rd June-6th July)
- Roger Frisby, the Thiepval event (1st July) and cemetery visits (27th June - 5th July)
- Liz Walton, the Thiepval event (1st July), and who will be laying a wreath on the Group's behalf.
- Russell Doherty, the Thiepval event (1st July)
- Alan Cross, the Thiepval event (1st July)

Looking Forward: It is almost at the time when most of us head for winter quarters, however braving the elements will be:

- Ian Ronayne, will be at Guillemont (see Ronayne Writes)
- Barrie Bertram, National Archive, Kew (12th September) *
- Barrie Bertram, battlefield touring, Verdun and elsewhere (22nd Sept-9th Oct)

(* I will shortly be putting together a workload plan for documents to be reviewed, and some to photograph, at Kew. As best as can currently be judged, I have a couple of spare hours that could be filled with those documents that one or more members may wish to see. This may be particularly appropriate for officer and other records, but not for War Diaries. If anyone is after something, please Email me with the documents' reference number(s) and a bit of background detail. First come, first served.

Douaumont from a Different Perspective



It is difficult to recall days at Douaumont when the weather is 'ten tenths clear blue' but the above photograph shows that it can occasionally happen. It also shows *La Patrouille de France*, with their Alpha Jets, training above the area of the battle, in the week beforehand, for an air show at Verdun on the 28th August. Incidentally, according to their 2016 schedule, *La Patrouille* will also be giving their display in Jersey on the 8th September.

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 still receiving 'rejection' or 'no contact' messages from a number of E-Mail addresses.

Facebook: Our embryonic link is now running, and can be found by entering 'Channel Islands' Great War'. As I understand it (I'm ignorant in these matters), if you wish to add posts, you need to be approved by one of the current Administrators, either Jason Cronin, or Roger Frisby. Either can be initially contacted via our website or via Facebook itself.

Abbreviations: An exciting topic I know (and one for which the MoD has a 373 page Manual), one which can be the source of confusion, particularly with the Royal Irish regiments. I generally follow the convention that **RIRegt** is for the Royal Irish Regiment,

RIR for the Royal Irish Rifles, **RIF** for the Royal Irish Fusiliers, and **RInnisF** for the Royal Inniskillen Fusiliers.

Talking Ireland: He may not be everybody's cup of tea, but it was good to see that Northern Ireland's Deputy First Minister, Mr Martin McGuinness, visited the Ulster Tower and a number of other Somme sites in late May.

Jersey's Militia Pay Lists, 1914-1917: As ever, work remains painfully slow on this task.

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?

The Muratti Vase: John Treleven's lists of Muratti players have still to feature on the website. Hopefully this will be resolved in the next few months.

New Editor Needed

As some will recall, the Group came together around the beginning of 2005, and its first Journal (originally Newsletter) tentatively appeared at the end of March in that year. Nearly twelve years on, this is the sixty-second issue, and for a number of reasons, I feel that, after the next issue, it would be appropriate that someone else picks up the reins commencing with Journal 64. As to the reasons, fundamentally they are:

- The view that there should be a closer engagement with the other bodies involved in the Islands' 'heritage industry', whether professional or not, and that the Group should be seeking more recognition and use of its work on the Great War. In this area, I am personally too remote from the Islands' two epicentres.
- After almost twelve years as editor, I feel that the Journal is becoming stale, and it needs to be refreshed in some way or another. One or two pairs of fresh eyes would not go amiss. It maybe, for example, that editing is a shared Guernsey-Jersey task?
- Then, from the personal point of view, whilst I will be still focussed on continuing Great War research, I am looking to spend time on a number of unrelated projects that have slipped into the background.

So, do give this some thought, discuss it with others, and if interested, please let me know so that handover arrangements can be sorted in time for Journal 64 in February, 2017.

Enfin

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

Kind Regards
Barrie H Bertram
28th August, 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.