

CHANNEL ISLAND GREAT WAR STUDY GROUP



A 90 Year Old Debutant!
(Artist Unknown)

NEWSLETTER 9
AUGUST 2006

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Hello All

Another Newsletter off the printer and I feel that first, we must compliment the excellent work that Roger Frisby, Liz Walton and Mark Bougourd have carried out to date in developing our website "The Channel Islands and the Great War" (www.greatwarci.net). Its initial appearance looks great and the menu structure appears to lead into the essential topics and data that will be incorporated as we move forward. But for now, we have a first-class baseline. It will over time, I hope, prove to be the prime reference source of the islands' Great War history and serve as the first port of call to those wishing to learn more of the CI and its people during those times. Many thanks!

In connection with the evolving website, it had been suggested that "Journal" would be a more preferable name than "Newsletter" in future. I personally am comfortable with the change as "Journal" does impart an element of gravitas. Therefore, unless there is a great gnashing of teeth, this will be the Journal as from the next issue. Back number Newsletters can now be printed from the web site. So that everyone is aware, I will be looking at trying to reduce my printing and postage efforts following the December issue, and those who access the website can print off their copies directly. I will still do the P&P for those without website access.

I am in a slight quandary as to the business of "going public" with the existence of the website. To date the Societe Jersiaise, the Jersey Archive, the Jersey Library and the Guernsey Museum Service have been told that it will be happening since we will surely need to be involved with them. BBC Guernsey (in the person of Eddie Parks) is also aware. At some stage I feel that we should notify the JEP and the Guernsey Evening Press. I don't believe that we should do it too prematurely so that we allow sufficient time for its robustness to be established. Looking at the calendar, would an announcement in the CI press on Armistice Day be about the right time? Any comments and alternate suggestions on this would be welcome.

Turning to this Newsletter, Ned Malet de Carteret kicks us off with an account of his sojourn in London taking in the VC and GC commemorations at Westminster Abbey and elsewhere. This is followed by some of my ramblings as I again roamed around northern France in June. Meanwhile Gary Godel and Paul Ronayne open their innings, Gary with a comprehensive piece after his recent visit to Gallipoli, while Paul starts off with a look at some of Jersey's parish memorials as part of a series. To complete the round of visits, Ian Ronayne provides a brief report on his and Paul's visit to the Tank Museum at Bovington, Dorset. Following on in that vein, the cover picture was chosen as a reminder of the tank's introduction to the battlefield on 15th September 1916 at the Battle of Flers-Courcelette nearly 90 years ago.

Membership News

Ned Malet de Carteret has a change of address, his other details are unchanged. Meanwhile, from Guernsey we welcome brothers Peter and Paul Balshaw.

Peter and Paul run the La Vallette Underground Military Museum, near the open seawater bathing pools. This has a large display of WW2 German and CI related material, and in addition they have a section dedicated to the RGM and RGLI in the Great War.

Please see the updated list of contacts.

Postscripts

This is a brief section to tie up some loose ends from earlier Newsletters and add some photographs in support if appropriate.

The Lawrence Connection

I picked up on a brief item in the Times in mid-July regarding a ten-year project being put together by a Dr Neil Faulkner to undertake archaeological digs and research into sites fought over during the Arab revolt of 1916-18. He is looking for volunteers and can be E-Mailed on: neil@archaeology.co.uk

The RGLI – Something going on behind the Front Line!

I have been fortunate, since the previous edition of this Newsletter, in obtaining a copy of Victor Coysh's book Royal Guernsey (published in 1977), a history of the RGM. There is a reference to Joey, the mascot featured last time, and in it I discovered that when the RGLI went to England he went to join them, but on the Battalion's move to France he wound up returning to Guernsey and the everyday task of pulling a dairy cart around the island! Was this a case of Joey having been awarded jankers? However, Liz Walton believes that Joey did make it to France and eventually returned on the Lydia. Can anyone confirm?

As to obtaining the book, I had it traced through a very good out of print book service on: www.abebooks.co.uk

The 150th Anniversary Service for the Institution of the Victoria Cross and 50th Anniversary of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association at Westminster Abbey on Monday 26th June, 2006 – and other week-end tales

By Ned Malet de Carteret

I awoke early on Monday 26th June and drew back my curtains from the fourth floor of my "superior" single room at The Strand Palace Hotel. For once the weather forecast had got it right, after two sweltering days in town, the weather had broken and it was raining! I thought to myself that I was in for a soaking that day, as I had deliberately not brought a raincoat or umbrella with me.

I breakfasted early on a "full English", as I was convinced that lunch would be a light-weight affair. The hotel has an efficient express check out service, so

no queuing was necessary and the concierge desk obliged me with a £ 4.95 travel brolly for my day's adventure.

Having spent some time twice outside the hotel front door, I just knew that there would be no possibility of catching a cab, so I resigned myself to a wet 20 minute walk to the Abbey. I only had to ask the way once from two heavily armed policemen and arrived outside the West door of the Abbey by about 9.30 am. I was about twenty-fifth in the queue.

To my complete amazement the Ingouville clan of six, from North and South America, with whom I had met for the first time the previous evening in Covent Garden for dinner, arrived shortly after, so we stood together, taking photographs awaiting the doors to open at 9.45 am. Pretty much on time we shuffled in and positioned ourselves half way down the nave on the right hand side, not far from the Rood Screen. The Ingouilles sat in the front row, with me in the row behind, reserving three seats for my Ackroyd cousins. After some text messages, it transpired that they were in the North Transept, and that they had a different colour ticket to mine. I decided to stay where I was as I considered that we had a good position.

It so happened that I was sitting next to George Weston the Chief Executive of AB Foods, a FTSE 100 company. Mr Weston spent much time prior to the service on his blackberry! He was not amused that I knew who he was! Sitting next to him was the daughter of Captain Charles Upham (VC and Bar) from New Zealand. I duly shook her hand and enquired whether she had been at the Woolwich Arsenal on the previous Saturday for the Artillery VC exhibition (I had seen a name tag for the family there). She informed me that she had not attended as her flight had been delayed from New Zealand.

During the next hour many people passed by us on their way through the Abbey to their seats and I managed to point out a few notables to my new friends, the Ingouilles. Finally at 10.45 am their Royal Highnesses, the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall entered the Abbey to a Royal Fanfare from trumpeters standing on the Rood Screen. After being greeted by the clergy and Douglas Hurd in Garter robes and Sir Roy Strong in a wonderful blue outfit, the Royal procession made their way up the nave to take their seats at the front of the Abbey.

The next hour and five minutes of the service seemed to me to go by in a flash and a daze. The beautiful singing of the choir and the congregation – the wonderful readings by Brian Hanrahan, the War Correspondent, regarding Sgt Ian MacKay's VC exploits at Mount Longdon in the Falklands. Another particularly moving reading by Martha Kearney recounted the heroic exploits of a Boeing 707 air stewardess who won a GC. The service was shown on large TV screens around the Abbey, and was beautifully shot by the BBC for the live coverage on BBC1.

The Act of Remembrance had the Royal Party and others including Private Johnson Beharry VC and Chris Finney GC, the most recent recipients of the wards, return to the West Door to lay wreaths on the VC&GC Plaque which is

situated under the first great column inside the door. The plaque was dedicated in a similar service in the Abbey by Her Majesty the Queen in 2003, a service to which I also had the great honour of attending.

Towards the end of the service another procession was again made from the West Door to the altar comprising the first VC awarded to Mate (Rear Admiral) Charles Lucas on 21st June, 1854 in the Baltic Sea, borne by his great grandson Michael Adams and the GC of Thomas Alderson awarded on 1st September, 1940, borne by his daughter Pamela Wilson. I had been very privileged to see the grave of Charles Lucas on Saturday afternoon at St Leonards Church, Mereworth, Nr Maidstone, Kent with Brian Best the founder of the Victoria Cross Society – the grave needs a good cleaning, re-tooling and re- lettering (it is disgraceful!)



VC Attendees including Pte Johnson Beharry, ex-WO Keith Payne and ex-Flt Lt John Cruickshank

The service came to an end, the Royal Party processed for the last time down the nave to the West Door to leave the Abbey, the BBC cameras ended their coverage at 12.03 pm and I guess that they stopped filming just as the surviving 9 VC winners and 22 GC winners were coming down the nave after them to leave as well. (Typical BBC, the TV ran to an advert for Wimbledon, and it was pouring with rain!). I was very angry indeed!

We then all filed out of the Abbey and awaited our coaches from the Kings Ferry Company to whisk us all off to St James Square for drinks/lunch courtesy of Lord Ashcroft (via the Royal Academy, where we glimpsed the grotesque 35 foot high sculpture by Damien Hirst (Ned provided me with a photograph that I exercised editorial privilege to exclude! – Ed)). We arrived in the square at 1.00 pm. Luckily the rain held off until 2.00 pm as Prince Charles made his speech – there were open tents all around the square. One of the VC cannons from the Woolwich Arsenal was on display too.

I met up with the Ingouilles again, Anthony Le Quesne Clayton (Ferdinand Simeon Le Quesne's relatives, the other Jersey born VC winner) and his daughter, Penny, whom I had invited via the Association and naturally my cousin Christopher Ackroyd and his daughter Emily. I had the great pleasure of shaking Private Johnson Beharry's hand and also Corporal Chris Finney, whom I had seen on breakfast TV earlier that morning. I also shook Camilla's and Charles' hands as they processed around the crowd. It was a very enjoyable hour and a half.

I then walked in the pouring rain through St James's Park to the Guards Chapel on Birdcage Walk. There we had a preview of a VC exhibition arranged by David Callaghan (42 years with Hancock's, the makers of the VC). I had talked with and listened to David give a talk on the VC at Woolwich Arsenal on the Saturday – I had equally had quite a long chat with Lord Ashcroft who had opened the exhibition – he now has 140 VC's in his collection. They will be on temporary view later this year in London, with a permanent site in London in due course. The Woolwich Arsenal exhibition had on display 35 Artillery VCs, naturally the 2 Chinese cannons from which the VC is made from were also in the same room. The Arsenal and the Firepower Museum are first class. The buildings date from the 1720s and are by Hawksmoor and Vanburgh – my ancestor John Lord Carteret (in opposition to Walpole for 40 years!) would have been tripping around them when they were new – as would Sir George Carteret in the 1660's in their previous life! – it was quite a poignant visit for me all round as I discussed these facts and the wonderful museum and building with the curator Mark Smith! Sadly only about 20,000 people a year currently visit the Museum. This will change with the Olympic Games being all around them in 2012.

The VC exhibition is fabulous, as is the Guards Chapel (my first visit – wow!) – we were lucky to see on display the watercolour by George Houseman Thomas of the first VC Investiture on Saturday 26th June, 1857 in Hyde Park by Queen Victoria.

The focus of the picture is the Queen pinning the medal to the chest of George Henry Ingouville (that famous Jerseyman!), who was twelfth in line to receive his medal – Charles Lucas being the first. Carlos Ingouville who is my main family contact and who had come over from Rio de Janeiro with his cousins Luis from Buenos Aires, and Carola and Cecilia from Montevideo for the ceremony at the Abbey. Carlos had persuaded Her Majesty the Queen to loan it from the Royal Collection at Windsor Castle just for the day for us. Interestingly the ribbon medal is Crimson – we will be replacing it with the correct blue one at the Jersey Maritime Museum in due course. It is possible that Lord Panmure handed Queen Victoria the wrong medal on the day or it was just the wrong ribbon, we will never know! If you do visit the Guards Chapel and Museum, do note the wonderful sculpture to the left of the Chapel of Field Marshal Earl Alexander of Tunis crafted by my very good friend James Butler RA.

A long wet walk back to the Strand Palace Hotel and another gruelling walk to Charing Cross Station with my bag ended my Monday in London! So ended a visit that will be remembered for a long while to come.

Postscripts:

On the previous Sunday morning (a gloriously hot day), I walked from the hotel across the Millennium Bridge to the south bank of the Thames and then walked along the River Path (a very interesting route), to HMS Belfast (my first visit), to see the ship and more particularly the 90th Anniversary exhibition of the Battle of Jutland being displayed on it. The ship is fabulous, I

particularly got a good idea of what my great uncle had done during WW1, being a gunnery Midshipman on HMS Canopus and HMS Queen Mary.

I lingered a long while inside Belfast's "A" turret with its twin 6 inch guns, taking in the process of gunnery, the confined space and what must have been a fearful noise when the guns were firing – I now have a much better picture of how the guns of a large capital ship work!

The Belfast is huge, 621 feet long, but HMS Queen Mary was almost double in size again! Mind boggling! I had a long conversation with one of the IWM employees, Alan Glasgow an ex-seaman, who told me that Henry Allingham (110 years old), the oldest surviving WW1 and Jutland veteran had gone all up and down (8 decks) the ship not in his wheel chair, but in the lift, on the opening private view of the exhibition on 31st May! Admiral Sir Jock Stirrup the IWM Chairman (in his 80s!) hosted the preview with the Duchess of Gloucester. I had received an invitation to the private viewing, unfortunately my wife forbade it! Henry Allingham was an aviator in the RNAS.

Forgive me this aside, HMS Belfast was prominent in the Naval force which sunk the German battle-cruiser, Scharnhorst in December, 1943, in the Arctic Sea at the Battle of North Cape. The charts in the Operation room show the battle. My father's best friend in the City of London these past 50 years (Ted Goodacre, later Lt Cdr, RNR, VRD) was a young telegraphist on a destroyer, HMS Orwell, which was protecting the Murmansk convoy in question which had lured Scharnhorst's attention. Ted's wife, Celia, was the Wren telegraphist at Scapa Flow and decoded the first message from the British battleship, HMS Duke of York which said "we have sunk the Scharnhorst"! It was very poignant for me seeing these charts.

(Editor's Comment: It is interesting that Ned says that HMS Belfast is huge. A few years ago I was on the MV Bretagne leaving Portsmouth for St Malo and passed Belfast when it had been taken from its berth on the Thames to have its bottom scraped and repainted. Allowing for the fact that it was in dry dock it seemed to me not much bigger than today's RN Type 42 destroyer. It was certainly dwarfed by the Bretagne)

A Return to the Seine-Maritime and other places 2006 By Barrie Bertram

For me the last two weeks of June, is summer holiday time, and France has that quietness before schools break up and the prices for accommodation, parking and the like become astronomical. So, another fortnight in the same gite as last year, and because of the symbolism of the poppies that seemed to abound more than ever this year, a continuing remembrance of the events of 90 years ago.

The Seine-Maritime is a department that probably does not leap out to a general public that is more familiar in their Great War knowledge with the names of the Somme, Verdun and Ypres. However, it is adjacent to both the Somme and Oise departments and for the bulk of the war, both Rouen and Le

Havre, along with Boulogne served as major ports to meet the continuing logistic requirements of the BEF. The exception to this was for a short period during the Retreat from the Marne when the Lines of Communication were centred in the Le Mans area. While both would have seen the “forward” movement of men and stores to the front, they also served to ship sick and wounded soldiers back to England. This effort might be guessed at from the list of hospitals in both locations that I’ve gleaned from “The Long, Long Trail” website.

- **Le Havre**

- No 1 General Aug 14 - Nov 14
- No 2 General Aug 14 - May 19
- No 6 Stationary Dec 14 - May 16
- No 9 Stationary Oct 14 - ?
- No 39 General - known to be present Jun 18
- No 52 Stationary Oct 15 - Jul 19

- **Rouen**

- No 1 Stationary Oct 14 -?
- No 2 British Red Cross Sep 14 - Dec 18?
- No 3 General Aug 14 - Sep 14
- No 3 Stationary Feb 15 - Mar 19
- No 5 General Aug 14 - Sep 14 and Feb 15 - Mar 19
- No 6 General Nov 14 - Apr 19
- No 8 General Aug 14 - May 19
- No 9 General Nov 14 - Jun 17
- No 10 General Oct 14 - May 19
- No 11 Stationary Oct 14 - Mar 19
- No 12 General Sep 14 - June 17
- No 12 Stationary Feb 15 - May 16
- No 25 Stationary Mar 15 - May 19
- No 58 General Apr 18 - Mar 19
- No 59 General Apr 18 - Mar 19
- Meerut British General Jan 15 - Aug 15

Sadly, not all of those who were treated at this list of hospitals made it back to Blighty, and this is reflected in the use of St Marie cemetery in Le Havre and St Sever in Rouen, with the former containing some 1689 graves and the latter an awesome 11428. So, whilst on holiday, I went off to visit both, armed with a list of names and camera, to photograph a number of headstones which will find their way onto our website in due course.

First, getting to St Sever on a miserable Sunday morning when the heavens opened and with the roads on the left bank flooded, was not quite the navigating success I’d hoped for. However after about 50 minutes of to and fro driving in the backstreets, I spotted the football stadium which I knew to be next door so to speak! The Cemetery (two really) abuts the sprawling civilian cemetery and has the appearance of a wedge of cheese when looked at on the map. It is not so compact as Tyne Cot which has roughly the same numbers and in the lower half (the Communal Extension) has the graves laid out in arcs. The thing which I particularly noticed there was that there were separate officer plots, something which may also be practiced at Etaples though I’ve not looked at that sufficiently. Certainly the practice seems very much in line with the thinking of a “rear echelon” staff!

Getting to Le Havre a few days later was a contrast with a clear blue sky. As well as photographing a few more graves, I was interested that there was a memorial to three ships lost. The memorial marks the graves of 24 casualties from the hospital ship "Salta" and her patrol boat, sunk by a mine on 10th April 1917. The memorial also commemorates by name the soldiers, nurses and merchant seamen lost from the "Salta" whose bodies were not recovered, and those lost in the sinking of the hospital ship "Galeka" (mined on 28th October 1916) and the transport ship "Normandy" (torpedoed on 25th January 1918), whose graves are not known. The "Salta" and the "Galeka" were struck not too far from the mouth of the Seine off Le Havre, while the "Normandy" went down off Cherbourg, clearly reflecting the German U-boats' efforts. Two Jerseymen died on the "Normandy" – AB Percy Battrick and Steward Wallace Helier Waugh – while another Jerseyman – Cook Reginald Hobbs – was saved. Oddly, I could not find reference on the Memorial to Battrick and Waugh, nor few if any to other "Normandy" casualties.



**A view of St Sever from the Cross of Remembrance
(Future visitors should note the stadium lights as a reference point!)**

British graves are contained in various blocks (or Divisions) around St Marie. An unusual feature from other cemeteries is that the Rows here are numbered and individual graves lettered - opposite to the more normal convention of Row X, Grave 14, for example, applied by the CWGC.

Looking around the cemetery, there are a number of French and Belgian military graves (as is at St Sever), and French memorials to various units and individuals, including the grave of a 40 victory French air ace, Gabriel Guerin.

Meanwhile among the British graves was that of Arthur Ryland Chavasse, double-VC winner Noel Chavasse's cousin, who had died of pneumonia in 1916 while serving in No 2 General Hospital. Looking at many of the French civilian graves it was as if it was a CI one with so many common family names!



The Memorial to Salta, Galeka and Normandy at St Marie

Finally in Le Havre, while his death pre-dates the Great War, I happened on the grave of pioneer aviator Hubert Latham. Apparently he died while on safari in 1912 and was re-buried here in January 1914. The circumstances of his death were unsatisfactory with him supposedly being trampled by a

buffalo. The French suspected that his two African bearers had murdered him, but could not establish sufficient evidence against them to justify a trial!

Venturing a little further from the department, other cemeteries can be found. One in particular is at Tourgeville, in Calvados, which adjoins Mont Canisy, and overlooks Deauville and Trouville, the latter town having been the “home” of the following hospitals:

- No 6 British Red Cross Sep 18 - Dec 18;
- No 72 General Dec 17 - Oct 19;
- No 73 General Feb 18 - Apr 19;
- No 74 General Mar 18 - Mar 19

210 Great War graves are contained here, along with the 1919 civilian burials of Messrs Brennan and Wood who appear to have worked for the then construction company of Trollope and Coll. The CWGC database appears not to contain their details.

With my holiday over on 1st July, it was back to Calais. My original intention had been to visit Thiepval on this particular day, a trip made easier nowadays with the autoroute between Neufchatel-en-Bray and Amiens. However, having previously been advised that the area would encounter security restrictions as a result of the VVIPs milling around on the Somme, stops at Etaples and Wimereux were more convenient to remember the dead.

Etaples overlooks the Canche estuary, and has become more wooded in its surrounds than was shown in the painting below by John Lavery. There are a number of Guernsey- and Jersey-men that are buried here, and of the latter, there is of course, Howard Leopold Davis. It was strange, but standing on the high ground to the south east by the Cross of Remembrance and looking over the cemetery, I gained the impression that the overall area and shape of Howard Davis Park in Jersey was the same as that of the cemetery, but it could not be! Or could it?

Incidentally, a train (not a steam one unluckily) passed in the same direction as shown in the Lavery painting below, and for about twenty minutes or so I was the only visitor amongst those 11540 headstones. As well as being famous (?) as the location for the notorious “Bullring”, Etaples was home to the following hospitals which could deal with some 22000 sick and wounded:

- No 6 British Red Cross Jul 15 - Jun 18
- No 7 British Red Cross Aug 15 - Nov 15
- No 23 General Jun 15 - Nov 19
- No 28 General Jun 15 - Jul 19
- No 46 Stationary Jul 15 - Jun 19
- No 56 General May 17 - Apr 19
- St Johns Ambulance Brigade Hospital Jul 15

Other hospitals were to be found in nearby Le Touquet and Paris-Plage. However, since my trip, I’ve learnt more regarding Etaples and am attaching a map at the end of the Newsletter showing that it was a considerable

undertaking by the British with numerous Infantry Base Depots (IBD), stores depots, rifle ranges and other facilities located adjacent in addition to the complex of Hospitals. I also gather that the name "Bullring" was a generally applied nickname to the training areas and not just to a particular training field.



Howard Leopold Davis' Headstone, Etaples



John Lavery, *The Cemetery, Etaples*, 1919 (Copyright IWM)



The CWGC Cemetery at Wimereux

Getting to the cemetery at Wimereux, I again suffered from navigation difficulties and in retrospect, I should have come from the autoroute (Though I since understand that it is just as difficult to find from that way). As well as the CI graves to be photographed, I was interested in seeing that of Colonel John McCrae, the author of "In Flanders' Fields".

The Cemetery is adjacent to the French one but is, as far as I know, different to other CWGC cemeteries in France in that all the headstones are laid flat due to the risk of subsidence. The only exception is that of Mill Road Cemetery near to the Ulster Tower at Thiepval where there is a similar risk due to their placement over the Schwaben Redoubt.

There is a further mild literary connection at Wimereux in that author Neville Shute's older brother, 2/Lt Frederick Norway, DCLI is buried there having died from shrapnel wounds in 1915. Shute's family surname was Norway, and for those who may be interested, there is a good autobiography "Slide Rule" by him including an account of Frederick being injured and subsequently dying.

Gallipoli Visited By Gary Godel

Introduction



On 25th May 2006 a Holt's tour set out to Istanbul Airport from Heathrow with 21 Holt's travellers and Messrs Nigel Steel and Robin Scott from Holts Tours. The tour was a relatively short one for Gallipoli (and Holt's) and was effectively only three full days that in hindsight was a little short to pace the

tour and do all of the important sites justice. The drive from Istanbul to Canakkale, on the coast of the Dardanelles, took some 5 hours including a break. I notice that Holts are extending the trip next year by a couple of days and that is sensible.

Nigel Steel has spent half of his life researching the battle of Gallipoli and was an excellent guide. I would recommend his book, written with Peter Hart, "Defeat at Gallipoli". During the tour Nigel played us a number of tapes of recordings of Gallipoli veterans he had interviewed in the 1990s.

This was my ninth Holt's tour in about as many years. About half of these have related to WW1 but all have been short tours on the Western Front, either the Ypres Salient or the Somme. WW1 in the extreme heat is something new for me and it was hot on the battlefield sites.

The Tour

The three active days of the tour were split into Helles - Day 1, Anzac - Day 2 and Suvla - Day 3. Therefore having crossed the Dardanelles every morning we progressively had to travel further north up the Peninsula to get to that day's sites.

On each day we crossed the Dardanelles by ferry from Canakkale, passing near to the submerged wrecks of the French Battleship Bouvet, HMS Irresistible and HMS Ocean.

On Day 1 we visited the Helles Memorial, V Beach, Sedd el Bahr Fort and village, and the grave of Lt Col Doughty-Wylie VC. Following this it was over to W Beach and visits to various cemeteries until we visited the summit of Achi Baba to view the objectives of the British landing at Helles, which gave a panoramic view of the landings.

Standing on V beach we could see the village of Sedd el Bahr to the east with the fort to the North of us. The Fort had been bombarded some weeks before that landing by the RN and the water tower besides which is buried Lt Col Charles Doughty-Wylie VC CMG who was the most senior officer to win the VC in Gallipoli. He was killed with Captain Garth Walford VC during the action in the village leading to its capture on the 26th April. At the V Beach Landing the River Clyde ran aground on 25th April 1915 and 2,000 troops from the Royal Munster Fusiliers and Royal Dublin Fusiliers came ashore to almost be wiped out. The small ledge at the edge of the narrow beach that saved the lives of the survivors that day in 1915 still exists to pinpoint the sight of the coming ashore.

At dawn on 25th April, the 1st Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers, part of the British 29th Division, landed on W Beach, to the west of Cape Helles the southernmost tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula. The Turks waited until the Fusiliers were almost ashore then opened fire.

Despite heavy losses, the Fusiliers kept a toehold on the beach and

eventually advanced up both sides of the cliff driving the defending Turks out of their trenches. Later that morning other units were diverted to W Beach to reinforce the troops who were advancing on their inland objectives.

Six VCs were eventually awarded for this action and W Beach was renamed Lancashire Landing in honour of the Battalion that had captured it.



On Day 2 at Anzac we visited Hell Spit at the southern end and Beach Cemetery 250 metres or so to the north where 391 casualties are buried, mainly of the ANZAC Corps. Of the 391, 369 are identified which is most unusual for Gallipoli. The landing at Anzac Cove was the second main landing on the peninsula by British and French forces on 25th April 1915.

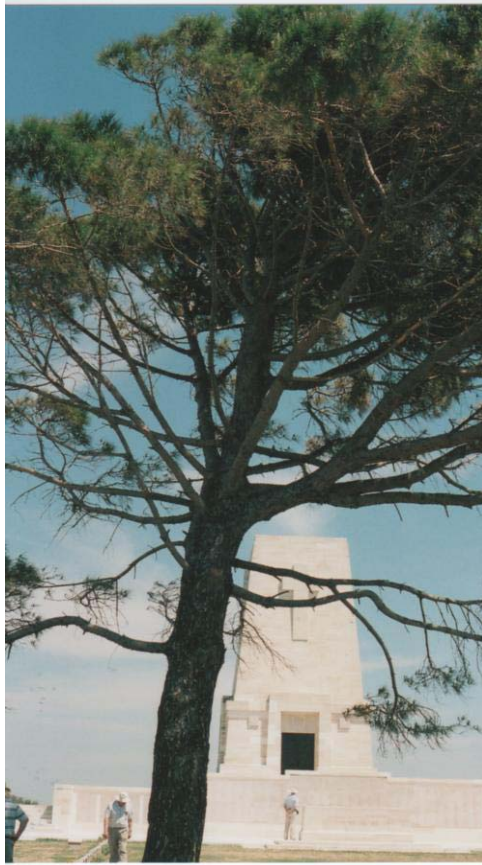
The landing, north of Gaba Tepe on the Aegean coast of the peninsula, was made by soldiers of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps and was the first significant combat of the war for these two countries.

The 3rd Brigade was landed from ships' boats towed initially by steamboats, then rowed to shore. Most of the troops were still in their boats when Turkish sentries ashore fired the first shots – men were killed and wounded in the boats and as they splashed ashore. It rapidly became apparent that the troops had been landed about a mile to the north of the intended beach.

Unfortunately for the ANZACs, Lt Col Mustapha Kemal was exercising his Turkish 19th Division in the area when he heard of the landings and was ordered to take his regiment to intercept. Whereas General Liman von Sanders believed the ANZAC landing to be a feint, Kemal correctly deduced the importance of the Australian attack on the high ground, and took the entire 19th Division to beat the attackers to the crucial peaks. Throughout the day Turkish forces rushed forward from the surrounding area and forced back or annihilated the scattered advanced parties of Australians.

We then drove onto Anzac itself and visited the new commemoration site on the North Beach. After a visit to the Kabatere Museum we carried onto the small Johnston's Jolly Cemetery on Plateau 400, which was held for a day by the Australians on 25th April 1915 and never retaken. We then saw the remains of Turkish trenches on the edge of the wood. It was then onto Courtney's and Steele's Posts and then to Quinn's Post and Lone Pine Cemetery where 1,167 casualties are buried or commemorated of which just

over half are identified. This position was taken by the Australian 1st Brigade in August 1915 and held until the withdrawal. Then it was onto the Nek Cemetery (326 casualties - only 10 identified) and Walker's Ridge Cemetery (92 buried of which 76 identified and 26 commemorated).



Lone Pine



The Sphinx – Anzac Beach



Y Beach – SS River Clyde Landing Beach

At Suvla Bay, the landing, which commenced on the night of 6th August 1915, was intended to support a breakout from the Anzac sector, five miles to the south.

Despite facing light opposition, the landing at Suvla was mismanaged from the outset and quickly reached the same stalemate conditions that prevailed on the Anzac and Helles fronts.

At Suvla on Day 3 we visited Anzac Cove (with its man made caves) and Embarkation Pier Cemetery (944 buried of which 662 unidentified) followed by Hill 60 Cemetery (788 buried or commemorated and only 36 casualties identified) then Green Hill Cemetery (2,971 buried or commemorated and only 499 are identified). We stopped at Suvla Base Camp and visited Azmak Cemetery before ascending to the Turkish Gendamerie Memorial.

What was notable on the first two days was the interest that the local population was taking in the Turkish monuments in the south of the peninsula. Literally thousands of Turks, especially school children were visiting their

memorials and museums. The Turkish view of the War is interesting. The use of the word martyr seemed disturbing in view of recent events and this term was used quite generally to describe the many thousands of Turks who had died. Little mention is made in the museums of the British and Empire troops and one got the sense that the Turks enemy was viewed as quite a shadowy figure. The children and their teachers wanted to practice their English and asked exactly where we were from.

The memorials placed by the Turks are quite spectacular. Sometimes errors have been made and I noticed that on at least one a Lee Enfield No 4 rifle (late 1930s at least), let alone an SMLE, was being carried by the figure depicted by the statue. The commemorations reconcile the attack in 1915 with the end of the Ottoman Empire and then celebrate the victory, which I found an odd mix.

Key events

August, 1914

- 2 - *Politics*: Ottoman Empire (Turkey) and Germany sign an alliance against Russia.

September, 1914

- 27 - Turkey closes the Dardanelles to all shipping following the interception of a Turkish torpedo boat by the RN.

October, 1914

- 28 - Turkish fleet raids Russian Black Sea ports including Odessa and Sevastopol.

November, 1914

- 2 - *Politics*: Russia declares war on Turkey.
- 6 - *Politics*: The United Kingdom declares war on Turkey.

January, 1915

- 13 - British War Council approves plans for a naval operation to force the Dardanelles.

February, 1915

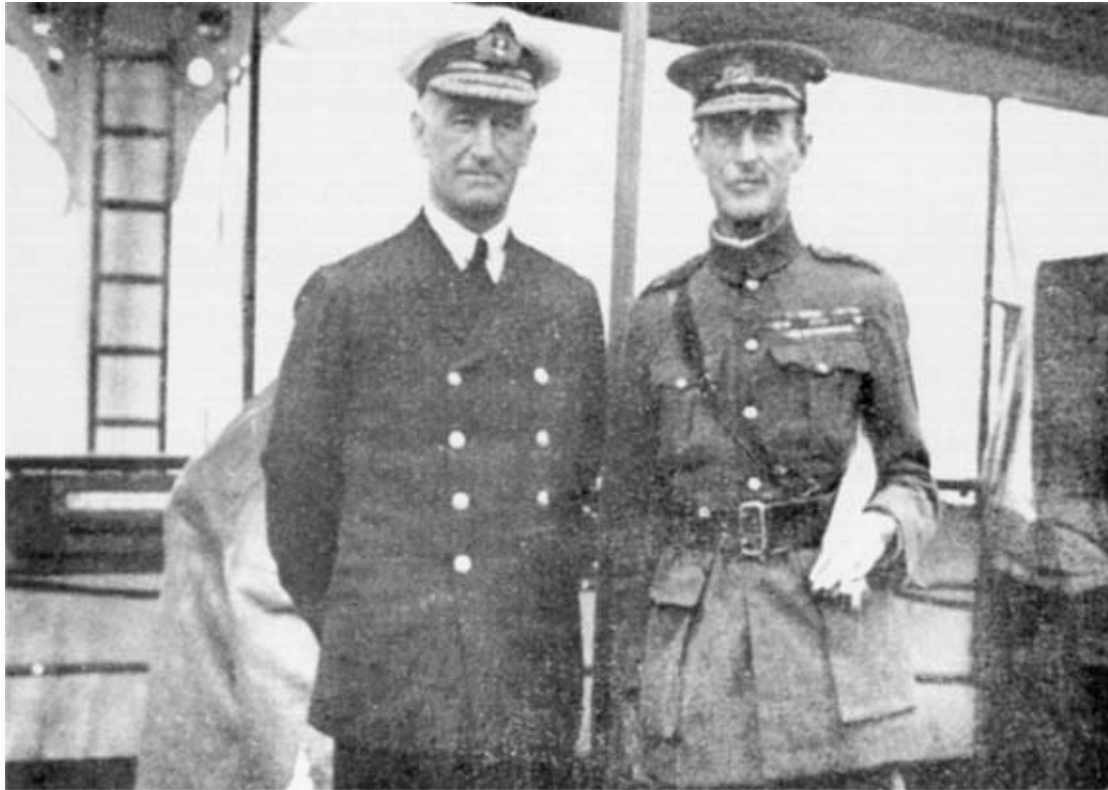
- 19 - *Naval operations*: First attack on the Dardanelles by battleships HMS Cornwallis, HMS Vengeance and French battleship Suffren.
- 25 - *Naval operations*: Second attack on the Dardanelles, led by Vice-Admiral John de Robeck aboard HMS Vengeance.

March, 1915

- 10 - *Naval operations*: Night attack in the straits led by Commodore Roger Keyes and the battleship HMS Canopus.
- 18 - *Naval operations*: Turkey defeats the final attempt by the British and French fleet

to force the straits. Three battleships are sunk by mines. Three battleships and the battle-cruiser HMS Inflexible are badly damaged.

- 22 - At a conference between Hamilton and de Robeck aboard HMS Queen Elizabeth, it is decided to make an amphibious landing on the Gallipoli peninsula.



De Robeck and Hamilton

April, 1915

- 25 - British Empire and French forces make amphibious landings on the Gallipoli peninsula.
 - Landing at Cape Helles made by the British 29th Division and elements of the RN Division.
 - Landing at Anzac Cove made by the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.
 - French forces make a diversionary landing at Kum Kale on the Asian shore.
- 27 - Anzac: Under the command of Mustafa Kemal, the Turks mount a counter-attack but fail to drive the Anzacs into the sea.
- 28 - Helles: First Battle of Krithia British and French forces suffer 3,000 casualties for little gain.

May, 1915

- 6 - Helles: Second Battle of Krithia commences. British 42nd (East Lancashire) Division begins landing as reinforcements.
- 8 - Helles: Second Battle of Krithia ends.
- 12 - Helles: HMS Goliath is sunk by the Turkish torpedo boat Muavenet.
- 19 - Anzac: Turkish forces mount a massive attack using 42,000 men but are repulsed, suffering 10,000 casualties.
- 22 - Anzac: Negotiations commence to arrange an armistice in order to bury the dead in no man's land.

- 24 - Anzac: An armistice is declared from 7.30 am to 4.30 pm in which time Turkish and Anzac dead are buried.
- 25 - Anzac: HMS Triumph is sunk by German U-boat U-21.
- 27 - Helles: HMS Majestic is sunk by U-21.

June, 1915

- 4 - Helles: Third Battle of Krithia British and French forces mount a limited attack but still fail to reach their objectives.
- 28 - Helles: Battle of Gully Ravine starts.

July, 1915

- 5 - Helles: Battle of Gully Ravine ends with the British repelling a large Turkish counter-attack.
- 12 - Helles: British 52nd (Lowland) Division and RN Division attack along Achi Baba Nullah.

August, 1915

- 6 - Battle of Sari Bair, also known as the August Offensive, commences.
 - Helles: Battle of Krithia Vineyard diversion commences with an attack by the 88th Brigade of the British 29th Division.
 - Anzac: Battle of Lone Pine diversion commences at 6.00 pm with the Australian 1st Division capturing Turkish trenches. Fighting continues for six days in which time seven VC are awarded.
 - Suvla: At 10.00 pm the British 11th (Northern) Division, part of IX Corps, begins landing.
 - Anzac: Under cover of darkness, two columns of Anzac, British and Indian troops break out to the north, heading for the heights of Chunuk Bair and Hill 971.
- 7
 - Anzac: Battle of the Nek. At 4.30 am another futile diversion virtually wipes out two regiments of the Australian 3rd Light Horse Brigade.
 - Suvla: The British 10th (Irish) Division begins landing.
 - Helles: Fighting at Krithia Vineyard continues with an attack by the 42nd Division.
 - Anzac: After a lengthy delay, the NZ Infantry Brigade attempts to capture Chunuk Bair but fails.
- 8 - Anzac: Battle of Chunuk Bair Attacking at 3.00 a.m., NZ and British infantry gain a foothold on Chunuk Bair.
- 9 - Anzac: A general attack by the Allies on the heights of Chunuk Bair, Hill Q and Hill 971 fails.
- 10
 - Anzac: Battle of Chunuk Bair ends when the Turks, led by Mustafa Kemal, drive the Allies off the heights.
 - Suvla: British 53rd (Welsh) Division attacks Scimitar Hill, suffering heavy casualties.
- 12 - Anzac: Battle of Lone Pine ends.
- 13 - Helles: Battle of Krithia Vineyard ends.
- 15 - Suvla: General Sir Frederick Stopford is sacked as commander of IX Corps.
- 21 - Final British offensive of the campaign launched to consolidate Anzac and Suvla landings.
 - Suvla: Battle of Scimitar Hill IX Corps makes a final attempt to seize Scimitar and W Hills.
 - Anzac: Battle of Hill 60 begins.
- 29 - Battle of Hill 60 ends.

October, 1915

- 15 - General Sir Ian Hamilton is sacked as commander of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
- 28 - General Sir Charles Monro arrives to assume command of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

November, 1915

- 15 - Field Marshal Horatio Kitchener, the Secretary of State for War, visits Gallipoli.
- 22 - Kitchener recommends evacuation of Anzac and Suvla.
- 27 - A fierce storm and blizzard, lasting three days, strikes the peninsula.

December, 1915

- 7 - *Politics*: The British Cabinet orders the evacuation of Anzac and Suvla.
- 18 - Start of final evacuation of Anzac and Suvla.
- 20 - Evacuation of Anzac and Suvla completed before dawn.
- 28 - *Politics*: The British Cabinet orders the evacuation of Helles.

January, 1916

- 7 - Helles: British garrison reduced to 19,000. Turkish assault launched along Gully Spur.
- 9 - Helles: Last British troops depart the Gallipoli peninsula.

(Editor's Note: In addition to the picture of De Robeck and Hamilton included above, there is another one that includes them, and also Commodore Roger Keyes and Maj Gen Walter Pipon Braithwaite, Hamilton's Chief of Staff. Braithwaite House at Victoria College is named after him. Braithwaite's military career nearly came to a full stop as a result of Gallipoli, but was "rescued" by Haig, and successfully proved his worth as a Divisional and later a Corps Commander on the Western Front. Unfortunately I could not find a copy of the photo for inclusion but will keep looking).

The Guernsey Volunteer Corps

(Found in a book "Sarnia's Record in the Great War" by EV Davis probably produced in around 1920)

"About the time of the formation of the new Police Force was also formed the Guernsey Volunteer Force, commanded for a short period by Colonel Mosse and later by Commandant HH Randell. This Corps, composed of men over military age and men under the physical standard required for the Army, attracted hundreds of enthusiastic volunteers, anxious to take their share in the work of home defence. St George's Hall was taken as a Headquarters, and drilled by Militia instructors the volunteers made rapid progress in the intricacies of section and platoon drill, their enthusiasm maintained at white heat despite the fact that they were "armed" with dummy rifles. Uniforms were bought, a miniature rifle range established, and a section was selected for instruction in the use of a machine gun (Maxim) attending a course of lectures at Castle Cornet. A band too was formed, and on 25th March 1915, the Corps

made its first public appearance, taking part in a route march and parade at Cambridge Park. Alas not all the Volunteers were above “military age” as modified by war conditions, and not all were “crocks” when tested by the lowered standard introduced with the alarums of war. The obviously unfit gradually drifted back to their firesides, the obviously fit found their way into the ranks of the khaki armies. Finally, the introduction of the Military Service Act administered the “coup de grace” and since then the Volunteer Corps has been known no more. Still the Guernsey Volunteer Corps did excellent work as a training unit, as a recruiting unit and as a means of maintaining a feeling of optimism and enthusiasm during the dark days of the war.”

With other material, Liz has included a section on the GVC in the website.

The Jersey Penny



A few readers will not have received Gary Godel’s E-Mail that prompted this small item. He had seen a press article about the unidentified remains of a soldier from the 1st Battalion King’s Own Royal Lancaster Regiment who had been killed on 1st July 1916. In the man’s identifiable possessions there was found what turned out to be a Jersey penny – the press article had incorrectly cited a Guernsey one.

Gary’s note was of great interest to me in that I had seen the remains being removed from where they were found in October 2003, in a field a 100 metres or so from Serre No 2 Cemetery. Furthermore, I live only a few miles from the centre of Lancaster where the King’s Own Museum is located, and I know the Museum’s Curator, Peter Donnelly. The photograph above shows the various

artefacts discovered plus photos of discovery and re-interment at Serre No 2 in April 2004 on display in Lancaster. We had discussed the find a few times in the past and well before I knew of the penny's existence.

However, since learning of it, Peter and I have been discussing a possible connection of the individual to Jersey. There are 86 men of the 1st King's Own who died on 1st July and have no known grave, and none have an obvious link. However, there are some 40 whose likely time in service could have included time with the 2nd King's Own in Jersey between 1908 and 1911. On this basis, it may be that there was an individual with a Jersey girlfriend that he returned on leave from France to visit, though Peter was a little sceptical with this "shot in the dark"! To follow this up, Ian Ronayne kindly volunteered to scan back numbers of the Jersey newspapers to see if a King's Own name appeared on the regularly produced lists of those on leave.

But, Peter's scepticism may have been allayed somewhat subsequently when, completely out of the blue, the family of a chap called Harper presented the Museum with his diary. It turns out that Harper, a veteran of the South African War as well as the Great War, had married a Jersey girl in 1915. As a result, Peter is now contacting the family to get the wife's maiden name, and it is possible the groom's best man was also from the 1st King's Own. A reply is still awaited as at 7th August 2006.

We should not forget the BBC "Who Do You Think You Are" programme that featured Ian Hislop, whose maternal grandfather, William Beddows, had also served with the King's Own in South Africa, and came to Jersey to serve as an instructor with the Militia in 1906. One wonders if there is a line of investigation there.

Hopefully, this tale will evolve and with good fortune, it may be that a name can be found for the unidentified soldier.

"Ardent for Some Desperate Glory"
Lancaster University Summer School - 31st July to 4th August 2006

The title, taken from a line in Wilfred Owen's "Dulce et Decorum Est", sounded puzzling to many uninitiated Summer School attendees who were there to learn the basic of digital photography or short story writing. Yet it provoked some thought as to whether they should have chosen this course! This was the second year that I had attended and though there were only seven of us attendees (five from last year), it was probably all the better for the small participation. As for last year, the lecturer was Simon Jones, whose delivery seemed more comfortable, and whose knowledge proved just as good.

The week's theme could be simply described as "Passchendaele, Poetry and Paintings", however there was more content covered. The core was indeed Ypres III, looking at the political and military influences leading up to Messines and then the various battles of Ypres III between 31st July and 10th November 1917. Discussing the various stages of the battle was very useful, and was

probably the first time I had looked at it in its entirety, bringing new perspectives into consideration. At the outset, it was clear that there seemed to be a great deal of discontinuity in the political decision making that allowed the battle to proceed, and Jellicoe's "Britain will starve in 1918" claim must take some credit (Use of right word?).

I had regarded Messines as a preparatory battle for Ypres III, but feel now that it was simply fought to keep pressure on the Germans while the French and Russians could recover from mutiny and revolution. Haig's decision to opt for Gough in place of Plumer may be questionable as is his persistence (or stubbornness?) to continue the campaign beyond Broodseinde Ridge in October. Charles Carrington echoes similar thoughts in "Soldier from the wars returning" on the later stages of the Somme, yet Haig was successful in the final days of the war with a similar approach.

Poetry and paintings looked at what resulted, though the frequent use of Owen and Sassoon verse ignores the fact that neither took part in Ypres III.

Midway through the week was another day out to the IWM-North, a trip only worthwhile to do some shopping in the Museum's shop! A well-advertised exhibition of photographs on the Battles of Somme and Jutland can politely be described as disappointing – 21 of the former, 6 of the latter!!! However, all was not lost as the course proceeded to the Manchester Regiment Museum in Ashton-under-Lyne. It is an excellent museum, well balanced, and holding a considerable range of material related to both the Boer and Great War. Wilfred Owen had been with the Manchesters, but it was pleasing to see that his membership did not over-shadow the others.

Other aspects looked at through the week included the morale of men as the Battle progressed, the use of gas and mining, the latter being particularly successful at Messines, a thought-provoking session on shell-shock and its treatment, and the mutiny at Etaples which was somewhat over-dramatised in BBC's "The Monocled Mutineer" some years ago.

As for last year, there will be an assignment – pick any two of the following five questions and provide a 1000 word answer for each – the real challenge is the ability to provide a structured response within the word count!

1. Why was the Third Battle of Ypres fought?
2. What lessons learnt during the Battle of the Somme were applied to the Third Battle of Ypres?
3. How effective as propaganda was the official war art inspired by the Third Battle of Ypres?
4. Compare the generalship of Gough and Plumer during the Third Battle of Ypres.
5. In relation to the episode on Passchendaele, what liberties were taken with historical accuracy in the use of original sources in the BBC Great War Series? How far were these justified?

Overall, it was an excellent week once again! But sadly though, this was Simon's last year as he is concentrating on book-writing and being a Holt's Tour guide. It may be that there is no Great War topic for next year's Summer School, so perhaps I will do the course on macramé!

The Jersey Parish Memorials By Paul Ronayne

Over the coming months I will be locating and photographing the Great War memorials in Jersey starting with the twelve parish memorials. There are also many other memorials scattered throughout the island which I will be recording at a later date hopefully coming across some obscure or long lost memorials. The parish memorials are located in more prominent positions around the Island but you wonder how many people in Jersey today take any notice of the lists of names inscribed into the memorial panels. These memorials were and still are very important to Jersey, and the men listed on them whether they died in the 1914-1918 war or other conflicts since deserve and must be remembered for giving their lives so we can enjoy freedom today.

St Brelade's Memorial



The St Brelade memorial is situated at the western end of the bay next to the picturesque St Brelade's Church with adjoining grave yard. It is single column made from Jersey granite and has a sobering 48 names inscribed on two sides. Also listed are 11 names from the 1939-1945 conflict, and a name of one soldier that died during the troubles in Northern Ireland.

The memorial has on one side of it the inscription "To the memory of the men of St Brelade who gave their lives in the Great War 1914-1918 and that of 1939-1945". This inscription is repeated on the fourth panel in French. The

column is topped by a wreath, and four swords decorate each one of the corners.

Albert Edward Mauger was just sixteen when he died. A 'Boy 1st Class' on board HMS Vanguard he died in an explosion on the ship and is listed as dying on the 9th July 1917. Formerly a porter at Millbrook railway station Albert had left Jersey twelve months before his death and is remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial. The St Brelade memorial lists his initials as AF for some unknown reason, maybe a mistake by the inscriber, we will probably never know.

Another name listed on the memorial is that of Arthur James Mesny son of Mr A Mesny of St Aubins. He was a Private serving with the 1st Bn, DCLI, and was killed in action age 20 at 'Third Ypres', on the 4th October 1917. Arthur's body was never identified and his name is inscribed on one of the many panels to the missing at Tyne Cot Cemetery in Belgium. Before the war Arthur had worked at De Gruchy and was said to be a promising organist at St Aubin's church.

William John Nolais was a Sergeant with 1st Bn Bedfordshire Regt. Husband of Gertrude Eileen Nolais, of 20 Wellesley Terrace, Simon Place, St. Helier and son of Mr and Mrs Nolais of St Aubins Jersey, William was described as "a most promising soldier" and had received a commission the day he was wounded when serving out ammunition. Sent to a hospital in Rouen where his arm was amputated, his wife of a few months travelled to Rouen to be with him. As his condition become more serious his parents also decided travel to Rouen to be with him but unfortunately he died of his wounds before they arrived. He was twenty four and died on the 8th December 1914. He is buried in St Sever Cemetery, Rouen. Prior to the war William had been a champion swimmer in the St Aubins Swimming Club and went on to be a champion diver at Aldershot after enlisting. A brave and talented man, whose life was cut tragically short.

A member of the Jersey Overseas Contingent is also listed on the memorial, Francis Arthur Turner a Sergeant with 7th Bn Royal Irish Rifles was twenty nine when he died. The JEP reports his date of death as 14th May 1916 and that he died of his wounds. The 7th RIR war diary notes that three men were wounded and one killed on the 13th May 1916. He is buried in Bethune Town Cemetery, Francis was married to Stella Turner (nee Filliastre), of "Hillside," St. Brelade's Bay, Jersey.

It is ironic that during the war several Germans from the POW Camp at Blanches Banques were buried in St Brelade's Church-yard, and even though their remains were later removed to a cemetery in France for a time these Germans were buried on Jersey soil, a dignity not afforded to many of the Jersey men listed on the memorial. I wonder if the families of the dead thought about this at the time, I for one would have found it hard to accept.

This memorial is set in a beautiful location over looking a wonderful bay; a fitting place for St Brelade's lost sons.

St John's Memorial



The small but beautiful village of St John is located in the north of the island. At its heart are the parish school, parish hall and church all within a stone's through of each other. Opposite the school is the war memorial. It is an impressive obelisk made from Jersey granite and has eighteen names of men who died in the Great War recorded on the front panel. There are six other names listed on the memorial, five from the Second World War and one killed in Northern Ireland.

One name listed on the memorial is that of Elias George Dorey the youngest son of Centenier John and Elsie Dorey of St John and was killed in action on 31st October 1917 whilst fighting at Ypres. He was a Gunner with 290 Siege Battery, RGA, and is buried in Ruisseau Cemetery, Belgium, he was twenty three. Elias was initially reported as missing and it was not until December 1918 that he was confirmed dead. What a desperately long time for his parents to hold on to the hope that their son could still be alive. It must have been a cruel twist for the family in an already cruel war.

Another name listed is that of Auguste Francis Jouanne, a Private in the 1st (West) Bn RMIJ, who had died after suffering three weeks of illness a result of catching a chill whilst on outpost duty proving the war inflicted casualties in many different ways. Auguste was a farmer and married to Ada Mary. He was thirty two when he died.

Reginald Sidney Nicolle, also listed on the memorial was the son of John and Jane Nicolle of West Park Avenue St Helier. It seems that Reginald must

have emigrated to Canada before the war as at the time of his death he was a Lance Sergeant in the 73rd Bn (Quebec Regt.), Canadian Infantry. He died storming Vimy Ridge on 9th April 1917 age twenty nine and is buried in the Canadian Cemetery Number 2, Neuville St Vaast.

Jouanne and Nicolle could not have had two contrasting deaths, one in Jersey in relative safety, the other storming Vimy Ridge in a maelstrom of bullets and shells but we must remember both families would have grieved as much as each other, in the same ways for their lost son, brother, husband or father.

The inscription on the front of the memorial is in French and reads “Saint Jean a la Gloire du Dieu et en Memoire des Paroissiens Morts Pour leur Roi et Patrie”, which roughly translates to “St John to the glory of God and in memory of the parishioners who died for King and Country”.

St Mary’s Memorial



This memorial is to be found in a poignant location right in front of St Mary’s parish school. It takes the form of a cross made of granite with a sword fixed to the front. There are four panels around the bottom of the memorial, two of which have twenty two names listed on them. I presume all the dead here are from the Great War as there is no mention of WWII on the memorial, I assume that there is either a separate memorial to the St Mary’s WWII dead or that no one from the parish died during the fighting in 1939-1945. It’s something I will look into at a later date to find an answer (Editor’s Note: Perhaps Gary Godel can advise?).

There are three Catelinets listed on the memorial, two of which were brothers Henry and John. Henry was killed in action while fighting at Arras on the 12th April 1917. He was serving with C Company, 6th Bn, Dorsetshire Regt. Henry had left Jersey with the Dorset's and went to France in 1914 with the original BEF and is remembered on the Arras Memorial. He was twenty two. His brother John died on the 2nd December 1918 aged twenty. He was serving with 3rd Bn, RMLI, when he died of disease in the Aegean Sea area, and was buried in the East Mudros Cemetery. Their parents were James and Annie Catelinet of 1 D'Auvergne Cottages, Aquila Rd, St Helier.

A member of the Jersey Overseas Contingent is also remembered on the memorial. Sergeant Clarence George Minchington died of disease aged twenty three on the 24th April 1917 and is buried in Hazebrouck Communal Cemetery, also a long way from home.

The inscription on the memorial reads in French "St Marie Tribut Reconnaissance a La Memoire Des Paroissiens Morts Pour La Patrie 1914-1918"

As I took the photographs of the memorial I couldn't help notice the date on the front of the school, 1901 and my thoughts turned to the boys who had attended the school during those early years, going in and out of the door with Garcons above it only for some years later to end up listed on the memorial now standing proudly in front of their old school, a most fitting place for their memorial.

(Editor's Comment: Looking at Paul's accompanying photographs it is interesting to note three quite different designs were selected by the parishes featured. I am sure that theme will continue for the others. I am curious as to where St Helier's is located!)

Book Reviews

The First Casualty by Ben Elton (Black Swan p/back ISBN 0-552-77130-9)

Chosen as a book for light holiday reading, and so it proved. Not too taxing for the brain cells, a 'whodunnit' set against the Great War and the slaughter of Passchendaele, it was a pacy read. However, and there are a lot of howevers, if two words could sum it up, they would be "cliché-ridden"!

The story's central character, Kingsley, was regarded the best inspector in the London Metropolitan Police who finds himself in a civil court and subsequently Wormwood Scrubs for having refused to be conscripted because he logically, not conscientiously, objects to Britain's involvement in the Great War. His wife, the daughter of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner disowns him, and in the first few days of his incarceration, is badly beaten by other inmates tacitly supported by thuggish prison warders. As he recovers in the prison hospital he unsuccessfully endeavours to gain protection from imprisoned Sinn Fein members, before being assisted into a staged escape were a phoney killing takes place, this being ordered by no less a person than Lloyd

George! Thereafter he is coerced to assume a false identity with the rank of Captain in the RMP to investigate the killing of a famous patriotic poetry-writing officer who has become disaffected by the War (shades of Siegfried Sassoon!). The logic of this is that he now has to visit the trenches and be involved in the fighting that he had sought to avoid through his logical objection. At this point, as they say, you can read the book to find out how it finishes.....

Elton has maintained the pace of a classic 'whodunnit' very well, however there are times when he describes items or uses slang or jargon more in tune with today than 90 years ago. A Rolls-Royce being described a Roller while an individual refers to a "window of opportunity" are two such examples, there are more. At other times it appears that he uses the slang of the day if only to demonstrate that he knows of the existence such slang. This smacks of sloppiness.

Having it to read on holiday helped in that any historical references could not be visited to check accuracy, however I am sure that the Blues and Royals were not formed until the 70s or 80s. The temptation to be avoided for students of the Great War is to treat the book as a historic record and then check such accuracy. However, the central premise of the book that a highly regarded detective such as Kingsley could be conscripted is fundamentally flawed, albeit it gives Elton the opportunity to practise his clichés.

Thus, we soon realise that all ex-public schoolboy officers are raging homosexuals while the other ranks, almost without exception, speak like Alf Garnett! Union leaders who are imprisoned are the salt of the earth while the Sinn Fein characters are all fine bhoyos. Meanwhile, the prison governor is very *laissez-faire*, the prison doctor a drunken incompetent while the warders encourage the brutal treatment meted out. During his encounters with various people such as the unions, Sinn Fein and a fleeting love interest who in the past was a Suffragette, he is made aware of police brutality!

In fairness, Elton does convey a good sense of the death and destruction encountered on the battlefield, and it is here that he has set aside his political axes from the grindstone and demonstrated that he can write intelligently. Similarly this also shows when he has Kingsley conducting his investigations and interviews.

In conclusion, it should be treated as a light holiday read and nothing more. If there is a "First Casualty" of this book, it is the ability of Ben Elton writing without letting personal biases show so much.

Thirteen Days by Clive Ponting (Chatto & Windus ISBN –701-17293-2)

First, the author's name will be undoubtedly recognised from the Falkland War era when he, whilst a civil servant, provided information to the press as regards to the Belgrano sinking. When this book was written in 2002, he was Reader in Politics at the University of Wales.

With the regards to this book, it is fair to say that he has made a fair attempt at describing the events as they occurred between the Sarajevo assassination and in particular, the thirteen days prior to the outbreak of war, although the style is slightly plodding. The dust cover “blurb” suggests that the “war guilt” clause at Versailles was somewhat unfair to the Germans, and that Serbia, Austria-Hungary and Russia were the major culprits and that the book would bear this out. In some respects this is a fair analysis since Austria-Hungary, in particular, was hell-bent on attacking Serbia and breaking it up first with Germany’s full encouragement, but later without, when Germany appreciated what might result. I am not convinced with Ponting’s contention whether Serbia shared the same blame, since he does not make sufficient case for the comprehensive existence of extreme Serbian nationalism with Serbian government and military circles. Russia was certainly reacting to Austria-Hungary’s posture but at the outset was only undertaking partial mobilisation.

Where the book succeeds is in allowing insights into a range of characters and their behaviours. France’s President Poincare wished for a war to recover Alsace-Lorraine, yet did not wish that the French initiated it so that he would retain the support of the French public while ensuring that British public support would also be beneficial. Sir Edward Grey did not appear to grasp the seriousness of the situation until very late nor were Asquith’s cabinet kept informed, not least because Irish Home Rule was considered more serious. Sazonov the Russian Foreign Minister was somewhat volatile and not adverse to blackmailing his friends into supporting Russia, not least by suggesting that British interests in India and Persia might be affected by Russia – who said nothing changes? Another common thread that persisted throughout the protagonists was that of territory. Italy for example wanted the Trentino if it was to side with Austria-Hungary, while Japan saw that it could obtain German colonies in China and had to be politely dissuaded by the British from areas adjacent to Australia and New Zealand.

Quite often, it could be seen that the politicians and the diplomats said one thing and meant another, or did not ensure that their message was sufficiently clear to be understood. Of the former, the French representative at St Petersburg appeared to have his own agenda, while of the latter, Grey was insufficiently forthright throughout. With telephones and E-Mail readily available today, it is clear to the modern reader that the method of communication between capitals in those days was rudimentary, and with the need to encode and decode, a great deal of time was being lost to transmission delays. While there were cases when messages were deliberately delayed between their writing and transmission, in-built delays were such that their receipt was being over-taken by events. The tragedy of this is that no one in any of the governments took the time to stop, consider what was going on, and then sought to visit another capital.

Where Ponting could have helped in his book was to provide better timelines to events (something I often put forward as a criticism) and in this case, to base all times on GMT to understand the connectivity of events from St Petersburg to London. This would help in appreciating the lead and lag of communication.

Towards the end the book seems to drift and this might, in its way, reflect Europe's own drift into war, an inevitability that reflected political and diplomatic lack of forethought of vision, pride, incompetence, dishonesty and avarice. Almost oddly, as war approaches, the issue of Serbia takes a back-seat, with Germany insisting that the bulk of Austria-Hungary's forces assist them in facing Russia, while France, in a similar vein asks that Russia's forces face Germany. What of the *casus belli* at that point?

Notwithstanding Europe's drift into war, it is almost absurd also to note that diplomatic niceties were maintained with Poincare and the Kaiser apologising to the German and British representatives for the damage caused to their embassies by stone-throwing mobs, while Germany's representative in London left via Harwich, with a special military guard of honour in attendance! In conclusion, this is a book that would be worth getting it out of the library.

August 2006: A Visit to Bovington Tank Museum By Ian Ronayne

A recent trip to Southampton to see the rock band "The Who" in concert presented Paul and I with some spare time in England, and transport in the form of a hire car to get us about. It was decided to head for the Tank Museum at Bovington Camp in Dorset - a place I had visited before; but given that it was about eighteen years ago, memories of what it contained were pretty hazy. However, I did recall that the museum was on a large and very impressive site crammed inside and out with all manner of armoured fighting vehicles - including a number of Great War specimens. On a bright and sunny August Monday morning we set out to see if anything had changed.

Arriving at the Museum, it was obvious that some things hadn't. Dotted here and there on the approach roads, and around the sprawling mass of buildings that constituted the museum, were tanks. For the most part they were fairly modern types, post-WW2, and hailing from both sides of the former Iron Curtain. A number were strategically placed around the entrance to the museum proper, rakishly sat on concrete plinths with their massive guns angled menacingly to aim just over the heads of approaching visitors. But at this point the sense of familiarity ended.

Once inside the museum, and past the rather expensive (£10 per person¹) entrance counter, it was obvious that other aspects had changed. Instead of entering a huge hall filled with metal monsters, the incoming visitor is taken back to the world of 1914 – without a tank in sight! You are channelled through a series of rooms and passageways each laid out to represent an aspect of the Great War. In the first a robotised recruiting sergeant welcomes newcomers to the army. He stands behind contemporary furniture and is surrounded by packing cases and other period paraphernalia. On the walls all around are posters from the time and real-life hand-written accounts of men's experiences. The following rooms cover training, army life, medical services,

¹ On the plus side the cost of entry allows continual access for up to one year.

etc, each using the same format to make it as life-like as possible and each one taking the visitor closer to the war itself. After a number of twists and turns, you arrive at the pièce-de-résistance of the display: a walk-through trench diorama that culminates in a German trench upon which the massive bulk of a genuine Mark I tank is about to descend. Complete with terrified and cowering German soldiers, it is a superb representation.



The WWI Gallery at Bovington

Beyond the diorama the museum opens up into the more familiar series of halls containing tanks, armoured cars and guns. They are displayed in logical order, starting with the Great War, and concluding with captured Iraqi T72's from the First Gulf War. To my knowledge, the Great War collection is the best anywhere, and includes the original tank "Little Willie", a Mark II female, Mark IV males and females, a Mark V (in working order) and a Medium "A" or Whippet. The last two mentioned had both seen active service in the war: the former in the Battle of Amiens in August 1918, whilst the latter was the actual vehicle commanded by Lt Cecil Sewell when he won a posthumous VC in the same year.

All are presented with information boards and selective displays of other relevant materials such as photographs, maps and diagrams. Several are open, and lit inside enabling the visitor to peer into a world of exposed pistons, crankshafts, levers and wheels. Although undoubtedly sanitised by white paint, bright lights and cleaned surfaces, the experience does allow you to form and understanding of what it must have been like to go into a battle

enclosed in a cramped, noisy, claustrophobic and uncomfortable environment. I am still unable to decide whether I would rather be inside or out!

Regrettably for us, time was pressing. We were planning to head to Portsmouth and a visit to HMS Victory at lunchtime, and so both the Great War section and the rest of the museum had to be rushed through. With hindsight, it was obvious that a full day was really needed to the collection justice and take-in all of the vehicles and the displays at leisure. The latter included an almost complete set of German WW2 Panzers including a Panther, Tiger and King Tiger: tanks that would have been incomprehensible to men of the Tank Corps advancing on Cambrai in November 1917.

All-in-all, the museum was well worth a visit – even just to view the Great War vehicles and put some perspective on the many accounts of tanks in that war. For us in the Channel Islands, given its proximity to Southampton airport (or Bournemouth airport which would be even closer), it is within easy distance and is recommended as a potentially great day out.

Odds and Ends

As some are aware, the Guernsey Museum Service is closing its Militia Museum that is located in Castle Cornet for a period of 18 months, caused by a “black hole” in Guernsey’s finances. I hope members will remain vigilant to see that the Museum isn’t sucked into that same “black hole”!



Found on a French website, the picture above of John Edward Alexandre’s headstone at Longuenesse Souvenir Cemetery near St Omer. I wonder if this

is unique in being the only CWGC headstone anywhere, other than in Jersey, showing the Militia badge. It is probably technically incorrect to have used it as he was serving at the time in 236 Employment Company, Labour Corps, number 190818. The AIF badge is included because it was a double grave.

Meanwhile Mark Bougourd has sent me a photograph of the RGLI of some 55 men and their officer, plus a civilian, which follows a few pages on. Like so many photographs that we all turn up, undated, no names no location. To me it looks like a particular platoon and the officer might be the key. Quite a few of the men are well-weathered! Does anybody have any thoughts?

Out and About

Russell Docherty is triply featured this time following his attendance at the Ploegsteert Memorial back in April and two presentations that he gave more recently of life as an RGLI Private at Castle Cornet. I attach the photographs and newspaper article for those who may not have seen them.

Liz Walton and Roger Frisby are over in Jersey shortly, meeting up with the brothers Ronayne and Ned while they are there. Hopefully a few others might like to join them at dinner?

I'm off doing a "temporary, acting, local, unpaid" guide at the Somme and Ypres on the last weekend of September.

Enfin

Lastly, again thanks must go to the website team, and also to Gary and Paul for their first (and hopefully not their last!) articles.

Looking ahead, I plan to send out the next newsletter by 5th October – a little earlier than normal as I'm off to the Somme on the following day. Any articles and other material should reach me around the 20th September. Many thanks in anticipation while as ever, I hope that this newsletter is well-received!

Regards
Barrie H Bertram
13th August 2006

Castle goes back in time as First World War is revisited



■ **TALKS AND STORIES:** Russell Doherty, of the Guernsey History in Action Company, at Castle Cornet yesterday. *Picture by Adrian West (0447176)*

CASTLE CORNET travelled back in time yesterday with tales and stories of a Royal Guernsey Light Infantry private.

Russell Doherty, of the Guernsey History in Action Company, stepped into the shoes of Guernsey private Richard to recount the experiences of life on the Western Front during the First World War.

A small but captivated audience shared in tales of army food, sleeping in the trenches and what to wear to avoid being poisoned by gases.

'I'm not really an actor, I'm a historian, but I know the subject. Presenting it like this is a great way of putting history forward,' said Mr Doherty.

'Some museum displays are wonderful but at the same time if something doesn't walk or talk, a lot of people will just carry on walking straight by'

By Simon Testevins

The RGLI served bravely but suffered terrible losses in the First World War and was disbanded after the Battle of Cambrai.

More than 2,000 soldiers passed or rotated through the RGLI. Not all of them were from Guernsey, because replacements were drafted in from other battalions.

Visitors Lawrence and Virginia Hayward, from Bostlip in Middlesex, found the lecture performance extremely informative.

'It was very interactive. He welcomed everyone's comments and knew a lot about his subject,' said Mr Hayward.

Mrs Hayward added: 'I quite liked listening to the personal side of the soldier's life and how they lived day to

day, but it was all very good.'

Sarah Richard and Andrew Chase, from Bedfordshire, also appreciated the insight into life in the First World War.

'I thought it was excellent and a really good way of delivering it. He certainly knew his stuff and I learnt quite a few things I didn't know before,' said Mr Chase.

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Richard Chase



Remembering



The RGLI Wreath





A few accompanying words from Liz Walton

The event was one in a series taking place at Castle Cornet through July and August, sponsored by EMI. Called "Friday Nights at the Castle", it gives free entrance to the castle, including the museums, on Fridays between 6 and 9 pm. There are musical events, entertainments and re-enactments all around the castle grounds. Last Friday's had a nautical theme, with the Sea Cadets doing a miniature field-gun run, GU10 singing sea shanties, plus a pipe band from Merchiston School in Scotland who accompanied the raising and lowering of the flag at the beginning and end of the evening. It was very moving, with a lone piper playing a lament and a man in Militia uniform standing to attention at the top of one of the Castle towers.

Russell wandered around the castle in full kit, talking about life in the RGLI, answering questions and letting children feel the weight of the rifle and hat, what it was like to breathe through a hood respirator etc.