

# CHANNEL ISLAND GREAT WAR STUDY GROUP



**Joey!**

## JOURNAL 10 OCTOBER 2006

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Hello All

New title – Journal – but still the old formula, and, I hope not one that is too tired! Do let me know where you still see scope for improvement.

We are again approaching that time of the year where the word “Remembrance” gets its annual airing, or so it seems. To me, remembering the fallen is just one of many elements and I see its use very much as a counter to the word “Ignorance”. For many years I, and many others, remained unaware of the sacrifices made by my family, their friends and colleagues, during the Great War. Sadly, and for undoubtedly understandable reasons, grand-parents and parents made very little, if any, reference to that sacrifice, preferring in countless cases to shield us from the grief and the nightmares that they themselves had experienced. Now, it is important that we do remember it, not just for the sacrifice itself, but for the arrogance, the over-weening pride and conceit, and the mistakes of those in power who, when the opportunity arose, could have stepped back from the brink of war, or indeed should have stepped forward to be counted at the appropriate time, and thereby deterring war and preventing the tragedies that ensued. For surely, the Great War and the Second World War were from the same causes. Our ignorance of those Great War events can also be seen in today’s world where we can also remain ignorant of our freedoms that were fought for by our grand-fathers and great-uncles. As much as threats from terrorism or “rogue” states do exist, there are as many from our own governments with increasingly authoritarian laws being adopted, whereby increased surveillance and other anti-libertarian measures are becoming the norm. When we stand and remember what our forebears stood for, we should also consider that we have to stand up for ourselves as free men and women!

Remembrance is the theme of Elizabeth Morey’s article with which we start. To New Zealanders (and undoubtedly the Australian’s) ANZAC Day looms large in their calendar, and Elizabeth goes a long way to telling us why. Channel Islanders, in their small way, helped New Zealand along that path. It is followed by a piece found by Mark Bougourd on a presentation made to Guernsey’s Special Police in 1921, a body of unsung heroes, and has another picture of two unknown sailors and a tale of their ship, HMS New Zealand.

Liz Walton has again sprung to my rescue. She has been hot on the trail of Joey (don’t go there!) and has provided a brief account of his travels along with a couple of photographs, one which I have used on the cover due to a lack of a more appropriate topic! Paul follows an excellent debut with a look at three more memorials in Jersey, two parish and one church. Meanwhile, there are the usual odd bits from myself, often to act as fillers of awkward spaces. I hope that you find something to enjoy reading in this “first” Journal.

### **Membership News**

All quiet on the Membership Front, I am hoping to keep it this way until the New Year when we have gone “public” with the website, so that any new members can obtain the Journal via that medium.

## Postscripts

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

### **The Lawrence Connection (in the last Newsletter)**

Regarding the ten-year project being put together by Dr Neil Faulkner to undertake archaeological digs and research into sites fought over during the Arab revolt of 1916-18, I suspect that volunteers after the recent shooting in Amman may be a little short on the ground!

### **Headstones showing the Jersey Militia badge (in the last Newsletter)**

Further to John Edward Alexandre's headstone at St Omer, it is not unique, as Ian Ronayne has advised that there is at least that of Lieutenant Lawrence Bosdet Hibbs' at Lapugnoy Cemetery, near Bethune, that also has the Militia badge.

Meanwhile, in the case of Pte Guy Brierley, the CWGC appear to have got it wrong at Almorah Cemetery in St Helier, Jersey, by showing the RGLI badge. As previously published, it was highlighted that he was a member of the RJGB having formerly been in the Manchester Regiment.

### **Inky-Bill (Newsletter 7)**

I have discovered the following text on [www.angloboerwar.com](http://www.angloboerwar.com):



*INGOUVILLE-WILLIAMS, EDWARD CHARLES, Major (Local Lieutenant Colonel), was born 13<sup>th</sup> December 1861, son of General Sir JWC Williams, KCB, and of Isabella Georgiana, daughter of John Ingouville, of La Fregoniere, Jersey. He was gazetted to the 3<sup>d</sup> Foot, as Second Lieutenant, from the Militia, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1881, and became Lieutenant, The Buffs, 1<sup>st</sup> July 1881. (This confirms Ned's advice regarding his Jersey heritage, though it was interesting to note that it was reported in the Times of 30<sup>th</sup> October, 1902, he had changed his name by deed poll from 'plain' Williams a month earlier, although he had been double-barrelled throughout.)*

### **The Jersey Penny (in the last Newsletter)**

As Jersey residents may have seen and heard, the Jersey Penny tail featured in the media, in the shape of the JEP and Radio Jersey. I attach the article from the JEP. I have exchanged E-Mails with Alastair Fraser who will be happy with whatever help he can get. Unfortunately, the possibility of the Harper wedding link has come to naught as will be covered below.

## **FROM THE UTTERMOST ENDS OF THE EARTH**

### **Elizabeth Morey**

In December 1914 a new word came into being: ANZAC. It is the acronym for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, the formation created by grouping the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) and the New Zealand Expeditionary Force (NZEAF) stationed in Egypt under the command of Lieutenant-General William Birdwood. The acronym was probably devised by a New Zealand clerk at Birdwood's headquarters for use on a rubber stamp and later used as the code word for the Corps.

During the period of the Gallipoli campaign, April to December 1915, New Zealand as a nation came of age. The battlefields of Gallipoli, from the landing on the beaches on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 1915 to the evacuation nine months later, brought a New Zealand national consciousness to the fore and forged the New Zealand spirit and a national pride. New Zealanders became New Zealanders, with an identity independent of the British Empire. Later in the First World War, events on the battlefields of Belgium and France contributed to New Zealand continuing to develop as a nation – a country that has continued to develop and mature ever since.

New Zealand, a small young country at the uttermost ends of the earth, was proud of its young men fighting in Gallipoli, so far from home. New Zealand was, and is, proud of its young men and women who have taken part in wars on foreign soil before and since that time. On one day every year New Zealanders pay their respects to nearly 30,000 fellow New Zealanders who have fought and died on overseas battlefields, and also to acknowledge the debt owed to the servicemen and women who returned to our shores. This day of remembrance and commemoration is held on 25 April and is known as ANZAC Day.

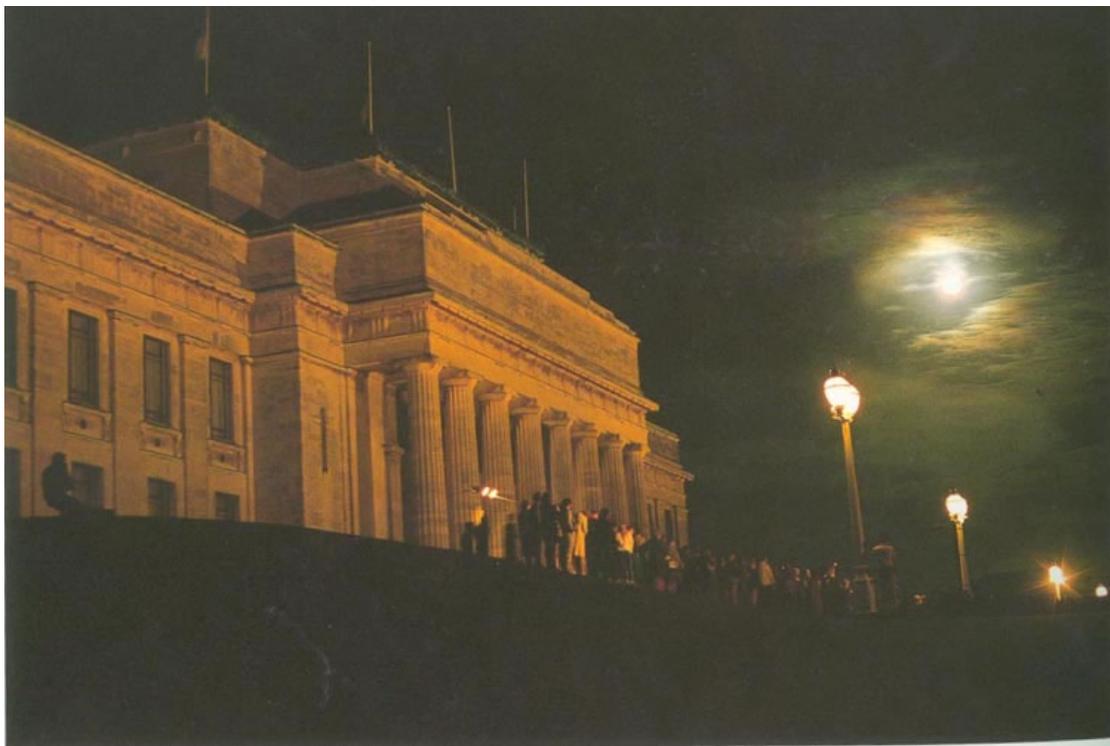
The first hospital ship carrying the wounded returning from Gallipoli arrived at Wellington, New Zealand, nearly three months after the Gallipoli landings in 1915. The troops on this ship were only some of the 4,752 soldiers from New Zealand who were wounded during the Gallipoli campaign. However, they were the fortunate ones, as 2,721 New Zealanders did not return to their homes and most of them still remain on the peninsula. After arriving in Wellington, some of the wounded on the hospital ship decided to meet again on 25<sup>th</sup> April the following year – the anniversary of the Gallipoli landings - and every year thereafter, to remember their lost mates.

As time went by, the New Zealand Government passed an Act of Parliament which proclaimed, in time for the commemorations in 1921, that 25<sup>th</sup> April in the future would be a public holiday, a day to remember those who had died in the battles of the First World War. The Act has since been amended to include all servicemen and women who have died in conflicts in countries overseas and to honour returned servicemen and women.

ANZAC Day is always held on 25<sup>th</sup> April. The day is very strictly enforced as a day of remembrance, during which all businesses must close, even if the day

falls on a business day (although businesses are now able to open in the afternoon). A few days prior, Poppy Day is held: red poppies are sold to raise funds to enable the New Zealand Returned Services Association to provide well-deserved care for returned servicemen and women.

The ceremony has continually adapted to the times and the day has gradually changed from one of mourning to one of commemoration. In cities and towns the length and breadth of the country, ANZAC Day starts with increasingly large numbers of people attending a dawn service at their local war memorial. Services are also held throughout the country at the very appropriate time of 11.00 am. The numbers of returned servicemen and women may be dwindling as the years condemn, but the numbers of people of all ages who wish to acknowledge their debt to those New Zealanders of yesteryear, and to remember, is increasing every year.



**Auckland – ANZAC Day Dawn Service**

In Auckland, the city in which I live, the main dawn service is held at the Cenotaph in front of the Auckland War Memorial Museum – a museum built in the 1920s, initially as a memorial for the dead of the First World War and later also as a memorial to the fallen of the Second World War and subsequent conflicts. The museum is set on a slight hill in the middle of a beautiful domain, with far-reaching views across the Auckland central business district and part of the Waitemata Harbour. For many years it was an honour to attend the dawn service at the Cenotaph in the company of returned servicemen and women, in such a beautiful setting, with the dawn breaking over the city and harbour. The very solemn service of hymns, reading of the last verse of Laurence Binyon's "For the Fallen", short lessons read by church members and/or officials, the lying of wreaths, and the mournful Last Post, make for a very moving time of remembrance.

However, for the last three or four years I have attended the dawn service at Brown's Bay on Auckland's North Shore and, later in the morning, another service held at the Cenotaph at the Auckland War Memorial Museum at 11.00 am. I found the dawn service at the Cenotaph at the Museum was becoming too crowded and losing some of its atmosphere. The service at Brown's Bay is held on a grassed area next to the beach and what a magical setting it is. The water laps the beach only a few meters from where we stand and the dawn breaks over Waitemata Harbour and Rangitoto Island in the harbour. The emotional service starts with returned servicemen and women, and those currently serving in the New Zealand Army, Navy and Air Force and Police personnel (including Police dogs), marching along the street to assemble on the road next to the beach. The clomp, clomp sound of many marching feet coming along the road in the dark just sets the scene. At the end of the service (which pretty much takes the form of the one held at the Cenotaph at the Museum) the bagpipes start up and the men and women march off to the sound of hundreds of people clapping them.

Every year on 25<sup>th</sup> April, ANZAC Day commemorations are held on the hallowed ground of the Gallipoli Peninsula at which official representatives of this country and hundreds of ordinary New Zealanders of all ages come together to remember. The commemorations are jointly held with Australia: New Zealand organises the commemorations one year, Australia the next, and so on. The services held on the peninsula receive wide television and press coverage in New Zealand.

Although not as widely publicised, services are also held at many locations throughout the world, including the New Zealand Memorial to the Missing at Messines Ridge in Belgium and at Le Quesnoy in France. At these places, the role of the New Zealand Division in Belgium and France is acknowledged – the triumphs at such places as Messines Ridge and Le Quesnoy and the tragedy for the New Zealand Division that was Passchendaele.

**Footnote:** *From the Uttermost Ends of the Earth* is a very apt inscription which appears on five New Zealand Memorials to the Missing erected on foreign fields in the years following the First World War – at Chunuk Bair in Gallipoli, Messines and s'Gravenstafel in Belgium, and Longueval and Le Quesnoy in France. It is taken from a speech made by King George V during a pilgrimage to the battlefield sites of France and Belgium in May 1922. The speech was made on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 1922 at Terlincthun British Cemetery at Wimille, near Boulogne in France (one of the first cemeteries to be completed and at which 29 New Zealanders are buried) at the end of the King's visit. A full account of the speech is quoted in *The King's Pilgrimage* published by Hodder and Stoughton in 1922.

### **DON'T LET THE FACTS GET IN THE WAY.....**

I am not sure that I am just getting old and wrinkly, but I have a little bit of a beef about the national press when it comments on the Great War and fails to get its facts right, or more importantly, it allows politicians to open their mouths unchallenged on the same topic!

A recent Daily Telegraph (4<sup>th</sup> September) article under the headline “Haig’s son attacks pardoning of 306 soldiers shot for cowardice” reports on comments made by the current Earl. However, on reading the article, one notes that the Earl while saying that some were rogues, persistent deserters and criminals, he also said that:

*“It was a terribly sad situation and some of these soldiers were genuinely shell-shocked”.*

Surely (I am in Private Eye mode here!) that cannot be described as an attack, rather a balanced statement of fact? Meanwhile the article quoted Mr Andrew Mackinlay, a Scottish Labour MP, who had seen fit to comment:

*“I’m astonished he’s got the audacity to put his head above the parapet on this one. The fact is these men did not get a fair trial. They were not allowed time to prepare their cases or to call witnesses. And their death warrants were signed, without possibility of appeal, by this man’s father.”*

Over the years Mr Mckinlay has campaigned hard and honourably for pardons to be granted, but one can only get a whiff of petty-mindedness and old-Labour class consciousness as if the present Earl had committed a crime in being his father’s son and therefore was not entitled to comment. Meanwhile the facts remain that of the 306 only 18 were shot for cowardice. 20 were shot in places other than France and Flanders, while 58 met their fate before Haig became Commander of the BEF. Furthermore, 37 were convicted as murderers, for whom pardons were not even asked for previously by Mr Mckinlay! So, it may be that the current Earl is only 62.5% guilty!

I would certainly have hoped that the DT would have challenged Mr Mckinlay’s statement.

Meanwhile, inaccuracies appear not to be the sole property of the UK national press, for the JEP can manage to get figures wrong with quoting “... on the bloody first day of the Somme, when around 60,000 British troops lost their lives.” Whereas, as I am sure that we are all aware, the actual figure was approximately one third of that number.

### **SPECIAL CONSTABULARY LONG SERVICE MEDALS** **Provided by Mark Bougourd**

**Mark writes:** A Special Constabulary Long Service Medal was instituted on 30<sup>th</sup> August 1919. It was awarded to all ranks in the Special Constabulary who met the criteria of 9 years unpaid service, with more than 50 duties per annum. Each year of service during the Great War with at least 50 duties per year counted as triple. A clasp inscribed “The Great War 1914-18” was awarded to those who qualified for the medal during that conflict, while further Clasps inscribed “Long Service”, with the date, are awarded for additional 10 year periods. A presentation took place for Guernsey in 1921 and I’ve included a certificate for that event (see overleaf with the text repeated as a more eye-friendly read!)



# Special Constabulary Long Service Medals

Presentation to the Honorary Special Constables of Guernsey by SIR EDWARD C. OZANNE, K.B.E., Bailiff.

A very pleasing ceremony took place at the Royal Court House on Friday, December 2nd, 1921 at 8 o'clock, when Sir Edward Ozanne, K.B.E., presented medals to those Special Constables who served the required period to earn them during the Great War. The Specials were accommodated on the right of the gallery, the other portion being filled with their wives and friends. Lady Ozanne, Mrs. Sheldon, Mrs. P. B. Thompson, Colonel W. Grant de Jersey, O.B.E., and Mr. W. W. Watkin, Constables of St. Peter-Port, and Messrs. J. A. Tostevin and George F. Le Couteur, Constables of St. Peter-in-the-Wood, were accommodated with seats on the Bench.

Sir Edward, who wore the Insignia of his Order (as did also Colonel de Jersey), speaking from H.M.'s Greffier's table, commenced by reading extracts from a letter received by him from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, which included the following:—

"The Secretary of State has expressed his high appreciation of the services performed and devotion to duty displayed by the Guernsey Special Constabulary during the War. The Medal is to be worn on the left breast suspended by the ribbon, and His Majesty has been pleased to direct that the medal shall have precedence next to but after the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve Long Service Medal, and before the following medals:—Union of South Africa Commemorative Medal (Gold and Silver), Imperial Service Medal, Medal of the Order of the British Empire, Medal of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England, Badge of the Order of the League of Mercy, Royal Victorian Medal (Bronze) and all Foreign Orders, Decorations and Medals."

Extract from Royal Warrant of 21st January, 1921.

"VI. It is ordained that if any person to whom this medal is awarded shall be guilty of any crime or disgraceful conduct which in our judgment disqualifies him for the same, this medal shall, by an Order of our Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department or of our Secretary for Scotland, be forfeited, and the name of such person shall be erased from the record of those to whom the medal has been awarded. It is hereby further declared that we, our heirs and successors, shall be the sole judges of the circumstances demanding such forfeiture, and that every person whose medal shall be so forfeited shall on being required so to do by our said Secretary of State or Secretary for Scotland, deliver up his medal to such person as our said Secretary of State or Secretary for Scotland may direct."

Gentlemen, said Sir Edward: At the outbreak of war, volunteers came forward in thousands to go out and fight the enemy in the trenches. We have recently been commemorating with gratitude and pride those who gave up their lives for King and Country. Many, on account of age, ill-health or other causes, were denied the privilege of fighting at the front. They, however, volunteered to fight at home. There was not a bloody fight, but they fought for God and country in factories, on committees, even in their armchairs fighting with their brains. There was another class, those who remained at home doing nothing but making money, shirking their duty, to their everlasting disgrace.

You, gentlemen, were denied the privilege of going out to meet the enemy, but you volunteered to do your bit. You did not know what might happen, and though it turned out that you met no enemy—we now know that it (Germany) had succeeded in obtaining command of the Channel, Guernsey was marked out for seizure—and you were willing to risk your lives, if need be. Yours was an irksome duty, visiting aliens, and patrolling in all weathers. His Majesty thanks you, I thank you for your services. You did your duty, and your consciences are clear. I regret that Colonel Collings, who, at the outbreak of hostilities, was appointed Head Special Constable and Co-Adjutor, acting as intermediary between H.E. and the Constables, is unable to be present with us this evening. The public little know what quiet useful work he did (applause). I also regret that death has removed three gentlemen to whom medals have been awarded, and that I have not the pleasure of handing them their medals: Messrs. J. A. Moon, T. Hart, and A. E. Dupuy.

The recipients' names were then called out by the Bailiff's Clerk, Mr. A. W. Hodder, and the medals were handed to them by the Bailiff, who shook hands with and congratulated each one.

At the close Mr. P. Gallienne, the Hon. Secretary, addressed the Bailiff, thanking him on behalf of the Force, for his kind words of appreciation, and for the trouble he had taken in the arrangements for the presentation (applause).

## ST. PETER PORT.

BRICK, A. H. (Sectr. Sergt.)

GALLIENNE, P. (Hon. Sec.)

### DISTRICT No. 1.

MACKAY, A. M. (Corporal).  
AMY, B. F.  
ARNOLD, F. H.  
AUSTIN, W.  
BADALE, S.  
BOURLAIZE, A. W.  
BOURLAIZE, J. H.  
BOURLAIZE, W.  
BOURLAIZE, J. H.  
COHU, J. H. G.  
DE LA RUE, Y. H.  
DE MOUTRIER, H. H.  
EDWARDS, W.  
HUBERT, F. J.

### DISTRICT No. 1.

JURY, J. A.  
KIMBER, F. W.  
LE CREMINANT, E. C.  
LE CREMINANT, W. F. T.  
LE PAGE, E. C.  
LIVON, S. F.  
LOCK, A. E.  
MANGUEN, H. E.  
REYNOLDS, J.  
ROBINSON, F.  
ROUSSEL, A. J.  
SMITH, W. H.  
THOMPSON, P. B.  
WREADON, E. T.  
WREADON, G. C.  
WREADON, H. G.

### DISTRICT No. 2.

CORBIN, Dr. E. K. (Sergt.).  
CANDON, S. A. (Corporal).  
ALLAIN, A. A.  
ANDERSON, R. J.  
BLONDEL, J. J.  
BOWDEN, H. G.  
BROOKS, D. J.  
CUMING, W. J.  
DE MOUTRIER, J.  
DE MOUTRIER, J.  
DE LA RUE, W.  
GRIFFIN, A. E. (Sergeant).  
HURTT, G. W.  
HUNTIN, R. F.

### DISTRICT No. 2.

HURRELL, E.  
LE FATOUHET, T.  
LITTLE, W.  
MOLLET, W. J. D.  
ROBERT, H.  
ROBILLARD, J.  
ROBILLARD, A. H.  
SHELDON, W. H.  
WHARREN, A.  
WHELAN, L.

### DISTRICT No. 3.

SHELDON, W. H. (Sergt.).  
COBE, E. G. (Sergt.).  
FERGUSON, F. J.  
HAMPTON, A. H.  
HART, T. E. (Sergeant).  
HARDEN, A. W.  
LE FORT, J. H.  
LE FORT, J. H.

### DISTRICT No. 4.

AUBERT, D. A. (Sergt.).  
MOLENWORTH, the Hon. Sec. C. E. (Sergt.).  
SMITH, W. (Corporal).  
SMITH, J. H.  
SMITH, J. H.

## ST. PIERRE-DU-BOIS

BOURLAIZE, Joseph.  
BOURLAIZE, Pierre.  
BERHAUT, John.  
BOURLAIZE, J. P.

OZANNE, John.  
ROBIN, Peter B.  
TOSTEVIN, Peter.  
TOSTEVIN, Thomas A.

Guernsey Press Typ.



## Presentation to the Honorary Special Constables of Guernsey by Sir Edward C Ozanne, KBE, Bailiff.

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Extract from the Royal Warrant of 31<sup>st</sup> January, 1920:-

*“VI. It is ordained that if any person to whom this medal is awarded shall be guilty of any crime or disgraceful conduct which in our judgement disqualifies him for the same, this medal shall, by Order of our Principle Secretary of State for the Home Department or of our Secretary for Scotland, be forfeited, and the name of such person shall be erased from the record of those to whom the medal has been awarded. It is hereby further declared that we, our heirs and successors, shall be the sole judges of the circumstances demanding such forfeiture, and that every person whose medal shall be so forfeited shall on being required so to do by our said Secretary of State or Secretary of Scotland, deliver up his medal to such person as our said Secretary of State or Secretary of Scotland may direct.”*

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**Editors Note:** Mark is researching further into those who received a posthumous award. The Bailiff lost a son, Captain Edward Graeme Ozanne, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Royal Fusiliers on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 1915 and he was buried in the CWGC Ramparts Cemetery, by the Lille Gate at Ypres. The list of the medal recipients is attached at the end of this Journal.

### **HMS NEW ZEALAND** **Provided by Mark Bougourd**



**Editor's Introduction:** This picture is in Mark's collection and shows two young sailors, and on the one who is standing can be seen the "Zealand" of HMS New Zealand. He also appears to have a stoker's rating badge. The photo was taken by GWJ Tupper of Victoria Road, Guernsey. It would seem fairly likely that these two are Guernseymen, and could be traced via Naval Rating records at the National Archive. Are they brothers? Over to Mark.....

HMS New Zealand was a notable ship that achieved great fame in her short life of ten years. She was the gift of New Zealand to the RN, in which it was her fortune to serve throughout the Great War in company with a host of great ships whose names had been written again and again in British naval history over more than three centuries.

She added lustre to the naval traditions of New Zealand and will always be remembered with pride by the people of this island Dominion.

More than half a century has passed since the name of New Zealand was first given to a ship of the RN. She was one of a group of eight battleships laid down in the early years of the reign of King Edward VII. They were known as the King Edward VII class, but they might well have been called the Empire class. The first to be completed was the King Edward VII. The others were the Britannia, Dominion, Commonwealth, New Zealand, Africa, Hindustan, and Hibernia. They were the immediate predecessors of the famous Dreadnought, prototype of the modern battleship.

Their armament was a mixed one of four 12-inch, four 9.2-inch, ten 6-inch and twelve 12-pounder guns, and four torpedo-tubes. Their displacement was 16,350 tons, on a length of 425 feet. Reciprocating steam engines of 18,000 horsepower gave them a speed of 18 knots.

HMS New Zealand was built in Portsmouth Dockyard. She was launched in February, 1904 and commissioned for service on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 1905. She was renamed Zealandia in 1909, when it was decided to give her original name to the Dominion's gift battle-cruiser. She served throughout the Great War.

In 1909 there occurred a naval and political crisis in Great Britain. Under her second Navy Act, Germany had expanded her naval programme and was speeding up the building of ships of all classes. There was opposition in the British Cabinet when the First Lord of the Admiralty put forward proposals for the building of eight Dreadnought battleships, six cruisers, and twenty destroyers. Unknown to the nation, the Sea Lords of the Admiralty tendered their resignations, a dramatic act that won the day. The programme was agreed to by Cabinet and accepted by the House of Commons.

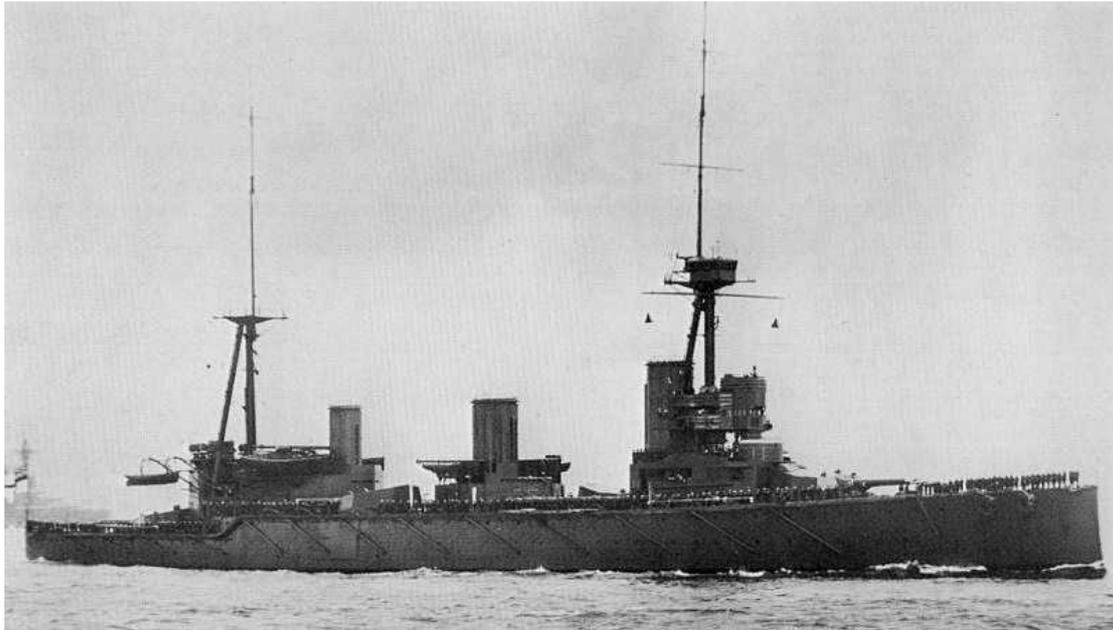
It was at the height of this crisis that the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Sir Joseph Ward, on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 1909, made his historic offer of 'one first-class battleship and, if necessary, two,' as a gift to the RN. This offer was warmly supported in New Zealand and gratefully accepted by the British Government.

The ship was designed as a battle-cruiser and built by the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company at Govan on the Clyde. She was laid down in June, 1910 and launched as HMS New Zealand in July, 1911. She measured 590 feet in length and 80 feet in breadth and had a displacement of 19,000 tons. Turbine engines of 44,000 horsepower driving four propellers gave her a maximum speed of 26 knots. She had no fewer than 31 coal-burning boilers, which later on were converted to use oil-fuel. She was armed with eight 12-inch and sixteen 4-inch guns and two submerged torpedo-tubes. Her normal complement was some 800 officers and men.

HMS New Zealand was commissioned by Captain Lionel Halsey, RN, on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1912. Her officers at that time included three New Zealanders, all of them from Christchurch. They were Lieutenants David Boyle and RC Garsia and Midshipman H Anderson. After being inspected by the King, the

New Zealand sailed from Portsmouth on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 1913 on a world cruise of more than 50,000 miles. She called at St. Vincent, Ascension Island, St. Helena, Cape Town, Durban, and Melbourne on her way to New Zealand and arrived at Wellington on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 1913.

The New Zealand and her ship's company were given a magnificent reception in the Dominion and gifts of many kinds were showered upon her. She steamed round both islands, called at or off every port, and showed herself at many isolated parts of the coast. During her stay of more than ten weeks in New Zealand waters, the ship was inspected by nearly half a million people.



**HMS New Zealand**

After leaving Auckland on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 1913, the New Zealand called at Suva, Honolulu, Vancouver, Panama, Callao, and Valparaiso. She steamed through the Strait of Magellan and thence to Montevideo and Rio de Janeiro, after which she visited the principal islands in the West Indies. She returned to England in November, 1913. Nine months later, Britain was at war with Germany and HMS New Zealand had been in action in the North Sea.

At dawn on 28<sup>th</sup> August, 1914 a force of British destroyers, led by the small cruisers Arethusa and Fearless under Commodore R Tyrwhitt, made a sweep into Heligoland Bight, where they ran into a number of German destroyers and light cruisers. In confused fighting that lasted all the morning, the Arethusa and the destroyer Liberty were badly damaged. One enemy destroyer was sunk and the cruiser Mainz disabled and set on fire. She was sunk later by Commodore Goodenough's cruisers which came to the assistance of Tyrwhitt's force.

The New Zealand was with Admiral Beatty's battle-cruiser squadron cruising about 40 miles to the north-westward. Shortly before midday, Beatty decided that it was high time for him to take a hand. His big ships went in at high speed, the Lion leading the Queen Mary, Princess Royal, New Zealand, and

Invincible in that order. They came first upon the cruiser Koln and then the Ariadne, both of which were quickly sunk by a few salvos. The other German ships escaped into the mist, thus ending an action in which the enemy lost three cruisers and more than 1000 officers and men.

Barely five months later, HMS New Zealand was again in action. At daybreak on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 1915, Beatty's battle-cruisers intercepted a powerful German force off the Dogger Bank. The Germans turned for home at high speed, and two hours of hard steaming passed before the British ships got within range. The armoured cruiser Blucher, rear ship in the German line, was heavily hit by Beatty's ships before they shifted fire to the enemy battle-cruisers. The New Zealand, which was flying the flag of Rear-Admiral Sir Archibald Moore, then engaged the Blucher and gave her such a hammering that she lost speed and turned away heavily on fire.

All three German battle-cruisers concentrated on Beatty's Lion, which was hit many times and fell astern out of action. A faulty signal made by Beatty at this time caused the other ships to turn away after the Blucher and the enemy battle-cruisers escaped. The Blucher fought bravely to the last and was finally sunk by torpedoes.

HMS New Zealand was one of the few big British ships that took part in all three major naval actions in the North Sea. In the Battle of Jutland, fought on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 1916, she flew the flag of Rear-Admiral WA Pakenham, and her commanding officer was Captain John Green, who had succeeded Captain Halsey when the latter was promoted to flag rank.

When action was joined with Admiral Hipper's five ships, the New Zealand was fifth in the line of Beatty's six battle-cruisers. Barely twelve minutes after firing had begun the Indefatigable, astern of the New Zealand, was hit several times in quick succession. Her magazines blew up and the ship vanished in an enormous cloud of flame and smoke, taking with her more than 1000 men. The only two survivors were picked up hours later by a German destroyer. Twenty minutes after the loss of the Indefatigable, a like disaster overwhelmed the Queen Mary. 1258 men died in one tragic moment, which spared only 17 of the entire ship's company.

Throughout the battle, Captain Green wore the Maori piu-piu and greenstone tiki given to the ship by an old chieftain at Rotorua in 1913, with the injunction that they were always to be worn by the captain of the New Zealand when she was fighting. Captain Halsey had worn them in action in the Heligoland Bight and at the Dogger Bank. With the gift went a prophecy that the ship would one day be in action and be hit in three places, but her casualties would not be heavy.

At Jutland the New Zealand was hit only on her after turret and there were no casualties. The old Maori chief had been emphatic that the same officers and men would be in the ship in action, and he was right. The outbreak of war had prevented the ship paying off on her due date and many of her original ship's company were still in her at Jutland and later.

Much faith in the Maori mascots was shown by the seamen. More than a year after Jutland, on the last occasion that HMS New Zealand sighted enemy ships and went to action stations, a seaman was seen to mount the ladder to the bridge and take a quick look round. "It's all right. He's got them on", he was heard to tell his mates on the deck below, thus assuring them that the new captain was wearing the piu-piu and the tiki.

HMS New Zealand served with the battle-cruiser force of the Grand Fleet throughout the war. In 1919 she was re-commissioned and hoisted the Union flag of Admiral of the Fleet Viscount Jellicoe, who made a world cruise in her to report on the naval defences of the British Empire. The New Zealand was given a great welcome on her second visit to the Dominion, as was the great sailor who later became its Governor-General.

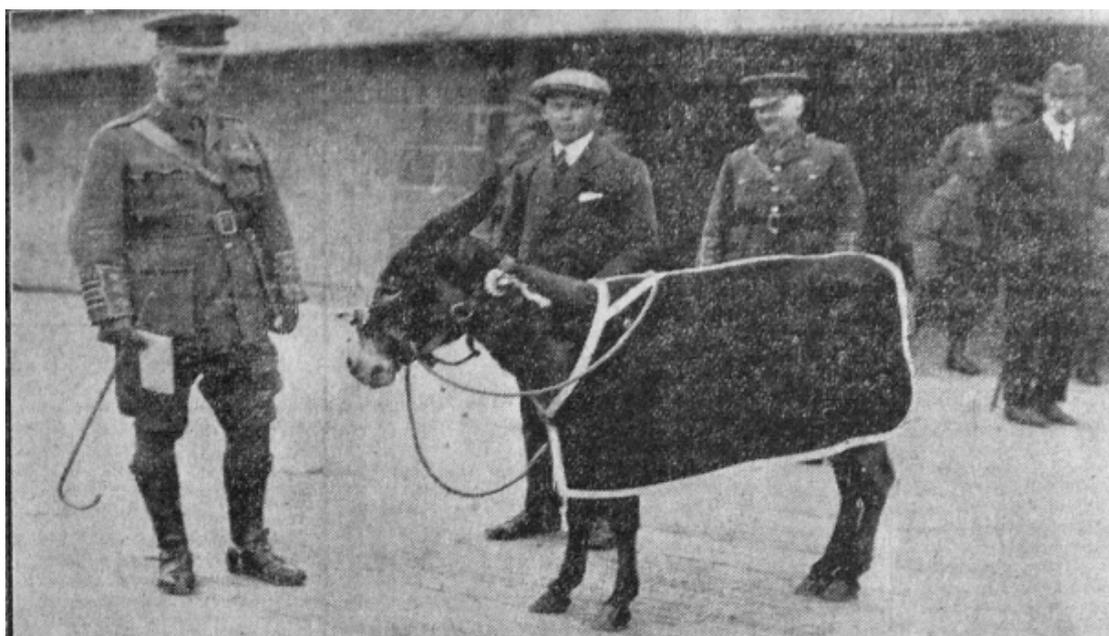
After her return to England, the New Zealand was paid off into reserve. Her fate and that of many another famous ship was sealed by the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922, which set a drastic limit to the capital ship strength of the Royal Navy. HMS New Zealand was little more than ten years' old when she was dismantled and sold to ship-breakers.

### **Joey's Story** **By Liz Walton**

The story of how Joey the donkey became the mascot of the RGLI is told in Davis (1). He noted that, prior to their departure on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 1917 the troops were inspected on the Fort Field by Colonel H St Leger Wood, DSO, AA and QMG, in the absence of the Lieutenant Governor. When bidding the men farewell, he offered them the choice of a dog or a donkey for the Battalion mascot. The latter was chosen unanimously, and the Colonel St Leger Wood is said to have gone immediately in search of one. (2) He purchased Joey from Mr George Head, a farmer of Rouge Rue Farm, St Peter Port, on that same day. Joey had previously been used in town to pull a milk cart driven by Mr Head's son Stephen, and he was also known as one of the fastest donkeys on the island, having won the first prize at Ponchez show in 1914. He was provided with new shoes and harness, and "a military haircut", (3) then decorated with the island colours of green and white before heading the procession from the Fort Field, where the men had paraded, to the White Rock.

At 9.30 in the evening of 1<sup>st</sup> June, the men of the 1<sup>st</sup> (Service) Battalion, RGLI boarded the Lydia on their way to Bourne Park camp, near Canterbury, for further training. However, Joey stayed behind, according to an unpublished memoir (4) of Private LT Le Poidevin, RGLI, who noted that "as I was kept back in the rear guard, I did not leave before the 14<sup>th</sup> of June, 1917, taking the Battalion pet Joey with us". What happened after this is unclear, but Joey appears not to have accompanied the Battalion to France. Coysh (5) states that "Later the troops were joined by their mascot in England, but when they went to France the donkey returned to Guernsey, where it rather prosaically drew a milk cart!" This seems to fit in with Pte Le Poidevin's account, and also with Joey's previous occupation.

Joey was certainly in Guernsey to greet the remnants of the Battalion on their return to the island on the "Lydia" on May, 1919. The *Weekly Press* of Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May carries a picture of Joey with Colonel St Leger Wood at Number 3 berth awaiting the return of the Lydia. The accompanying article states that "Quite an interesting figure at early morning was the donkey, Joey, the mascot of the RGLI, presented by Colonel H St Leger Wood, DSO, AA and QMG. Joey was quite in his element, and trotted up and down the berth as if impatiently awaiting his old acquaintances, with whom he had marched, paraded and played with (sic) both here and at Canterbury. Indeed Mr Henry Head, his keeper, had to keep a close watch to prevent his gambols exceeding the bounds of sober liberty."



When King George V visited the island in 1921, he inspected the Militia and ex-service men, who had marched from the Town Arsenal to the Connaught Slip. Coysh notes that "The King's Colour was borne by Lt CTW Clark, and the band was in attendance, as well as Joey the mascot, whose ears the king fondled!" There appears to be no record of what happened to Joey after this date, until his death which Coysh recorded thus: "His successor, Joey II, attended for the first time at Belvedere on the King's birthday parade in 1936. It wore a ceremonial coat, and was accompanied by two young buglers in full dress. Joey I had died in Sark some years before". Whether he had remained with the men, was put out to grass somewhere, returned to pulling his milk cart, or went directly to Sark has not been established. However, for a brief period of time he was not only the fastest but probably the best known donkey on the island.

#### References:

1. Davis, EV (undated), *Sarnia's Record in the Great War* (reprinted from *The Star*)
2. *Guernsey Weekly Press*, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 1917
3. *Guernsey Weekly Press*, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 1917

4. Unpublished memoir of Pte LT Le Poidevin, RGLI, in author's private collection.
5. Coysh, V (1977), *Royal Guernsey, A History of the Royal Guernsey Militia*

## **The Jersey Parish Memorials – Part 2** **By Paul Ronayne**

My second article in the series of the Parish Memorials starts with a look at the St Lawrence Memorial. At this point I must admit I've made a mistake in identifying one of the memorials featured this time. I thought the memorial in Howard Davis Park (outside St Luke's Church) was that of the Parish of St Saviour's only to be corrected by my brother Ian who told me St Saviour's Memorial was a plaque located in the Parish Hall and that the memorial I'd photographed was St Luke's. It's quite obvious thinking about it now, so although I am recording the Parish Memorials in this series I hope nobody minds that I've included St Luke's in this article.

### **St Lawrence's Memorial**



St Lawrence's Memorial stands proudly in front of the Parish Hall, with its back to the Hall and the front looking out over the beautiful country side of St Lawrence and beyond, as if standing guard over its Parish. It takes the form of a pillar made of granite with a thick base, and a long slender neck leading to shaped head, which has on the front a sword, attached pointing down the neck, the handle surrounded by a wreath. The brass panels at the base of the memorial records the names of 34 men who died during The Great War, and

a smaller panel, obviously added later on to the front has the names of 7 men who died in World War II. The simple but powerful inscription reads:

1914  
Our  
Glorious  
Dead  
1919

Charles Stanley Mossop DSO was just twenty years of age when he died in an accident whilst flying a seaplane on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 1918. He was a lieutenant with the Royal Air Force, serving with 243 Squadron based at Cherbourg. Charles was the son of Mr and Mrs Charles Mossop, of "Cambray," Millbrook, and formerly of Commercial Buildings, St Helier. It is reported that he died near Port En Bessin in Normandy, a town which would become synonymous twenty six years later as being at the heart of Omaha Beach during the Normandy landings where large numbers of America soldiers would die there assaulting the beaches. He is also remembered on the Victoria College Memorial.

John Edward Le Cornu the husband of Hester Elizabeth Le Cornu of 30 Great Union Road, St. Helier, and a former employee of Voisins and Co, died in the Brighton Road Military Hospital, Jersey of influenza. A Private in the Hampshire Regiment he was thirty-seven when he succumbed to the disease that would eventually kill some eighteen million people world wide, twice the number the War would claim. John died on the 28<sup>th</sup> October, 1918. He had initially joined the local Garrison Battalion before being drafted in the Hampshires and now is buried in St Helier (Almorah) Cemetery.

The son of Mr and Mrs EL Le Marquand of Highlands, St Lawrence was one Edward Le Marquand. He had emigrated to Canada some years before the war and after joining the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Grenadier Guards of Canada as a private he found him self in a composite battalion awaiting posting to a Guards Regiment when he was drowned by falling into a canal whilst on sentry duty. It was reported at the time that no injuries were ever found on his body, and no sounds of a struggle were heard that night. Therefore a verdict of accidental death was recorded, so we will probably never know weather Edward's death was accidental or if something more sinister. He died on the 26<sup>th</sup> August, 1916 and is buried in Montreal (Mount Royal) Cemetery Canada.

Unique to Jersey the Parish of St Lawrence's Parish hall has to the left of it the Parish Church and to the right of it St Lawrence's School and Arsenal. The four buildings are located on your left hand side as you travel up Grande Route du St Lawrence from Mont Felard to St John. No other Parish in Jersey has these important buildings laid out in this pattern, and I believe that no other Parish has an arsenal named after it. Correct me if I'm wrong and I may well be, but I've seen a famous map of Jersey dating from about 1847 that shows the other arsenals called the North East (St Martin's), the South East (Grouville), the North West (St Mary's), the South West (St Peters) and the Town Arsenal now the Fire Station located at Rouge Bouillon. With this in

mind I believe St Lawrence's Memorial stands in one of the most historically important areas on Jersey.

### St Luke's Memorial



Howard Davis Park has a poignant link to the Great War as it is named in memory of Howard Leopold Davis who died in 1916 after being wounded on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. The park is beautiful, a haven from the busy streets of St Helier during the lunch hour, charming for an evening walk on a warm summer night. The park contains the graves of American and British service men from the Second World War and outside St Luke's Church you will find St Luke's Great War memorial, standing solid and grey, inscribed on three sides with the names of forty five men lost during the war. On the front the is the inscription

In Memory of Our Men who Gave Their Lives in the Great War  
1914 - 1918  
Greater Love Hath No Man Then This

The memorial takes the form of a cross, a sword being attached to the front. Grey in appearance thus matching the church immediately behind it the memorial is still an impressive site, solemn and purposeful.

Frederick John Noel Clarke was killed in action on the 29<sup>th</sup> June, 1915 aged just nineteen. He was a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant with the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Worcestershire Regt at the time of his death and was the only son of Frederick Charles Philip and Minnie Jane Clarke of Runnymede, Roseville Street, St Helier, (I presume

this is now the Runnymede Hotel). An Old Victorian and former member of the 3<sup>rd</sup> (South) Battalion of the Royal Jersey Militia, Frederick had trained at Sandhurst and was killed only a short time after reaching the front. He was one of the first to volunteer from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, and the first to be killed. Frederick is buried in Sanctuary Wood Cemetery, Belgium.

Two brothers remembered on the memorial are Frederick Isaac and William Henry Livermore, two men who died 4 months apart in completely different parts of the world pressing home the status of the Great War as truly a world war. William was initially reported as missing while fighting in the battle of the Somme on the 17<sup>th</sup> November, 1916, while Frederick was initially reported missing near Baghdad in the Middle East on the 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1917. Both brothers were Privates in the Dorsetshire Regt, William in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion and Frederick with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. William was the oldest brother being thirty nine when he was killed in action and Frederick was thirty when he died. They were the sons of James Livermore. Notification of William's death came through at about the same time as that of his brother Fred. William is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial and Frederick is remembered on the Basra Memorial. Unfortunately ninety years after "the war to end all wars" ended British soldiers are once again dying Iraq, will the world ever learn.

Arthur Woodland Toms was the second son of Frederick and Emily Woodland Toms of 1 Claremont Terrace, St. Helier. His father was the States Analyst and he was educated at Victoria College, where he was both a Prefect and Vice Captain of the football team in 1908-09. Arthur became a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Devonshire Regt in 1912. He was killed in France on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 1914 age twenty-three and is buried in Estaires Communal Cemetery. At the time of his death he was preparing to leave the army and join the Colonial Office, with his appointment to a position in West Africa being offered to him three days before the declaration of war. At the time of his death he was attached 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Cameronians (Scottish Rifles).

### **St Saviour's Memorial**

St Saviour's Parish Hall is located about half way up St Saviour's Hill almost opposite the Parish Church and it is inside the Parish Hall you will find the Memorial to the men of St Saviour who died in the Great War and in the Second World War. The names of the dead are listed on a wooden and glass panel disappointingly located on a wall in a stair well, giving the feeling of being partially hidden away on the stairs leading to the first floor Parish Assembly Hall, a real shame for the memorial lists an incredibly sixty five names of men who died during World War I and a further twenty six names of servicemen who perished in World War II although there is a garden of remembrance located outside the Parish Hall opposite the main door which has a flag pole as it's centre piece. The inscription on the Memorial reads:

Paroisse De St Sauveur  
A La Mémoire Des Paroissiens  
Morts Pour La Patrie



Thomas Revell died on the 4<sup>th</sup> February, 1915; his body was never identified so his name was inscribed with the thousands of others on the panels of the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres. The son of Thomas Revell and husband of Virginia Leopold Revell, of 11 Springfield Cottages, Springfield Road, St. Helier, he had two children with Virginia, and had rejoined the army on the outbreak of war in 1914 having left it five years earlier. Thomas was killed in action at the age of thirty-four serving as a private with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, East Surrey Regt. Prior to rejoining the army he had been working for Messrs Terry Brothers of the Esplanade, St Helier.

Leading Seaman Percy John Batho was the son of Mr and Mrs John Batho of D'Hautree Gardens, St Saviour's Hill, and was serving on the HMS Laurentic when the ship was lost off the coast of Ireland on the 25<sup>th</sup> January, 1917. He had served in the Navy for some twelve years previously and was aged thirty-one when he died. Unfortunately for John he had only just joined the Laurentic a few days before her loss. He is remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

Frank Le Maistre Gruchy, a veteran of the Boer War was thirty-eight when he was killed in action reportedly at the head of his men leading them into battle at Ennetieres (near Armentieres) in Northern France. He was a Captain with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Leicestershire Regt. and shortly before his death Frank had passed his promotion examinations to become a Major. Frank died on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1914 and is buried in Ration Farm Cemetery, La Chapelle-D'Armentieres. He was the son of George and Marie A Gruchy, of Ronceville.

A man who died just fifteen days before the end of the war was Everard Chandler Stent. The eldest son of Thomas Chandler and Emily Mary Stent (nee Mollet), of 1 Lansdowne Villas, St Lukes, Everard was a former teacher and a well-known footballer in the Island playing for Wanderers before he joined the army. He was a Bombardier with the Royal Field Artillery and was killed in action in France at the age of thirty-five. Everard is buried in La Vallee-Mulatre Communal Cemetery Extension. All deaths in the Great War are sad but I find deaths, which occurred, in the last few weeks of the war very poignant; it must have been extremely hard for the families to bear such a loss so near the end.



**Editor's Note:** I have found Paul's first two articles (that implies that I am expecting more Paul!) on the memorials very informative, for I certainly did not know where St Saviour's or St Lawrence's were, even though I had lived in both parishes. The additional personal data such as that for Edward Le Marquand adds to the simple entries that we encounter in the CWGC and on these memorials, giving a depth to the individuals and to try to help our understanding of the grief felt by those at home. I hope over time that we can go some way to emulating Paul's method for each name in the Roll of Honour on the website. A minor point, I think that the graves of the American servicemen are empty, and that their bodies were repatriated to the US in '46.

### **A Change of Lieutenant-Governor**

About the time that this will reach most of you, the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a change in the Lieutenant-Governor of Jersey will have just passed. I found the following in the London Gazette number 29978 of 10<sup>th</sup> October, 1916:

*“Whitehall, October 7, 1916*

*The KING has been pleased to constitute and appoint Major-General Sir Alexander Wilson, KCB, to be Lieutenant-Governor of the Island of Jersey, as from the 7<sup>th</sup> October, 1916, inclusive, in the room of Major-General Sir Alexander Nelson Rochfort, KCB, CMG, who has vacated the Lieutenant-Governorship.”*

Rather a terse style but, one that I suspect was (or is?) typical of the Gazette. Sadly, he did not long enjoy his retirement, for the following item appears in The Times of 6<sup>th</sup> December, 1916:

*“Major-General Sir Alexander Nelson Rochfort, KCB, CMG, late Lieutenant-Governor of Jersey, was found dead at his chambers in Half Moon Street, Piccadilly, yesterday.*

*He was born in 1850, the son of the late Mr Horace Rochfort, of Clogregan, County Carlow, by his marriage with the Hon. Charlotte Hood, daughter of the second Baron Bridport. A distinguished soldier, he was mentioned in dispatches and received his brevet of major for his services in the Sudan in 1885, and was severely wounded in the South African war, where he was at the relief of Kimberley, Paardeberg, and other actions, being twice mentioned in dispatches and receiving the CB. He was again mentioned in dispatches and decorated with the CMG for his work during the Somaliland operations of 1902-4. He afterwards held the post of Inspector of Horse and Field Artillery, and in 1910 was appointed to the Governorship of Jersey.”*



**Major-General Sir AN Rochfort presenting the DCM to 2/599 Sgt (later 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant) JR Penney of the Lancashire Fusiliers**

Some of us have discussed the nature of the Lieutenant-Governors of the day, particularly Sir Reginald Hart, who seemed more “pushy”, especially with regards to the RGLI and the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion’s service in France and Flanders. By comparison, Rochfort seems to have been far more restrained. One wonders whether there are any documented island recollections of his time in post, certainly there is nothing in Edward Le Brocq’s Memoirs of the period, and whether his retirement and death were linked by illness. By comparison, Hart vacated the Lieutenant-Governorship of Guernsey aged 70.

### **The Unpublished Memoir of 6057 Sergeant Thomas George Harper King’s Own Royal Lancaster Regiment**

*I had hoped that the fact that Sgt Harper’s marriage to a lady in Jersey might provide a clue to the unknown soldier who was in possession of the Jersey Penny! I took the opportunity to call into the King’s Own Museum in Lancaster, and to sit for an hour or two (as it turned out!) to read the account of his army life. As will become obvious, his wedding could offer no clues, yet even though there was only time enough to skim read the account, it struck me as one that is worth publishing. It possesses a rawness of language and fact such that every line paints a vivid picture such is its descriptive power.*

*The following summarises some features of his account, and I hope that I can overcome my doubts that I will do his character sufficient justice.*

The account of TGH’s military life starts in South Africa and much of his time there is spent as Mounted Infantry. It is clear that the Boer is regarded as a good, yet cunning opponent and that the British have to be wary. One role that he performed was to check culverts for bombs. He touches on the need to look after the horses since these were vital in movement across the veldt, and for many hours patrolling at a time. A Mrs Newman who baked bread for the camp appears to have been a Boer spy and was removed, while a Boer Commander sends the British a note of regret for having had to kill a Sergeant and 7 OR at an isolated outpost.

After South Africa, TGH is then sent to India with this involving movement by troopship, the men not having bunks to sleep on, just hammocks. Part of the time in India he is employed on Garrison Police duties and recounts having to find men who had been AWOL for five days (on a binge session!) in the native quarters. There are Sunday Church Parades with Kitchener turning up, and being ogled at by all of the young, unattached ladies. Though TGH is talking of life in India around 1904-5, the Indian Mutiny is still to the fore in peoples’ minds, and they are required to stay out of sight when the Indians celebrate a particular festival. TGH recounts the official visit of the German Crown Prince by battleship in 1905, where he comes across a room full of British soldiers and German sailors comatose after some heavy drinking, wearing each others uniforms and with barrels smashed everywhere! The official visit is marred somewhat by apparent British horseplay causing the battleship’s anti-torpedo nets to become damaged. Sadly this is not explained. TGH also attends a store keeping course and learns, through experience, to ensure that he drives away with what he has signed for from the Quarter-Master’s store!

The summer of 1914 sees TGH, now a reservist, as a postman in Derby, and living a single life in rented rooms. He is involved in delivering mobilisation telegrams and comes home to find his. Sorting out his affairs, including the arrangements for his landlord to look after his personal effects, particularly books, he travelled to the King's Own Depot at Bowerham Barracks (now the site of a community school) in Lancaster, where he encounters many old friends from the days in South Africa and India. One of his old officers tries to get him employed in the QM stores, but TGH wants to see action. After kitting out, he heads off for the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion who were mobilising at Dover before heading off to France in the latter half of August. His father stays at Dover for three days to see him off.

He is in action from fairly early on and endures the Retreat from Mons, the Battle of Le Cateau and then leads about 30 men who have become separated from the Battalion for a number of days until they are able to rejoin and take part in the Battle of the Marne. During this period of confused retreat, it appears that he and his men came across an atrocity committed by the Germans in that he saw the bayoneted and disembowelled bodies of three naked British soldiers. His view is that the Allies let von Kluck's army off the hook at the Marne having virtually surrounded it. The Battle of the Aisne follows, with the Battalion living in caves. On occasion he is often going out into no-man's land, sometimes ensuring that contact is maintained with other Battalions on either flank of the King's Own. Throughout the period covered, TGH remains in action and the account is one of a very strong character.

The Battalion are pulled out of line at the Aisne and are transported to Ypres. He is dismissive of some of the Belgians who are fond of selling goods to the British soldier at grossly inflated prices, and refers to them as Flemish sharks (*rien ça change!*). It is in a battle at Metron (should it be Meteren?) that he is caught in no man's land. Removing his pack to use as cover he endeavours to inch his way back to the safety of his own lines, but during the process is shot in a big toe with resulting ligament damage.

Returning to the UK, he is eventually placed in a hospital in Bradford, and during recovery encounters an unidentified Sergeant from the Yorkshire Regiment who had found (or more likely looted?) an old Frenchman's savings of 4000 Francs and an 1870 Croix de Guerre. TGH is not impressed by this, but the Yorkshire's Sergeant visits the Bradford Building Society and becomes £400 the richer! It is during his period of recovery that TGH is given leave and goes off to Jersey and suddenly gets married. Nothing else is said because clearly the family know of this.

*At this point, I came to the conclusion that he was sufficiently "divorced" from the King's Own not to have gone to Jersey with another member of the regiment, and the wedding seemed an unplanned event prior to his leave. As to the Sergeant in the Yorkshire Regiment, he would have been in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, and it would not be too difficult to find names from casualty rolls.*

After this leave he is billeted on the coast near Lancaster and in due course goes to Plymouth and is involved in coastal defence guards and further

training. TGH returns to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, probably in early 1916, as it prepares for the Somme battle and recounts time at Mailly Maillet, being in charge of a working party helping the engineers in their loading of the Hawthorn Ridge mine. He says comparatively little of going into the attack, simply saying that a lot of England's sons made the final sacrifice, however he and some of his platoon have to act as the burial party afterwards at the Sucrierie cemetery (I checked – there are eight King's Own buried from 1<sup>st</sup> July, possibly more that were listed as unidentified). Finally the account stops at TGH taking casualties back for treatment and is himself declared unfit and is confined to the Duchess of Sutherland's hospital (in Boulogne).

*Undoubtedly I have missed a great deal having had no more than a couple of hours to read and digest some 40+ pages of close type, these most likely as a result of notes taken or from dictation. Speaking to Peter Donnelly from the Museum since, I've suggested (but but not volunteering myself!) that the document should become a small illustrated book with some editorial notes. He thought that it might be suitable for a web article. Unfortunately little was gleaned on the background of TGH, so I am unsure if he originated in Derby, and no mention is made of spouse though it seems that it was a very happy marriage. In conclusion, I hope more can be established in view of the Jersey marriage.*

## **Book Reviews**

### **Wilful Murder – Diana Preston (Doubleday ISBN 0-38560-173-5)**

Sub-titled "The Sinking of the Lusitania" this book looks at the evidence for and against the German actions in sinking the ship as well as whether the British had deliberately placed it in harm's way, and whether it had carried explosives that hastened the sinking. Building on various accounts from the US, Germany and the UK, the author tends towards the accusation that the Germans deliberately set out to get the Lusitania, with the aim of bringing the US into the War! That seems a contradiction, but the logic to support this would be that the US would now have to arms its own expanding forces thereby reducing the supply of war material to the British.

British reaction post-sinking was not of the best in that efforts were made to discredit the ship's Captain in terms of his following Admiralty orders (which were not!) and seamanship. Also, a two- or three-torpedo firing was encouraged as the rationale for a second explosion and witnesses were mildly coerced into stating that in their statements. The ship's owners, Cunard, are not really taken to task by the author, even though they had established a reduction in the ship's speed through having one boiler shut down as a routine wartime measure. The author discusses the 18 minute sinking and provides sound evidence and technical arguments for the causes, and indeed for the second explosion, which was not caused by the carriage of explosives.

The legal justification for the German attack is reviewed, and the conclusion is that by the rules of war, Lusitania should have been stopped, the passengers permitted to take to the lifeboats, and then the ship sunk. However, the

Germans were conscious that Admiralty orders given included the ramming of submarines by commercial vessels and were understandably loathe to lose their submarines this way.

One can only draw the conclusion that a number of factors came together (as is usual) and contrived to put the Lusitania and the submarine on converging courses, with the resulting loss of life. However, at the root must remain the German decision for unrestricted submarine warfare, suspended for a time afterwards, but reintroduced thereby bringing the US into the war in 1917.

### **Soldier From The Wars Returning – Charles Carrington (Pen and Sword ISBN 1-84415-363-0)**

This is a classic account of the Great War written and first published by Hutchinson in 1965, but which has only been re-issued this year by P&S.

Charles Carrington served as primarily a company officer throughout the bulk of the Great War and recounted his experiences at that level. Much of it had been written earlier when it was published as “A Subaltern’s War”. By his own admission, he includes reflections from a later point in time regarding the higher-level direction of war, on the politicians and in particular Lloyd George, and the generals, and much else. For all that, the book is very well-balanced and crafted.

His experiences of life with a battalion, first of all trying to enlist, then in training as well as in the trenches and also going forward are well worth reading. While the comments on Lloyd George (whom he regarded as a plotter – no New Labour there then!), Haig, Gough, Wilson, Plumer, Rawlinson and the others are to the point and balanced. He saw that they made mistakes, yet were collectively able to prosecute the war to a successful conclusion.

He is critical of Petain after the German March 1918 offensive, regarding him as defeatist, and one can ponder whether this was a result of seeing what had resulted to France in WW2.

At £8.99 (or less via Amazon) this is a book that I would strongly recommend as finding its way onto group members’ bookshelves. For my part, having read it in early-August, I plan to read it again during October!

### **The IWM Book of 1914 – Malcolm Brown (Pan ISBN 0-330-48586-5)**

Just a few lines on this well-illustrated book which is the latest in the line of “The IWM Book of.....” being published originally in 2004 but as a soft-back last year.

The author follows what is now a well-established pattern of soldiers’ and sailors’ personal accounts that are interspersed with the events of the time - Mons, the Marne, the Aisne, Antwerp and so on. Yet, while the personal accounts are invariably fresh with new anecdotes that can be read, it seems

that little is offered as to an alternate line of thought to particular events. Rather, it seems a safe book that was produced since it was intended to be. In some respects, I may be criticising it because of my own familiarity with those days, and should not be considered as part of its target audience.

Notwithstanding, I shall undoubtedly use it as a reference source.

## **Odds and Ends**

### **The Animals War**

Noting Liz Walton's *cri de cœur* that she could find better things to research than donkeys, and quickly side-stepping any discussions on ponies in Jersey, can I point out the current exhibition "The Animals' War" at the IWM in London which will continue until 22<sup>nd</sup> April next year.

### **Victoria College – Sir Galahad**

Tony Coleman advised on a recent visit to the island that the stone-masons were hard at work adding Thomas Emerson Currah's name to the statue.

### **A Note from Heather Morton regarding the Jersey Library**

Just a brief clarification about the library's local studies section:

We have a separate local studies room which has been open to the public for just two mornings a week for the last few years. It is open every week on Mondays (09.30 – 12.00) and Thursdays (09.30 – 13.00). We are still waiting for the opportunity to have the room open more hours; it has been on our development list for some time, but has obvious staffing implications! I'll let you know when something happens.

Apart from this facility, our local studies material is always available from the staff in the Reference Library. Our opening hours are:

Open at 09.30 Mondays - Saturdays;

Normal closing time is 17.30, EXCEPT on Tuesdays which is our late night and we close at 19.30; and on Saturdays when we close early at 16.00.

I hope this information is useful.

### **A few words summarising progress on the Website from Roger Frisby**

The site now has a good nucleus of assorted subjects. The Guernsey and Jersey Parish memorials sections have begun with more to come. Similarly with the Jersey and Guernsey Rolls of Honour, mammoth works with more details to follow. Both Rolls of Honour are available as web pages or downloadable spreadsheets. Hyperlinks in them are ABSOLUTE so downloaded copies can still be used if connected to the internet.

The site includes items about the Militias, the RGLI, the RJGB and Guernsey Volunteer Corps, along with several items about women at war and two items concerning naval matters. Meanwhile items on the French seaplane base in Guernsey, Guernsey personal memorials and medals have been promised.

The Newsletters/Journals are stored and can be downloaded.

Nothing is fixed in stone and things can be changed and added to quite easily. Have a look at the site, find the obvious gaps and please try to fill them and/or suggest other material.

We are well on course for an "official" launch in November. Thanks to everyone who has contributed and please don't stop now.

### **Out and About**

Ned Malet de Carteret recently gave a talk to the Jersey branch of the Probus Club (for retired businessmen), on the Victoria Cross and "Jersey" winners.

Liz Walton and Roger Frisby were over in Jersey recently, and by various accounts the dinner with Ian and Paul Ronayne, and Ned was very enjoyable.

I've just done my "temporary, acting, local, unpaid" guide at the Somme and Ypres during the last few days and am returning to the Somme for a fortnight as of tomorrow (6<sup>th</sup>). Two quick bits of news for your interest:

- Having bought Thiepval Wood some time ago, Ulster's Somme Association has now opened part of it to show excavations they have undertaken of the old trench lines at the wood's edge adjacent to Connaught Cemetery. Tours are at 11.00 and 15.00 hours if anyone would like to visit, though I suspect not through the winter months when the Ulster Tower is closed. Further excavations will be starting in 2-3 weeks.
- The new visitors centre at Tyne Cot Cemetery is now open although the exhibition and some of the building and landscaping work is not yet complete. It looks promising, and I particularly enjoyed the view towards Mont Kemmel and Mont Des Cats from a large window provided and a panoramic table associated with it on Sunday (1<sup>st</sup>) last. Car parking is now redirected to the rear of the Cemetery behind the wall containing the names of the missing. It is now a much better arrangement.

After an electronic interchange between many of us recently discussing the exact location of the site, Heather Morton spent an enjoyable few hours wandering around the site of the old German POW camp at Blanche Banques. The two photographs attached show traces of the old buildings and, while, Heather has provided a complementary "Then" picture to the "Now" view including Corbiere, I have held off including the former because of any

possible copyright difficulties. Hopefully we can sort this for next time with website input also.

### **Enfin**

As Roger has advised, the website has come on in leaps and bounds. Between the Jersey and Guernsey Rolls of Honour, there are currently some 2600+ names! Allowing for some inter-island duplication that Roger and I know exists, and a few others wrongly added, it is a staggering total, which may yet prove reasonably accurate. Another statistic which, in the case of Jersey, proved remarkable was a total of 435 places where the individual is shown as buried or commemorated by the CWGC. While it is easy for many to be visited, there are a good few which are not on any recognised Great War pilgrimage trail such as Buttevant or Basra, Madras or Murmansk!

Furthermore, with regards to Roger's desire for further material, I would hope that someone in Jersey can find the time to look at the POW camp and provide a website article. I hope to do something on Victoria College, the contribution of its staff and pupils, and the OTC, and I am in touch with them on this. Is there someone in Guernsey who could do a similar piece for Elizabeth College?

Looking ahead, I plan to send out the next newsletter by mid-December – just in time for Christmas. Any articles and other material should reach me around the 30<sup>th</sup> November and I would welcome a suitable cover picture with a Christmas theme. Many thanks in anticipation while as ever, I hope that this newsletter is well-received!

Regards  
Barrie H Bertram  
5<sup>th</sup> October 2006



**A general view of the former camp area. There are the hut foundations roughly central (with Heather's father in them!) while beyond to the right of the three bushy trees are the parallel lines of an old Ablution Block (See below)**



**The remnants of an old Ablutions Block, with what seems like a washing channel on the right and urinals on the left. Another block is further up towards the high dunes**