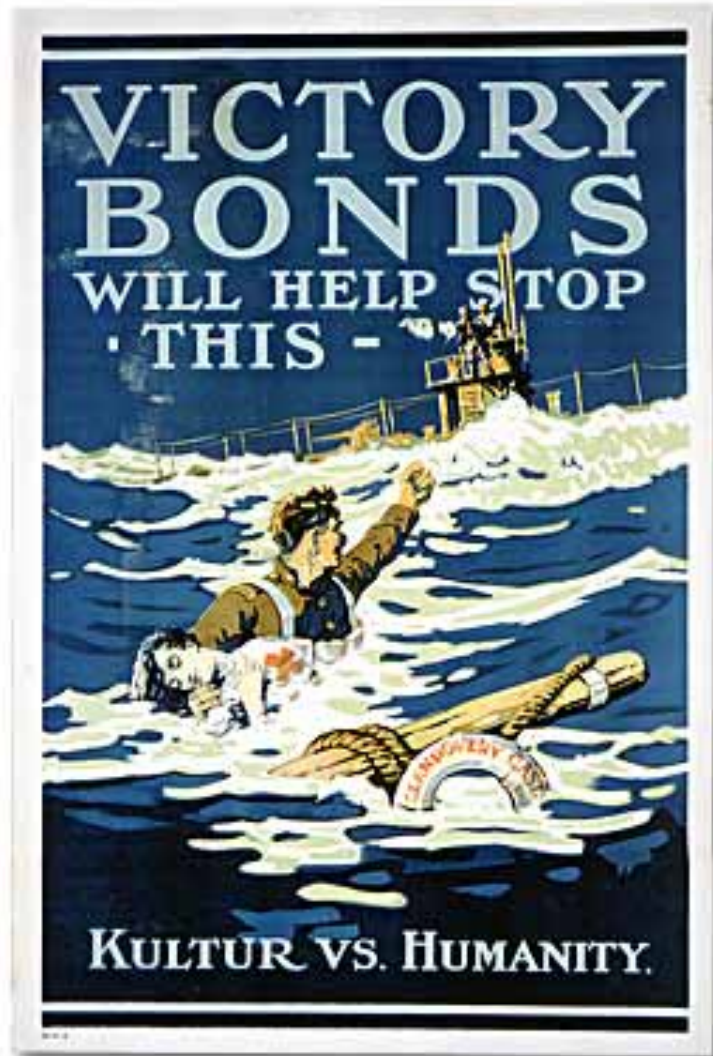


# CHANNEL ISLANDS GREAT WAR STUDY GROUP



## JOURNAL 18 FEBRUARY 2008

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Hello All

With this Journal, we have reached three years of the Group's existence, a period in which, remarkably, there has been a degree of maturity achieved in terms of the material that has been presented, both in past Journals and on the website. For such small islands as the CI, I think that we collectively have discovered a great deal that has, hitherto, gone unnoticed, and hopefully we can sustain the high level that we've achieved. I sound like young Mr Grace with his "You've all done very well", but there is still much to be "dug up"!

I'm being rather brief as I'm trying to meet an earlier deadline than originally intended, so I'll let you get straight into the articles without further ado! As ever, thanks to the contributors, large and small, and those who are yet to become one!

### **This Issue's Cover**

A propaganda poster from 1918, the relevance to the CI and the GW? It will be clearer if you can read the name on the lifebelt and the article "Martin Kadrewell – Killed in Action".

### **Postscripts**

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

### **Cambrai Reprise (Journal 17, December 2007)**

Some of the members who were our Group's interfaces with the Guernsey Museum and Galleries Service received very nice thank you letters from Matt Harvey, who was the coordinator of the recent "Cambrai" exhibition and they've asked that I reproduce the content of the letter:

*On behalf of Guernsey Museum and Galleries I would like to thank you and the other members of the Great War CI group for your immense research assistance for our recent exhibition. "Cambrai 1917 - Guernseymen and the Great War" has now officially closed and work will begin shortly to dismantle the exhibition.*

*I am delighted to say that the attendance figures for the exhibition showed an increase on the same period last year of a huge 192% in November and 126% in December. This is a positive reflection of the quality of the research material provided to Guernsey Museum by organisations such as yourselves as well as the importance of the subject matter. It is also true that many visitors felt a personal connection because a member of their family had fought in the First World War or in the RGLI and they wanted to find out more about their experiences.*

*As I may have intimated to you previously, plans are currently afoot to redesign and re-open the Militia Museum at Castle Cornet with the ground floor dedicated to the RGLI and their role in the First World War. This would be a permanent version of the exhibition which we staged at Guernsey Museum and would, I hope, serve as the official regimental Museum to the RGLI. Plans are in the pipeline as is research and preparations and we are now waiting for the final green light from Culture and Leisure. I will keep you and the Great War CI Group informed as the decision*

*making process continues. As with the temporary exhibition we hope to have a research station in the RGLI Museum which would feature two PCs. We could, therefore, maintain the internet access to websites such as yours as well as expand our images database and perhaps add original and transcribed documents to the research database.*

*Keep your fingers crossed.*

A letter very much appreciated for its sentiment, the report on the increased attendance, and most of all, the future intent of Guernsey's Museum and Galleries Service with regards to the RGLI and Militia Museum.

### **An Unknown Soldier of the Royal Jersey Militia (Journal 15, August 2007)**

Some of you are aware of this already, but we have one piece of very good news in this item of research since the last Journal in that the Ministry of Defence and the CWGC gladly have accepted our case that Rifleman Jean Baptiste Blanchet be commemorated and, as a consequence, his name will soon be added to the list of the more than 70,000 missing on the Thiepval Memorial.

As yet, there has been no further progress on the two unknown Jersey soldiers, one at the Cerisy-Gailly French National Cemetery, the other at the Bazentin Le Petit Communal Cemetery Extension. However, there may be a different argument, for Jean Blanchet's death certificate quoted his date of death as 9<sup>th</sup> September! Up until very recently, that had been disregarded as I had preferred to take the JRoH&S date of 6<sup>th</sup> September, the only information that had previously been available. The logical answer, assuming the certificate is correct, is that Jean did not go missing on the patrol, but did so during the taking of Ginchy! As a result, unless there can be found further evidence to the contrary, it now appears that the two unknown Jersey soldiers could only be Sergeant Reginald Du Heaume and Corporal Harold Carver, but the question now becomes "Which is which?"

I have become somewhat nervous that the connection, now, of two graves with just two names has suddenly become so apparently easy with just the evidence of one death certificate, and to that end, I'm visiting the National Archive at Kew on 23<sup>rd</sup> February next to go through Divisional and Brigade War Diaries to see if casualty lists and/or patrol reports were lodged.

### **The Unveiling of the Cambrai Memorial - November 2007 By Russell Doherty**

Briefly, before reading Russell's article:

*Hi Barrie, can you put this out to all in some way? Firstly, I must apologise for not putting my "one finger" to keyboard more often. 2007 was a manic year for me, with the creation of the Guernsey Military History Company and its Royal Guernsey Light Infantry living history project, schools and museums lectures, exhibitions, production of Journey's End, full time job, part time mature student, house renovations (on going), young family etc, it has been a blur! To top it all I am a lousy one fingered typist!!! I would like to thank all of you who have helped and supported me through the last year, I may not have said it at the time but it was really appreciated, I must especially thank Liz Walton and Mark Bougourd for their help and support, often at*

*short notice. it was a fantastic year and I am not to sure how to follow it, (I think my employers would like to see more of me). As you may have seen in the media we were invited to the unveiling of the new memorial on the Cambrai battlefield. It is time I contributed something to CI and the Great War, the dust has settled a little, so I have typed up the story of our trip and included some pictures. I hope you don't mind my ramblings, please feel free to edit as you wish, (if you can use it in any way). My very best regards to all - Russell*

I come into WW1 Channel Island study through militaria collecting and involvement in military living history over many years.

As many of you will have seen on the website, Brett Leivars and I have run a very successful living history programme locally, depicting the life of the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry in WW1, using the local Army Cadet Force as “troops”. In November 2007 we were invited to attend the unveiling of the new memorial to the nations of the Battle of Cambrai at Flesquières, only a stone’s throw from the sector of the battlefield that the RGLI first saw action on. The invitation was initially through the famous “Khaki Chums” (Association for Military Remembrance), which I have been a member of for many years. The “Chums” had been asked by the organisers in France to parade in correct period uniform for the unveiling. I immediately contacted “Chief Chum” Taff Gillingham and explained the significance of Cambrai to the people of Guernsey. He immediately put me in touch with Philippe Gorczynski, the man co-ordinating the event and one of the driving forces behind the monument’s construction. Philippe was the gentleman behind the recovery of D51 “Deborah”, the Mark IV tank dug up on the battlefield 10 years ago.

Very quickly the invitation came back for me to attend in the uniform of the RGLI! The invitation came at a very busy time. The launch of the “Guernseymen in the Great War” exhibition and the Poppy appeal both running at the same time, and both of which we were heavily committed to. After many phone calls and emails we finally put the trip together. Both of us were overspent on leave for the year because of the amount of time we had put in to the local cadet living history project. Both of us would make the trip by arrangement with our employers. In my case a huge thanks to my employers Simco Pharmaceuticals, and Guernsey States Culture and Leisure Department for their support. We travelled in the knowledge that we had the full support of the Bailiff and His Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor, both of whom had taken interest in the trip. We would also have not been able to make the trip without the full support and backing of the Royal British Legion Guernsey, of which we are both active members and who we would represent at the wreath laying.

Eighteen members of the Khaki Chums would make up the official living history contingent for the ceremony in Flesquières. Sixteen members travelled by minibus from the UK via Calais, Brett and myself by car through St Malo and on to Cambrai. Leaving Guernsey on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November we drove on up to Arras and stayed in a Formule 1 hotel that I had been able to book over the Internet. There was no accommodation to be had for miles around Cambrai as everything was fully booked!!

Early on the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> November we drove down to Flesquières and checked out the lie of the land for the ceremony. On arrival at Flesquières the first person we met was Philippe! We had already made contact with the Chums by phone so after talking to Philippe we found we had an hour or so to spare before every one arrived. Time to explore! Heading for Marcoing we made our way up to

Nine Wood and the site of the quarry- objectives of the 86<sup>th</sup> Brigade and the RGLI on the 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1917.

On my last visit ten years ago the area had been a working landfill site. On our arrival all was quiet. The excavators are now long gone, with most of the site now being made up of grassed mounds surrounded by a chain link fence. The quarry has been filled in, and only a few trees around the edge of the wood survive, hiding the landfill from the outside world. However on making our way to the north end of the wood, a thicker belt of trees survive, in amongst which are a number of depressions - shell craters. We took the time to ponder if Guernseymen had been on the receiving end. Looking north from the edge of the Wood, Noyelles lay to the front of us, the farthest point of 86<sup>th</sup> Brigade's advance on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1917. It was cold, and the ground was white with the frost of a crisp clear winter's morning. Stepping out of a warm car yet wearing period clothing and feeling the cold, made you wonder what it was like for the men on the line ninety years ago. A short drive and we are in Marcoing to have a quick look around, before then heading back to Flesquières.

Following the 1998 discovery and excavation of the British Mark IV tank D51 "Deborah", the small group of local individuals responsible formed The Association Tank de Flesquières. Encouraged by the subsequent intense international interest shown, and the influx of visitors, the association felt moved to create a lasting monument to all those who fought at Cambrai during the Great War. "Monument to the Nations of the Battle of Cambrai". Madame Jacques de Valicourt and Monsieur Bertrand de Valicourt have generously given the land for the monument. It was built by the Royal Tank Regiment (RTR), the Royal Engineers (RE), the Conseil General du Nord, the Flesquières Council, voluntary members of the Association Tank de Flesquières, as well as numerous French and foreign helpers and donors.

The design etched into the grass as pathways, symbolises the union flag. Each path radiating from the centre points to a significant point on the battlefield. One path leads to the viewpoint indicator. In the centre, the concrete represents the Hindenburg line and its bunkers. On this are the imprints of the tank tracks, followed by the footprints of the infantry heading toward Cambrai, breaking through the German lines. A brick semi-circle shows the exact location of a windmill that was destroyed by the German Army. It was here that their soldiers built the main front line trench. Across the back of the Memorial is a line of ten flagpoles, one for each nation involved in the battle. The entrance gate into the Memorial is set into a low wall, on the reverse of which are six plaques. The names of all the allied units involved are listed on these. On the third plaque is the name of the RGLI, to my knowledge this makes this the only battlefield memorial, apart from memorials to the missing that carries the regiment's name on the Western Front.

On arrival back at the Memorial it was time to prepare for the ceremony. Ten Khaki Chums, each in uniform, representing the ten nations, took post at the foot of their nation's flagpole, along with a local school child. I had the honour of the Union Flag in the uniform of the RGLI. Brett in the uniform of the RE represented China!! (The Chinese Labour Corps normally came under command of the Royal Engineers). Eight Khaki Chums dressed as tank crew slow marched to the pipes of the Somme Battle Field Pipe Band, onto the memorial grass. A large drape in the colours of the RTR covered the centre of the memorial with a guard of the RTR in black tankers' overalls.

It is estimated that 1500 people were present; all gathered were welcomed by the mayor of Flesquières, followed by a short history of the Memorial given by Philippe Gorczynski. At a given point we raised the flags with the school children. Lt General David Leaky, the current RTR Colonel Commandant officially opened the Memorial as the men of the RTR rolled back the regimental colours to unveil the Memorial, this was followed by a dedication and benediction. The wreaths were then laid and two minutes silence observed. Then followed more speeches, the singing of National Anthems (all in two languages) and the playing of a lament by a piper.... the whole thing lasted nearly two hours! Very typically French, with four people fainting during the proceedings!

The official bit done we marched back into Flesquières behind the pipers and onto the Mairie for a very enjoyable Vin d'Honneur. During the course of proceedings we presented Philippe with a Guernsey flag. It is hoped in the near future, that an exhibition hall will be built in Flesquières with D 51 "Deborah" as the centrepiece of the proposed display. Philippe has promised that the Guernsey flag will form part of the permanent exhibition.

"Deborah" is in a barn in the village, so we took the opportunity to take a look. We were allowed to climb inside the severely damaged tank. The front right hand corner is blown away and a shell has passed from front to rear along the side of the engine! You can only hope that those killed inside died quickly. It was strange to be climbing around the inside of a tank that had been buried for eighty years, but also knowing that it had been in the charge on the 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1917. This alone was worth the visit.

Philippe had booked us all into a Hotel on the edge of Cambrai, paid for by the organisers. Late in the afternoon we headed off and "booked in". The evening was spent in the square in Cambrai, around the bars and cafes (following a very nice meal) soaking up the atmosphere. The next day the RTR were being given the freedom of the city, so union flags were in abundance and English the most commonly heard tongue.

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November, up, breakfast and out to scrape the frost from the windscreen. Troops and Regimental association members spilled out of all the hotels around us. We knew the crowds would be deep in the town, our job done, we decided to take a closer look at Flesquières and the battlefield. A few hundred metres behind the Memorial is Flesquières Hill Cemetery. Among the burials are:

- 511 Pte L. Bray )
- 816 Pte HT De Jersey ) All of the RGLI and killed 1<sup>st</sup> December, 1917
- One unknown )

We stopped to pay our respects, and then looked around the remains of some of the Hindenburg defences in and around the village. We then said our goodbyes to the rest of the chums, who had to head back to the ferry. Brett and I headed back to Masnières and the St Quentin canal; the afternoon spent looking around the RGLI battlefield. Brett had never made the trip before and for me it was ten years since my last visit, however it did not take long to get a "feel for the battle". By overlaying period maps onto modern, you can find a number of locations mentioned in the account of the survivors. We first headed for Mon Plaisir Farm, on the north east corner of the salient held by the Brigades of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division on the bend in the St

Quentin canal. The farm was billeted by Le Poidevin's Platoon until the evening before the German counter attack. It is still possible to see repairs on the gable facing the direction of Crèvecœur (German lines), which we can only assume, are a result of battle! It is not easy to approach the farm now as the present occupants appear to be breeding dogs and since my last visit have added a large kennel block to what is quite a small farm house, with some rather vicious dogs!!

A large old brick building stands on the corner of the road leading out of Masnières, on the original maps it is referred to as a sugar beet factory (a beet factory was billeted by men of the RGLI). Today as it was ten years ago the corner of the building is a bar but I have never seen it open!

Heading down to the canal we crossed over the modern bridge, the original was destroyed by F22 "Flying Fox II", the British tank that attempted to cross the battle damaged bridge causing it to collapse into the canal (the crew survived). Looking north from the south side of the canal bridge a few metres to the right the remains of the concrete footings for the temporary bridge can be seen on the canal bank, used until the new bridge was built. Close by is a brick building supposed to have been used as Brigade Headquarters during the battle. Today the hamlet referred to as Les Rues Vertes in 1917 is a part of Masnières, separated by the canal and river (little more than a stream). On investigation Les Rues Vertes today is the name of a small road running parallel to the canal and river, for a short distance it has small old brick built dwellings, with old twisted chimneystacks, small windows and low doors. Without the tarmac and parked cars one or two locations along the road have probably hardly changed since 1917. The road leads through open fields in the direction of Marcoing, the embankment of the canal a few hundred metres away would have sheltered British troop movements from the Germans view after the initial battle. It is along this road from Marcoing, the RGLI would have marched on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 1917 to take over defence of Masnières from the 88<sup>th</sup> Brigade with the other units of the 86<sup>th</sup> Brigade.

Back in the car and a whistle-stop tour – Villers-Guislain, Gouzeaucourt, Villers-Plouich, Ribécourt and Bourlon Wood.

Tired and hungry we have one last place to visit, the Cambrai Memorial to the missing on the side of the main road at Louverval. The men of the RGLI with no known grave are commemorated on the last plaque on the memorial. Here we laid a cross of poppies under their names, despite having visited before it is still very emotional, especially as I know the descendants of several of the missing men listed. We stay one last night in our hotel in Cambrai, so tired are we from our days exploring that we snatch a couple of hours sleep before dinner.

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November. Up early and pack, and scrape the windscreen again. We headed back for St Malo, driving across the Somme battlefield where we stopped off on the way. Brett's great-great uncle 2019 Cpl Peter Roland was killed serving with 'D' Company, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment on the attack at Ginchy in September, 1916, with no known grave, his name is on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing.

Arriving at 9 am it was a crystal clear morning but bitterly cold, the grass was white with frost as we walked to the memorial. On finding the correct plaque, Brett laid a poise of poppies at its base, then shaking with the cold; photographed the plaque for

his family (he is the first member to ever make the pilgrimage). Back in a warm car we stop at the Newfoundland Memorial park for a look around, even in the cold weather it was nice to see school parties out on guided tours, at what is a very moving site. Near the entrance stands the 29<sup>th</sup> Division Memorial, this being the Division that the RGLI served with, we paid our respects. Running out of time we cut across the battlefield heading for Delville Wood and Ginchy. Today Delville Wood is a monument to the South Africans who gave their lives on a foreign field; the Wood is surrounded by a chain link fence, a beautiful memorial standing in the centre. You can walk in the wood, but in November it is a little muddy under foot, the shell craters made ninety years ago in battle clearly visible between the trees. A short drive up the road is the small village of Ginchy, in between lie the fields that the 6<sup>th</sup> RIR fought over in September, 1916. The crop has been lifted, and the fields are bare. It is easy to see the lie of the land over the fresh ploughed fields. It becomes obvious that the Germans held the rise, and the Irish had to advance up the gentle slope. There is not much to see at first; looking over the fields where so many (including Peter Roland) fell in battle. We look to see if we can find any remnants of the battle on the ploughed field. Not wanting to get muddy (as we had a ferry to catch), we walk along the field's edge. We start picking up shrapnel balls, lying almost as common as the flint on the field. Some say that the shrapnel fell like rain, picking the balls up so easily, it was a sobering thought...

Looking at the time, and happy that we had achieved so much, we headed flat out for St Malo, heater on the whole way!!!



**29<sup>th</sup> Division Memorial at the Newfoundland Park,  
Beaumont-Hamel**

**Editor's Note:** The following pages carry the photographs from Russell's trip.

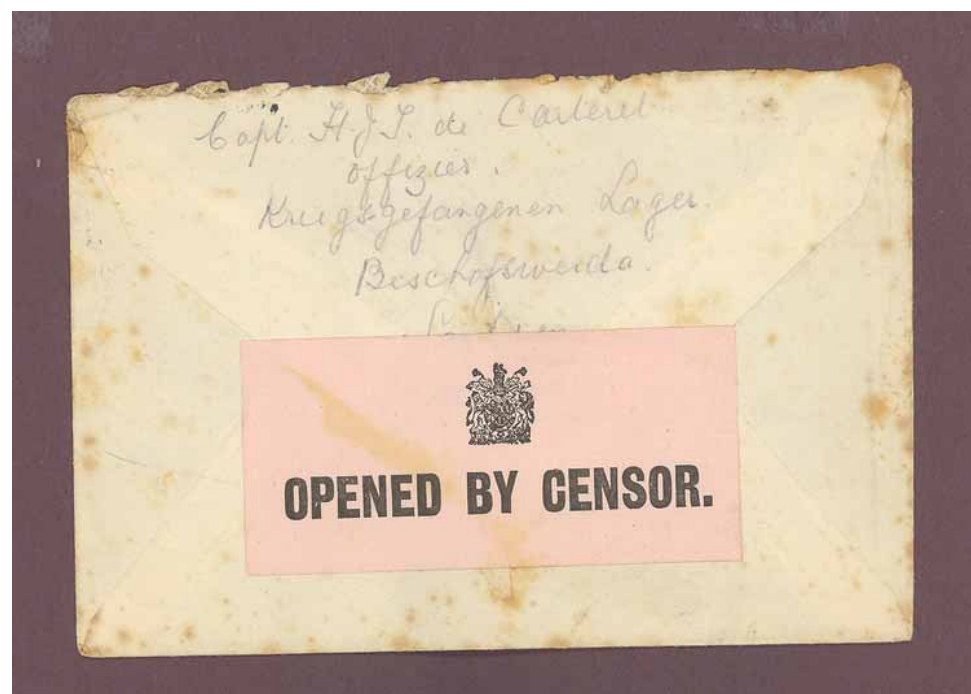




**ROYAL ENGINEERS  
ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY  
ROYAL FLYING CORPS  
ROYAL FUSILIERS  
ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY  
ROYAL GUERNSEY LIGHT INFANTRY  
ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY  
ROYAL HORSE GUARDS  
ROYAL INNISKILLING FUSILIERS  
ROYAL IRISH DRAGOON GUARDS  
ROYAL IRISH FUSILIERS  
ROYAL IRISH LANCERS  
ROYAL IRISH RIFLES**







**Captain Hugh John Tennyson de Carteret**

A fellow member of the local WFA Branch is a bit of a philatelic buff, and while on E-Bay recently, spotted the above pictures of an envelope sent by Captain Hugh de Carteret to Holt's Bank (see Page 34) while a POW. Possibly seeking to transfer funds, who knows, I don't know how the pay for POW was disbursed. Peter Tabb kindly provided the information that Hugh was at Victoria College, joining in the Third Term of 1889, and that his entry in the College Register reads: Son of JF de Carteret, Oaklands, St Saviour. Left 1896. Entered the Army (R. Lancaster Regt) through the Militia. Later served with the King's African Rifles. Capt. He was taken prisoner early in the Great War. Address: The Bungalow, Mont Cochon. My research into his service adds a little more in that between April 1911 and December 1913 he had left the King's Own Royal Lancasters and had resumed a commission with the 1<sup>st</sup> (West) Battalion, RMIJ, and then returned to the KO at the latter date. I currently have the KO's regimental history out of the Library, and there is no named reference to him. However, a note of Officer casualties at Festubert records that an unnamed officer was reported wounded and missing while another was missing. Where either of these Hugh de Carteret? Difficult to determine as the Battalion was the 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> KO whereas Hugh held the 1914 Star, implying that he would have served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. The question has been put to my KO Museum curator friend! **See Stop Press!**

## The Silvertown Explosion - A Guernsey Connection By Liz Walton

In the years leading up to the Great War, Silvertown and surrounding areas in London's Dockland was the biggest manufacturing centre in the south of England. Silvertown took its name from the SW Silver and Co. India Rubber, Gutta Percha and Telegraph works. One of its neighbours was the Tate and Lyle sugar factory and another was the Brunner Mond chemical works. The latter was established at Crescent Wharf, Silvertown in 1893, and the main factory manufactured soda crystals, while a smaller plant made caustic soda. Production of caustic soda ceased in 1912, and when war broke out this smaller plant was lying idle.

In early 1915, the Explosives Supply Department had been set up, under Lord Moulton, to increase production of high-explosive shells and other munitions. However supply still fell behind demand and the loss of the battle of Festubert in May 1915 was blamed on the shortage of shells. A new Ministry of Munitions was set up under David Lloyd George, and one of its prime purposes was to find new sources of purified TNT, suitable for use in high explosive shells. The empty Brunner Mond plant offered suitable facilities for this process, but it was obvious that locating a TNT factory in the middle of a densely populated area would be very dangerous. However the Ministry of Munitions felt that it was "worth the risk"<sup>1</sup> even though the 'danger building' was only 200 yards from rows of workers' houses and factories producing combustible materials such as oil, varnish and chemicals.

The Brunner Mond plant began operation in September 1915<sup>2</sup>, but was only able to produce about 10 tons of purified TNT per day so the company was asked to build new works. It did this in a much safer and more efficient environment at Rudheath in Cheshire, but the Silvertown factory was not shut down. Crude TNT continued to come into the works where it was unpacked and loaded by hand into melting pots heated by steam coils. Molten TNT was run off into dissolvers containing hot alcohol then stirred in a partial vacuum to crystallise it. It was cooled then spun in centrifuges to remove impurities. The process was repeated, and then the molten TNT was cooled until it solidified. It was then scraped off the cooling rollers with a blade, to form 'flake TNT' which was collected into cotton bags for despatch. 63 workers were employed in the 'danger building', working round the clock in 3 shifts of 21, to ensure continuous production. The chief chemist in charge of the process was paid £400 p.a., which would be the equivalent of about £120, 000 today.

At 6.52 pm on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 a fire in the melt-pot room caused about 50 tons of TNT to explode. The fire spread rapidly through other building in the neighbourhood, and the fire station and several streets of small houses were totally demolished. Although the blast could be felt all over London and the fire could be seen for miles, there were relatively few casualties. 73 people were reported killed and 'several hundred'<sup>3</sup> were injured. One of the casualties was the chief chemist, Dr Andrea Angel, formerly an Oxford don who had volunteered to work at Brunner Mond when war broke out. He was honoured posthumously for staying at his post and trying to put out the fire.

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<sup>1</sup> Freeth, FA, *New Scientist*, 30 July 1964.

<sup>2</sup> Bloch, H and Hill, G (2003), *The Silvertown Explosion, London 1917*, Stroud, Glos, Tempus Publishing Ltd.

<sup>3</sup> Bloch, H and Hill, G (2003), *The Silvertown Explosion, London 1917*, (p.14) Stroud, Glos, Tempus Publishing Ltd.

Another was a 26 year old Guernsey man by the name of Walter Frederick Ward Mauger, of 26 Lindon Road, Plaistow, who was one of two workers on the floor above the melting pot at the time of the accident. His job was to remove bags of crude TNT from the hoist and pour them into the feed hopper leading down to the melt pot. Mauger was directly above the point where the fire is presumed to have started, and he and Lizzie Lawrence age 16, who worked alongside him, were killed instantly. He is buried in an unmarked communal grave in the East London Cemetery, and his death is commemorated on the Silvertown Memorial erected by Brunner Mond.



Walter Mauger was born in Guernsey on 15<sup>th</sup> October, 1889, at the Vrangue, St Peter Port, the fourth of seven children of Henry Pierre Mauger, a house carpenter born in Guernsey and his wife Mary Jane (née Herbert), born at Ryde, Isle of Wight. The 1890 Channel Islands census has the family at the Grand Bouet in St Peter Port but by 1901 when Henry was 12 they had moved to the Basse Capelles in St Sampson. However at the time of Walter's death, Mrs Mauger was a widow and was back living at the Bouet again, Henry having died in 1911. Living relatives of the family note that Mary Jane Mauger moved around staying with various family members after the death of her husband, and that at one stage she worked in a soda factory. The *Weekly Press* of 27<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 states that Walter had been a patient at the Town Hospital before the war, and was "totally exempted from military service". He left the island in 1916, starting work in munitions a month after his arrival in London. (Courtesy of the Guernsey Press)

Walter's death was a second tragedy for the family, because his brother, 6514 LCpl Edward Mauger of the 11<sup>th</sup> (Prince Albert's Own) Hussars was killed in action age 22 on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 1914, a mere six weeks after the war had started. He has no known grave but according to family oral history was originally buried at Soupire Cemetery. He is now commemorated on the La Ferte-sous-Jarre Memorial, Seine et Marne, France, along with at least four other Guernseymen who died between August and October 1914. Another brother, Signaller Francis Mauger, RFA, was about to leave for France at the time of Walter's death, and he survived the war.

Walter's address was given as 26 Lindon<sup>4</sup> Road, Plaistow, East London, and that was the address of Sidney Joseph Benstead, who also perished in the explosion at the age of 26, along with seven other men and one woman from their shift. The 1901 England census shows Sidney, age 10 living at 14, Swete St, West Ham together with his parents William, age 48, born in Ely, Cambs, a porter in a fur warehouse, and Julia, age 44, born in Guernsey. Sydney and his brothers and sisters were all born in East London or Essex, but the *Guernsey Weekly Press* of 27<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 states that he "resided at the Bouet with his parents til the outbreak of the war." The

<sup>4</sup> There is no Lindon Road in the area but there is a Liddon Road.

1891 census shows Sidney age 6 months, living in Canning Town in London. His father was a chemical worker at that stage. However in 1881 William and Julia were based in barracks at Newcastle on Tyne, where William was a Gunner in the RGA. Sidney had been employed by the Anglo-Bavarian Brewing Company before the war, but whether they had a branch in Guernsey or if he worked at their main brewery in Shepton Mallet has not yet been established.



**Sidney Benstead's Inscription on the Silvertown Memorial.**

Thus it appears that there were several links between the Mauger and Benstead families and through them between Guernsey and the Silvertown area of London, which might have led to these two young men ending up working at Brunner Mond at



**The Silvertown Memorial  
(Pictures of the Memorial courtesy of Roger Frisby)**

the time of the explosion. Both men are reported as having lived in the Bouet, St Peter Port, Guernsey, Julia Benstead was from Guernsey, William Benstead had worked in a chemical factory in the East End and Jane (or Mary Jane) Mauger had worked in a soda factory in London, possibly the Brunner Mond soda works. The two young men were close in age and shared lodgings in East London in 1917, as well as working in the same place.

A Government Enquiry into the explosion was set up, which produced a secret report on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 1917, stating that the fire that led to the explosion was caused by "a detonation spark produced by friction or impact" or "spontaneous ignition of TNT in or about the melt pot"<sup>5</sup>. Several safety recommendations were

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<sup>5</sup> *Report of the Committee appointed by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Home Department to inquire into the cause of the explosion which occurred on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 1917 at the chemical works of Messrs Brunner Mond and Company Limited, Crescent Wharf, Silvertown in the County of Essex*, (1917), Silvertown Explosion Archives, Local Studies Library, London Borough of Newham.

made, though it was stressed that Brunner Mond were obeying government orders and following their regulations. This report was not released to the public until the 1950s. The Silvertown explosion is the largest single one to occur in London, and to this day the site has not been built over. The Silvertown memorial can be found on the North Woolwich Road, Silvertown, London E16, just inside the entrance to the former Brunner Mond Works. Sidney Benstead and Walter Mauger are not commemorated by the CWGC because they were civilian workers, who died in England so they do not fit their criteria for commemoration as Great War casualties, though had they perished in similar circumstances in the Second World War they would have received CWGC commemoration. However they are included on our Roll of Honour because they were killed working in the defence of their country.

### **. Exploring Eboracum By Barrie Bertram**

I pointed the car's nose eastwards at about 08.30 am on 25<sup>th</sup> January after a somewhat uncivil alarm clock had shrieked me to life a few hours before, with our destination in the heart of the White Rose county, being the Minster city of York. The trip had come about from a very good weekend break offer from Holiday Inns, and a longstanding desire to spend more than a day there visiting some of the sights. Our three days had been planned for the National Rail Museum (NRM) on day one, York Minster, Aunt Betty's and shopping on day two, followed on the third day by Eden POW Camp near Malton. Not exactly Great War stuff I hear you saying. However, as my wife Margaret has come to recognise that, nowadays, I never leave the Chateau unless there is some GW task to follow and so it proved.

After a two hour drive followed by a welcome mug of coffee, fellow visitors to the NRM would see me on all fours in the warehouse – not a pretty sight - trying to take photographs of various items stacked in the lowest pallets. The warehouse (pictured), I should point out is exactly that. It contains railway memorabilia from the earliest days, and because of its volume, cannot be easily displayed. In it are contained railway treasures such as crockery, platform ticket machines, bath chairs and a host of furniture and other items that could be loaned out to other museums or for period films as the need arises. My particular interest was to see if I could locate anything that was related to the CI and the GW and happily I managed. The first find was that a number of models (or half models) of the cross-channel steamers existed, and these included Alberta, Guernsey, Laura, Princess Ena (pictured) and Vera, however, 'stacking and racking' made it impossible to physically see them all. The other warehouse find was a Great Western Railways (GWR) Roll of Honour (pictured), which included the names of five Guernseymen (P De La Mothe, C Rowswell, C Le Vasseur, T Lihou and T Ruse) who worked in the Goods Department. There are probably a few more CI names, but it would require a detailed analysis of the list of 2,500 men. On a more personal note, because of the Courcoux connection, I was pleased to see two different style KOYLI train name plaques (pictured). Unsurprisingly (?) there were also many trains to look at and, although, it was unfortunately shut on the day for repair work, a new library and archive that rejoices in the name of "Search Engine"! A reason, surely, for another visit in the future where references to the Islands' steamer services during the GW maybe found. As general information, the Museum is open 10.00 – 18.00 except for 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> December, is free entry, while nearby car parking is £7.00. Food and drink is readily available, if a little pricy.



Day two and York Minster. I'll leave the descriptions of the gothic construction, the stained glass windows and the quire to others, and to mention that my aim in visiting the Minster was to seek out two particular features, the KOYLI Memorial Chapel (pictured) and the Memorial to the Empire Women who died in the Great War (pictured). The Chapel was easy to find in the North Transept, opposite the entrance to the Minster in the South Transept. As with many Memorial Chapels, it contains some colours (these were glass encased), plaques to the Regiment's notables and the various campaign losses. There is a Roll of Honour but this seems to be related to conflicts other than the GW, which itself seems to only be addressed by the relevant Part of SDGW. I was not sure if the Chapel is normally 'manned' as there is a separate lock-up cabin.

After that, it was a search for the Women's Memorial. You may remember that it was visited in Ian Hyslop's programme "Not Forgotten". In this case, the programme could have been renamed "Well Hidden" as I travelled the length and breadth of the Minster to find it. It turned out that it is also in the North Transept, diagonally opposite the KOYLI Chapel, and is almost totally obscured by a large astronomical clock dedicated to the RAF. The Memorial itself is a screen consisting of twelve door panels embossed with the badges of various organisations such as the QMAAC and WRAF. These doors, when opened, reveal the names of those women who died. I photographed all the lists, but a combination of poor camera technique and accessibility limited by the large clock, resulted in glare from the flash. However, I was pleased to see that Jersey girl and murder victim Nellie FR Rault has been commemorated on the QMAAC panel. Enquiries with the Minster's Guides did not reveal whether there is a published list of those ladies' names.

The Minster is 'home' to two other Regimental chapels, the West Yorkshires and the Duke of Wellington's, but I did not explore either. However, another find was a monument to Admiral Sir Christopher Cradock (pictured), who was lost at the Coronel with the crews of HMS Good Hope and HMS Monmouth, a defeat that had an impact on the CI and, which for me was a further Courcoux link while at York!

With regards to general information, I suggest that the website will help and is as follows: [www.yorkminster.org.uk](http://www.yorkminster.org.uk). Be aware that the area is not very good for parking nearby which is, in any case, somewhat dear. Admission varies at around the £5.00 level.

The final day saw us making the 30-40 minute drive over to Eden Camp which had been used for POW during WW2. The Camp consists of a number of huts, each themed, mostly to cover the Second World War, however, that is not a hard and fast rule, as conflicts since 1945 are also addressed. In a sense it is a bit of 'pick and mix!' One hut does deal with the GW, and is surprisingly quite interesting. Passing through a replica of a trench system (slightly ruined by dummy soldiers on trench duty wearing WW2 battle dress trousers – but then I am picky!) there is a display room with very good presentation boards and memorabilia. Of particular note were some Trench Art items which I had a particular look at following Peter Tabb's article on the subject (Journal 18). Most impressive were the pictures made by French soldiers from leaves (pictured). Overall I was reasonably impressed with the display. Again admission varies around £5.00 and is open 10.00 – 17.00 except for 23<sup>rd</sup> December until around 8<sup>th</sup> January. It caters very well for all age groups and the Canteen is keenly priced – with a plate of Dambusters' Stew at £4.49!



If you intend visiting, allow 3-4 hours at each location, with extra if you are want to spend time in the “Search Engine” at the NRM. Our visits demonstrated that there are CI connections that can be found on the Mainland, no matter how loose and I would suspect that the southern counties would prove particularly fertile.



#### **Postscript:**

Since I have returned from York, Roger Frisby has located a website that listed the GWR names, and I have so far noted that Old Victorian Arthur Berteau Grellier is also listed on it.

On my return, I also fired off an E-Mail request to York Minster regarding a printed list of the names on the Women’s Memorial. A very nice lady came back to me on 6<sup>th</sup> February saying that they had no lists other than a Book of Remembrance, in alphabetical order without reference to the service. As a result of my Email they are going to generate a list which will be made available, hopefully, to visitors via the Minster Shop. Why they’d never previously thought of it beats me!



#### **Martin Kadrewell – Killed in Action**

The term “Killed In Action” covers a multitude of sins, and when I first thought of starting off with that phrase, I very quickly appreciated that it was one that could not be applied figuratively. For indeed, the horrors of “legitimate” war can soon conceal the many actions that are illegal, no more so than in killing friend and foe alike. In the instance of a so-called “friendly” killing, there have undoubtedly been times when an unpopular officer or senior NCO might be “accidentally” shot, and I am sure older readers may recall the word “fragging” from the Vietnam War, an allusion to the use of a fragmentation grenade to achieve a similar end to a rifle bullet. Regardless of an

individual's unpopularity, any such "friendly" killing is simply and unequivocally, an act of murder.

The killing of a foe can be surely more complex in legal terms. There are cases where a solitary machine gunner has laid low many men, and only at the moment when the ammunition has run out, does he hold up his hands in surrender, receiving the bayonet's point for his efforts. A justifiable killing possibly? There cannot be anything but a charge of murder for soldiers who bayonet the inmates at a field hospital or a shoot a group of prisoners. It is no surprise that, as they waging of war became more advanced in technological terms, countries sought international legislation to set civilised standards by which war (an uncivilised act in itself) could be waged.

In assembling Jersey's Roll of Honour for the website a few years ago, I used the term "KIA" for Second Cook Martin Alexander Walter Kadrewell. In a moment of levity one might ask how a Cook might have been KIA, but, with some additional facts, you might consider that an alternative definition should have been applied.

The Kadrewell surname struck me as somewhat unusual, and even so it was a surprise on checking the 1901 Census to see that there were only five listed in the UK, Julia (aged 32) born in Gloucestershire, and her four children all born in Jersey, William Wiltshire (8), Adeline J (5), Harold Walter (3) and Victor W (1). Martin's name did not appear, but a reference to her husband being a "Cook – CSR Victoria" would obviously indicate that he was Martin. The CWGC Register closes that loop by referring to his widow being Julia some 17 years later. Incidentally, Willie would later serve in the RN during the GW, while Harold would join the Hampshire Regiment before transferring to the Wiltshires. I assume that the reference to "CSR Victoria" should mean the L&SWR ship of that name operating between the CI, Southampton and France at the time of the Census.



**HMHS Llandoverly Castle**

Martin Kadrewell was serving on board the *Llandoverly Castle* which was a 11,423 ton liner that had been chartered by the Canadian Government as a hospital ship earlier in the War. The ship's end, and Martin's death, would come at about 21.30

hours on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 1918 while heading for England from Halifax, Nova Scotia, at a position about 116 miles west of the Fastnet Rock, when it was struck by a torpedo in its after hull. Having been travelling at a speed of about 14 knots, the *Llandoverly Castle* very quickly filled. Having rung the order to put the engines to “Stop” and then “Full Astern”, the master, a Captain EA Sylvester soon realised that the ship was sinking and ordered the boats away and that the crew should “Abandon Ship”. In a sense it was fortunate that the ship was eastbound, since its previous westbound journey had involved taking nearly 650 Canadian sick and injured men back home!

One lifeboat, No 5, got away with a Sergeant A Knight of the CAMC, along with eight crew members and fourteen nursing sisters. Tragically, those on the lifeboat could not clear it from the side of the ship, oars being broken in the attempt, and with the ship’s poop-deck breaking off and sinking, the lifeboat was drawn into the vortex created. As a consequence, the lifeboat tipped over, jettisoning all into the cold seas to struggle in the maelstrom caused by the sinking poop-deck. Even though they wore lifebelts, Knight would be the only survivor, and he was drawn under several times before being able to cling to floating debris, and later being deposited in another lifeboat. The names of the nursing sisters are listed below, and also on the panel from the Women’s Memorial at York shown earlier on page 18:

|                                   |                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Margaret Marjorie Fraser (Matron) | Jessie McDiarmid |
| Christine Campbell                | Mary McKenzie    |
| Carola Douglas                    | Rena McLean      |
| Alexina Dussault                  | MacBelle Sampson |
| Minnie Follette                   | Gladys Sare      |
| Margaret Fortescue                | Anna Stammers    |
| Minnie Gallaher                   | Jean Templeman   |

It is not known whether Martin Kadrewell was one of the eight crew members on lifeboat No 5, yet it would seem that other lifeboats appear to have been successfully launched and, if not on No 5, he may have been on one of those. Survivor reports following the sinking were unsurprisingly confused as to the number of lifeboats that were launched. One officer saw five launched on the starboard side of which two capsized, two crewmen saw two afloat while a Canadian Medical Officer saw only one! Looking at the number of lifeboats on the *Llandoverly Castle*, it is probably safe to assume that not all of them were launched, after all, there was only the ship’s crew and the medical staff on board. The subsequent conclusion was that three boats had made their way safely away from the ship.



**A Type Mittel U Class submarine (this is U 135)**

The torpedo that struck the *Llandoverly Castle* had been fired by U-86, a Type Mittel U Class submarine, commanded by a Kapitänleutnant Helmut Patzig. The U-boat, after the sinking, came to the surface, and would slowly cruise amongst the wreckage and its crew, in a couple of instances, took a number of survivors including

Captain Sylvester on board briefly so that they could be interrogated. The line of questioning suggested that the Germans would try to justify the sinking by claiming that either there had been American pilots travelling eastwards to join the fray, or that the *Llandoverly Castle* had illegally carried munitions. Neither of which was true.

Having apparently been satisfied that with the answers, the survivors had been returned to their lifeboat, the U-boat's speed was increased and it circled the area of sinking, on occasion nearly ramming Captain Sylvester's lifeboat in the process, an act that, to the survivors, seemed to be a deliberate attempt at killing them! In due course, U-86 moved off a distance and stopped, and it was from that spot that its stern gun fired off about a dozen rounds at one or more targets that the survivors were unable to see. It is not known for certain that the target(s) had been the other lifeboats, but that only one being found subsequently by the rescuers would suggest that they had been.

There were twenty-four survivors (eighteen crew-members, six CAMC) who would be recovered by *HMS Lysander* from the sole lifeboat some 36 hours later on the morning of 29<sup>th</sup> June, 1918, to be landed the evening of the same day at the port of Queenstown in Ireland. It cannot be a surprise that the news of this latest German atrocity had quickly been circulated around the world. For atrocity it indeed was, since the *Llandoverly Castle* was a hospital ship, and in that guise was entitled to the safeguards offered by the Red Cross that it bore, backed up by international agreements previously established, and of which Imperial Germany was a signatory.

So, was Martin Kadrewell killed in action? By any stretch of the imagination he was not, and the best that can be said was that it was manslaughter if he was on No 5 lifeboat and was thrown into the maelstrom along with the Canadian nursing sisters. That would assume that the German U-boat commander had not recognised that ship bore the Red Cross symbol in the evening light, however I suspect that that is even an assumption too far with the Kaiser's order to conduct unlimited U-boat warfare still ringing in Patzig's ears. The same charge of manslaughter might also apply if he had been in one of the other lifeboats that capsized. Yet, there were the one dozen 88 mm shells from the stern gun that were fired, and a charge of murder might have been more appropriate, although the evidence would have been circumstantial.

In fact, charges related to the sinking of the *Llandoverly Castle* were brought just over three years later when two First Lieutenants, Ludwig Dithmar and John Boldt, were tried in Leipzig, and found guilty of being accessories to murder and were sentenced to four years. The court had concluded that Patzig, the two found guilty and a Boatswain's Mate by the name of Meissner had been the only men on deck, when the shelling took place. The rest of the crew had been ordered below and could not have witnessed any wrongdoing. During statements in court, the impression gained from those U-boat crew-members who made them was that the U-boat had very likely shelled the lifeboats, while others pointedly abstained from comment, possibly on the direction of Patzig. Meissner was regarded to have been the gun-layer, but was dead by the time of the court sitting in July 1921, while warrants for Patzig's arrest were never served. In his absence, the court found Patzig guilty of murder.

Lastly, to return to Martin Kadrewell, his name is commemorated today on the Merchant Navy Memorial at Tower Hill in London, along with the other 144 crew who lost their lives. Other than the JRoH&S I think that the only memorial in Jersey that

carries his name is that in the Maritime Museum. One wonders what the reaction in Jersey had been to the sinking of the *Llandoverly Castle* when it was known that a Jersey resident was among the dead.

### **An Enigma at Caterpillar Valley**

Spring, the season of rebirth and renewal has never, alas, weaved its magic for the 5568 men who lie under the headstones in Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, near the village of Longueval in the Somme *département* of France. Yet, there is no better time than a fresh, sunny morning in that season for one to appreciate the Cemetery's serenity. As with the other 200 and more CWGC cemeteries on the old Somme battlefield, Caterpillar Valley is superbly and continually maintained in terms of its horticulture and stonemasonry. The Cemetery lies almost central in relation to what, in 1916, was known as the 'horseshoe of woods', taking its name from the snaking east-west valley that the British so named to the south of its location. To its east beyond Longueval, is Delville (or 'Devil's') Wood, to the west, the two Bazentin Woods along with Mametz Wood, and to the north, High Wood. Even today these woods appear to have a forbidding appearance. Trones and Bernafay Woods are to the south. The cost to the British Empire in taking these Woods between July and September was tragically high and possibly doubly so in that the only tangible successes of the First Day of the Somme were to the south of Caterpillar Valley, at Montauban, and they were not exploited when the Germans were seen in full retreat heading towards High Wood and beyond. The recognised military tactics of the day meant that a force, irrespective of its size, could not advance while its flanks were unprotected by the forces on either side. However, whether attendant success would have been achieved on such an advance remains debatable today, and in any case, the word 'blitzkrieg' would not be needed for a further 20 years.



But to the enigma! One of those 5568 headstones bears the inscription '7/4170 Rifleman WG Martin, Royal Irish Rifles, 30<sup>th</sup> July, 1916'. Walter George Martin, to give his full name, was one of the original Jersey Contingent, joining up from the Militia in February 1915, and proceeding, via training in Ireland and England, to France and Flanders in December 1915 as a member of 'D' Company, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles. The Militia Rolls have him as a long-serving member of the 3<sup>rd</sup> (Town) Battalion and living at 1 Providence Street in 1913. He is the only Jerseyman known to be buried at Caterpillar Valley, while two others, Edward Leonard Bisson Allen and Charles Alfred Rogers are commemorated among the 1200+ names on the NZ Memorial to the Missing that is also located there.

As can be seen we know something about Walter, but it is his location and date of death that has puzzled.

There are two related reasons for this enigma. The first one is that the Jersey Contingent did not arrive on the Somme battlefield until more than a month later, reaching the village of Carnoy on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 1916. Just as pertinent, the second reason is that on the date of Walter's death, the Battalion's War Diary states that it was in the line holding trenches at Hulluch some 40 miles to the north. Clearly, Walter could not have died on that date and subsequently be buried on the Somme, or could he? And, if he did not die there, who might be buried at Caterpillar Valley?

The initial reaction to this was that Walter's date of death had somehow been recorded incorrectly, and that he had died along with another twenty men of the Jersey Contingent during the holding of Guillemont and the capture of Ginchy between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September, 1916. In part, this was an assumption derived from Jersey's Roll of Honour and Service which recorded Walter as dying on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 1916! The Roll is unfortunately error-strewn, and in this case, July was mistakenly assumed to be incorrect and that it should read September! Any theories along these lines were dispelled after a number of exchanges with the CWGC's very helpful Archive Supervisor (a Mr Roy Hemington) at its Maidenhead headquarters, who kindly provided a map reference of where Walter's remains were originally found and that he was in a grave with a soldier from the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment who had also been killed on the 30<sup>th</sup> July, 1916. That grave was to the north-east of Bazentin-le-Petit, a location and date which, at least for the Warwickshire man, was fully supportable by his Battalion's War Diary. However, it still could not explain Walter being in the same grave if he had been in action at Guillemont or Ginchy more than five weeks later and over three miles away, and even a look at possible map reference errors proved a fruitless exercise!

Approaching the puzzle from a different angle, it was then assumed that the date was correct and that it was possibly the wrong man. There seemed some pointers to this since the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion's other rank deaths for the period 11<sup>th</sup> July to 16<sup>th</sup> August, 1916 totalled twenty-three including Walter. The other twenty-two all have known graves, of which eleven are buried at Bois-Carre near Haisnes while each of the other eleven are at one of the cemeteries at Bethune, Vermelles, Chocques, Mazingarbe or St Omer. In the latter cases, they sites are all connected to Casualty Clearing Stations or other medical facilities connected with the Loos and Hulluch sector. Walter's location at Caterpillar Valley stuck out like a sore thumb! During this period, two others from the Jersey Contingent were killed and buried at Bois-Carre, Rifleman Albert Pennec on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 1916 and Corporal Ernest Jefferys on 1<sup>st</sup> August, 1916, the dates conveniently bracketing Walter's! Evidence of Albert's fate was contained in the following report that is in the Brigade War Diary:

***Night of 27th/28th July 1916 Patrol consisting of Corporal Laugeard and two men.***

*Object: To Locate SAP*

*We made for the right side of crater and worked round to the centre of the far lip where we could see a sap leading towards the crater but about 30 yards from the lip. It was "T" headed and had a machine gun facing west towards Wings Way. A party was working on the right of sap (Wings Way side) about 30 yards from sap. I threw*



*three bombs into Sap and 2 men threw one each from the lip of the crater. The three bombs fell in the sap and I think that the two men who were in the sap must have been killed. We then returned making our way through the wire. Rifleman Pennel (sic) – one of the men – was killed by a bomb which he must have been carrying in his hand and dropped, letting it off.*

*Signed: CF Laugeard, 7th RIR, 28/7/16*

The wrong man theory was further lent credibility when it was determined that another WG Martin - William George - was also killed on the 30<sup>th</sup> July, 1916, while serving with the 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion, King's (Liverpool) Regiment, and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. But, it was back to the drawing board as this Battalion was experiencing over 200 casualties in an attack on Guillemont, and the previous argument that Walter could not have journeyed from there to Bazentin-le-Petit would equally apply to the Liverpool's William.

Having failed to justify 'wrong date', 'wrong place' and 'wrong man' theories with what little official evidence there was, further information on identification was sought from the CWGC who advised:

*"All we have is that in April 1922, the remains of a soldier and a cross marked '7/4170 Pte. W. Martin R.I.Rifs.' were recovered from 57c.S.2.d.8.3..... The Grave Concentration Report states that the identity was established solely from the details on the cross. Nothing further was found on the body to confirm this. So, as we do not know what evidence was originally found which lead to this cross being erected, we can not comment on how accurate or inaccurate this might have been"*

These lines do not seem to be a ringing endorsement of 'right date', 'right place' and 'right man', yet somebody ninety years ago had produced a cross, and it would be incredible, if not downright perverse, for it to have been moved some forty miles to a spot where a body lay, and, indeed, one where the body was already interred. The conclusion at this point, albeit reached by negative means, is that the man in Caterpillar Valley is indeed Walter Martin, but the question as to why remains appear unanswered!

There is, however, a possible hypothesis, based upon a combination of entries in both the Times and Jersey's Evening Post, which coincidentally both, in their 16<sup>th</sup> December issue, report Walter's death, with the following appearing in the Evening Post:

### ***After Many Months Rifleman Martin Reported Killed***

*For several months past nothing had been heard of Rifleman Walter George Martin, one of the members of the original gallant Jersey Company, and though for a time it was hoped he might be a prisoner, latterly this hope had been given up, and yesterday Mr J Chevalier of the Belmont Hotel, received official notification that the rifleman was killed in action on July 30 last. Rifleman Martin was up to the outbreak of war employed as a driver by Le Quesne and Co, and had a large circle of friends who will regret to hear of his decease.*

Unsurprisingly, the Times is somewhat more terse, yet all the more telling for that, in categorising him as having been Killed, they state that he was: “Previously reported Wounded, now reported Killed”. This statement implies that Walter must therefore have been reported “Wounded” at some earlier point, and indeed was so in the Times of 4<sup>th</sup> September, 1916, two days before the first Jersey casualties at Guillemont! Yet, Walter is not the only Jerseyman listed in the Royal Irish Rifles casualties, for it also reports Albert Pennec’s death above, and that Riflemen Sylvian Bliault (8401), Clarence Dorkins (8062), Edward Giffard (4231), Philip Marais (4173) and Francis Louis Vautier (4207) had all been wounded! Now, what is interesting is that in looking through the Evening Post up until late-August, there is only reference to Albert Pennec on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 1916, and Sylvian Bliault a day earlier when it was reported that he had leg and side wounds. Of Walter and the four others, nothing seems to have appeared in the paper that month!

The evidence of the time was that Jersey Contingent information was coming back to the Island very quickly. Applying that logic, it could indicate that Martin and the four wounded men (Bliault excepted) were not with the Contingent in late July 1916, became casualties, with the news not really filtering back to the Battalion, the Contingent and then the EP quickly enough. And then along came the move from Loos and the Battles of Guillemont and Ginchy! I’ll hypothesise here in suggesting that units in the ‘quiet’ sectors might have each been ordered to provide sections of, say, a dozen or more men to be transferred to the Somme to form stores carrying parties in support of the attacks that were being pressed. Stores could be food, water, ammunition, barbed wire, whatever. They would not be formally attached or transferred into the units they supported since the need was generally of very short duration. They would be there to simply ‘lift and shift’, and not be integrated into the ‘fighting’ Battalions. The hypothesis might explain Walter’s ‘location’ and I cannot see any other logical reason that he would have been on the Somme at the end of July 1916. Clearly, in the month up to the time of Walter’s reported death, the Battalions manning the Somme sector were taking casualties and carrying parties from other units would release their own men for front-line work.

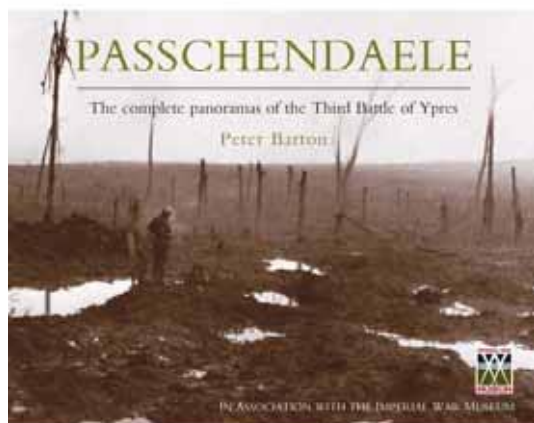
Elsewhere in this Journal, Peter Tabb reviews a book on Rudyard Kipling’s quest for his son. Looking at the enigma that is Walter’s ‘location’, I’m reminded of Kipling’s words below:

I keep six honest serving-men  
(They taught me all I knew);  
Their names are What and Why and When  
And How and Where and Who.  
I send them over land and sea,  
I send them east and west;  
But after they have worked for me,  
I give them all a rest.

It seems like some of those serving-men are still needed in this instance! Are there any existing orders to transfer men into the Somme sector? Possibly in the Corps, Division and Brigade War Diaries of July 1916, since there does not appear to be anything in the Battalion’s. In, what is hoped to be an interim, conclusion, there is nothing to disprove the fact that Walter George Martin is buried at Caterpillar Valley. The difficulty remains in explaining why he was there on that fateful 30<sup>th</sup> July.

## Book Reviews

### A Passchendaele Pairing



**Passchendaele: Unseen panoramas of the Third Battle of Ypres: By Peter Barton**

**Passchendaele 1917: The Story of the Fallen and Tyne Cot Cemetery: By F Bostyn & J Van der Fraeman**

Published to meet the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle these books manage to contrast yet complement each other. They might best be described as “coffee table” books since the overall format is roughly A4 Landscape and are both weighty and very well illustrated with excellent photographs. However, the sub-titles of both books helps to distinguish their differences.

To take Passchendaele 1917 first, the Belgian authors have split the book into two halves. In the first part, they look at Third Ypres at each of its stages, particularly looking at it from the information that they have on various men who lost their lives. In a sense, they seem to have assembled the book “bottoms-up”, describing a particular individual, relating him to his unit and from there to the phase of the battle in which the formation was engaged. However, this process seems to work although one might criticise some of the interpretation of the higher level direction of the campaign. Not such that they stated Haig was right or wrong for example, more that an activity took place because a particular decision was made, where in some cases that was not the actual decision.

The second part of the book looks at the battlefield clearance and grave registration processes that, along with the architectural and horticultural work, led to the creation of Tyne Cot, the largest CWGC Cemetery in the world. This part is more interesting because of its informative quality on an aspect which, to my knowledge, seems to have drawn little exposure in other books dealing with Cemeteries. Analysis of the graves is also included, and I’m a little puzzled here, in that they have established two categories casualties that are “Not Identified” and “Partly Identified”. I’m afraid that they manage to lose me with the explanation, a result of the translation from the original Flemish? However, it may be of interest to note that for the RGLI there is one NI and two PI graves (one each in Blocks 19, 32 and 38) counted in their analysis.

One of my favourite bugbears with books on the GW is the quality of the maps that are used, and I was disappointed with this book in that respect. Where they have produced their own, in one or two instances I find that I am trying to orientate the book so that I can get the map on its north-south bearing lines. Where larger scale

maps are used, they have reproduced them rather too small to be of analytic value. As with translated books, there are the odd oversights, such as Prins for Prince or Duitsers for Germans, but these do not greatly distract. Overall however, the book is a useful addition to one's library and is keenly priced via Amazon at £17.50 (discounted from £25.00).

Turning to Peter Barton's work, it must be said that I've spent less time in reading this. As the sub-title suggests he brings to light panoramic views of the time supplemented by today's views and this echoes his earlier work of "The Battlefields of the First World War" which was accompanied by two DVDs these containing some of the Passchendaele panoramas. As he has liaised with the IWM, the quality of the pictures is very high and additionally has used aerial and ground level photographs to great effect.

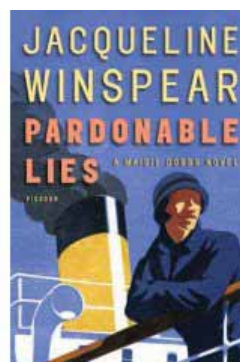
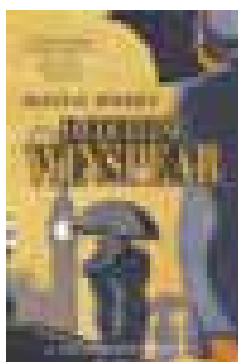
The book deals with the chronology of the whole of the GW as it applied in Flanders, not just Third Ypres, although that does consist of the larger proportion. In many ways, the book has a similar style to the other book as to presenting the viewpoint of the battle from the Army Command down to the individual soldier, yet it seems to have a better flow where the individual's tale amplifies a particular aspect of the battle. That may be down to Peter Barton's experience compared to the Belgian authors, or it may be the fact that translation was not needed.

Drawings are also used to good effect, whether of the official variety showing a tank crossing over a trench for example, or artwork to show the side view of a German machine gun strongpoint. Maps are much better produced, and north-south alignments can be clearly distinguished whether by the grid lines or by the north pointing arrow. Larger scale maps for the various phases of Third Ypres are much simpler and can be easily read. This book is priced via Amazon at £19.80 (discounted from £30.00).

Because of the contrasting material I would not recommend one book over another.

### **The 'Maisie Dobbs Mysteries'**

The 'Maisie Dobbs Mysteries' are a series of books written by a Jacqueline Winspear that recounts the exploits of a young lady who sets up an investigation agency following the Great War.



To date, four books have been published and can be bought as softback form from Amazon at £5.49 while the fifth in the series is due to be released in hardback form during February 2008. The books in logical sequence are:

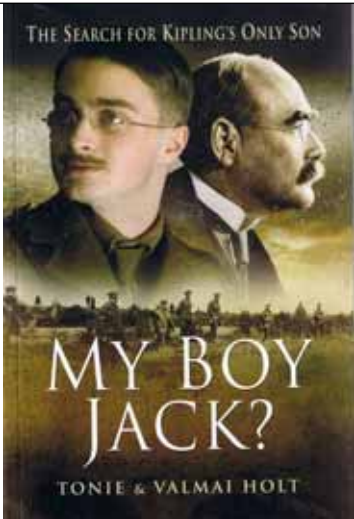
- Maisie Dobbs
- Birds of a Feather
- Pardonable Lies
- Messenger of Truth
- An Incomplete Revenge

Maisie Dobbs is a girl raised in Bermondsey, who, at 13, goes to work 'downstairs' for a titled family in Belgravia. Discovered reading in the house's library, the lady takes her education in hand along with a French doctor as her *éminence grise*, and when old enough, she qualifies and is admitted to Girton College, Cambridge to study. The Great War intervenes and Maisie becomes a nurse, eventually working at a Casualty Clearing Station at Bailleul. She is severely wounded, is returned to good health and, after working with the French doctor on a number of cases, she sets out independently in her own agency.

The books (to date I've read the first three) involve her investigating cases that have a link back to the GW, and in part, the books take Maisie back to her own time in the CCS. These cases deal very much with the after-effects of in terms of mental and physical injuries, grief and the need for coming to terms with the loss of menfolk. Maisie's ability to come to terms with her own injuries and those of others also features, as in the case of one book where her trusted assistant Billie Beale starts taking drugs to relieve his pain from a leg wound. I am not going any further to recount the plots themselves.

Historically, Miss Winspear takes care in not getting the plots too enmeshed so that factual information about the GW is incorrect, though I thought in the first book that she attributed the battle of the Somme to 1915 and, apart from the account of Maisie's development from a 13 year old parlour maid to a rather clever young investigator, the stories remain credible. They are well written, and while later books recap Maisie's background, the flow is maintained.

Originally coming to the first book from a GW standpoint, the stories have proved absorbing in themselves and are well written, yet they remind us of those after-effects referred to, and which were encountered in many households throughout the British Empire after the GW, and I suspect, are still experienced today by veterans of Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. For me, these books are an enjoyable light read.

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|  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MY BOY JACK?</b><br/> <b>The search for Kipling's only son</b><br/> <b>By Tonie &amp; Valmai Holt (Pen &amp; Sword)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Reviewed by Peter Tabb</b></p> <p>Have you news of my boy Jack?<br/> <i>Not this tide,</i></p> <p>'When do you think that he'll come back?'<br/> <i>Not with this wind blowing, not this tide.</i></p> <p>If any question why we died,<br/>     Tell them it is because our fathers lied.</p> |
|---|---|

There can be few with any interest in the Great War who are not familiar with the names of Tonie and Valmai Holt. Several of their guides decorate my bookshelf but I must admit that until picking up this book at the Imperial War Museum, I had not really thought of them as *writers*, the content of their books overriding any appreciation of how they were written. I was pleasantly surprised, for *My Boy Jack?* is a gripping read and as much a biography of Rudyard Kipling as it is a poignant memoir of the Great War.

This book was first written a decade ago and reprinted in 2001. It was published again to coincide with the TV 'docu-drama' of the same name starring David Haig as Rudyard Kipling and Daniel Radcliffe (he of Harry Potter fame) as his beloved son John. Coincident with the TV drama there is also an exhibition at the Imperial War Museum.

John Kipling was reported missing on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 1915 during the Battle of Loos. Despite his chronic short-sight his father had used his friendship with the veteran warrior Lord Roberts of Kandahar to secure a commission in the Irish Guards ('Bobs' being the Guards' Colonel-in-Chief), the Navy, and Kipling's first choice of a military career for his son, having turned him down.

The television drama implied that it was the jingoistic Kipling's obsessive determination that his son should serve at the Front whereas the book makes it clear that John was as determined as his father to join the forces and was prepared to enlist as a private soldier if necessary. Kipling did not have to pull strings to get his son a commission; his service in Wellington College's OTC did that for him.

Thus it was as an 18-years-old 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Irish Guards that John Kipling went to war on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 1915. Barely six weeks later he went 'missing' and despite all his father's efforts and lifelong search (with the Prince of Wales and even the Kaiser on the case), no trace was ever found of his body and his name was duly recorded on the Memorial Wall to the Missing at Dud Corner, Loos.

In 1992, 56 years after Rudyard Kipling's death, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission announced that there was sufficient evidence to believe that a grave in the St Mary's Advance Dressing Station cemetery near Loos, previously marked as being that of an unknown Lieutenant of the Irish Guards, was indeed that of John Kipling. The body, discovered by 18<sup>th</sup> Labour Company, a battlefield clearance unit, had been interred in the cemetery in September 1919.

However Tonie and Valmai do not agree and much of the latter part of the book examines the case for the CWGC and then dissects it. Intriguingly the principal cause of their disagreement with the CWGC is as simple as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant's pip. When John Kipling died he had actually been promoted to Lieutenant as long ago as June 1915 but his promotion had not been 'gazetted', that is published in the London Gazette, and although holding the rank, he was not yet entitled to wear the second pip. One of the ways the 'unknown' subaltern had been identified as a Lieutenant of the Irish Guards was by the two distinctive pips on his shoulders. Ergo he could not be John Kipling.

As far as I am concerned Tonie and Valmai's case is proved and just in case my belief is not enough, the couple have sought the views of other historians and

academics who also agree with them. More than that they believe they have actually identified the officer in that grave as Lt Arthur Jacob of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the 18<sup>th</sup> London Irish Regiment. And explain in much detail how they come to that conclusion.

But it is not just the thread of investigative journalism that runs through it that makes the book so compelling, it is written in a style that wants you to keep turning the pages – just as you would if you were on one of Tonie and Valmai's battlefield tours. Furthermore the book also rates as a significant biography of Rudyard Kipling himself and although the loss of his only 'man-child' is the defining theme of the book, it tells the reader much more of the man and his family than its subtitle 'the search for Kipling's only son' suggests.

What the book also makes clear is just how difficult it was to determine, at the time and, of course, since where any soldier who was not seen to fall and be marked then and there might lie. Almost half of those who died in the Great War have no known grave and although comparisons, particularly in this field of endeavour, are pointless, where all 55,000 US casualties of the Vietnam War fell and now lie is known and recorded.

There is much about Kipling that offends today's 'Politically Correct' brigade – his jingoism, his right-wing views on most things, his intolerance (he referred to homosexuality as 'beastliness') and his contacts with the great and good of the age which he exploited assiduously to get his son into the Army and exploited again to find him once he had gone missing. Kipling was himself short-sighted and consequently could not serve in any of Queen Victoria's armed services. Did he feel any guilt that he used his influence to allow his only son to stumble to war?

Tellingly, despite the resources he could draw upon, Rudyard Kipling never found his son's last resting place and those of us who have attempted (even with the power of the Internet at our fingertips) to track down long since passed-on relatives who were casualties of the world wars and other conflicts with little success will probably feel a little mollified that even he could not succeed despite being an active member of the Imperial War Graves Commission, forerunner of the CWGC.

I was one of those who voted Kipling's 'If' the nation's favourite poem. If I had known as much about Kipling then as I do now, thanks to Tonie and Valmai Holt, I would have voted twice.

### **Website Workings By Roger Frisby**

We're currently going through a period of consolidation, adding further data to the Rolls of Honour, particularly that for Jersey. Mike and Rosemarie Thomas are providing a considerable range of research information. Meanwhile Barrie is working to update the Jersey-French listed and is about a third of the way through. A few British names are also being added as they are discovered and researched.

The 1913 Jersey Militia Nominal Roll is in the Members' Area as is the latest update to the Jersey Passenger Lists. Both are useful in finding where people lived, and the latter list gives a sense of the type of movements between the Island and the UK.

Looking ahead we hope to have photograph of an RGLI Company magazine "Les Folies" displayed. With the Guernsey Museum's kind agreement, Mark Bougourd took the pictures of all pages of the two magazines that the Museum holds, and in due course they will appear.

"Help Wanted!" This is part of the website so renamed, where articles can be posted in the hope that further information can be gleaned from visitors to the website. If you need further information in your research, do use this as a means to advertise your needs.

### **Membership News**

Two additions. First, Anna Baghiani to whom I must apologise for failing to include in my marathon Membership News last time around. Most Jersey members will already know Anna in her role as Senior Librarian at the Société Jersiaise. Secondly, we welcome Valerie Sarre.

### **Out and About**

Warwick Blench and Ned Malet de Carteret have already ventured out this year, with a stop at Delville Wood recently.

Looking ahead, Ned will be attending a WFA Suffolk Branch Seminar on 1918 to be held in Ipswich the weekend of 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March.

I'm at Lancaster University part time during the period 17<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> attending lectures on "Aces High: A look at the Great War in the Air". I shall have questions to ask, and if you have any, do feed them through in the hope that the lecturer can answer them!

Liz is tentatively planning to continue following Latimer Le Poidevin's footsteps in France as of 10<sup>th</sup> April.

As a reminder, I have booked a gîte, aptly named "Les Coquelicots", in Beaumont-Hamel for the period 12<sup>th</sup>–26<sup>th</sup> April. The location is at the left hand corner of the road from Auchonvillers where one turns left at the T-junction for Thiepval before going next right over the level crossing. From 14<sup>th</sup> June – 5<sup>th</sup> July I am staying near Calais to take in Ypres and the Bethune area.

Elizabeth Morey is looking to come over from New Zealand to visit France and Flanders in 2008. She is still to determine dates.

### **Odds and Ends**

**STOP PRESS! Captain Hugh John Tennyson de Carteret:** My KO Museum Curator friend has advised that he was attached to the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment from December 1914 to December 1915. Further research is needed here to establish when he became a POW.

**Administration:** A perennial plea in that can you make sure that, if you have changed your E-Mail address and other contact details you let me know. In any case, there are still some details to be forwarded for the contact list which I'd like to update at the end of December.



**The Jersey Contingent Book:** Ian Ronayne is hoping to have his book published in time for this year's Armistice, and is currently seeking a publisher.

**Victoria College:** The College is looking to commemorate Armistice in a suitable fashion later this year. Peter Tabb, as the College Foundation's Director is working with the College staff on the plans. Hopefully I can include further news in the next Journal, but I understand that Journey's End will be staged as well an exhibition featuring all of the College's VCs.

With luck I am hoping to persuade him to arrange for the College Hill to be turned into trench lines!

**The Coutances Colloque:** Background work is in hand to give a 30 minute presentation on the CI and the GW at Coutances over the weekend 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> November.

### Enfin

Well that's another Journal put to bed! I certainly feel that I've rushed it a little today, yet hope that the quality has not slipped as a result.

Do keep material coming in for articles, no matter what size.

Regards  
Barrie H Bertram  
11<sup>th</sup> February 2008

### Journal Issue Dates For 2008

Two changes! One for the April issue, thanks to an earlier Easter than usual, while the June change allows time to produce before a trip to France.

| Issue | Month         | Articles To BB   | Posted Web/Mail  |
|-------|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| 18    | February 2008 | 10 <sup>th</sup> | 15 <sup>th</sup> |
| 19    | April 2008    | 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 10 <sup>th</sup> |
| 20    | June 2008     | 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 10 <sup>th</sup> |
| 21    | August 2008   | 10 <sup>th</sup> | 15 <sup>th</sup> |
| 22    | October 2008  | 10 <sup>th</sup> | 15 <sup>th</sup> |
| 23    | December 2008 | 10 <sup>th</sup> | 15 <sup>th</sup> |

## About Holt's

This army agency was established by William Kirkland, agent to the First Regiment of Foot, in Bennett Street, St James's, London, in c.1809. Army agents kept the accounts of army regiments, distributing pay and subsistence, dealing in supplies of clothing, claims for pensions and injury, and providing a general banking business for soldiers and their families. In 1815 William was joined by Nugent Kirkland, the firm trading as Nugent & John Kirkland by 1822 and as John Kirkland from 1825. The firm moved successively to Waterloo Place, Whitehall, Pall Mall and Whitehall Place and held seventeen army agencies by 1847. After John's death in 1871 the business was run by Vesey Weston Holt. It was styled Vesey Holt & Co from 1881, when Vesey George Mackenzie Holt succeeded his father, and Holt & Co from 1883. Following the reform of the British army in 1872 competition for the more limited agency work was acute, and in 1884 Lawrie & Son (est. 1794), army agent of London, was acquired and thereafter the firm was known as Holt, Lawrie & Co, reverting to Holt & Co once again in 1891.

In 1892 the government fee for disbursements was cancelled, and agency profits therefore had to be made entirely from the banking services offered to officers and their families. However, the volume of work exploded with the outbreak of the First World War, and the staff of 40 increased to 850. During the war Holt & Co dealt with the pay of over 50,000 army officers, and, additionally, links were forged, both with the Navy in 1915, through the acquisition of Woodhead & Co (est. c.1804), naval agent of London, and also with the Royal Air Force in 1918, through the offer of part of the official pay agency to Holt & Co by the Air Ministry.

In 1923, upon the death of Vesey Holt, who had led the firm since the 1890s, the business was acquired by Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co (est. 1753), bankers of the City of London, but continued to trade separately, moving from Whitehall Place to Kirkland House in Whitehall in 1930. In 1939 Glyn, Mills & Co was itself acquired by The Royal Bank of Scotland (est. 1727), bankers of Edinburgh, but Holt & Co still continued to trade as a separate business until the 1960s. During the Second World War, the banking and pay departments were evacuated to Osterley Park, and the pay agency accounts increased from 2,600 in 1930, to 9,900 in 1939 and 42,600 by September 1945. After the war the pay and ledger departments were moved again, to new offices at Lampton, near Osterley. In 1970, however, following the introduction of the military salary, the Army and Royal Air Force pay agencies were not renewed, and the pay department was closed and the Lampton site sold. Holt's continued to operate many army-linked accounts and, in 1976, opened a branch in Farnborough to serve its army customers in the area. In 1992 the business, then known as Holt's branch, Whitehall, was merged with that of the nearby Drummonds branch in Charing Cross.