

CHANNEL ISLANDS GREAT WAR STUDY GROUP



**Australia Remembers!
The First Ever ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Villers-Bretonneux**

JOURNAL 20 JUNE 2008

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Hello All

Suddenly we have a Journal! I must admit that I was in a cold sweat in late-May that I would get something put together to meet deadlines in a coherent fashion. However, as ever members have again come up trumps with articles large and small, as well as comments that can be used as part of other items. So for all inputs, I would like to say many thanks to the contributors.

Reading this and the previous Journal, it is evident that during the past few months many of us have been dashing around, visiting cemeteries here or there on the Western Front, rummaging in the darkest recesses of church store rooms as Liz Walton has, exploratory trips to France or researching in Libraries and Archives. Undoubtedly, there are numerous other aspects that I haven't mentioned, but it is apparent that our interests do cost us time and money. In saying that, I am not suggesting that it should be otherwise, but I am sure that there must be a financial line for us all.

For sometime I have been saying that we should get "them" interested, and by "them", I mean the Islands' authorities, even if we are "small beer" alongside the grandiose plans of the day such as the Waterfront development and new Art Gallery in Jersey, or the problems of GST.

This might change however with a question posed to the Parish Connétables in Jersey and the Gréffier in Guernsey as to who might pay for birth certificates, or come to an equivalent arrangement, when these are required by the CWGC to support the change to records and, in some cases, to headstones and memorials. Hopefully, this could prove to be the thin edge of a wedge in developing more interest and could mean that we get "them" to "buy-in" and expand on our efforts. At the same time, it could mean that we do not pay for items such as certificates just to rectify 90 year old errors.

This Issue's Cover

Australia Remembers, and never more so than at Villers-Bretonneux on ANZAC Day this year, with some 7,000 Australians who had made the long journey to commemorate their losses on the Western Front. An article on that event appears later on in this Journal, however as the Journal was being put together, the BBC carried this news item on its website: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7430622.stm> as well as a lengthy piece on a lunchtime news programme, regarding the unearthing of the remains of, potentially, 400 men, many of them Australians, at Fromelles. There are 10,771 Australians (of whom four have CI links) with no known graves listed at Villers-Bretonneux, one wonders as to how many of those names might be erased as a result of the recovery of remains at Fromelles.

Postscripts

A Website Contribution from Jersey's Lieutenant Governor (Journal 19, April 2008)

In his article regarding Second Lieutenant Edward de Faye which originally featured in the JEP and for which he very kindly allowed us to use on the website, subsequently. He quoted the crewman:

“On the morning of 1st December at 6.30 we moved off from near Revelon Farm and proceeded across our front line. We then turned left and proceeded in the direction of GOUZEAUCOURT. About ¾ hour after starting off we observed enemy, and opened fire, and turned half right so that both 6 pdr guns were firing. About this time a shell struck the unditching spar, and blew it off, but did not damage the Tank at all.....We cruised about in the vicinity of GAUCHE Wood then the officer decided to enter it. We were in the wood for ¼ hour but did not find many targets there so we came out. Just after we came out a shell struck the drivers turret, and burst inside, killing the officer and driver, and wounding two gunners.....I can safely say that we did great damage to enemy Machine Guns. I myself put two out of action near GAUCHE Wood near to where our Tank now is”

While I was in France I thought that I'd look at the area, and see if Gouzeaucourt British Cemetery could through up any clues. One wonders if “Arethusa” is lying out under those fields as was “Deborah”.



**A View of Gauche Wood, from Gouzeaucourt British Cemetery looking SE, April 2008
The Church at Villers Guislain is visible just to the Wood's left while the thin line of bushes in front of the wood runs alongside a railway line**

The Unknown Soldiers of the Royal Jersey Militia (Journal 15, August 2007)

The quest goes on, but regrettably with little if any further success to date. In April I visited the area to the east of Guillemont where the two sets of remains were found and took a number of photos for the Journal. Clearly the area is wide open as it would surely have been back in September 1916 though it would have been very much churned up and rutted with trenches and shell holes. The other activity that I undertook was to visit a number of cemeteries “close” to Guillemont to seek Unknown RIRifles/Jersey Militia graves. In nine cemeteries I found six Unknown RIR men, including an Officer, and the circumstances of these are currently being

researched with help from the CWGC. Looking at the 7th Battalion's casualties however, it seems so that remarkably few were accounted for and located subsequently, though three of the six above would appear to be 7th Battalion men from September, 1916.

Meanwhile a return to Kew in May enabled me to re-read the 48th Brigade's and the 7th Battalion's War Diaries for the period at Guillemont and Ginchy. From the Brigade's Summary of Operations I was able to glean that the 8th Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers should have mounted patrols late on 5th September, 1916 to locate German positions, but, as they were brought up to the trenches, their guides got them lost! The need to locate the trenches was considered vital, so the "Dubs" went out at 03.30 hours on the 6th. The morning was described as misty, and the "Dubs" were experiencing difficulties, so the 7th Battalion, which was based in the northern 'half' of Guillemont, were quickly required to mount three strong patrols which went out at 05.00 hours. During the period that the patrols were out in the mist heavy firing from machine guns was reported! This account probably goes a long way to explaining why there are no Patrol Reports from 7th Battalion during the period!

A Redeeming Flash (Journal 19, April 2008)

My trip to Kew in May also saw a re-read of Coutart de Butts Taylor's file to confirm my impressions from the earlier visit. I found that I had captured the sense of his file better than I'd dared hope, but there were still some details worth noting.

It seems that after Coutart became Collins, Lilian Taylor would receive financial help from his family, and this continued after the war while trying to get his pension resolved, and she talked of a "strain of financial worry". As to her whereabouts, she also wrote that "I myself have been on war service since 1915", so, it may be that she also left Jersey at around the time Coutart received his temporary commission with the RIR. She would also write that she was "looking for a prolonged rest" that had "financially unable to obtain", while Coutart's brother, Colonel D'Aubrey Taylor would also write that she suffered from "acute asthma", "one child was very delicate", and the family was "destitute". Clearly, she found herself in straitened circumstances, especially from September 1916 onwards.

As to Coutart's movements after Salonika, having said that he was in Malta on 30th April, 1916, he sailed home on 12th May, 1916, and appears to have been medically assessed on 22nd May, 1916 as unfit for service for a period of six weeks, and that would then be consistent with his reappearance in Belfast on 5th July, 1916. In this period, GHQ Egypt would be trying to locate him, the reason for this being that he had not "initialled" the "Adverse Report" before leaving Salonika. Whilst his former CO, Colonel Becher had indicated that Coutart had received a copy, there must be some doubt that this actually happened. Jumping ahead to his re-enlistment as Collins, his papers have him assigned to the 63rd Training Battalion, which had been formed from the 18th Battalion, RWF (2nd Battalion, London Welsh) just under a month before his joining. Training was carried out at Kinmel Park, Conwy in North Wales.

Looking again at interchanges in the War Office when the recommendation for reinstatement was being processed, one interesting point was made which, I have since discovered, has a Channel Islands link. One senior officer, in referring to Coutart's case, made reference to the fact that only two other officers had been

“thrown out”, and then reinstated. One was a Colonel England, the other a Lieutenant Colonel Elkington. I know nothing of Colonel England, but Lieutenant Colonel John Ford Elkington was cashiered (or dishonourably discharged?) for having “conspired to surrender” in August, 1914, having signed a paper agreeing not to fight in the town of St Quentin in return for food to feed his tired and hungry force, and having sought to establish a position outside the town boundaries. Being discharged, he would sign up with the French Foreign Legion, and like Coutart, by October, 1916 would redeem himself and be restored to his former rank, gaining a DSO in the process. Having joined the Army in 1886, it seems that John Elkington had previously received his education at Elizabeth College in Guernsey!

Lastly, I tried out my camera, and have managed to photograph Coutart’s 1916 (a little fuzzed I’m afraid) and 1918 letters as well as Lilian’s form claiming that she was the widow, and a letter written on a Ministry of Pensions Minute Sheet stating her circumstances. They are attached at the end of the Journal.

Nellie’s Story (Journal 19, April 2008)

In addition to Liz Walton’s contribution on Nellie Rault included in the last Journal, it was also featured in the Jersey Evening Post, albeit condensed.

Faces Remembered! - Harold Hocquard

During my trip to the Somme in March last year, I picked up on the headstone of Harold at Cabaret Rouge, with the surname incorrectly spelt (an “O” in place of the “Q”). The CWGC acknowledged the error, and as can be seen below from a return visit this year, it has been corrected. However, I wondered whether he had a Jersey connection, and following an appeal from via the JEP, had it confirmed.



Since then, I have been in contact with Australian descendants of his brother David Stanley Hocquard (known as Stan), who, I am delighted to say, have furnished me with the photograph of Harold above, along with other similarly excellent material. In

addition, I am awaiting a CD with further material that I shall be putting together for the website, hopefully doing the subject matter due justice.

While on incorrect names, a return trip to Cabaret Rouge may be needed as there is a Le Huquet headstone to check, that may also have an "O" in lieu of the "Q".

Faces Remembered! - Dr Gerhard Günzel

The accompanying photograph shows Dr Gerhard Günzel sitting very comfortably indoors, in a deck-chair. The location is Blanches Banques POW Camp and was most probably taken in 1916. It was very kindly provided by his grand-daughter, who informed me that he was a PhD in History. Visible when enlarged, the number "242" appears on his epaulettes. In discussions, we have surmised that he was taken prisoner during First Ypres, based upon the fact that the 242nd Reserve Infantry Regiment had some 200 men captured on the 24th October 1914. Considering the circumstances, he looks quite comfortable however I am puzzled by the numbers "5" and "63" at the left hand corner of the picture. In terms of style, they are Germanic and I wonder whether it was some form of coded message back home, or simply a number to identify the photo's customer. The photo is printed on an Albert Smith of Jersey postcard. There is a longer piece on Dr Günzel on the website.



Faces Remembered! - Soldiers Three!



A photographic contribution from Mark Bougourd of three men taken by Woodward's in Guernsey. From left to right:

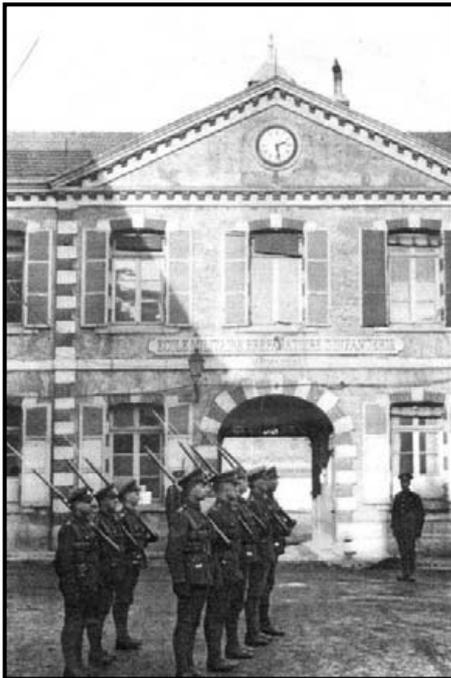
- Pte H Hamel (Cook, 1st Bn, RGLI)
- Pte H Hayward (Machine Gunner, Fermoy, Ireland)
- Pte JC Clark (Machine Gunner, 2nd Bn, RGLI)

A note on the back states that "Les Beaucamps in English is the Fine Camp". The two RGLI men appear to be listed as Sergeants in "Diex Aix", so it may be that this was a pre-war photograph. On Ptes Hamel and Hayward's right handed sleeves an inverted chevron can be seen. What was it for? (The image hasn't been reversed.)

A Few Notes from Latimer's Diary By Liz Walton

Over the past months I have been annotating the notebook containing 656 Private Latimer Le Poidevin's recollections of his experiences while with the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry, between January, 1917 and June, 1919. The document, if read in conjunction with the 1st (Service) Battalion, RGLI War Diaries, Movement Orders, Relief Orders and Casualty Lists, plus general histories of the battles and other sources, throws some interesting light on how things were seen by the ordinary private soldier and how he fitted into the overall scheme of things. Dates, names, numbers and places tie in very closely with official reports, confirming the overall accuracy of Pte Le Poidevin's accounts.

One area in which the "diary" adds to the official reports refers to the time that the Battalion spent at General Headquarters. After the battle of the Lys in April, 1918, losses were such that it could no longer be seen as a fighting force. The Battalion War Diary for 29th April, 1918 states that they moved to St Aubin and went into billets, and then on 30th "*The Battalion was attached to GHQ Troops.*" General headquarters was at Montreuil, and the RGLI men were billeted at nearby Ecuire (or Equires, as the war diary calls it) from 10th May, 1918. From then until 31st October, 1918, apart from the occasional mention of an inspection or presentation, the official diary simply states that "The Battalion was billeted at Equires. Guards and duties furnished for GHQ 1st Echelon."



Private Le Poidevin's diary gives us more detail on these duties, and his notes are supported by material from other sources. He was in hospital in Etaples with Trench Fever, then at a convalescent camp in Rouen until from late April until 25th June, 1918. He then describes how he rejoined the Battalion:

"From the Base we marched for the station, we were four Guernseys together, and got up in the old cattle truck. From Rouen we passed Abbeville and stopped at Etaples and took another train for Montreuil, then from the Station we marched through the town of Montreuil where we found here and there some of our Battalion on duty. Then at last we got to the Battalion Headquarters, I got put in the same Company, C, this being on the 3rd of July."

The picture (above) shows men of the RGLI outside the Ecole Militaire at Montreuil. He describes how:

"I went on different jobs for three or four days, then on the 9th July, 1918 I left Ecuire, and was sent up to the château where the Commander of the British Army stayed. I was on anti-aircraft there. The place was called Le Château, an out of the way place. The nearest village was about two miles, which was Ecuire or Brimeux. The town was about the same distance. On this job we were about 20 of us and had a day on duty and a day off".

Private Le Poidevin was a Lewis gunner, hence the anti-aircraft duties, and the Chateau he refers to here was the Chateau de Beaurepaire, in the countryside outside Montreuil, where Sir Douglas Haig, Commander in Chief of the British Army, was based. He then notes that:

“On the 7th of August we left this place with the Advance General Headquarters, being carried in motor lorries, This is the names of some of the villages we passed on our way, the first being, Wailly, then Nempont, Vron, Liercourt, Abbeville, Airaines, and Allery. The next place we stayed at, Wiry-Au-Mont, we put up two tents in a wood near this station while the commander had his train. Our work was on anti-aircraft over this train.”

Wiry-au-Mont is a small town roughly equidistant from Amiens and Abbeville, and the towns listed here all lie along what are now the N1 and the D901 from Montreuil to Wiry. Haig had a special train that served as his Advanced GHQ which would be brought up to a station close to the battlefield at the time of major conflicts. His diary confirms that his Advanced Headquarters was established in his train at Wiry-au-Mont Station, on 7th August, 1918, the day before the start of the Second Battle of Amiens. However the Battalion War Diary for that date notes only that the Battalion had formed the Guard of Honour for HM the King, Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, Marshall Foch and President Poincaré at the Commander in Chief's chateau. There is no mention of any of the men being transferred elsewhere on other duties.



Haig's Train "Somewhere in France"¹

Pte Le Poidevin also gives more detail about daily tasks, noting that:

“Every day one of us was sent to Montreuil for mail for the Staff, being 90 miles from the Battalion.”

This would be the approximate distance for the round trip by road. He also says that:

“We were a day on and the next day on fatigues whether on the train or to the Quartermaster's Stores. One day while I was down at the Quartermaster's Stores I was sent with the driver on a motor lorry to fetch a load of petroleum. On our way we

¹ “G.S.O”, (1920), *G.H.Q. (Montreuil-sur-Mer)*, London, Phillip Allen and Co.

passed these villages: Allery, Airaines, then to Pont Rémy which was 20 Kilometres."

The village of Pont-Remy is 11 kilometres (about 7 miles) south-east of Abbeville, on the northern bank of the Somme. He continues:

"Then as there was none there, we were sent to another station, passing Le Catelet, Conde-Folie. Longpré and Doullens, to Fant-Freres² station, where we loaded up. Coming back we passed Flixecourt, Vignacourt, Airaines, Allery and back to Wiry-Au-Mont."

Sir Travers Clarke, Quartermaster General at GHQ, had built up a Motor Lorry Reserve which was to be made available for supplying the troops if the railway system was ever unable to be used for that purpose. It had been brought very close to collapse because the Germans had seized many of the army's light railways and had destroyed some main lines by shelling. One lorry remained at GHQ until after the battle of Amiens, ready to carry maps and papers to the coast if Montreuil had to be evacuated³. Petrol was an important commodity, and the lengthy journey they undertook here to get it took them along the Canche Valley and then to the south of Arras, a round trip of over 50 miles. He then moved on again:

"Then on the 18th day of August we packed our things on the train and moved for another place. On our way we passed along side of Allery, Cheraines, Longpré, Doullens, La Grouche, Frévent, and then we stayed at Boubers, carrying on with the same duty. From this place we used to go down to Hesdin for rations, this being about 50 miles from the Battalion."

On 19th August Haig met Byng at Hesdin, the HQ of the Third Army, where several conferences with Army Commanders and principal Staff Officers were held. The HQ of the Royal Flying Corps was based near here, as were some hospitals, and some buildings in the town which were used for storing material that later formed part of the Imperial War Museum's collection, so this was obviously a centre of activity. Boubers-sur-Canche is a small town between Abbeville and Arras but I have not yet been able to ascertain why the group was stationed there apart from its closeness to Hesdin. After a fortnight here Pte Le Poidevin was on the move again:

"On the 5th of September we moved off from this place in motor lorries. We passed the villages Aubrometz, Catunel, Wail, St. Georges, Hesdin, Marconelle, Bouin-Plumoisin, Bouin, Ecquemecourt, Maresquel, Lespinoy, Brimeux and back to the Château Saint-Nicholas."

This route took them along what is now the D349 road, which runs parallel with the railway along the Canche valley. I have not been able to trace a Chateau St Nicholas or St Nicolas in the vicinity of Brimeux, which is close to Montreuil. However it may possibly be an alternative name for Beaurepaire. Three weeks later:

"... we started on another turn with the Advanced General Headquarters, leaving this place on the 25th of September. We were carried in motor lorries passing these villages: Brimeux, Lespinoy, Maresquet, Ecquimecourt, Bouin-Plumoisin, Marconnelle, Hesdin, Vail, St. Georges, Galametz, Aubrometz, Boubers, Ligny,

² This is an approximate transcription but I have not been able to identify this station.

³ "G.S.O", (1920), *GHQ (Montreuil-sur-Mer)*, London, Phillip Allen and Co.

Frévent, Rebreuviette, Liencourt, Avesnes, Hauteville, Fosseux and stayed at Gouy-en-Artois. We put up our tents in under a few apple trees.”

Haig states in his diary that on 25th September he visited Third Army HQ at Ligny-Thillois, where General Byng was based in a train. Gouy and Ligny are both to the south of Arras and about 15 miles apart. A couple of days after the RGLI arrived in Gouy the first phase of Foch's Grand Offensive began. Pte Le Poidevin then notes that

“One afternoon a motor lorry loaded with chaps from the Battalion came to relieve the ones that was for leave. I was one of the lucky ones and left at about 6 o'clock in the afternoon on the 5th October, 1918 arriving at the Battalion about midnight. The Battalion was still at Ecuire, only billeted in huts.”

From this date onwards the tide of battle had turned and the Allies continued to make important advances throughout the month. However Private Le Poidevin had to wait a little longer before going on leave:

“But the next day, instead of going on leave I was sent on fatigue down to the station, and the following day on guard. This carried on till the 29th of October 1918, when I left the Battalion for leave.”

Throughout all this the official War Diary continues to state that the Battalion furnished guards and duties for GHQ while billeted at Ecuire, with no mention of the fact that some of them at least performed duties elsewhere. Had the Armistice not been signed when it was, the RGLI might have suffered even more losses. While the 1st (Service) Battalion was based at Ecuire, reinforcements from the 2nd Battalion RGLI in Guernsey had travelled out to join them. On 31st October, 1918 the Battalion, with the exception of A and D Companies, moved to Rang du Fliers to start training for a return to the line.



Rang-du-Fliers War Memorial, 2007

A and D Companies followed on 4th November. Training was due to continue for the rest of the month, according to the Battalion War Diary, however all this changed. Pte Le Poidevin notes:

“While I was on leave the Armistice was signed, this being on the 11th November 1918, this giving a much better leave. As I was leaving the Battalion, the orders were that they were leaving the next day from Ecuire for a month’s training, which meant for the firing line after.”

He returned to France about a month later, noting that

“We joined the Battalion at Rang-du-Fliers on the 27th of December for Hesdin – this was about 60 men. The remainder of the Battalion went for Montreuil on G.H.Q. We were carried in motor lorries for Hesdin. This place was about 20 miles from Montreuil. At Hesdin we were billeted in French barracks in the town.”

Again the Battalion Diary makes no mention of this split, simply noting that all Companies continued training until 2nd January, 1919. The Guernsey Museum Service has copies of two handwritten magazines, one for Christmas 1918 and one for New Year 1919, produced by B Company, 1st RGLI, entitled “Les Folies”, named after the camp where they were billeted. They then moved to Ecuire where they took over all duties from 1st Battalion, Honourable Artillery Company, furnishing Guards and Duties at GHQ until the end of the month



The official War Diary entries conclude on 1st April, 1919, with a statement that they were still at Ecuire furnishing guards and duties for GHQ. GHQ left Montreuil in April, 1919, but Private Le Poidevin’s diaries continue, with an entry for 3rd May, 1919 stating that:

“... a French regiment came, after being away since the war had started. From this place (i.e. Hesdin) I often when I had a day off visited

the boys at Montreuil, taking the train in the morning and arriving back again in the evening. On the 17th of May 1919 during the day the names of men that was going to be demobilised was read out and they had to pack up. The same evening at midnight a motor lorry arrived to fetch us, taking us to Ecuire to join the boys that was getting demobilised from the Battalion. We arrived at two o’clock in the morning. The same morning, after a few hours’ sleep we marched from this place to Etaples, which was 15 miles away. At Etaples we took the train for Le Havre arriving at Le Havre at 11 o’clock on the 19th of May 1919. We stayed in a Despatch camp at Le Havre for two days, before sailing for Guernsey, being 9 hours on board before reaching Guernsey.”

This entry shows that right up until demobilisation not all of the RGLI men were billeted at Ecuire. Their duties while based at Hesdin are not described in the official records, nor in Pte Le Poidevin’s notes. However I have heard various stories which I have not been able to verify. Any information that could fill in some of the gaps here would be welcome.

Australia Remembers By Barrie Bertram

Three o'clock in the morning is an hour that I am no longer familiar with, either for coming home from late-night parties or for reveilles! However, the 25th April, 2008 was a date when it again became familiar since that was the day when, for the first time, the Australians would officially commemorate Anzac Day on the Western Front as well as at Gallipoli. Having discovered that it was being commemorated a week previously, by a chance encounter with a group of Australians, I felt that it was right to go and pay my respects, not least that there were those of Channel Island heritage who were among the Australian Imperial Force.

So, thirty minutes after the alarm's strident buzzing, and a quick shower and shave, followed by preparing a flask of coffee and inserting Bonne Maman marmalade into my croissants, I left Hamel heading for the Australian National War Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux. The route took me past Newfoundland Park (believe me, it is extremely spooky at that time of day), past Warloy-Baillon (where Inky Bill lies), and on to Corbie. Unsurprisingly, little traffic, fortunately dry! However, there was a change to that as I had negotiated my way through Fouilloy, on the south side of Corbie and across the Somme. As the open countryside again came into view, so did a long ribbon of light and a string of coaches parked on the road climbing up towards the Memorial. There was no option but to join the slow moving queue as it passed by the Deviation sign at the start of the hill, only to be pleasantly surprised by a member of the local *gendarmarie* at the top who kindly directed my car into a parking slot on the left of the road barely 50 yards beyond the entrance!



An overview of the general scene at Villers-Bretonneux. The two gentlemen (right foreground) would attract TV cameramen during the service, undoubtedly because of their medals!

Organisationally, it was impressive. There were ramps to enable wheelchair access, seating for some 7,000 plus attendees, an excellently produced Programme of Service for which the front and rear covers are shown below, floor-level strip lighting to help guide people and toilet facilities. As can be seen from the photograph above, the Memorial was illuminated while there were television gantries, stands and the like, not least because the service was being sent live for screening in Australia after the Gallipoli service had been shown.

The congregation was well-wrapped up and the majority were wearing a collection of their medals on the left breast and those of their late relatives on the right. It would have been a medal collector's field day since there were many of the more recent awards that are unique to Australia. Unsurprisingly the greater bulk of the congregation were Australians who had made the long pilgrimage, and from encountering large and small groups while in France, it was clear that they were coming over for a month or more on average, in some cases touring Europe, in many others, visiting relatives in the UK.

Having arrived, parked up and enjoyed a swig of coffee by 04.30 hours, there was an hour's wait before the service started. The Somme Pipe Band was playing at the entrance to the Cemetery attracting crowds who stopped en-route. Numerous people were in Australian uniforms, past and present, while many bush hats were sported. At the outset of the service, a Guard of Honour slow-marched on, wearing the GW style of uniform, and throughout would stand with their rifles in the reversed arms position at the four corners of the ceremony podium. The service itself lasted an hour and included a number of hymns, prayers and readings. There was an official wreath laying that saw UK, Canada and New Zealand representatives going forward after the Australian and French. The service closed with the Exhortation (They shall not grow old...), the Last Post by a bugler perched near the Monument's top, a Minute's Silence, Reveille and the National Anthems of France and Australia, where I discovered that not many Australians can manage "Advance Australia Fair"! Finishing at 06.30 hours, with dawn having passed, the public were able to lay their wreaths and it was also noticeable to see school parties, some with the boys in boaters, the girls in straw hats, and all in blazers.

During the programme, it was interesting to hear the speeches, and in particular, I noted the Australian Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin MP, highlighting that the ANZAC actions at Gallipoli had long overshadowed (his word) the contributions on the Western Front. In hearing that, I was reminded of the view that the Occupation of the CI has had a similar effect on the recollections of the GW.

The French had also pulled out the stops for the event. The Somme *department* had set up a tent where, after the service, free coffee (which I partook) and croissants (which I did not!) were being handed out. The *gendarmerie* were spot on with traffic control and diversions, even to the point where a speeding van who overtook me in a 50 kph zone when I got back to Fouilloy was "nicked"! There would be further commemorations on that and the following day in Villers-Bretonneux and Peronne, and the French were clearly relishing the Australian presence.

I came away both impressed and moved by the event, feeling somewhat humbled by sitting and standing with so many who had taken the trouble to travel so far in wanting to commemorate their forebears who had fought and died at places like Hamel, Villers-Bretonneux, Peronne, Arras and Pozieres. As I've said, this was the

first time that Anzac Day has been so commemorated, and I suspect that it will not be the last. Perhaps you might look to put a reminder in your diaries for 25th April, 2009? And, perhaps there should be an official wreath laid in remembrance of the Jersey- and Guernsey-Australians, small though the number may have been?



Front and Rear Covers of the Programme of Service

Note: I've sent copies of the Programme of Service to Anna Baghiani and Matt Harvey, and these have been added to the respective Museum collections in Jersey and Guernsey. If anyone wants to see them, can they please contact Anna or Matt directly.

The Notre Dame du Rosaire Church Memorial By Liz Walton

Some time ago Bernard Mann gave me a list of local war memorials, which he had compiled for a project for the Imperial War Museum. I then decided to try to photograph all of those relating to the Great War, as I felt that it was important to see each one so that I could make notes for anyone else who might want to visit. These notes are available on the website at:

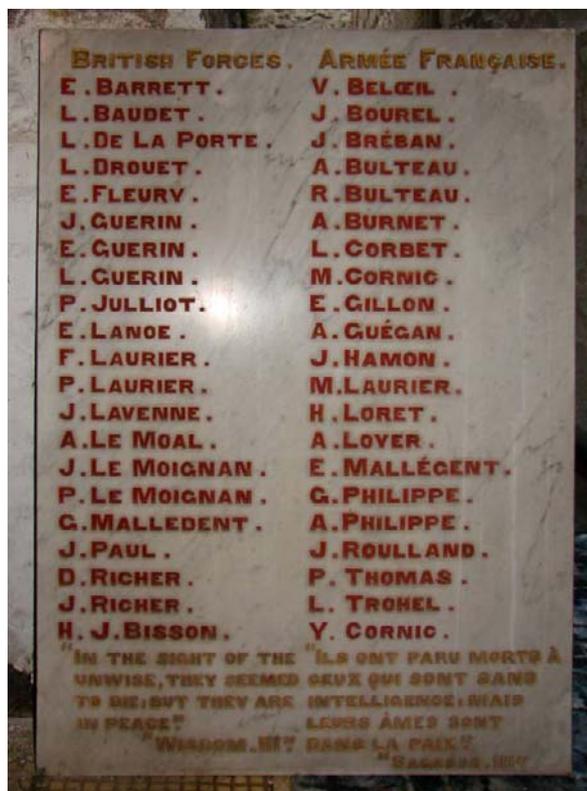
<http://www.greatwarci.net/memorials/guernsey/memorials-gu.pdf>

One that I had not been able to find had been erected in the Catholic church of Notre Dame du Rosaire in Burnt Lane, St Peter Port in 1920. Bernard Mann had crossed it out on his list, and written "None" next to it, but I had found a detailed description of its dedication in the *Weekly Press* of 25th September, 1920. It is described here as a "*magnificent marble tablet...in strict keeping with the Louis XVI architectural style of the building*"

The church was rebuilt in 1962, in the style of the day, into which the memorial tablet presumably did not fit and the whereabouts of the memorial after that was not generally known. I then forgot about it until Don Somerville, a visiting Channel Islands postal enthusiast, showed me a postcard of a memorial which I recognised as the Notre Dame one. This time instead of phoning the church authorities I made contact with a member of the congregation who told me that the memorial is still stored at the church and is brought out and placed by the altar on Remembrance Sunday.



Original Picture of the Memorial
- with thanks to Don Somerville



The Memorial today sans its wraps!
Yves Cornic has been added

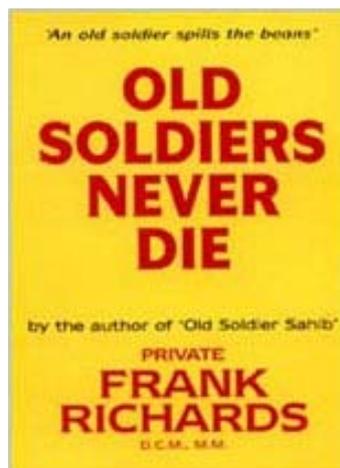
I then met with the church caretaker who was kind enough to let me photograph what is left of it. As the pictures show, the surround has been removed, and the plain marble plaque is kept, covered in plastic sheeting, in a storage area to the rear of the vestry. It is extremely heavy and moving it for the annual service must be a difficult and dangerous task. I find it very sad that the memorial is not on view all of the time, and is kept in these somewhat undignified conditions.

(Editor's Note: I think that we all share Liz' sadness that it is hidden from view for 364 days out of the 365! Can the RC hierarchy be persuaded to restore it to its proper place I wonder?)

'Watering Holes' on the Somme

We cannot travel too far around the Somme without the need for a 'cuppa'. Our normal preference is to stop at the Ulster Tower where we can also have a chat with the Colligans – Teddy and Phoebe, but we have tried to frequent the other places at least once on our trips, including Ocean Villas, the Tommy in Pozieres, Delville Wood and Beaucourt Station. We were glad to note that the Tommy seemed to be far more hygienic this time (possibly because of the Australian presence) and is back on our list. Meanwhile a new one has opened up since last year – the Old Blighty Tearooms (what else?) at La Boisselle and is quite pleasant.

Book Reviews



Old Soldiers Never Die **By Private Frank Richards, DCM, MM** **Review by Barrie Bertram**

Subtitled “An Old Soldier Spills The Beans”, this is a book originally written in 1933, but reprinted many years later (I think in 1994) by the Naval and Military Press.

Frank Richards was born in 1883 and would join the Royal Welch Fusiliers in April 1901 and would serve as a regular for some 12 years, before becoming a reservist and returning to the colours at the outbreak of the Great War. From 1902 to 1909 he served in India and Burma.

There are many official histories, accounts and diaries by generals, colonels and captains, books on strategies, tactics and equipment by professors and the ‘learned’ professions, but comparatively few by the ordinary private soldier. Frank Richards was probably one of the first books that, like Blicq’s “Norman Ten Hundred” and Latimer Le Poidevin’s diary entries quoted by Liz Walton above, bring to light what might be regarded as the everyday ordinary life of the man in the trench. There is no sweep of the hand across maps, no thought of strategic gains, no political battles with fellow allies.

Suggesting that the everyday life was ordinary however, would be wrong. As Frank states, it was a case of making the best of a bad job to survive, sometimes when rations were either short or rotten, to take the bullet and the bayonet to the enemy’s heart, and to enjoy what few pleasures could be derived both in and out of the line, particularly with the mademoiselles, the “ving blong” and the rum rations that had somehow been diverted from their righteous! As a private, turning down promotion at various times, he was clearly both a colourful and a courageous ‘old soldier’ with the DCM and MM to go with his ‘Pip, Squeak and Wilfred’, undoubtedly risking number one FP on occasion, with his attitude to his superiors. He demonstrates disdain for certain new officers, overbearing NCOs and base-wallahs in equal measure, and is particularly critical of those base-wallahs who wore their medals with excessive pride after the war, yet had never been closer to the ‘sharp-end’ than Rouen or Le Havre!

While critical of some officers, he is unstinting in his praise for others including Siegfried Sassoon, particularly the Battalion’s MO - Captain JC Dunn (who put together the book “The War the Infantry Knew, 1914-1919” in 1938), and Colonel CHR Crawshay.

In terms of his writing style, Frank Richards is simple and direct, without resorting to convoluted English (a lesson for me there!). Reading the book you can almost feel the lice in your clothes, the rats running over you and the stench of putrefying flesh in the nostrils. But at the same time, the stoicism of the ordinary Tommy shines through, along with the slang of the day. Talking of rats, he does recount the tale of Private Dann and the black rat. It is a somewhat bizarre tale with the rat “eye-balling” Dann at Hulluch, spooking him and apparently following him across the battlefield to the Somme, where Dann and the rat meet their end together!

I obtained this book for the price of a raffle ticket, but I notice that it is available on Amazon for £8.99 in paperback format, while an original 1933 edition is currently on offer at £94. It is a book that is well worth reading, and does bring the conditions endured by the Tommy of 90 years ago very much back to life.

Notes:

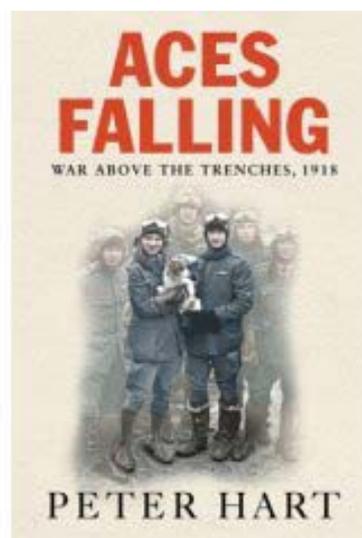
1. As an aside, when the Battalion has Colonel Crawshay returning as CO, Frank mentions having served with him in the Channel Islands before going to India. Checking my Jersey 1955 Evening Post Gazette, I note that the RWF had 'details' in Jersey in April 1902!
2. It is also worth reading Captain Dunn's book, first to compare the events that he records with those of Frank Richards, and second, because it is an excellent account in its own right.
3. I shall now also be looking out for his other book "Old Soldier Sahib".

Aces Falling: War Above the Trenches 1918

By Peter Hart

Review by Barrie Bertram

I'll start off this book's review by getting my major complaint out of the way first! As is his style, Peter makes considerable use of the statements from those who took part, but in this book, the publishers, Wiedenfeld & Nicolson, have printed those statements in a font that seems to have run out of ink! The best that I can say for it is that it is an unnecessary eyesight test when one is trying to read! It clearly detracts from the book and I would hope that it will not be repeated. It seems to have been a rush job also, with several typos.



One particular howler makes reference to that well-known air ace, Captain Alan Ball, and I thought that he had not been up against the Germans until the World Cup of 1966!

In a more serious vein, as the sub-title suggests, the book focuses on the air war of 1918. However, to some extent it does look at the beginnings of aerial fighting and discusses many of the early aces such as Ball, Boelcke, McCudden, Mannock and von Richthofen. We are reminded that the British and the German authorities looked at their aces differently. The Germans were keen to show them off to their public as heroic figures, while the British took the opposite view trying to emphasise that the RFC operated as a team, and that promoting the scout pilots at the expense of the 'workhorses', i.e. the artillery spotters, the photographers and the reconnaissance pilots was, well, just not British!

As the War progressed, so did advantage swing from one side to the other as technological gains were achieved. More power, better rates of climb and altitude, forward firing machine guns and manoeuvrability were vital factors in the life or death struggle for air superiority. These helped shape tactics while some early aces, in particular, Boelcke saw that the way forward was through operating aircraft in

teams rather than using the 'lone wolf' approach of which Ball was a prime exponent. For the Germans, the periods of air superiority that they achieved would be temporary and local, not least because of the greater numbers of aircraft possessed by the British and the French, and the inherent ability to switch aircraft between sectors quickly.

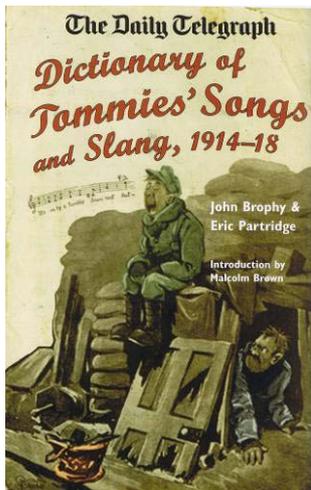
Peter Hart points out that the fighter cockpit of 1918 was in no way comparable, with its rudimentary controls and instruments, to what we might find in the Airbus and Boeing jets of today! While exposed to the elements, pilots would be well wrapped up, and flying at 20,000 feet and higher, it would require a young man's physique to cope with the hypoxia (lack of oxygen), and the other physiological effects associated with high-altitude flight that were not yet understood. However, frostbite certainly was, and that would be frequently experienced.

Where Peter does well in his book, is in reminding us that the air war was inextricably linked to that on the ground. Thus, the plan by the Germans to launch the 1918 March Offensive meant that the British had to locate and disrupt preparations, through reconnaissance and spotting while the Germans similarly would need to determine where the British targets and strong-points were! With moving forward for the first time since 1915, they would be advancing over territory that was new. When launched, the offensive would require both the German and British squadrons to strafe the men moving along the roads and through fields to the battle lines. As the war progressed through the year, greater emphasis continued to be placed on strafing ground targets with bullet and bomb. This would include the men and horses, enemy airfields, railway marshalling areas while the British would start to bomb industrial and strategic targets in Germany.

The strain on aircrews and resources would increase and continue throughout 1918. Thanks to the Naval Blockade, Germany was not obtaining war materials at the rate it needed to, and recovery parties would scavenge allied aircraft crash sites for any vital metals such as copper or nickel. The book quotes a passage from a German account which states that, in August and September 1918, an attack squadron had a petrol ration of 150 litres per day (the equivalent of just over two tanks for my car)! As for the strain, it was clearly felt by all pilots and observers, acolytes and aces alike! What for example, can explain James McCudden's decision that led to his fatal crash at Auxi-le-Château for example. And McCudden would not be the only recognised ace who would fall during 1918.

I have seen criticisms that the book is insufficiently technical and that too much use is made of the accounts which were not 'designed' to feature in a book such as this, but, I think that those points are its strong features. Similarly, I know that Peter Hart is regarded as a little lightweight in his approach to the history of the Great War, and there is some merit in that view. However, in many respects he is no different to the more erudite writer who, in putting a weighty historical tome together, is not adverse to including quotations from official documents and the like. The argument, if there is one is regarding the source of the material and the quantity. However, in this case, who better than the participants themselves to describe what it was like to fight their air war. Overall the book is reasonable if it is read with that in mind, and that the silly mistakes are accepted for what they are.

(Postscript: Peter Hart assures me that the soft type will not appear in the paperback version due out later this year!)



The Daily Telegraph
**DICTIONARY OF TOMMIES' SONGS AND SLANG
1914-1918**
By John Brophy & Eric Partridge (Frontline Books)
Review by Peter Tabb

Do you know what a 'Billjim' is? Or who were known as 'Rats After Mouldy Cheese'?

If you do then you are better informed than I was until I browsed through the Daily Telegraph's **DICTIONARY OF TOMMIES' SONGS AND SLANG 1914-1918** by John Brophy and Eric Partridge.

The two authors were both infantrymen during the Great War and it is their first hand experience that gives this book its authentic feel. By the way a 'Billjim' was the Tommies' slang for an Australian and 'Rats After Mouldy Cheese' were better known as the Royal Army Medical Corps.

The Great War gave rise to an incredibly rich literary tradition bringing to the fore some of the world's most renowned writers and poets. Yet there is another, largely unheard voice, that of the rank and file soldier – he who turned Ypres into Wipers and Ploegsteert into Plug Street. This voice found common expression in the songs and slang that were shouted aloud on the march, in the billets and *estaminets* behind the line, in hospitals, base-camps and on troopships. Many mocked the romantic conception of war and the irritations of the hierarchic military system – remember that the majority had no military tradition to fall back on – or were plainly nostalgic, conjuring up visions of returning home to Blighty, family and loved ones. Some were almost bitterly satirical. If the men were lions led by donkeys, then they knew it but, of course, followed anyway. Other songs were plain nonsense, offering light relief amid the terrible realities of war for men who were demoralised and exhausted.

This is a book to dip into rather than to read from cover to cover. Dipping in reveals that there were several versions – all bawdy - of the 'Mademoiselle from Armenteurs' (sic). Inevitably many of the marching songs were bawdy. It was interesting to discover that the ditty that begins 'She was poor but she was honest...' runs to eight verses and each one with a chorus concluding with the immortal line 'Ain't it just a bleedin' shame!' The story is of a young maid (poor but honest) brought down by the Squire's whim. Today we wouldn't need seven verses to spell out what the Squire's whim and its consequences might be but you did in 1914.

The authors could only find one song which illustrated the resentment of the men at the Front for those who had evaded military service. To the tune of the sentimental ballad *I wore a Tulip*, was penned 'I wore a tunic, a dirty khaki tunic, and you wore civilian clothes...' And inevitably, 'Oh, you were with the wenches, while we were in the trenches, facing the German foe.'

Notwithstanding and contrary to common supposition (and it was certainly mine) only a minority of Army songs were improper in subject or language. These, I recall, were the ones we sang being taken to and from Victoria College CCF Field Days (**Editor:** You've a better memory of that than I have Peter!).

Many of the songs take a poke at the Officer class notwithstanding that casualties among officers were significantly higher than among the ranks since, in those days, every officer from a Brigadier downwards still led from the front. More invective was levelled at Sergeants and Sergeant-Majors and not of the 'Kiss me goodnight, Sergeant-Major' variety of a later conflict. Most were humourless and give a rare insight into the huge gulf that could exist between the Non-Commissioned Officers (who were mostly regulars) and the ranks who were either volunteers or conscripts.

There are truly some gems to be found. Did you know, for instance, that the word 'spats' is an abbreviation of 'spatterdashes', woollen devices worn over shoes as a protection against mud or rain? Or that 'pozzy' was Army slang for jam? The word apparent derives from the tinned jam supplied to the forces and labelled Posy Brand.

Not a lot of people knew that. Now we do!

**A Record of those honoured with
"Mentioned in Despatch" while serving with
1st (Service) Battalion, Royal Guernsey Light Infantry.
By Mark Bougourd**

Origins of this Award: General Sir Charles Napier was the first to introduce the concept of a mention to men below commissioned rank and thus he named them in his dispatch of 2nd March, 1843. A Mentioned in Despatches "Certificate" was later introduced in 1902 following recommendations by the Interdepartmental Rewards Committee. In 1919 King George V approved of a uniform standard certificate to be given to all persons mentioned in the Great War despatches (for the British Army this was announced as Army Order No. 166 of May, 1919).

The Mentioned in Despatches Emblem - A special clasp or emblem (illustrated below) to signify a Mentioned-in-Despatches consisted of a bronze spray of oak leaves and is attached directly on the ribbon of the Victory Medal for all Mentioned in Despatches awarded up to 10th August, 1920.



Mentioned-in-Despatches Emblem



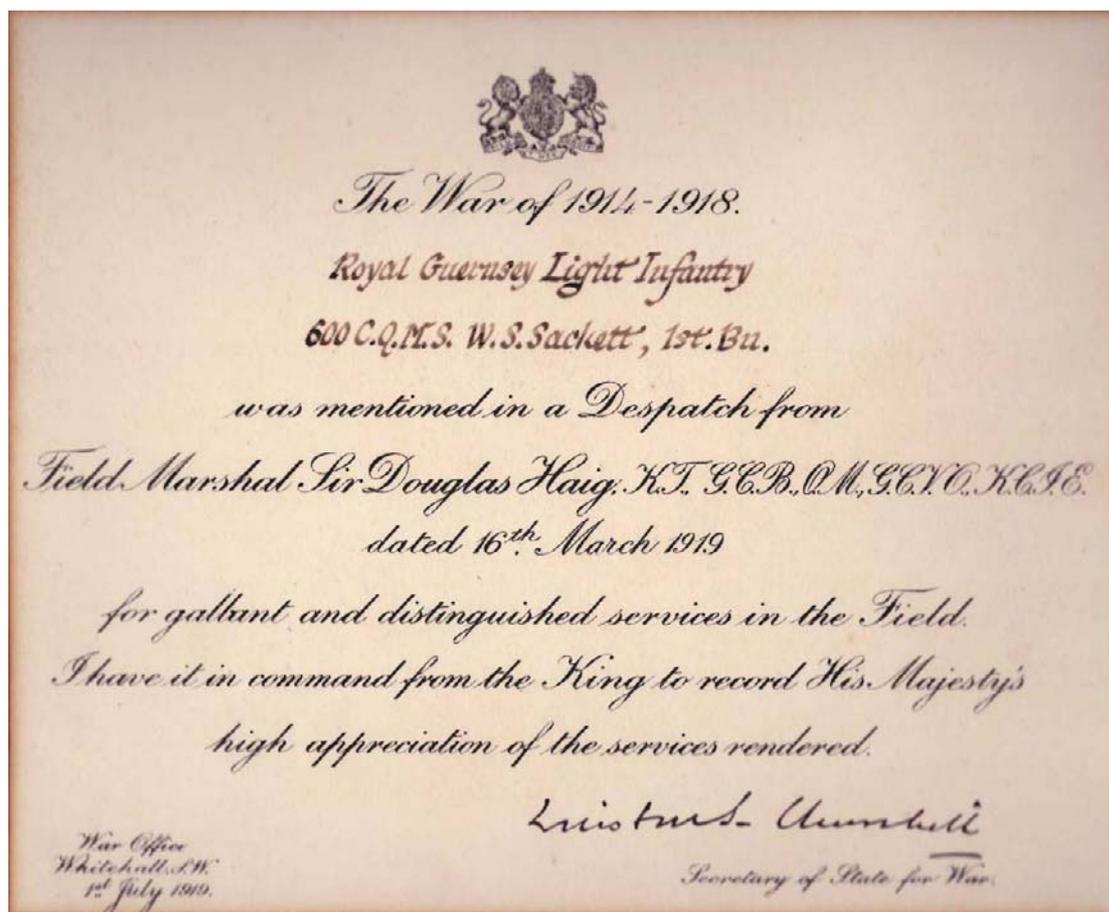
Victory Medal & Emblem

Mentioned in Despatches Awarded: Historians have thought that only four (two to Officers and two to Other Ranks) certificates were awarded to the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry. This myth can now be dispelled and the true figure can be revealed. It is not clear how this situation arose as the awards are recorded in the official publication the London Gazette.

Taking into account the fairly short lived active service of the 1st (Service) Battalion, and the number of Mentioned in Despatches previously known for the Battalion this was considered to have been a little thin on the ground in comparison to other similar infantry Battalion units, especially when considering the fierce battles fought by the 1st (Service) Battalion, first at CAMBRAI in December 1917, and secondly at DOULIEU in April 1918.

Eddie Park's "Died Aix" lists the earlier four awards and until now it has been the only serious source of reference on this subject.

Research will always be ongoing into these types of Gallantry awards, the current ideology is that the first four Mentioned in Despatches were awarded for the battle of Cambrai and the second of the four Mentioned in Despatches were awarded for the final battle at Doulieu, when the 1st (Service) Battalion were totally surrounded, overrun and then decimated by the major overwhelming German attack, later known as the German Spring Offensive 1918. It is a well known fact that the 'Guernseys' fought long and hard in both these fierce battles, so the awards are more than deserving of recognition. There was also a single Mentioned in Despatches award between the two London Gazette groups this single award being to Lance Corporal CW Hockey.



Official Despatch certificate as awarded to 600 Company Quarter Master Sergeant WS Sackett, Photo provided by Mark Bougourd from the recently discovered original certificate held in the Balshaw Brothers Collection Guernsey.

WS Sackett first enrolled as a Corporal into 2nd Platoon of D Company 7th Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment, subsequently gained promotion to Colour Sergeant and later joined the First Contingent of the 1st (Service) Battalion, RGLI, finally reaching the

rank of Company Quarter Master Sergeant (CQMS). He was awarded the 1914-15 star, (date of entry into France is 17th December, 1915) British War Medal and Victory Medal with spray of oak leaf emblem. All three medals to his Great War entitlement should be named to the R. IR REGT.

Looking further at the available medal index cards listed on www.ancestry.co.uk of the recipients' not all are marked with the usual annotation of emblems awarded in fact the card of CSM A Le Cheminant illustrates the issue, as it mentions neither the British War Medal, Victory Medal nor Emblems that he was clearly entitled to, however what is more interesting is the statement that Officer in Charge Guernsey Records forwards roll of Individuals entitled to wear the emblem as at 31st May, 1921.

As to the whereabouts of the actual Mentioned in Despatches emblem roll mentioned below, this is still yet to be to be rediscovered.

Names.	Corps.	Rank.	Regil. No.
	R. Guernsey L.I.	W.O.II	250.
CHEMINANT.			
A.			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY			
BRITISH			
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			
EM/2/1984 W.159/E 21.6.21.			
K. 1890			

Correspondence.

O/c Guernsey Records forwards roll of Individuals entitled to the Emblem of 31.5.21.

Address.

E 1566, (1945) W. 2854—H. P. 6307 1,000m. 17/10/50. E. 6339.

**250 CSM A Le Cheminant's Medal Roll Card
- Nothing is Recorded!**

London Gazette Issue 30704, 2nd supplement, published 24th May, 1918, (Page 6178). War Office, 25th May, 1918. **Sir D. Haig's despatch of the 7th April, 1918, submitting names deserving of special mention.**

ROYAL GUERNSEY LIGHT INFANTRY



Temporary Lieutenant Edward Arthur DOREY

(Awarded the British War Medal & Victory Medal with emblem)



Temporary Lieutenant Harry JONES

(Awarded the British War Medal & Victory Medal with emblem)



266 Lance Corporal Cecil C MACHON

(Awarded the British War Medal & Victory Medal with emblem)



1131 Lance Corporal William T ROBINSON

(Awarded the British War Medal & Victory Medal with emblem)

London Gazette Issue 31088 fourth supplement, published on the 27th December 1918, (Page 15216) War Office, 30th December, 1918. **The following is a continuation of Sir D. Haig's Despatch, of the 8th November, 1918, submitting names deserving of special mention**

ROYAL GUERNSEY LIGHT INFANTRY, 1st Bn.



438 Lance Corporal Charles. W HOCKEY

London Gazette Issue. 31446, 6th supplement, published 8th July, 1919. (Page 8794). War Office, 10th July, 1919. **The following is a continuation of Sir D. Haig's despatch, of the 16th March, 1919, names deserving of special mention.**

ROYAL GUERNSEY LIGHT INFANTRY, 1st Bn.



Temporary Lieutenant Norman Redston INGROUILLE MVO

(Awarded the Royal Victorian Order - MVO, 5th Class, 1915 Star, British War Medal and Victory medal with emblem)



Quartermaster & Temporary Lieutenant Albert J MURDOCH

(Awarded the British War Medal & Victory Medal with emblem)



250 Colour Sergeant Major A LE CHEMINANT

(Awarded the British War Medal & Victory Medal with emblem)



600 Company Quartermaster Sergeant WS SACKETT

Awarded the 1915 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal with emblem.

Table1: The London Gazette Notices listing the Mention In Despatches for Officers and Men of the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry.

Conclusion: The emergence of the certificate awarded to WS Sackett has assisted in locating the final four official notices from The London Gazette. This updates the official records regarding the special Mentioned in Despatches awarded to the RGLI as nine (four awards to Officers and five awards to Other Ranks).

Research sources:

British Gallantry Awards, Author: PE Abbott & JMA Tamplin published by Nimrod Dix and Co. ISBN 0 902633 740

Diex Aix, Author: Major Edwin Parks published by the Guernsey Museum and Galleries. ISBN 1 871560 85 3

www.ancestry.co.uk website



CQMS Sackett's Medals and Mention In Despatches Certificates

Editor's Comments: First, Mark Bougourd has to be complimented on the research which has painstakingly led to the discovery of the existence of a further five awards of Mentioned in Despatches. Second, even though new information is appearing, Eddie Parks' book remains the starting point (the 'bible' even!) for RGLI research, and reflects a lot of hard research in the years 'BC'. That's Before Computers!

Letter from a Prisoner By Mark Bougourd

Listed in the previous article regarding the award of a Mentioned in despatches is a letter from LCpl WT Robinson, 1st (S) Bn, RGLI after he was taken prisoner at the Battle of Cambrai. One can only wonder if his recently awarded act of gallantry at Cambria later lead to him being taken prisoner? The following was taken from the Guernsey Weekly Press of Saturday, 7th September, 1918. (The GWP shows the published date as Saturday, 7th October, 1918. However; this date seems wrong.)

"The following letter from Lce-Corpl. WT Robinson, RGLI, was received by the Dean, and read at the intercession service at the Town Church on Friday of last week.

"Sir, - I am writing on behalf of myself for your great kindness to me in sending out twelve New Testaments, which have just arrived. I am at the same time writing on behalf of all the Guernsey boys to thank you and all the kind friends who are sending out parcels of food so regularly, also for Testaments. Some time ago I did not think that four of our members would ever reach Guernsey again, but I am now pleased to say all are well. Thanks to the parcels. We have now all received our back parcels of food excepting Pte. Mabire, who has only received four – through his name having been wrongly spelt. We make a collection of tins, etc, containing food on his behalf – so all is well.

Personally, I am in charge of the 3rd Arbite [Editor: Arbeit?] Company of the 69th Battalion. <CENSORED> We are about 40 of the RGLI and the others are all of famous regiments well known to you. I am responsible for all discipline and order the issuing and receiving of all food, etc, in fact, I am the "Captain" <CENSORED> go out at all. I always remain at the prison camp.

Our Guernsey boys wish to know if you can obtain for them cap badges and numerals. All the other regiments receive them with their clothing, but it is not so with the Guernseys. I can promise you that we will value them and live up to the reputation of Guernseymen in character and cleanliness."

Another Battlefield Tour
– Ian and Paul Ronayne, and Ned Malet de Carteret
Thursday, 29th May – Sunday, 1st June, 2007
By Ned Malet De Carteret

Thursday, 29th May: An early start with HD ferries had Ian's BMW 325i with his two passengers on the road by 09.30 a.m. French time, two hours ahead of Condor. This was a welcome start indeed after an extremely smooth crossing, hugging unusually close to the French coast. We took the southerly Rouen route out and turning off at Boulogne for the inland drive for Ypres found us at Hazebrouck Communal Cemetery by mid afternoon. There we laid our first British Legion memorial cross on the grave of our first Jersey Contingent recipient, 23-year old Sergeant George Minchington, who fell ill and died there on the 24th April, 1917.

We then took in Mount Kemmel for afternoon tea at "The Belvedere" where we were the only battlefield pilgrims. The hostess showed us pictures of one Adolf Hitler taken in 1942 or 19433 outside the café pointing at Messines to his fellow onlookers. He was stationed in the vicinity during the Great War.

Finally and in the pouring rain, it had started raining in mid afternoon when we visited the grave of our next Contingent man, Rifleman George Laurens in Brandhoek New Military Cemetery (excellent navigation!). It was Ian's first visit and we took in Noel Chavasse's grave with its many Legion crosses while Paul was rather tired and missed out (another trip, Paul!). Lawrence had been sniped and died of his wounds.

Ypres was reached and the Albion Hotel welcomed us as guests. It was my first time in this hotel (B&B) and a good recommendation – generous sized rooms in this old office block

At 7 pm we visited the Menin Gate and we walked on the top of it – my first time that I recall! After a refreshment stop, we made our way back for the 8 pm ceremony. Jacky Plateeuw of the Last Post Association officiated and three wreaths were laid, one by a group of elderly ex-soldiers and two by two young-ish couples. There must have been 1,000 attendees for the service and there were four buglers. This number of participants I was told is quite normal these days, I was staggered!

We adjourned to the Regina Hotel restaurant, in the company of Father Ray Jones of St George's Church, for a first class meal, the Menu du Terroir consisting of Foie Gras followed by Rack of Lamb. A very convivial evening was had by one and all. The square provided after dinner entertainment.

Friday, 30th May: We had a leisurely start to the day as we were to visit St George's Church at 09.30 am. This was a first time for Ian and Paul, and I think they were suitably impressed. It is marvellous to see all those brass plaques and kneelers. Harold Ackroyd's plaque was not ready and will have to be dedicated at a later date. Father Ray told me that a Channel Island plaque would be 51 cm by 28 cm in size and that there was room for it.

Our next stop was Duhallow ADS Cemetery where we paid our respects to a Jersey Contingent man who played a prominent role in its fighting, namely Sergeant Charles Laugeard, wounded at Ginchy in September, 1916, where he had won a DCM and killed in action in October, 1918, but by now serving with the 2nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. (Editor: Pleased to see Charles' headstone photograph, the surname it is correctly spelt, although the CWGC record is not).

We then went to try to find Noel Chavasse's bunkers in Wieltje but missed the main one and the one where he received his mortal wounds at Setques Farm, we could not find as the road was closed, so another time for me! The farm and the bunker are no longer standing. Instead, we were successful of establishing exactly where the Contingent was on the Frezenberg Ridge in August, 1917. I also have a vested interest in the Second Battle of Ypres which was fought there as well and need to pinpoint another action by the Leicestershire Yeomanry.

Next on the itinerary was Zonnebeke Museum, yet another first for my co-pilgrims, and it is still as excellent as ever. They have further extended the underground bunker experience and they had an interesting temporary exhibition about the Belgian Army. The Museum has received a large grant and is expanding considerably in the grounds, with much digging going on. We then proceeded to Birr Cross Roads Cemetery to pay our respects to Harold Ackroyd VC, MC, RAMC, my great-grandfather.

Lunch was at Bailleul, a charming town, and an excellent meal was taken

La Creche and Ravensberg Ridge was our next tour stop as the 2nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment were in action here in April, 1918. I found this terrain and battle very interesting and it was here that Captain Cyril A Ogier won his MC. Sunshine prevailed during the afternoon.

We then visited Le Doulieu where the RGLI fought in April, 1918 and were regaled by an ancient Frenchman regarding the massacre of 11 civilians and its memorial

Bethune Town Cemetery was our next stop. A fascinating cemetery with both French and British graves and there to visit our last two Jersey Contingent members here, Sergeant Arthur Turner, who was killed on 18th May, 1916 and Rifleman Ernest Vallois, who died of wounds on 20th April, 1916. There was also an interesting French memorial to those who fought from 1800 to 1900 covering the Peninsular War, the Crimea and China.

Time was running out and we passed by Vimy Ridge on the way to Arras, the monument having been recently restored and we were forced to leave it for another time. The Ibis Hotel received us, as did an excellent meal in the Grand Place in a cellar restaurant. The Place des Héros was very busy and full of young students for after dinner entertainment.

Saturday, 31st May: I took a leisurely breakfast and was joined by my co-pilgrims at 09.30 a.m. where we had a coffee in Place des Héros, surrounded by the market and then drove to the Wellington Quarries near the station. We were on the 10.30 a.m. tour for a total of 1 ¼ hours.

It was extremely interesting, the New Zealanders dug out the quarry which was used to house 10,000 troops in preparation for the battle of Arras on the 9th April, 1917. A total of 24,000 troops were hidden in a series of quarries and tunnels. The quarry has been open for only two months and has received 17,000 visitors. The Khaki Devils held a Church service at an Altar Wall in commemoration of the same one held on 8th April, 1917. The troops spent a week there in preparation for the attack, in what must have been cold, damp and rather claustrophobic conditions. We then drove to Fontaine-Les-Croisilles where the Contingent served in September and October, 1917. From there it was on to Moevres, where we visited the cemetery.

Lunch at Bapaume beckoned and very fine it was.

We then drove to the Ulster Tower by Thiepval Wood, to join a tour of the wood by Teddy Colligan at 3 p.m. We were 'piggy-backed' on the tour with a coach-load of Hampshire schoolchildren. We saw five sections of the wood which have been excavated, revealing trenches and dugouts, both French and British side by side, and a very interesting trench mortar pit. This tour was fascinating and very well recounted by Teddy. Luckily the rain had abated during our time in the wood.

At 4.15 p.m. we left the battlefields for Honfleur, which we reached at 6.15 p.m. We ate very well at La Grenouille off the main harbour, I had forgotten how beautiful the town and harbour are. We were well provided for in post-prandial entertainment!

Sunday, 1st June: We took a leisurely and scenic coastal drive taking in Trouville and Deauville and arrived at our first destination, the Merville Battery. The site has been sanitised since my last visit and we were not impressed, in my opinion they have taken the soul from it.



Merville Battery



Ranville Cemetery



One Careful Driver!

We then stopped in Ranville Cemetery to pay our respects before adjourning for a swift lunch at Café Gondrée, crossing the new Pegasus Bridge, although we unfortunately had no time to stop at the new Museum. It was a privilege as usual to see my friend Madame Arlette Gondrée who very kindly bought us our lunch! (It wouldn't happen in Jersey!)

Not in a hurry we arrived at St Malo and managed a coffee in St Servan (the better part of St Malo). We arrived home, safely at 05.45 p.m. courtesy of Condor 10 and a flat calm crossing (Editor:and Ian's careful driving?).

Another Battlefield Tour – A Photo Album



Sergeant George Minchington



**Standing Room Only!
A few of the many at the Menin gate**



**The Belvedere
Mount Kemmel**



WIP at Zonnebeke



**Ian and Paul
At Zonnebeke**



**Le Doulieu
An unwelcome location for the RGLI**



Food For Thought?



Various Views inside Thiepval Woods

The Northern Ireland Somme Association received a grant in the region of £200,000 to purchase the wood a few years ago. Teddy Colligan is the gentleman in the fluorescent coat trying to merge with the surrounding foliage!



Ian at Sergeant Charles Laugeard's headstone



Ned at Captain Harold Ackroyd's headstone



Dining below Arras

One wonders how many of today's diners give a thought to the many British Tommies who may have passed through this cellar?



A still reflective Paul



On the Home Run – A view of Honfleur

Website Workings By Roger Frisby

There have been quite a few additions since the last issue of the Journal. Mention was made of Lieutenant General Ridgway's article about Edward de Faye. His Excellency's CV has now been added to this.

The Notre Dame du Rosaire Church memorial was recently discovered by Liz and the story and pictures can be seen under "Memorials - Bailiwick of Guernsey-Memorials. A rather sad story but showing the need to document and photograph local memorials before they are lost. Thanks also to Don Somerville for providing an historic postcard that triggered the search.

In April, Liz Walton took part in a BBC Radio Guernsey telephone interview from the Ploegsteert memorial to mark the 90th anniversary of the RGLI as an effective fighting force – this can now be heard on the site.

Various links have been added or changed as external sites change their urls, Canadian Archives being one example. A relevant New Zealand link has been added. We now have so many external links that I will be dividing them into sub-menus in due course.



Roger Frisby Taking Aim

Most of the new items are photographic additions to the Rolls of Honour following our April visit to the Lys area. I also took the opportunity to re-photograph the 100 plus names at Ploegsteert to improve image quality. I haven't counted, but I must have photographed more than 100 headstones during April plus about 200 memorial entries. A number of business visits have enabled me to add some English locations, Ipswich and Leicester being the latest. Old Sarum and Plymouth may be coming soon.

With these and Ian's, Mike and Rosemarie's extensive data added to all Barrie's work, the Jersey Roll of Honour is slowly becoming more comprehensive.

The database search results are being marked as "Photograph needed" as appropriate to make it easier for readers when planning visits. Please check our Rolls of Honour needs when you are planning your journey as there are bound to be needed ones near you. Is anyone planning to visit Gallipoli or the Orkneys soon?

I may be a hostage to fortune in saying this, but hopefully, Barrie will have converted the original Newsletters 1 to 6 into Journal format before he heads off to France. If so I will replace them with the new Journals before the end of June. There has been some re-formatting and, in a few cases, the running order of articles may have been amended to achieve a better "fit" on the pages compared to the originals.

My April Somme Trip

We had another interesting trip to the Somme, staying in Hamel, almost adjacent to the railway line that runs through the Ancre Valley. One highlight was the ANZAC Day Commemoration which I've already covered. The other was meeting up a couple of times in Arras with Roger Frisby and Liz Walton for lunch, chinwags in which we put the world to rights, and with Roger only, since Liz was *hors de combats*, a visit to the Wellington Quarries, already referred to by Ned.

There are two things that impressed me about the Wellington Quarries. The first was the obvious work that had gone on underground 90 years ago. Although visitors were marshalled around a selected area as a group for obvious H&S reasons, it was clear that there was much more to see beyond the public area. It would be nice to think that in future years more will be open to public gaze, but I doubt it sadly. The second was the effort that has gone into applying modern day technology to turning it into a place that can be visited. I think, however, that more work is needed in a few areas, an enlarged bookshop for example, better use of lighting, and on the oral presentation, a better explanation of the subterranean geography in relation to that above ground. The 10-15 film/visual show on completion of the tour was excellent save for one reference at the end, when the narrator described the Great War as the "European Civil War"! Having referred to New Zealand tunnellers, Canadians at Vimy, Australians at Bullecourt and the Americans just having joined the Allies, it is a little hard to reconcile such a crass statement. Of course, it is understandable when one realises that "European Union" money was used to develop the site.

That apart, it was visiting or revisiting various sites and cemetery visits in the hope that more unidentified Jersey men might be found.

The WFA Lecture Circuit

In recent years I have found that one of the advantages of being a WFA member is the access to talks. Here in North Lancashire we have a monthly talk, and if we're daring, we can venture into darkest Cumbria or deadly Manchester to take in those Branch's talks also.

We suffered a slight problem in February when a power cut in Lancaster caused a cancellation, but each month we have talks on quite varied and surprising topics. In March, a chap journeyed over from Leeds to talk on the BEF's artillery in 1914 and the technological advances that were made in subsequent years, not least in taking into account meteorology, something initially pooh-poohed by the more conservative gunner Officer. The following month had a presentation from Peter Hart (up from London) on the 1918 Battles. This was followed in May by a gentleman from Stratford-upon-Avon who talked of the "Stars That Served", recounting the service of various actors who had been in the Great War.

The latest talk was on "A Yank in the Grenadier Guards", a look at William Alexander Fleet, a Rhodes Scholar of 1904. The son of a former Colonel in the Confederate Army, he was well connected and would become an assistant to a university professor of law, no less a personage than Woodrow Wilson. His father had run his own Military Academy, but through financial difficulties was forced to give it up. However, luck had it that one was being set up in Culver City, and so *père* Fleet took up the post of Head at Culver.

Interestingly, the owner of the Culver Military Academy had purchased some 200 black horses, and it became William Fleet's lot in 1912, to persuade the newly elected President Wilson and Vice-President Thomas Marshall to allow the Military Academy to provide an escort in the presidential inauguration parade, and, this a duty that continues today with the Culver Black Horse Troop.

Fleet was keen for the USA to enter the Great War in 1916, but, unwilling to wait, he would return to England in 1916 enlisting in the Artist Rifles at Gidea Park in Essex, from where he would be commissioned in the Grenadier Guards and in August, 1917 head off to France, joining the 1st Battalion. Just over a month later he would be gassed at Ypres and would be sent home to be treated and to convalesce. Returning to duty in December, 1917, he would be killed on 17th May, 1918, when he was out of the line in a somewhat bizarre fashion. Having attended a concert party for the troops, he had turned in for the night, when a German air raid took place and his tent was hit by a bomb!

Though not connected to the WFA, I attended Lancaster University part time during the period 17th – 28th March, 2008 attending lectures on "Aces High: A look at the Great War in the Air". To summarise briefly, it looked at the growth and use of aircraft in the various roles, and the evolution of the aces, along with their foibles. In many respects, it mirrored Peter Hart's book above, so I shall not repeat myself.

Finally, there was a 90th Anniversary talk at the King's Own Museum on the Battle of Givenchy on 9th April, 1918 and Second Lieutenant Joseph Henry Collin VC. The 55th (West Lancs) Division to which Collin's 4th Battalion, King's Own belonged put up a strong defence to hold the line after the poorly led Portuguese Division 'broke' at the outset of the Battle of the Lys.



On display at Peronne's Historial de la Grande Guerre, items of Baron Manfred von Richthofen's personal clothing

Membership News

We welcome Don Somerville in this Journal. Don's particular interest is in the postal history of the CI during the Great War, something that he has pursued for more than 30 years. Living in Crewe, he is also a member of the CI Specialists Society and has made a number of article contributions to their regular magazine. Hopefully we will enjoy one or two in this one that may cast new light on life in the CI during that period. He has already helped in the location of the Notre Dame du Rosaire memorial. Unfortunately he is not an E-Mail user at present.

Out and About

From this weekend (14th June) until 5th July I am staying near Calais to take in Ypres, Zeebrugge and the Bethune area. Hopefully along with visiting some new locations (for me anyway), I will manage to get a few more photographs in support of the website Roll of Honours. Roger has given me a list!

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

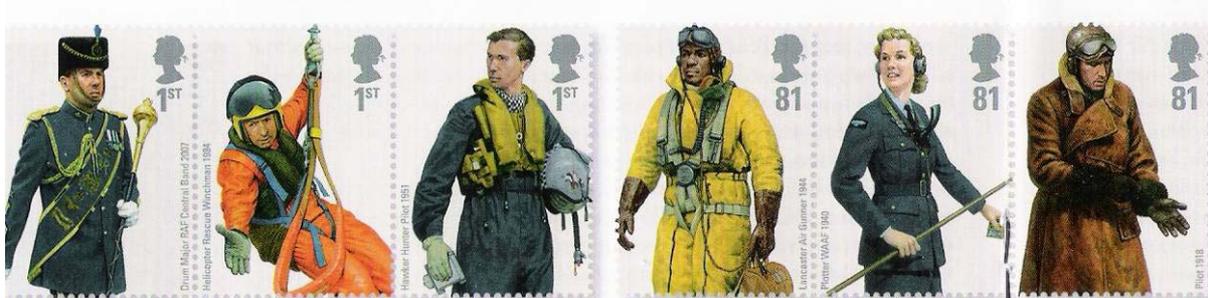
Odds and Ends

Administration: My 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.

The Last Post Association: Ned highlighted that people can join this organisation, which as people are too aware, carry out the commemoration each night at the Menin Gate in Ypres. Their web site is: www.lastpost.be.

The Coutances Colloque: Work still continues towards giving a 30 minute presentation on the CI and the GW at Coutances over the weekend 8th and 9th November. I'll probably be assembling the "English" version over the next month before translating it into French during August

Philately Matters: The accompanying picture is of a set of six stamps that the British Post Office will be putting out on the 18th September. Following on from last year's Army Uniforms (see Journal 14, June 2007), this year they feature those for the Royal Air Force, with the right hand stamp showing a pilot from the Great War. They will complete the Uniforms next year, when the Royal Navy is featured.



They will also be putting out a stamp to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Armistice in November, and it will be featured when an artwork is available. It remains a shame that neither the Jersey nor the Guernsey Postal Authorities can do

likewise, and when, in Guernsey's case, commemorating the Mr Men seems more appropriate!

Temps Passé 1: Following on from a recent "75 Years Ago" piece in the JEP about a Mr GM Ahier dying in New Zealand in 1933, and having lost two sons to the Great War, Elizabeth Morey's contact turned up some excellent information, not only on the Ahiers, but also on some useful NZ data sources. The JEP report turned out to be incorrect, and a non-commemoration does not need to be resolved. However, Mr Ahier did have two sons who served, Walter Roland (nicknamed Dick) who died, and Norman Godfrey who served but who was wounded, possibly in 1916. Both appeared in the JRoH&S.

Temps Passé 2: Sometime ago, I had put together a website article on Henry (Henri) Biard, the Old Victorian, albeit briefly, who won the Schneider Trophy for Great Britain in 1922. In it I wrote:

"Old Victorian (OV) Henry Charles Amedie de la Faye Biard was born on 1st January, 1892 in Godalming, Surrey, where his French father, Raymond was an Assistant French Schoolmaster at nearby Charterhouse. His brother, Walter Lucien, was a year younger and it was during 1906 and 1907, that while the family were living in 2 Claremont Terrace, in St Helier, that both boys attended the College. Today, it is not clear why the family came to live in Jersey, or indeed did not stay longer, although his maternal grandfather had lived in Jersey during the 1860s."

A possible explanation as to why the family did not stay longer jumped out of the "100 Years Ago" piece in Temps Passé for 13th May, 1908, relating that Lucy Delamaine of 2 Claremont Terrace had been charged with taking in an 18 year old girl for the purpose of debauchery with her minor son Raymond Biard (at the time this happened, Raymond was about 19 years old), or failing that, keeping her for immoral purposes! I do not know the outcome of the case, but it is highly likely, and not surprising, that the Biards therefore felt that they could not stay in Jersey afterwards. It is no surprise either, that Henry did not mention this in his autobiography!

D-Day 2008: Henry Allingham's 112th birthday! Incredible!

The Priaulx Library, Guernsey: Thanks to Liz Walton for this piece on the following appeal, and who writes:

"I hate anything to do with asking for money but I'm a Friend of the Priaulx Library and as such get their newsletter. The paragraph below is copied and pasted directly from this.

"Announcement of Lift Project

At our AGM it was announced that the Friends had progressed plans to erect a lift for disabled users of the Library to enable them to access the upper floors. An Access Audit Report commissioned by the Friends had given such an installation prime importance. Of course, it will also assist ambulant disabled and senior citizens, as well as facilitating movement of material by the staff.

A Quantity Surveyor's estimate plus a site survey report shows a cost of some £130,000. We are most grateful to LloydsTSB Foundation for the Channel Isles

which has conditionally granted support in the sum of £50,000. We have other pledges in the sum of £30,000 plus a sum of £10,000 earmarked from the existing funds of the Friends.

We are looking to raise a minimum of a further £60,000 which should enable other aspects of the Access Audit to be carried out. As members of the Friends we are all committed to enhancing the Library which is the Centre of Excellence for our island's cultural, heritage and genealogical studies. We ask all Members to approach their business and personal contacts to obtain donations for this so worthwhile project.

Cheques should be made payable to 'The Friends of the Priaulx Library ' and sent to the Treasurer, 'Vents d'Aval', Route de la Lague, Torteval, GY8 0QE

Thank you for your help."

As many of us have made good use of their facilities, and none of us know what the future has in store in terms of mobility, I wonder what you think about making the appeal more widely known within the Group? I don't think it has been publicised elsewhere."

If you feel that you are able to contribute, please do.

Roger Frisby Takes Aim Again:

Liz writes: It was a foul day, pouring with rain and after visiting the French National Memorial at Notre Dame de Lorette which is right on top of the ridge and very bleak we decided to adjourn for coffee at the nearby auberge. The volunteer guards who had been patrolling the memorial in the pouring rain came in a few minutes later and some locals started discussing recent battlefield finds with them. One had an old newspaper containing



Website criticism is always welcome!

ammunition, some of which was live, a clip, a belt buckle etc. Then a Frenchman who had been drinking coffee at a nearby table disappeared towards his mobile home in the car park and came back with a variety of weapons including rifles and bayonets which he then handed around the cafe for closer examination. I wonder what H&S would have made of that? (**Editor:** Or, the local *gendarmerie*?)

CWGC Beaurains: A few pictures at the end of this Journal show the continuing task performed by the staff, the head office on the outskirts of Arras, and for me, the awesome map with all the cemeteries 'tagged' in blue! Somehow, the enormity of the Commonwealth losses in France and Flanders seems far greater this way, than when compared to the overprinted Michelin maps or the 10 Euro book of maps.

A Naval History Website: Not quite in the stop press category, Liz has brought the following highly interesting website to my attention:

<http://www.naval-history.net/index.htm>

It looks to be a gold mine if you are researching naval relatives.

Enfin

Well, I am almost able to head off to France with a clear conscience, although I am sure that I will have forgotten to mention something in this Journal. As ever, thank you to the contributors who help to add variety to the Journal.

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

Regards
Barrie H Bertram
11th June, 2008

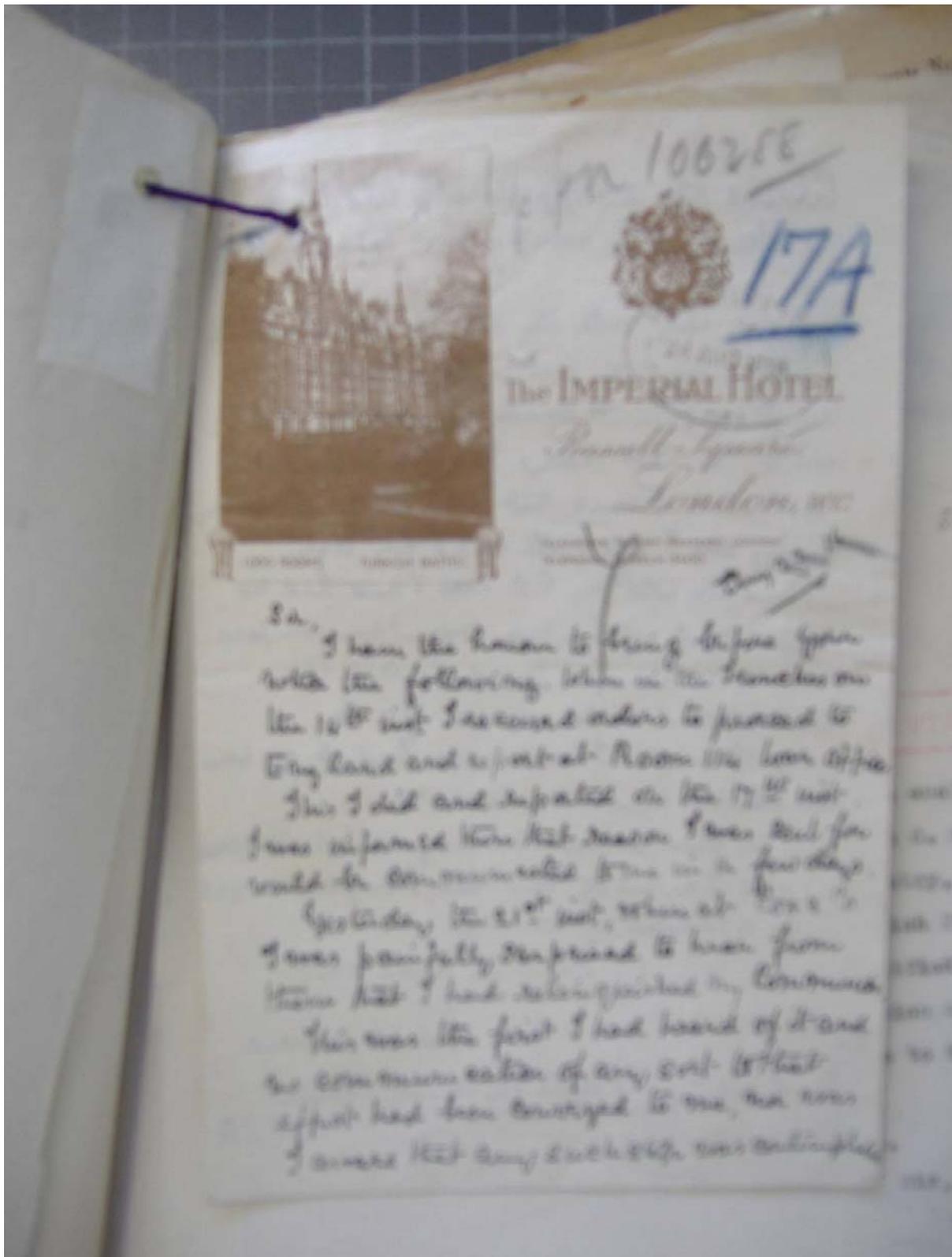
Journal Issue Dates For 2008

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

Stop Press

From Steve Bailey, I have received advance notice of the Autumn Lectures at the Royal Marine Museum, Eastney, Hampshire later this year which are as follows, and importantly, are all free of charge:

- 5th November, 13:00: The Gordon Relief Expedition of 1884/1885 - In the Footsteps of the Desert Column
- 12th November, 13:00: The Zeebrugge Raid, 1918
- 19th November, 13:00: The Cockleshell Heroes - Operation Franckton 1942



Coutart de Butts Taylor's Letter From the Imperial Hotel in Russell Square, London, written in late August 1916. This effectively appears to have been the last communication between him and the authorities as Coutart. Subsequently efforts to contact him appear to have been fruitless, as by then, he was to become Charles Edward Collins.

but the gratuity pay, & Pensions due
 to my three children, would be
 duly put through, it is a very real
 hardship that there has been no
 a long train of financial
 my & I have felt very grateful if
 you does take steps to insure that
 at least in this painful crisis
 we get some understanding; finally
 to some Director between
 various departments dealing with
 matters. I am trusting that Gray
 who is being made to get my case
 through, have myself been on for some
 time since 1915 & the present date much
 a prolonged rest which I am financially
 unable to obtain, as I have depended
 upon the generosity of my late
 husband's people to support my children
 myself. Trusting you will give me all
 possible assistance in the matter
 I am
 Yours truly
 Lilian Taylor

The front Page of Lilian Florence Blunden Taylor's Letter. Over time it has become frayed at the edge, but the reader can make out phrases such as "between various departments" and a reference to "generosity of my late husband's people to support my children".

From the previous page, she was at Thornleigh in Bolton at the time of writing and it appears that the Ministry of Pensions were responsible for the Convalescent Centre.

(Accts. 4.) Effects.—Form 107.

106288/8.

I, Lilian Florence Blunden Taylor
 declare that Capt. C de B Taylor
 of Royal Irish Rifles
 who died on the 24th day of December 1918
 left no Will [which it is not intended to prove], and that Letters of
 Administration of this Estate or Confirmation have not been, and are not
 intended to be, taken out.

If no Will was left insert "no" before "Will" and strike out the words in brackets. ANY Will which it is not intended to prove should be forwarded for inspection.

The only near relations left by the said Capt. C de B Taylor
 were as follows:—

Relationship	Names in full	Addresses in full
Widow	<u>Lilian Florence Blunden Taylor</u>	<u>46 Jordan Ho</u> <u>96 Cheapside EC2</u>
Children	<u>Lilian Agony</u> <u>3</u> <u>Teresa Blundy</u> <u>Doreen</u>	Age <u>17</u> <u>16</u> <u>14</u> <u>Upper Mount Southsea</u> <u>Imperial Service College Winton</u> <u>Weymouth</u>
Other relations		

Insert "None" if that is the fact in either case.

Give degree of relationship.

The said Capt. C de B Taylor
 was born at Weymouth.

Lilian Florence Blunden Taylor Signature of the Applicant.

CERTIFICATE.

I hereby certify that the above Statement made by Lilian Florence Blunden Taylor
 and signed in my presence is complete and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated at 96 Cheapside EC2 this 21st day of January 1920.

Signature of Minister or Magistrate } HH Lavington Qualification Commissioner
 Address 96 Cheapside EC2

(4 0 62) W10115—R13910 2000 3/19 HWV(11257) H1309

**The form stating Lilian Taylor's entitlement to Coutart de Butts Taylors estate
 She has listed the children. Reading the form again, it appears that Doreen was at Upper
 Mount in Southsea
 The witness is a solicitor, a Mr HH Lavington at Jordans, 96 Cheapside in London EC.
 On some of her forms, she gave this as her permanent address**



**A Never-ending Task for the CWGC
Stonemasons refreshing the inscriptions on headstones in Connaught Cemetery**



**The CWGC Area Office
At Beaurains on the southern outskirts of Arras**



In the CWGC Office. The Map tells its own story with the blue dots representing cemeteries appearing like a swarm of locust or flies along the Western Front



Parked Up – the track and road crossroads at the northern corner (at 57c.T.21.c.3.8) of Leuze Wood. The road continues on into Combles from Guillemont, while the sign points up the track towards the Major Cedric Dickens Memorial



Looking westwards across the “Unknown Jerseys” field – Guillemont is to the left with Trones Wood beyond, while Ginchy is to the right along the track, which is now much straighter when compared to the 1916 Trench Map 57CSW3 (taken from 57c.T.21.c.3.8)



Looking eastwards across the “Unknown Jerseys” field from the 20th (Light) Division Memorial at the crossroads 1 km south of Ginchy. John Vibert was found in the ploughed field on the right. The wood beyond on the right is Bouleaux Wood (taken from 57c.T.20.c.2.4)