

CHANNEL ISLANDS GREAT WAR STUDY GROUP

ARMISTICE – 90th ANNIVERSARY



At the Going Down of the Sun.....!

**JOURNAL 22
OCTOBER 2008**

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Hello All

One advantage of being Editor is that I normally get to see the articles before anyone else, and that sometimes includes the authors! I am pleased that, having sought items that were appropriate to this particular Anniversary of the Armistice, Liz Walton and Paul Ronayne, as ever, rose to the challenge with their unflagging enthusiasm.

Taking Paul's article, that looks at the first Armistice in Jersey in 1919, first, I was very much reminded of the Armistice Day services at the Cenotaph in Jersey during the late 40s and 50s, with the various flags being carried by the ex-service organisations, not least the British Legion (before it became Royal) and their French counterparts, the Association des Combattants Anciens. There were row upon row of medals. For some of those years, I paraded with either the Sea Cadet Corps or the College CCF, yet for the life of me I cannot remember where we formed up to march on and then off and dismissed. Clearly, we went past the Town Hall where the saluting stand was. Paul also reminded me that the signal gun would boom out over the town on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, and not having been on the Island at the time of the year since the 50s, I wonder if it still does? And yet, the sad thing is that I did not really understand what it all stood for, not least with regard to the Great War.

So, all the more power to the elbows of Peter Tabb and, new member, Howard Baker in their efforts to coordinate an excellent programme of events throughout Jersey. From The Trench at Samarés Manor through the series of events around the other locations, it can only help reinforce the awareness of what many of our grandparents experienced in those times. Having seen the centre-spread in the JEP of 27th October depicting the trench, I can only say that it looked far more realistic than I had ever imagined, and hopefully, the programme over the next fortnight will improve the knowledge of today's youngster to a level that exceeded mine at their age. Perhaps, as Paul mentioned, our forebears just wanted to forget about the war, which as we frequently hear quoted was "the war to end all wars".

Although many may have seen Peter and Howard's programme elsewhere, I have included it below to ensure that everyone is equally aware.

Liz' article looks at the events of a year previous to that recounted by Paul, and on Guernsey. That there was a high degree of delight expressed by the French aviators is not surprising! The hated Boche were to be cleared from all their sacred France and the "lost" region of Alsace-Lorraine was recovered, restoring French pride that had been sorely dented in 1871. That there was rejoicing among Islanders cannot be doubted, and as Liz will point out, it could not be 100%. Although some of Germany's allies had already signed the truce, fighting on the Western Front would continue up to the specified hour. Casualties incurred even a few hours before would die days, weeks, months or even years afterwards, and for many at home the act of Remembrance was already well established. And of course, there was disease and illness to contend with and this was not confined to those who wore khaki uniforms.

Had not the Germans sought the Armistice, what would the outcome have been? It was clear that the Allies were pressing them back on every sector of the Front, and in fairness, they were offering a stout defence. Certainly, average casualties for the British were higher for the "100 Days" when compared to Third Ypres or the Somme,

while, it is very likely that German soil had not yet been reached at the ceasefire. Yet, a recent article points out that among the 2½ million Germans still at the front, wide-scale surrenders were taking place, often to one or two allied soldiers, and the level of morale in the junior officers and NCOs had dropped alarmingly. It became very fashionable in the years after the war for the Nazi party to claim that the army had been “stabbed in the back”, whereas the reality was that the military High Command were the first to recommend seeking an Armistice, and this in September 1918, when they recognised the increasing number of disciplinary problems coupled with the declining morale.

Continuing allied pressure would still have achieved success, but would the criticism that Haig received for Passchendaele have been similarly applied almost exactly a year later. Granted that there were now tanks, the fundamental battlefield mobility of the armies was largely unchanged from 1914. For the ordinary infantryman, the march onto Berlin would have taken quite a while. It is something to think about.

This Journal also includes a number of contributions from Max Harrison. Along with a number of photographs, he highlights a couple of interesting French locations away from the beaten track of normal British pilgrimages to the Western Front. As usual, there are the regular features.

As most know, about 8 weeks ago, it was mooted that this Journal might be used as the base for a saleable magazine in the Islands at about this time to complement the programme of events, and a number of articles that been previously written were to be revised and used anew. I confess to being like the Grand Old Duke of York, if not going up and down hill, at least pointing one way and then the other. However, it was looking hard to get financial sponsorship, not least because of the credit crunch, and whatever funding that could be obtained should be used towards the events in Jersey. Accordingly, it was appropriate to switch off the change and continue in our normal way. Apologies are offered for any confusion that I may have caused.

A by-product of the efforts aimed at commemorating the Armistice in Jersey has been the fact that Ian Ronayne has had a small article on Jersey during the Great War printed in a national magazine, namely the November issue of “History Today”, which is priced at £4.20 and is widely available at newsagents. I think that that is the first time any of us has managed that, and Ian is to be congratulated. The article discusses the conflicting needs for Island manpower in relation to the food industry, and particularly potato farming. Meanwhile, Liz will also be doing a short piece for another magazine, “Britain At War”, this time on our website.

In conclusion of this slightly longer than usual introduction (yes, I know I don't do brevity!) I just want to return to the series of events that are being organised and/or coordinated by Peter Tabb and Howard Baker. Regrettably, I cannot make it due to getting myself inveigled into speaking in Coutances, but I do hope that those who are able to, will attend as many of the events that are laid on as possible. In saying that, I must also point out that His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of Jersey, Lieutenant-General Andrew Ridgway is visiting a number of cemeteries throughout the Island on 8th November, starting at Almorah, where Ian Ronayne will be in attendance. I will list the detailed locations and timings later on, and would hope that some members will go along to give Ian some support. Lastly, a reminder that Paul Ronayne is organising dinner at the Old Court House at St Aubin's Harbour the same evening.



This Issue's Cover

Thanks goes to Max Harrison for the evocative and excellent photograph on the front of this issue of the Journal, and which was taken during a trip to the Somme area during the summer. It somehow captures the sentiments of the exhortation that are taken from Laurence Binyon's poem - For The Fallen, that are heard at Remembrance Day services wherever they are celebrated.

I have taken the liberty to include a couple more of his photographs in a similar vein.



Postscripts

Faces Remembered! – The Jersey Contingent (Journal 21)

In Faces Remembered, the last Journal featured a four men from the Jersey Contingent whose gallantry resulted in awards such as the MM or the DCM, and also that this gallantry was recognised by the Parish of St Helier who held receptions and awarded them with watches and scrolls. A scrapbook was also maintained of these and other men so recognised.

The scrapbook's discovery by Ian Ronayne and a former president of the Société Jersiaise was the subject of an article in the Jersey Evening Post of 13th October, and thanks to digitisation work by Gareth Syvret at the SJ, the book will be available at the Museum Library, while Ian has received a copy of the material which will find its way onto the website over the next few months.

The existence of the Group had again been referred to, along with our website, so much so, that we have since been almost overwhelmed with queries regarding family members who served throughout the Great War. Some new names have been identified along with fascinating links such as Sergeant Frederick Farmer, buried at Boulogne East being the son of a Victoria Cross winner from the First Boer War. These queries have also seen a welcome number of new members coming onto the scene.

Navigating Nord Pas De Calais (Journal 21)

I wrote that at Les Baraques, I was surprised to see a headstone for a 7 year old Joseph Leng who drowned at Audruicq (and not Audricq as wrongly spelt in that Journal) on 2nd October, 1919.

Why Audruicq, and what was there? Since posing that question, I have managed to acquire an, as yet, limited understanding to answer. It would appear that the village, like many in the Pas de Calais area was a link in the logistic chain that supported the British Army in its role to prosecute the war against the Germans. Rations, fuel, clothing, medical stores, and other material, everything necessary that kept the man in the frontline equipped would be stored so that it could be shipped where it was required. Audruicq was the location of a large depot for the storage of ammunition.

It appears that on 20th July, 1916 during a night attack, a lone German aircraft was able to bomb the depot, and the equivalent of almost a week's artillery shell requirements for Rawlinson's IV Army then exploded, and were set alight. It has to be borne in mind of course that IV Army were, at that time, heavily engaged at the Battle of the Somme! Very little information appears to have been released, and the military censors were clearly hard at work in suppressing the news to prevent it reaching German ears. The German aircraft was brought down, the crew were captured and were thus in no position to report their success.

Apparently there were comparatively few casualties amongst the depot's staff, with only five deaths reported. However, a Major was duly recognised for extricating a train from the depot that was fully loaded. A published account describes a pilot flying across the Channel seeing what looked like a large thundercloud extending from Audruicq to Cap Gris Nez, while another from a nurse visiting the aftermath stated that the area was heavily cratered, so much so that the village could have fitted into those craters quite comfortably, while unexploded large calibre shells were lying wherever that they had been thrown by the explosion, and in many cases they were hot to the touch! It seems though the depot had been rebuilt by September and resumed functioning as before.

So, may be there is new light on young Joseph's tragic end, and if his life ended in a water-filled crater, his death indirectly became the sixth death that resulted from that bombing raid more than three years after its successful outcome.

Guernsey's Armistice Celebrations **By Liz Walton**

The Armistice that ended the main hostilities of the Great War was signed on Monday, 11th November, 1918. The *Daily Mirror* of the following day carries the headlines "World War over - Foch's stern armistice signed. Allied occupation of Rhineland - garrisons at Mainz, Coblenz and Cologne." It goes on to state that:

"History has no more glorious day than yesterday, which saw the end of the Great World War and the triumph of Great Britain and her Allies. Germany, beaten in the field, menaced by certain invasion and overwhelmed by internal revolution, capitulated to the Allies and accepted what will probably be the sternest terms of all time".

A glance at the Guernsey newspapers of the time shows that the Armistice was celebrated on the island at many different levels. The *Weekly Press* of Saturday, 16th November, 1918 published the King's Message to all ships and naval bases at home and abroad on its front page, plus a full account of the terms of the Armistice. There was also a description of the Official Service of Thanksgiving of the Island held at the Town Church on Thursday, 14th November, 1918, which stated that:

"Every department of our island life was represented, and leading islanders were there in such numbers that mention of all notabilities is impossible".

However they do list the Lieutenant Governor Sir Lancelot E Kiggell, KCB, KCVO, the Government Secretary Colonel John MacCartney CB, the Bailiff, Sir Edward Chepmell Ozanne, and various Jurats and officials of the Royal Court. The church was draped with various flags for this special service, including the Union Flag, the Tricolor, and the White Ensign, the clergy represented all of the main denominations (something that was described as "an unique occasion") and the choirs of the Town Church and St Barnabas were present. The retiring collection was in aid of the Red Cross.

The report also notes that "Commander Jacques Flandrin represented our gallant confreres". Ensigne de Vaisseau Flandrin, who was commander of the Aviation Maritime Française seaplane base at the Model Yacht Pond, had another mention in the same newspaper in a less illustrious capacity - he was fined £1 for riding his motocyclette in Smith Street, "to the public danger, in contravention of the Ordinance." Also according to the *Star*, in less formal celebrations of the day, he and the other aviators:

"...linked arms and danced with British soldiers, sang the "Marseillaise" and their band, made up of bugles, flutes, and also saucepans and kettles, gave additional life to the evening's festivities".

Meanwhile in Trinity Square:

"...large numbers of French aviators made the open space their ballroom. With some improvised instruments and the aid of coloured lights and flares dancing to the accompaniment of songs was vigorously indulged in."

They were described as being “in high spirits” and demonstrating “abandon and *joie de vivre*”, a far cry from the formal official celebrations described above!



The Celebratory Dinner for the French Aviators before they left the island soon after the Armistice

Other the informal celebrations took place around the island. The *Weekly Press* reported that:

“The church bells rang merry chimes, and as if wakened to life the masts of shipping in St Peter Port became animated with stream lines of fluttering pennants, while during the afternoon aviators were cheered as they flew over the town streets.”

The mailboats came in flying strings of bunting, and houses were decorated with flags and coloured lights. The papers also describe what they call the spirit of healthy “mafficking”, whereby:

“...parties of juveniles diverting their energies from the collection of coal, resolved themselves into unofficial “glee” companies, whose “scratch” programmes of incidental music in no way detracted from the enjoyment of their audience.”

There was also a mock hanging of the Kaiser on the Town Quay! In the evening thousand of people thronged the streets of St Peter Port, where hastily improvised bands played a variety of types of music.

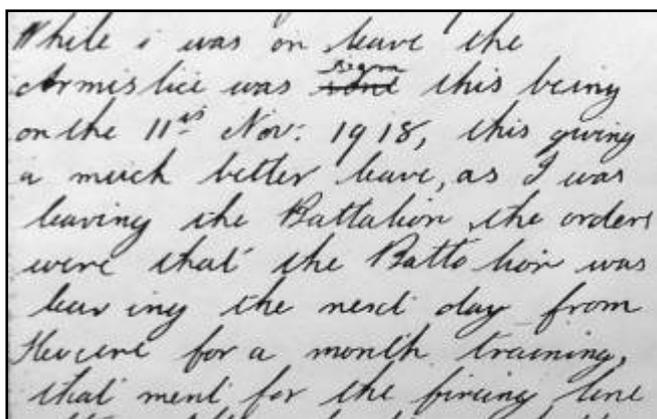
There were few celebrations in the country parishes, as most people had been given a half day or a day off to go into town to see what was going on there. However at Les Vauxbelets in St Andrew’s, French students at the college decorated the building with flags and banners and paraded outside singing the Marseillaise. In St Sampson’s little groups of youths patrolled the neighbourhoods with improvised flags and banners, donkey carts, prams and even dogs “blazoned forth in gorgeous impedimenta” and the trams set off festooned with flags and bunting and were pelted with confetti and “received with acclamation” along the route into town. Works and ship’s sirens sounded and the dockers arranged an unofficial half day’s holiday

which was described as a “Joy Strike”. They were quickly joined by their brethren at the Town Harbour. Even the “ruined roof of the electric company bore British colours”, and piles of vrac along the front were topped with flags!

As soon as the Armistice was signed things began to change. The same papers that carried news of the celebrations noted that:

“Ladies wishing to travel to England could now have their passports endorsed without restriction”.

In addition, visas were no longer necessary for travel between the islands and the UK though they were for any further afield. An order came through from London stating that no more packages should be sent to prisoners of war, some of whom began returning within a few days.



While I was on leave the Armistice was ~~and~~ ^{signed} this being on the 11th Nov. 1918, this giving a much better leave, as I was leaving the Battalion the orders were that the Battalion was leaving the next day from Ecuire for a month's training, that meant for the firing line.

Some RGLI men were on leave, as Latimer Le Poidevin noted: “... arrived in Guernsey the following morning on the 3rd of November, 1918. 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 the Battalion was leaving the next day from Ecuire for a month's training. That meant for the firing line.”

The Armistice apparently came just in time to save the Battalion from further trauma. However Latimer soon had to rejoin his Unit and return to France, as a final peace had not yet been declared and there were still tasks to be done such as clearing the battlefields and burying or reburying the dead.

Armistice Day was a time for mixed feelings especially as many men and women were still away with their units, or in hospital or prisoner of war camps. The “In Memoriam” columns show that it wasn't all celebrations. It was barely a year since the Battle of Cambrai, and just over 6 months since the RGLI had been decimated at Le Doulieu. Confirmations were still coming through of the deaths of men listed as missing in April, 1918. The last local man to be killed in action before the Armistice would appear to be 695 Cpl John Gruchy of the 6th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers, who died on 8th November, 1918 and is buried at Pont sur Sambre Communal Cemetery in France.

On that same day a German delegation met with Allied Supreme Commander Ferdinand Foch, who led the military negotiations, to discuss the terms of the Armistice. Two days later, T4/125415 Driver George Dodd of the Army Service Corps, attached to the Labour Corps, died and was buried in Grevillers British Cemetery in Pas de Calais in Northern France. He was a 39 year old married man with a family. Three local men serving as Sappers with the 245 Army (Guernsey) Troops Company, Royal Engineers, died together of carbon monoxide poisoning, 8 days after the Armistice was signed, when their families must have thought that they were safe. They were:

- 324584 Sapper John William Rihoy
- 324585 Sapper George Robert
- 324516 Sapper John Oliver Duquemin.

Subsequently, a Court of Enquiry held at the Palais de Justice at Courtrai established that their death was accidental. The three men are buried in Berchem (Kluisbergen) Communal Cemetery in Belgium.

The Spanish Flu epidemic also coincided with the Armistice. Ada Le Poidevin who was serving in France with the Salvation Army with the BEF contracted it while on duty and spent Armistice Day in hospital at Chateau Meurice in Wimereux, near Boulogne. The epidemic took the lives of many local people especially those weakened by deprivation in prisoner of war camps.

Figures from the States Medical Officer of Health in Guernsey indicate that 133 local men and women died of it on the island. Places of amusement were closed, public meetings were banned and the people were advised to avoid enclosed or crowded places. Some men who had fought and survived now had to deal with the loss of family members at home. There were some particularly tragic cases. 1464 Pte Pierre Falla Duquemin had returned to the island, having been invalided out of the army in April, 1918 with serious leg wounds. His wife, whom he had recently married, died of Spanish Flu after an illness lasting only a few days. There was also 6651 Sgt AAE Williams of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment who died in England on 9th November, 1918. His wife travelled over for the funeral, but on her way back to Guernsey she also died of Spanish Flu.

M/26664 MSM Frederick Quinain of the Army Service Corps Motor Transport Section who came from Alderney died from complications following influenza whilst on leave in England on 10th November, 1918. 7661 Pte Helier Carré, RGLI, who came from Sark, died of double pneumonia at Fort George at the age of 18 only two days after the Armistice was signed.



Suffering and death caused by the war did not end with the Armistice. Officially, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission commemorates those who died as a result of the war in a period ending on 31st August, 1921.

However Lieutenant Frank de Moulpied Lainé, MC of the RGLI would die from effects of wounds received on 13th April, 1918 at the battle of Neuf-Berquin on 7th October, 1922 showing that for many families the effects of the war would continue for many years after the Armistice. The remnants of the RGLI did not return to the island until 21st May, 1919. There remained in France and Flanders 327 graves of men from the unit who died as a result of the war.

Many more islanders who fought on land, sea or in the air with a wide range of units from many countries are buried in places as far afield as Murmansk, Iraq (where 19 local men are commemorated) and Turkey as well as in France,

Belgium, the UK and the islands. Peace was eventually declared in July 1919, when the Treaty of Versailles was finally signed.



One Year On In Jersey - 11th November, 1919 By Paul Ronayne

As we are too aware, this year sees the 90th Anniversary of the signing of the Armistice which brought about the end of the Great War, and I thought it would be interesting and appropriate to write an article for the Journal about how Jersey had marked the first anniversary all those years ago in 1919. So I took a trip to our local library and researched the papers of the day to see how it had been reported and how the Island had marked this very important day.

The first anniversary of the signing of the Armistice took place on Tuesday, 11th November, 1919. The people of the Island had been pre-warned of events to mark this remarkable day by articles posted in the local newspapers the day before. The papers reported that there was to be a complete suspension of all work and activities, and complete stillness for a period of two minutes at 11 a.m. throughout the British Empire.

The two local papers surprisingly did not give the day a great deal of print space, with just a small article in each paper the day before. On the day itself, I was surprised to find once again the articles covering the actual day's event were of a modest size. They were detailed but by no means extravagant, possibly a reflection on how the people felt at this still very painful time.

A copy of a telegram sent to the Secretary of State from King George V was then forwarded on to the Editor of the Morning News and the King's words were then printed in the newspaper in full. (Although it is not printed in the other newspaper of the day, the Evening Post, I presume a copy would also have been sent to their editor).

It begins "To All My People" and continues:

"Tuesday next, November 11th, is the first anniversary of the Armistice which stayed the world-wide carnage of the four preceding years and marked the Victory of Right and Freedom. I believe that my people in every part of the Empire fervently wish to perpetuate the Memory of that great deliverance and of those who laid down their lives to achieve it. To afford an opportunity for the universal expression of this feeling it is my desire and hope that at the hour when the Armistice came into force, the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, there may be for the brief space of two minutes a complete suspension of all our normal activities. During that time, except in the rare cases where this may be impracticable, all work, all sound and all locomotion should cease so that in the perfect stillness the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead. No elaborate organisation appears to be necessary. At the given signal, which can easily be arranged to suit the circumstances of each locality, I believe that we shall gladly interrupt our business and pleasure whatever it may be, and unite in this simple service of silence and remembrance."

George R.I.

Ninety years on and it's good to know that we still follow the King's simple yet affective instructions that he gave to his people on how best to remember the dead and the suffering of the Great War.

At 10.45 a.m. on the morning of the 11th November, 1919, the bells of the parish and other churches began to ring and then ceased immediately before the hour struck. In the Anglican Churches a short service was held, followed by a few moments silent prayer. At a few minutes before 11 a.m., people gathered at St Thomas's RC Church and at the appointed hour the Rev. Father Guillent recited prayers for the Allies who had fallen during the War. It was reported the service had been simple, had lasted only a few minutes but had been "deeply impressive."

At 11 a.m., a gun was fired at Fort Regent high above St Helier to signal the start of the two minutes silence. This gun was usually fired every day at noon but for the 11th November, 1919, its firing had been brought forward one hour to commence the remembrance. Unfortunately with the wind being in the wrong direction the gun was not heard at any great distance and in some areas of town it was not heard at all. The reports suggest that the great majority of people stood still and silent for the two minutes, some removing their headgear, though it was noticed that some people did not stop and went about their business as usual, although the majority of shops and businesses did observe the two minutes silence. It was reported that one lady in Broad Street did not appear to realise what was happening and kept on with her journey with the "reigning silence only making her steps sound all the more".

At the harbours and the Weighbridge everything was brought to a standstill with all the carts with coal and vrac stopping, whilst all loading and unloading off ships was suspended, everyone practically standing still. The paper goes on to say "the dead silence for the time was deeply impressive". The doors of the local Post Office were also closed during the allotted time. Proceedings at the Police Court were suspended and the issuing of tickets stopped at the railway terminal.

At the Signal Post on top of Fort Regent the Union Jack and the Jersey Flag were flown all day long, only being lowered to half-mast during the two minutes silence "as

a tribute of respect to the dead”, while the Observatory at Maison St Louis the French tricolour was flown.

In the Parade many wreaths were placed at the foot of the temporary Cenotaph, with as the newspaper reported:

“.....a large handsome wreath being hung in the front of the memorial bearing the inscription:

‘In everlasting memory of our fallen comrades from the staff of Orviss Limited’”.

The troops paraded at both Fort Regent and St Peter’s Barracks with them all standing to attention during the two minutes silence.

After reading the articles I realize that for the people of Jersey this was not a celebration of a war’s end the previous year but a sombre, heartfelt remembrance of the dead, an acknowledgement of the legions of men who had been left physically disabled, as well as to all the men and women who had been physiology damaged by the Great War. I sense a feeling amongst the people that they wanted to remember with humility but not dwell on the War and its painful effects for too long. Maybe the people, including all the ex-soldiers, sailors and airmen just wanted to forget about the war and look to the future, it’s an understandable feeling.

It’s interesting to note how our modern day Remembrance Day closely follows the events of that first Remembrance Day eighty-nine years ago. It is to be hoped that the dead of the two world wars and other conflicts are remembered with the same level of dignity in the coming years to which has been shown during the past eighty-nine years.

Jersey and the Armistice’s 90th Anniversary

The following list is the programme of events being coordinated by Peter Tabb and Howard Baker that will be taking place throughout the month of November. If you are planning to attend any of them, do check up on the final details. There are other events that will be under way and these are referred to later.

Saturday, 1st November, 2008

THE TRENCH

Samares Manor (La Blinerie Lane entrance)

Open to the public 10.00 am to 4.00 pm with guest presenters and guides.

Sunday, 2nd November, 2008

THE TRENCH

Samares Manor (La Blinerie Lane entrance)

Open to the public 10.00 am to 4.00 pm with guest presenters and guides and the cast of the Jersey Green Room Club’s “The Accrington Pals” at 11.00 am. Free Admission – Donations to the Poppy Appeal

Tuesday, 4th November, 2008

THE CHANNEL ISLANDS AND THE GREAT WAR I

Jersey Museum

1.15 pm. A Jersey Heritage Lunchtime Lecture by Doug Ford.

Wednesday to Saturday, 5th to 8th November, 2008

THE ACCRINGTON PALS

Written by Peter Whelan

A powerful and evocative drama showing the effects of war and loss on a small community. Performed by the Jersey Green Room Club, Arts Centre, Phillips St.

Thursday, 6th November, 2008

THURSDAY NIGHT IS MUSIC NIGHT

Georgetown Methodist Church

Tim Pollard presents a moving musical tribute to the men and women who served in the Great War

Saturday, 8th November, 2008

THE FIRST WORLD WAR GAME

Public Library, Halkett Place

Showcased by the Privateers - 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Monday to Saturday, 10th to 15th November, 2008

THE GREAT WAR IN WORDS AND IMAGES

Public Library, Halkett Place

Exhibition of books, contemporary photographs, poetry and literature from the Great War and links with Jersey. Talks and readings.

Monday, 10th November, 2008

GREAT WAR SONGS, POEMS & TALKS

Howard Davis Theatre, Victoria College

7.30 pm – Refreshments

Sing-a-Long with Stephanie Humphreys (Victoria College Music Dept)

Alastair Ross will read 'The Hero' by Siegfried Sassoon (1916) and Wilfred Owen's 'Dulce et Decorum Est' (1917)

Peter Tabb – A Q-Ship and a Jerseyman – a personal history;

Ian Ronayne – Jersey and the Great War;

Ned Malet de Carteret – Jerseymen and the war at sea 1914-1918

Tuesday, 11th November, 2008

ARMISTICE DAY

PEACE FLAGS

Fort Regent Signal Station

11.00 am. Flags hoists by signalmen from the Maritime Museum to spell out PEACE

POETRY READING

Public Library, Halkett Place

11.00 am - Poetry reading by Gareth Thomas and the playing of The Last Post

VICTORIA COLLEGE COMMEMORATION

Victoria College

11.00 am. CCF Guard of Honour at Sir Galahad WWI memorial

(Two minutes' silence announced and concluded by firing a 25 pdr field gun)

The Last Post and planting of English Oak Tree and unveiling by HE the Lt Governor, Lt General Andrew Ridgway, of granite memorial stone in front of main building – "WE WILL REMEMBER THEM 11-11-11 1918-2008"

ARMISTICE LUNCH

Highlands College Academy Restaurant

1.00 pm. featuring delicious variations on Great War rations. Bookings and enquiries

Tel: 608563

THE CHANNEL ISLANDS AND THE GREAT WAR II

Jersey Museum

1.15 pm. A Jersey Heritage Lunchtime Lecture by Doug Ford

VIN D'HONNEUR

Town Hall

6.30 pm. To commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the end of the Great War hosted by the Connétable of St Helier.

Wednesday, 12th November, 2008

GREAT WAR IN SONG

Howard Davis Theatre, Victoria College

7.30 pm – Refreshments

Tessa Coleman, Sheila Harris and Mark Labey singing a medley of First World War songs

At 8.30 pm a showing of “Oh, What a Lovely War” (1969) directed by Richard Attenborough

Friday, 14th November, 2008

WORDS FROM THE GREAT WAR

Howard Davis Theatre, Victoria College

7.30 pm. Refreshments, followed by wartime monologues and poetry presented by Alexandra Mackenzie of the English Dept and readings from ‘Journey’s End’ by R.C. Sherriff presented by Emma O’Prey and the Drama Dept.

8.30 pm. Showing of “In Flanders Field”, the story of the John McRae’s Poem and the Poppy

Saturday, 15th November, 2008

WEAPONS OF THE GREAT WAR

Crabbé Range, St Mary

10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Demonstrations of Great War and modern weapons of war by the Modern & Military Arms Association Ltd and Victoria College CCF

Tuesday, 18th November, 2008

JERSEYMEN AND THE WAR AT SEA 1914-1918

Jersey Museum

1.15 pm. A Jersey Heritage Lunchtime Lecture by Ned Malet de Carteret

Tuesday, 25th November, 2008

THE COST OF THE GREAT WAR IN LIVES AND MONEY

Jersey Museum

1.15 pm

A Jersey Heritage Lunchtime Lecture by Peter Tabb

There will be no entry charge to these events, with the exception of the Jersey Green Room Club's production of "The Accrington Pals" at the Art Centre. However, it is hoped that visitors to these events will make a donation to the Poppy Appeal.

Meanwhile, I received (amongst a long list of other addressees I should add) the following from Pip Le Brocq, who is currently Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Victoria College Foundation (Peter Tabb will correct me if I'm wrong):

Dear Supporters,

Herewith a reminder of the events taking place next week with a few minor modifications. Please display or pass on as seems most appropriate.

The TRENCH was an amazing experience for onlookers but especially so for those young lads who re-lived some of the experiences of their grandfathers...many of whom did not survive. Their hob-nailed march to the Cenotaph from the Town Church added a truly authentic sound to that day, as did their uniforms, tin hats, rifles and bayonets. THEY will not forget it.

I am particularly concerned with the events at Victoria College and hope you will do all you can to publicise them, taking place in the Howard Davis Theatre on Monday 10th, Wednesday 12th and Friday 14th November. Staff, boys, parents and OVs have all given much time and effort to their contributions. Complimentary refreshments are being generously provided by the VCJ PTA.

We plan to have a static information display in the Howard Davis Theatre including all the Jersey Evening Post pictures of The Trench in A3 format by kind sponsorship of the Jersey Evening Post, posters and the history of the War by College Boys and video footage of The Trench.

With kind regards

*And many thanks for all your encouragement and support
Philip Le Brocq*

In the introduction to this Journal, I had pointed out that His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of Jersey, Lieutenant-General Andrew Ridgway is visiting a number of cemeteries throughout the Island on 8th November, 2008. He is scheduled be at the following cemeteries as listed below at the stated times:

- Almorah at 10.00 a.m.
- St Clement's at 10.30 a.m.
- Grouville La Croix at 11.10 a.m.
- St Martin's at 11.40 a.m.

As Lieutenant-Governor, General Ridgway is involved in many activities, but as Ian can point out, he has shown interest in our Group, not least in some of the corrective work that we have been doing and hope to continue with the CWGC. Ian will be meeting him, and it should be an opportunity to engage with some of the others who have also shown us support including General Ridgway's staff and Constable Simon Crowcroft of St Helier.

That evening those Group members who can make it will be gathering for dinner at the Old Court House at St Aubin's Harbour. Those who wish to attend but have not yet indicated so should contact Paul Ronayne (paul.ronayne@jerseymail.co.uk) without delay.

Last but definitely not least, there is the Remembrance Service to be held at the Cenotaph on Sunday 9th November, 2008.

IN THE FRONTLINE By Peter Tabb



On Friday, 24th October, 2008, a contingent of cadets from Jersey's Victoria College Combined Cadet Force route marched to a rendezvous with history. Their destination was an authentic replica of a Great War trench. Between 1914 and 1918 no fewer than 631 former members of Victoria College's OTC (the forerunner of the CCF) served in the Great War, of whom 127 were killed. These young men are commemorated on Victoria College's Sir Galahad memorial. The Victoria Cross was awarded to former cadets Lieutenant WAM Bruce and Temporary Lieutenant (Acting Captain) AMC McReady-Diarmid for acts of outstanding gallantry. Both awards were posthumous (Editor: In Bruce's case, the Victoria Cross was not gazetted until 1919 when accounts of his heroism at last became known with Allied prisoners of war being freed).



For almost three days the cadets relived and endured combat zone hardships that were commonplace along the Western Front. They gave up their watches, mobile telephones and i-pods and donned authentic Great War uniforms and armed themselves with Short Magazine Lee-Enfield Mk.1 No.3 rifles and bayonets. Their firepower was further supplemented by a replica Vickers machine gun built for the project by the engineering students of Jersey's Highlands College.

Under the command of Second Lieutenant (Acting Captain) Jon Hale, the ten cadets' gruelling experience included a night-time raid by enemy troops, a simulated poison gas attack and sniper fire. While in the trench they also received a special mail delivery, organised by Jersey Post. At the conclusion of the time spent 'holding this sector of the line' the cadets went 'over the top' to the accompaniment of a spectacular and realistic barrage. During their spell of trench duty, they existed on the typical front line rations of 1918, namely bully beef, hard tack biscuits, sardines and tea, made use of field latrines and were subjected to strict military discipline at all times. Had it rained, their only shelter would have been sheets of corrugated iron.

The cadets' 'going over the top' was featured on both local television stations and also received lavish press coverage, and at the conclusion of 36 hours in the 'front line', the cadets, still in their somewhat muddy uniforms, paraded at the official launch of the Poppy Appeal at Jersey's Cenotaph.

The trench had been created to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the end of the Great War and to honour a community whose losses in terms of fighting men at the Front were great in percentage terms than for any community in Britain. It is trench complex, which covers an area of approximately 900 square yards has been designed and constructed in accordance with the requirements laid down by the



Imperial General Staff in 1916. However, the contractors Geomarine Ltd, who have generously donated their time, plant, personnel and expertise, not only had to build a trench system that met the General Staff's requirements but also to address the requirements of modern health and safety regulations. The complex has been situated in the grounds of historic Samarés Manor in the parish of St Clement which is itself overlooked by crawl trenches from WWII that were designed to give cover to the personnel of

a nearby Luftwaffe anti-aircraft battery. The trench will remain in being until mid-November after which the field in which it is situated will be returned to agriculture in time for being planted with Jersey Royal new potatoes.

The trench was formally commissioned by Mrs Elizabeth Wiscombe, widow of the late Royal British Legion stalwart Owen Wiscombe, at 4.00 pm on Friday, 24 October, and the start of the cadets' occupation of the trench was accompanied by a formal blessing by Martin Dryden, representing the Rector of St Clement's Parish Church which was concluded with the words of Field Marshal Lord Roberts VC, hero of the Afghan and Boer Wars, which were inscribed in the "Active Service Testament" given to every serving soldier from August 1914.

I think that of all the images associated with the Great War, the trench is the most iconic, and although no such trench was ever actually sited in the Channel Islands, the vast majority of the Islands' fighting men who did not return home after the Armistice died in the trenches of the Western Front.

The trench will be open to the public and school parties at selected times until mid-November.

Continuing with Coutart By Barrie Bertram

Coutart de Butts Taylor's life and his family's circumstances continues, as you no doubt suspect, to fascinate me, and a few months ago it prompted me to send an article off to feature in the Connections' column in Jersey's Evening Post since it now also appears on their website. A long shot I had thought, more in hope than expectation that someone in one of the former dominions would be related to Coutart and his wife Lilian, and would see the article. However, to my great amazement, I quickly had a telephone call from the outskirts of St Helier, and a lady related to the Taylor family through marriage!

To explain and possibly to recapitulate, we must first go back to Coutart's parents, Haydon Aldersey (b.1826, d. N/K) and Mary McCrea (b.1834, d.1890) Taylor who had the following ten children:

- Charlotte McCrea (b.1857, d.1938),
- Lilian Aldersey (b.1858, d.1873),
- Anna Katharine de Saumarez (b.1859, d.1947 unmarried, in Leicester),
- Haydon D'Aubrey Pottenger (b.1860, d.1939),
- Oswald Alban Aldersey (b.1862 d.1930),
- Marion Louise (b.1864, d.1944),
- Harriet Mary (b.1865, d.1953),
- Frances Arabella Joyce (b.1866, d.1953),
- Coutart de Butts (b.1869, d.1918),
- Leonora Eliot (b.1870, d. 1950).

Leonora has already been mentioned as the likely relative at Coutart's funeral in Brighton, while the younger Haydon D'Aubrey was the Colonel who did much to progress Lilian's case through the corridors of the War Office. Charlotte comes into focus, in that in 1883 she would marry a Commander RN in Malta, an Edwin William Lloyd. It is to one of their grandsons that the lady who rang me had married! Very much into family research, she had 'lost' sight of Coutart after the 1901 Census, and the material that I had gleaned for the subsequent years came as a great surprise, while at the same time, a boost to her own research. It is pure coincidence that she now lives in Jersey, and had no idea of the Taylor links with the Island.

To summarise our subsequent exchanges, most of which I must attribute to her research, it appears that Lilian Florence Blunden's maiden surname was McEnnery, and that she and Coutart married on 11th July, 1901 at St Brelade's in Jersey, the witnesses being Edwin De Saumarez Dobree and Julia Harriet Dobree. At the time Lilian was aged 24 years and originally came from Dublin, her father James being described as a gentleman. Coutart was a man of his "own means", i.e. private means. However, the Census on 31st March, 1901, shows that Lilian and Coutart were both living in Bristol! Is it possible that they were at 'young' Haydon's address, as he was a Major at this time, with the Gloucestershire Regiment in South Africa?

Their three children were Jersey-born:

- Lilian Mary Manderville, born 16th March, 1902 at St Brelade

- Terence D'Aubrey De Saumarez, born 8th June, 1903 at Havre des Pas
- Doreen Gladys Graham, born 15th May, 1905 at St Lawrence.

Unusually, Lilian Mary's birth was not registered until 2nd July, 1902, while Doreen Gladys was not registered until 31st August, 1905.

As we now know Terence (later preferring to use De Saumarez for a middle name rather than D'Aubrey) left school at Windsor in 1920 and it seems that he became a tea planter at the Rasagalla Estate at Balangoda in Ceylon, and appeared to have made an unaccompanied number of trips back to the UK, namely:

- 14th August, 1925, staying at 13 Queen's Gate Terrace, London W.
- 11th December, 1930, staying at 2 Glendower Place, Kensington, London
- 31st January, 1936, staying at Royal ? Hotel, Cromwell Road, London, W.
- 19th October, 1953, staying at 1A Victoria Grove, Kensington, London, W8.

Returning to Charlotte and Edwin Lloyd, in due course Edwin would retire from the RN as a Commander, and go to work for Vickers at Newcastle before finally retiring and buying a house in Weybridge which he would name 'Monkmoor' after an area of Shrewsbury where he originated. As you will recall, Coutart's eldest daughter, Lilian Mary, was residing at 'Monkmoor' when her mother was busy nursing and form-filling. Clearly 'young' Haydon was not alone in rallying around to help Coutart's family, and seems to have continued long after the war, since he made small bequests to Coutart's daughters in his will of 1931.

What next? It seems from a search of the Births, Marriages and Deaths (BMD) registers that a Terence De S Taylor died in Bodmin District in the fourth quarter of 1971, a Doreen GG Taylor died in Thanet in the third quarter of 1972, while a Lilian MM Taylor also died in Thanet, in July 1993. In her will, Doreen left her estate to Lilian unless Lilian preceded her, in which case, the estate would go to Terence. This will, made in 1954, had Doreen and Lilian living at 1A Victoria Grove! One can safely assume therefore that these are Coutart and Lilian's offspring, and given the nature of their circumstances, it can also be assumed that none of them married.

As to Lilian Florence, there is a reference in the BMD registers to a Lilian FG Taylor dying in 1934 in Kensington aged 58. About the right age, and as we see above, Terence stayed in Kensington when home from Ceylon, as did Lilian when she came to London from her nursing duties. However, the initial 'G' was puzzling, yet, another visit to Kew and Coutart's file a few days ago, reminded me that Leonora, in a letter to the WO had referred to Lilian as Lilian Graham Taylor!

I'd hoped to get more on Coutart's military movements, particularly in Salonika with 6th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles, but also with the 12th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles in France and Flanders. The 6th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles War Diary carries the basic information as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Arrived from Ireland | 18 th February, 1916 |
| • Appointed 'A' Company Commander | 19 th February, 1916 |
| • Major Becher promoted T/Lt Col | 23 rd February, 1916 |
| • In Hospital | 31 st March, 1916 |
| • Evacuated | 27 th April, 1916 |

There is nothing regarding his "offence", but I would not have expected it. What is interesting though is the succession of men to hospital from illness, nine on 12th April, twelve on 14th April, a further sixteen on 23rd April, there appeared a high

incidence and though I forgot to note the date, I saw 44 men admitted on one occasion. Of course, officers were being admitted occasionally as well. Unfortunately the War Diary for the 12th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles did not carry details of any officer dispositions, so the 'paper trail' comes to naught there. However, it noted that the Prince of Wales visited the Battalion on 20th July, 1916 when they were out of the line at Poperinghe. That could possibly be something to investigate as a source for photographs?

It appears that after he was wounded in 1917, he spent the period 5th August to 26th September at the Middlesex War Hospital at Napsbury near St Albans. It is not clear after that of what he did until 7th December, 1917 when he returned to France, but clearly he must have convalesced and taken leave somewhere. The question, though it may never be answered is where?

In following Coutart's trail I have certainly strayed into family research from the subject of the Great War, but in many respects it has been necessary to understand the disruption caused to just one family through a man's sense of patriotism, honour and duty being slighted by accusations that may have had little relation to the conduct of war. Lastly, I come back to the Silver Kettle, which is where I originally came in, keeping its present owner informed of any new material as it has turned up. Reference to Havre des Pas has prompted his memory in that he was renting accommodation in Dicq Road in 1970 when he first came to work at the Airport in Jersey. It seems that his late wife was given the kettle by the lady who owned the house, and who was then in her 90s, with words like "I don't have any further need for it". I wonder whether this is a new avenue for research, or just another cul-de-sac? Let me see!

With no direct descendants of Coutart de Butts and Lilian Florence Taylor surviving, it is now likely that the Silver Kettle will find its way back to the Island and be presented to the Museum by its owner, hopefully as part of the Militia collection.

Le P'tit Train de la Haute Somme By Max Harrison

Located in the hamlet of Froissy, some 2 km from the village of Bray-sur-Somme, there is a little gem of a museum and ride, based on the narrow gauge railway of the Great War. The line of the "P'tit Train" was built by the British Army in 1916 to provide for the vital transport of men and materials to the front line. After the war it was used in the reconstruction of the villages in the area and subsequently for the transport of sugar beet. In 1971 it was acquired by the volunteer railway enthusiasts whose association run it today. The museum is housed in a modern building and the superbly presented exhibits represent the largest collection of narrow gauge steam and diesel engines and wagons used by the different armies during the Great War. The line runs from Froissy to Dompierre Becquincourt, through the lovely Somme valley countryside and a return journey takes over an hour.

One or two words of warning though! I think they forgot to fit springs on the carriages, so it's pretty bumpy in places (ladies are recommended to wear a sports bra!). A steam train only runs generally on Sundays (the rest of the time it's a diesel locomotive) and don't be alarmed by the way it careers obliquely across un-guarded public roads, presumably it's been doing that since 1916!



Le P'tit Train de la Haute Somme – Some Views

Musee du Poilu

By Max Harrison



In the small south Burgundian town of Cormatin (Editor: I had to check the map for this place as I had never heard of it), some 40 km. north west of Macon, is a small and yet excellent museum devoted mainly to trench art created by the French Poilus "pendant la Grande Guerre". Housed on two floors of a large refurbished farm barn just outside the town, the ground floor has been largely devoted to trench art and documents, while the upper floor houses a highly imaginative diorama and small cinema. The building's exposed timbered roof is worth the climb on its own! This museum must surely display one of the largest collections of trench art in France. Unfortunately, the otherwise very pleasant attendant would not let me take photographs inside but the accompanying ones will hopefully give you a flavour. If you're in the area, it's worth a visit.



Cormatin (71)
Musée du Poilu
Souvenirs et Chefs d'œuvre de la grande guerre



Plus de 1000 chefs d'œuvre de poilus exposés sur 420 m² : douilles sculptées, cannes, broderies, briquets, bagues, encriers, coupe papiers, lampes, avions, casques miniatures, plumiers...

Panneaux explicatifs avec des centaines de cartes postales anciennes et documents : le front et les tranchées, les événements, la propagande, les grandes batailles...

La reconstitution de scènes d'époque :

- un champ de bataille
- fabrication d'objet dans une tranchée
- femme au foyer dans l'attente de nouvelles du front

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A General View of the Musee Du Poilu

The Sheffield Pals By Max Harrison

As a Sheffield boy “born and bred”, my interest in the First World War began with stories of the heroic deeds of the “Sheffield Pals”. On a holiday this August, visiting the battlefield sites of the Somme and Cambrai areas I took the opportunity of checking out the Sheffield connection. The first site visited was the Sheffield Memorial Park at Serre, which consists of a wood, evidence of trenches, a small cemetery and brick bower. Further up the road is the Sheffield Pals Memorial in the small hamlet of Puisieux, with a plaque giving details of the Pals contribution in the Battle of the Somme in 1916. Together with the Serre Road Numbers 1, 2 and 3 Cemeteries, I’m afraid that’s all I could find, and I left feeling a little disappointed that the great City of Sheffield could not have produced something a little more imposing to remember the tremendous sacrifice by its sons – The Sheffield Pals.

The Plaque reads:

This monument commemorates those members of the 12th (Service) Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment who fought in France during the First World War, and particularly those who died on the first day of the battle of the Somme, 1st July, 1916. It stands on land generously donated by the Municipal Council of Puisieux.

The Battalion was one of a number raised in response to an appeal from Lord Kitchener, the British Secretary of State for War. To encourage young men to join the army, volunteers were promised that those who joined together would serve together. Battalions recruited in this way became known as “Pals Battalions”

On the 1st July, 1916, the Sheffield Pals were in the front line of troops in the assault. They were at the very northernmost end of the attack and, as a result, the German

defenders to the north of them were able to add their fire to that of the soldiers based in front of and in the village of Serre. Despite valiant efforts by the attacking soldiers, the assault was a complete failure. The Battalion's War Diary for that day, recorded that:

"A great many casualties were caused by the enemy's machine guns, in fact the third and fourth waves suffered so heavily that by the time they had reached No Man's land they had lost half their strength..."

The failure of the attack was undoubtedly due to the wire not being sufficiently cut. Had this been cut, the enemy's machine guns could have been dealt with by the men who managed to reach the front line. As it was they could not be reached and there was no means of stopping their fire. Bombers attempted to silence them with grenades, but could not reach them – consequently succeeding waves were wiped out and did not arrive at the German wire in any strength.

The Battalion lost a total of 248 officers and men killed in one day with 247 badly wounded. When the news reached the City of Sheffield there was much heartbreak. The Commander of the Brigade said:

"I have never seen a finer display of individual and collective bravery than the advance of that Brigade. I never saw a man waiver from that line prescribed for him. I can safely pay a tribute also to the bravery of enemy, whom I saw standing in their trenches to fire their rifles in a storm of fire."

In 1928 the City of Sheffield was given a plot of land by the patriotic landowner, which included some of the trenches along the line of the copses known as Mathew, Mark ,Luke and John, from which the attack on Serre was launched on 1st July, 1916.

That plot lies 1000m or so to the northwest of this monument. It can be reached along the track signposted to "Sheffield Memorial Park", a short distance along this road (D919) in the direction of Maily Maillet. Please visit and pay your respects to those who volunteered together and died together during the long and bloody battle of the Somme.





Sheffield Memorial Park – Surviving Trench Lines

Louverval Memorial

In visiting sites where the RGLI fought during the Battle of Cambrai, Max Harrison clearly could not resist stopping at the imposing Louverval Memorial. Unsurprisingly, most of the 97 Islanders that are commemorated on the Memorial were men from the RGLI. The inscription on the front of the memorial reads:

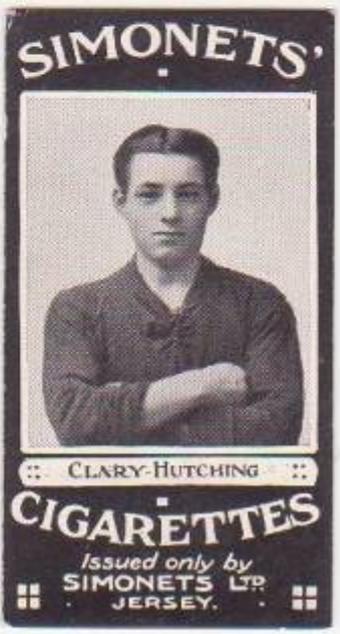
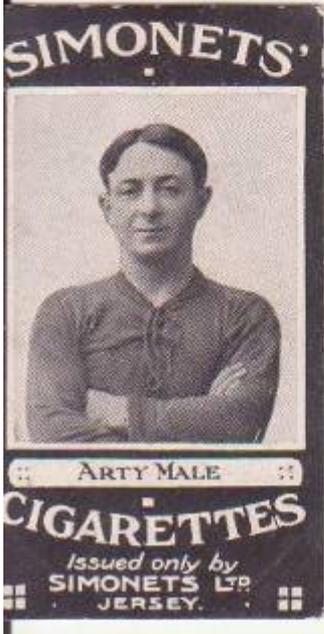
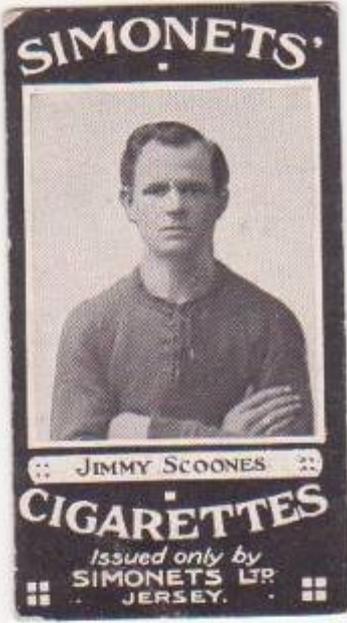
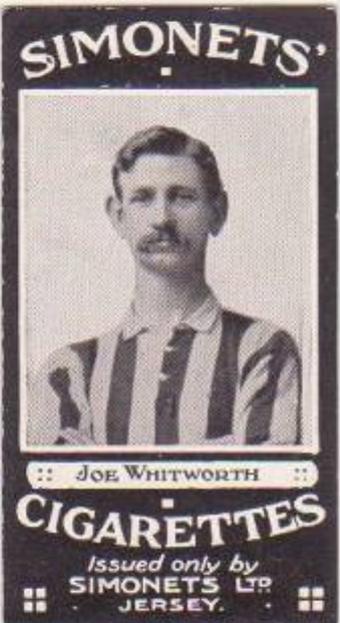
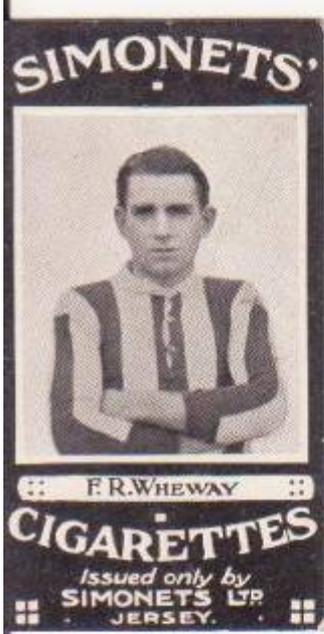
**TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND THE EVERLASTING MEMORY
OF
7048 OFFICERS AND MEN
OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE
WHO FELL
AT THE BATTLE OF CAMBRAI
20 NOV – 3 DEC 1917
BUT HAVE NO KNOWN GRAVE
THEIR NAMES ARE HERE
RECORDED**



However, in revisiting Cambrai a year on from the feature last year, Max has been able to capture the elegance that went into the Memorial's design, as can be noted from the accompanying photograph. I have added more of his Louverval pictures in as a small album at the end of this Journal.

Faces Remembered

With news of the recent rediscovery of the Town Hall scrapbook, one wonders what other items are tucked away forgotten, ignored, their relevance not understood. About five weeks ago, contact was made via the website regarding Charles Izdebski. In subsequent exchanges reference was made to his having appeared in a pre-war set of cigarette cards featuring Jersey Footballers. Bells rang and whistles blew, and thanks to the help of Barry Le Breton at the JEP, I establish contact with the secretary of the Jersey Football Combination, a Mr John Treleven, who very kindly provided the images on the following two pages only today!



FOOTBALLERS

**SMOKE
ARMY & NAVY
CIGARETTES**

**J. SCOONES.
CELTICS**

One of the veterans who still play a sterling game either at back or half back. When in form he has few equals.

N

**IMPORTED BY
CIGARETTE Co.
JERSEY.**

FOOTBALLERS

**SMOKE
ARMY & NAVY
CIGARETTES**

**C. B. IZDEBESKI.
CELTICS**

A player in whom any team can have confidence. He hails from South Africa, and was one of the mainstays of the Hibs last season.

**IMPORTED BY
CIGARETTE Co.
JERSEY.**

A series of 50 Photos
representing
Local Footballers.

NO. 18
F. WHEWAY,
WANDERERS' INSIDE LEFT.
Commenced football at the age of 13, was Capt. of Mall School, I.W., also of Bembridge, I.W., which had an unbeaten record for 4 years. Joined Byde in 1905, always playing centre half; came to Jersey in 1906, has played in 3 Muratti Finals, being on the winning side each time, has scored up to date 21 goals.

**SIMONETS, Ltd.,
JERSEY.**

A series of 50 Photos
representing
Local Footballers.

NO. 20
JOE WHITWORTH,
WANDERERS' RIGHT BACK.
Was brought out as a footballer in Nottingham, Eng., from there he went to Guernsey, and eventually joined here. Joe is not only a footballer but a cricketer also; he is now a veteran but is still playing an excellent game, his kicking being accurate and beautifully timed.

**SIMONETS, Ltd.,
JERSEY.**

A series of 50 Photos
representing
Local Footballers.

NO. 41
JIMMY SCOONES,
FIRST TOWER'S LEFT BACK.
One of the few veterans played when soccer was first introduced into the Island. First played for the Rangers afterwards going to the Celtic, played for them several seasons; he originally played at left half, but has now developed into a reliable back in which position he is now playing for First Tower.

**SIMONETS, Ltd.,
JERSEY.**

A series of 50 Photos
representing
Local Footballers.

NO. 47
ARTY MALE,
FIRST TOWER'S
OUTSIDE LEFT.
Started his football career at the National School, from there went to the Wanderers Juniors playing at left half, played in junior leagues for two seasons, his team winning the cup on two occasions, came to First Tower on the formation of the club, is a very good first timer.

**SIMONETS, Ltd.,
JERSEY.**

A series of 50 Photos
representing
Local Footballers.

NO. 49
C. HUTCHING,
FIRST TOWER'S INSIDE LEFT.
The baitman of the first division of the league, he is as slippery as an eel and is very tricky with the ball, taunting players of no mean ability, and with a little more experience and weight will develop into a first-class player.
"Grow, Clarence, GROW!"

**SIMONETS, Ltd.,
JERSEY.**

A series of 50 Photos
representing
Local Footballers.

NO. 16
B. PERRIAM,
CELTIC'S CENTRE FORWARD.
A player of the dashing type; was in the Manchester Regiment for which he played, was also seven seasons with the Belgraves, Guernsey, and before joining the Celtic belonged to the Guernsey Athletics. He is very tricky with the ball, but his miniature height and light weight is very much against him.

**SIMONETS, Ltd.,
JERSEY.**

These seven players (Jimmy Scoone appears twice), are all in the Jersey Roll of Honour while Joe Whitworth is also on Guernsey's.



We will briefly return to Charles as his family background is fascinating.

As one might suspect, the surname of Izdebski in a Jersey Roll of Honour for the Great War is a little unusual to say the least, however, its presence reminds us of a little known piece of 19th Century history, and for that we can thank Professor Brian Robinson, a great-nephew of Charles Victor Izdebski, for bringing it to our attention.

Charles' grandfather was a Polish nobleman, also called Charles, who with his older brother Teofil (Theophile) were involved in the Officers' Uprising of 1831 against the Russian Crown. The Uprising was unsuccessful and like many other noble families, the Izdebski family had their lands confiscated and they fled the country. Many would settle in London and Paris, but a smaller number, who were more radical in their politics, would move onto Jersey.

These would include Zeno Swietolawski who would employ Teofil in his printing works, publishing radical literature for other political refugees that had found a home, albeit temporary, in Jersey. Teofil would die from consumption in May 1854, and he was buried at Macpela Cemetery in Jersey's parish of St John, with a group of mourners in attendance that included Zeno and Victor Hugo!

Grandfather Charles would later take up arms to fight the Russians in the Crimea, marry in Jersey, and be the father of four sons. One of them, Vladislav Marcel, was Charles Victor's father, settling in Scotland before moving onto South Africa. It was in South Africa where Charles Victor was born in 1887, and he would be in Kimberley throughout the period of the siege until it was lifted in February 1900. From South Africa, his father would retire to Newton Abbot. Some period after that, Charles was in Jersey and joined the Militia (possibly in July or August 1903 when he had reached the age of 16), where he spent 10 years. However, these dates cannot be accurately determined and he is not listed in the Jersey Militia Rolls of April 1913. It can be seen from his service records at the National Archive of Australia he was in Queensland in 1916, from where he would enlist, and it can be seen that his military service was comparatively brief, being killed to the south of Arras and buried at Peronne. He is also commemorated on the Memorial at Newton Abbot.

I have also found that the cards are interesting for another reason and that is that one of the sets is for the cigarettes sold by Simonets Ltd. Two Simonets – Kenneth William and Harold Keith – also appear in the Roll of Honour, and it is likely that they were related to the firm's owner.



2nd Lieutenant Frank Reginald Wheway of the RGA is also shown among the cards, and he is also commemorated in Jersey footballing circles with the Wheway Cup.

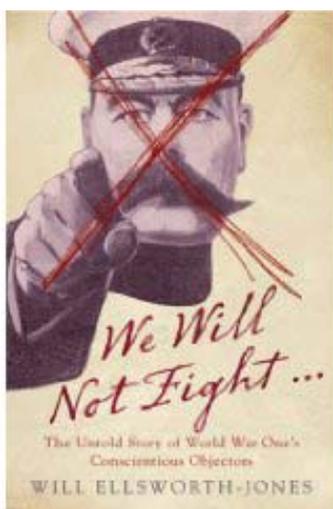
As well as featuring on a cigarette card, we have also recently received a couple of photographs (see left) of Arty or Arthur Male. As 7/4174 Rifleman Male A, he was a member of the Jersey Contingent who would lose his life at the battle for Ginchy on 9th September, 1916.

It turns out that John Treleven is related to the Cudlipp family, and that included Herbert Henry who we record as having died on the 31st May, 1919, and for whom we still have an outstanding investigation since there is no reference to him, either in the CWGC or SDGW.

John advises that the actual date was 4th June, 1919, and the cause of death was pleurisy, resulting from being gassed.

Herbert Henry Cudlipp is also buried at Macpela cemetery, and I'll be getting in touch with the CWGC in the near future to see what documentary evidence would be required to make a case for CWGC inclusion. This could be complicated as I could not find any service records for him at Kew.

Book Reviews



We Will Not Fight!

By Will Ellsworth-Jones, London, 2007, Aurum Press. Price £18.99. 296 pages. Hardback.

Review by Liz Walton

The problem of conscientious objection did not arise in Guernsey as the local Conscription Law made no provision for it. In England however the right to object on grounds of conscience was written into the 1916 Conscription Act. However the terms were never defined and it was left to those implementing the Act to deal with it on a case-by-case basis. This book describes some of the problems that arose from this.

Published in 2007, the book is subtitled "The Untold Story of World War One's Conscientious Objectors". Its central theme is the story of the four Brocklesby brothers from Conisbrough in South Yorkshire. Their father was a Methodist Lay preacher, a magistrate and owner of a successful local shop. When war broke out he was elected chairman of Conisbrough's War Fund Committee and his wife was

on the Ladies' Committee for Soldiers' Relief. The eldest son, George worked as a Recruiting Officer as he was medically unfit for active service, and his father, as a JP, was able to swear in the men that he recruited. His brother Harold gained a commission with the 1st Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment and went to France early in the war, to be followed soon after by Phil who had joined the 9th Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment. Bert, the fourth brother, also ended up in France but as a conscientious objector.

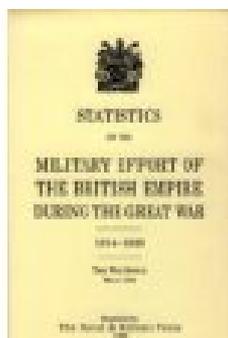
He had been shipped there in a group of 34 "Conchies" who were eventually court-martialled for disobedience. They had refused to join the army in the early days of conscription so were singled out as an example to others who might be tempted to follow the same route.

The author states that the book is the story of Bert and his fellow objectors who:

"...were prepared to die for their principles rather than kill for their country...It is the story too of the price these men and their families had to pay when they were forced to balance conscience against duty."

The latter statement seems to be at the heart of the book, as Bert Brocklesby and his fellow objectors refused various offers of ways round the Conscription Act, instead making it a matter of conscience not to do anything that would serve the war effort in any way, including refusing to peel potatoes for those who would be going on active service. It is a story of people with extremist beliefs but it is told in a balanced fashion, with transcripts of newspaper reports of the court cases showing how high feelings ran at the time as a means of explaining the drastic action taken against this group of "Conchies".

The book is lively and well researched, and includes extracts from personal diaries and letters, interviews with descendants of the Brocklesby family, reports of interviews with WWI conscientious objectors, and official reports of courts martial and other proceedings. At nearly 300 pages it is quite a lengthy book but it makes fascinating reading. Whether you agree with Bert Brocklesby's principles or not, this story of a group of men who held unpopular beliefs and were prepared to stand by those beliefs in the face of prison sentences and threats of execution is a powerful one.



Statistics of the Military Effort of the British Empire During the Great War 1914-1920

Review by Barrie Bertram

This is a monumental work of immense bureaucracy that must surely go a long way towards dispelling the phrase "That there are lies, damned lies and statistics"!

'Statistics' was originally published by the War Office in 1922, and consists of 880 pages of almost every piece of information that is needed to know what was involved in conducting a war of such magnitude. It informs the reader of the number of prisoners taken by particular periods, sometimes weekly, by theatre of war, and details of their repatriation. Mules, horses, guns, ammunition produced and expended, rations, aircraft production are all detailed. Unsurprisingly, there is a

comprehensive analysis of discipline covering executions and courts martial, and also of the casualty rates. There is a Table that tells us that the establishment for the Militia was 5742 Officers and Men at the 1st August, 1914, but it is a summary of more detailed Tables later on that highlights that Jersey and Guernsey's figures are combined with those for Bermuda and Malta.

The requirement for its production was established by David Lloyd George, while Secretary of State for War, and the figures from October, 1916 onwards are more precise while those before which tend to be more empiric. Allowing for that, it is clear that a lot of sharp pencils were used up, and one wonders if today's Ministry of Defence could assemble material to the same volume and quality just using computers, and without spin!

It is very definitely not a book that can be read from cover to cover with a mug of cocoa by one's bedside, and I cannot pretend to have done anything other than dip into it to look at this table or look at that report so far. However, I regard it as an important 'tool' for any serious research into the Great War beyond our localised interest in the Channel Islands. However, at the same time, some thought needs to be given to its purchase. My soft cover copy, via the 'Abebooks' website and the Naval and Military Press, was priced at just under £60 including P&P, while the hard cover version is retailing at just over £80 via 'Amazon'. Perhaps the local Libraries need to be encouraged to have it in their Reference areas?



L'Ouest dans la Grande Guerre Un hors-série exceptionnel!

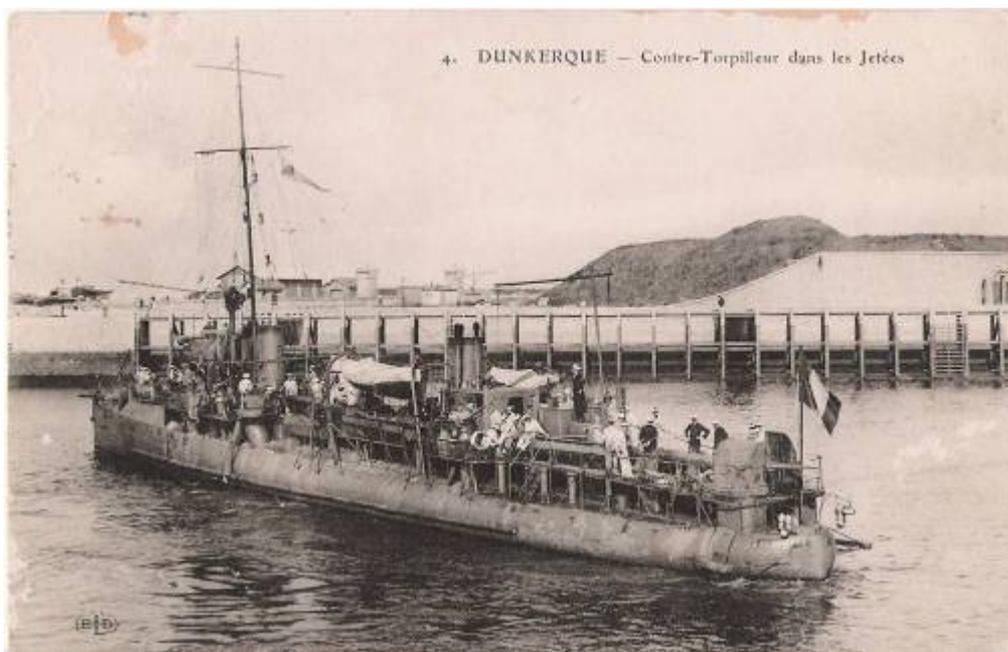
Spending the first fortnight of this month in Normandy, I was under strict orders to keep away from matters Great War, however, between you and me I reverted to type once or twice. I cannot stay away from the Maisons de la Presse, and by chance, spotted this item.

First, it is not strictly a book in the normal sense, rather it is a one off magazine as the *hors-série exceptionnel* blurb implies. It has been produced by the Ouest-France newspaper group, whose headquarters are in Rennes.

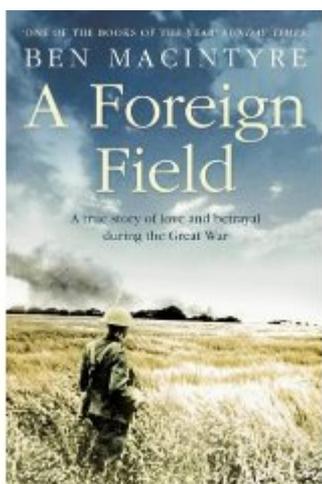
Very well illustrated and colourful, it looks at the contribution made by the regions of Brittany and Normandy during the Great War. Structured year by year, it is a series of articles relating to the particular year, varying between 600 and 800 words in length, rather than a continuous chapter of much greater length. For those readers with comparatively little French, the articles would be of suitable length for a reading at a time, somewhat like "bite and hold" tactics! The material is based on the recollections, diaries and souvenirs of some 2000 families throughout the two regions. There are some 128 pages of a size 10-15% larger than A4, and the price is a staggeringly low 6 Euros (c. £4.80) and even discounting the need to read it with a dictionary by one's side, it is well worth buying.

The family roots of many Channel Islanders can be traced back to these two regions, and one wonders on seeing a group photograph whether great-uncle Pierre Marie is among that Group. It is possible that someone might recognise their relative.

I have, so far, just scanned through this book to see what references there might be to Jersey and Guernsey, and so far have only spotted one article which looks at naval forces in 1917, that makes a brief reference to Jersey. It implies that the port was regularly used by French warships similar to the one shown below in Dunkerque. That would not be unexpected given the Island's proximity to France. But, in these circumstances, would there have been a more formal basing policy that was akin to the French seaplane base at St Peter Port?



Tucked in the back of the book are a number of website references that deal with research into French casualties and military histories. Hopefully, France's equivalent of British War Diaries can be found on line though I've briefly looked but with no luck so far. Do try to get a copy, if you can, although if you order it via the Ouest-France you can add at least 8.50 Euros for the postage.



A Foreign Field
by Ben Macintyre
Review by Max Harrison

I must admit that I'm not a great book reader, particularly fiction, so when a friend bought me this book I cannot claim to have been too enthused! However the cover picture and use of one of my favourite First World War poems, "The Soldier" by Rupert Brooke in the title, aroused my curiosity. To cut a long story short – I literally couldn't put it down!

To précis the story, without spoiling it for others, this true story covers a period in 1914 when due to the rapid movement of the war, four "Tommies" are trapped behind enemy lines and are hidden and looked after by the villagers of the small town of Villeret, for the next two years. A sensitive love affair develops between the main character and the daughter of the family looking after him, but subsequently he, along with his three comrades, is betrayed to the Germans and they are shot as

spies in 1916 in the nearby village of Le Catelet. Whilst in the area, in August this year, (in search of the RGLI at Cambrai) I took the opportunity of going to the two villages and to my delight was rewarded with evidence of the story. I can thoroughly recommend this book as one of the little known stories of the First World War.



The graves of the Four Tommies at Le Catelet, the execution spot, and the Memorial plaque (Ed: Though it looks like there are a few surname errors?)

Web Site Workings By Roger Frisby

Work continues on the Rolls of Honour with a few new names recently added. They will never be complete and, of course, we will never know if they are! Scanning through contemporary newspapers is a long job but it still brings forth nuggets.

Whilst we have an online Jersey Roll of Service, no comprehensive list exists for Guernsey – as yet! Of course we have a really good nucleus based on research by Eddie Parks but this covers men in army service only. We have received an offer to help with a Roll and hope that work may start fairly soon.

The recent JEP article about the rediscovered St Helier parish commemoration scrapbook caused a surge of interest as can be seen in the table:

Week	Dates	Hits
This Week	10/26/08 - 10/29/08	104
Last Week	10/19/08 - 10/25/08	223
2 Weeks Ago	10/12/08 - 10/18/08	354
3 Weeks Ago	10/05/08 - 10/11/08	122
4 Weeks Ago	09/28/08 - 10/04/08	137
5 Weeks Ago	09/21/08 - 09/27/08	151
6 Weeks Ago	09/14/08 - 09/20/08	108

354 hits were recorded during that week and 233 the following week. Several people made contact with us through the site and were either able to add information or asked us to help them with their family research. A number of group members have willingly responded to this. It underlines the importance of adding our website url to letters written and to articles published. Thanks in large part to Peter, Howard, Ian and Ned, Jersey's 90th Anniversary commemoration programme has begun. We can expect photographs

and articles to start appearing soon to reflect the events taking. I'm heading off to Jersey carrying a camera and notebook. Whilst there I will try to photograph the remaining grave markers needed for the Jersey Roll of Honour.

We discovered a problem with our site contact forms a few weeks ago. They weren't being forwarded to the relevant group members. It turned out that our service provider has increased their security measures to reduce spam emails. A re-design of the forms has fixed the problem but we may have lost information submitted by members of the public submitted in the preceding weeks.

Membership News

We've had a welcome number of people seeking to become Group members since the last Journal – eight in fact. So I would like to say hello to Tony Morrissey, Gill Morris, Fran Torode, Hilary Springate, Yolande Martin, Elaine Hanning, Jon Lloyd and Howard Baker

Out and About

At this time of the year, it seems that few trips are being made. But do let the Group know of any being planned for 2009 via this article. For my own part, I took a day trip to Kew on 28th October, and have the Coutances Colloque to contend with from 6th to 11th November. These are referred to elsewhere. Further ahead, I'm staying on the Somme for a fortnight 21st March to 4th April, 2009.

Odds and Ends

Administration: Please keep me informed if you have changed your E-Mail address and other contact details.

Philately Matters: I had mentioned in Journal 20 that the British Post Office would be putting out a stamp to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Armistice in November, while in the last Journal I said:

“Unfortunately, as with the previous issues in 2006 and 2007, it will only appear as part of the miniature sheet above and what is known as a generic sheet. It will not appear over the counter as an “everyday use” stamp.”



It seems that there is someone in the British Post Office that reads our Journal, since they will be issuing the three years stamps for “everyday use” on the same date, 6th November, 2008 as the miniature sheet previously illustrated! They will be available in *se-tenant* strips as shown.

The Isle of Man Philatelic “Lest We Forget” issue appeared on 1st October, and the set is illustrated below.



New Zealand is also issuing a set of six stamps, but the illustration I saw was too small and awkward to use here unfortunately. Meanwhile I think that I’ve said all that is possible regarding the Jersey and the Guernsey Postal Authorities inability to do likewise! Lest We Forget!

The Coutances Colloque: As the French would say, “*J’ai le trac*”* at present, very much so, as the fateful day approaches to deliver the 30 minute presentation on the CI and the GW at Coutances over next weekend (8th and 9th November).

I have to express my heartfelt thanks to Steve Bailey and Liz Walton who have both given me a great deal of help. Steve looked at the English version to ensure that I “closed loops” and did not make too many assumptions that the audience had some prior knowledge, and in providing some material support. Liz gave a considerable amount of help in stylising the presentation, closing it and radically helping to clean up my first pass at the French translation with some excellent “*bon mots*”!

Tidying up the Power-point presentation is next on the agenda in time to catch the overnight Portsmouth-Caen ferry on 6th November.

* “*J’ai le trac*” is a French idiom that means “I’ve butterflies in my stomach”.

The Jersey Contingent Book: Ian Ronayne is in the stages of finalising his book and a few of us will shortly be seeing the final draft. His second hoped-for publisher, Pen and Sword Books, has unfortunately not shown any interest in publishing it. That said, Ian advises that the History Press have shown interest and are now looking at a resume. Hopefully, they will pick up on his work.

A Lancaster Walk About: As part of a “Lancaster Unlocked” weekend in late September, the King’s Own Museum Curator, Peter Donnelly, organised a look at various parts of the City that had a military link. One particular aspect “bombed”, namely the fact that Lancaster Priory Church was shut the Sunday afternoon that the walk (Yes, as it is every week!) was planned for, but it was interesting to see various locations and buildings in a new light. Lancaster’s military history goes back to Roman times when they built a camp to guard the crossing over the River Lune, but with the magnificent constructions such as Fort Regent, Castle Cornet, Elizabeth Castle and the like, the Channel Islands can more than match Lancaster’s military history. But, sometimes the mundane might be as interesting as the magnificent, and maybe there is a case for ensuring that the former are recognised. Speaking to Howard about Jersey’s programme, there must be an argument for Great War trails to be developed.

Service with US Forces: Glancing through a US University Library website, I found an interesting history of the 105th US Engineer Regiment that was part of the 30th US Division. They like the many other Divisions that crossed the Atlantic were initially equipped and trained by French and British Empire Forces, and in the case of the 30th, they got on well with the Australians. However, the history of 105th listed a number of British officers and men that were temporarily attached to them, including a Pte HP Quenault. It would be interesting to know if this was Harold Philip from the Labour Corps (190825) listed in Jersey’s RoD.

Enfin

In closing this Journal, I’d just like to reiterate my thanks to the contributors and hope that everyone finds something that is of interest. Even if you think that you haven’t the detail to support three or four pages, just a few lines might lead to additional data turning up from fellow Group members. So do please keep material coming in for articles, no matter what size.

Finally, I return to the Armistice anniversary events in Jersey that are being put on over the next few weeks. I’m sorry if I run the risk of being repetitive, but please try to support them as much as you are able, as it is clear that many people are putting

a great deal effort into them. The Trench appears to have drawn many positive comments, and I am sure that other events will do likewise. For those who are able to attend, it would be of considerable interest to the others to read and see something about what went on, so photographs and articles will be greatly appreciated, along with any material that can be “hoovered up”! However, there is one area that I am concerned that we should watch for. That is the need to see that the momentum in Jersey that has been developed is now sustained. Clearly it will be not so easy in the next few years to have the same focus, as the anniversaries will not have the same comfortable ring about them when they are the 91st, 92nd or 93rd! The next numerological anniversary will be for the outbreak of war in 2014.

Regards
 Barrie H Bertram
 31st October, 2008

Journal Issue Dates For 2008

The final Issue targets are as shown below. I'll produce a schedule for 2009 in the next Journal, but at this stage, it is very likely that February's Journal 24 should be out on the same date as Issue 18 below.

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	27 th	31 st
23	December 2008	10 th	15 th

For The Fallen
Laurence Binyon (1869 – 1943)



With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.



Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.



They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds
uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.



They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them. We will remember them.



They mingle not with their laughing comrades
again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.



But where our desires are and our hopes
profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they
are known
As the stars are known to the Night;



As the stars that shall be bright when we are
dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars that are starry in the time of our
darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

With thanks to Max Harrison for the use of the photographs above.