JOURNAL 43

Channel Islands Great War Study Group
www.greatwarci.net

April 2012

The Last General Absolution of the Munsters at Rue du Bois

Hello All

Time! A precious asset that we all enjoy until it runs out or when we have to ration it. Too often I discover this fact when I come over to Jersey for a week, hoping to go through the old Evening Posts or the archives, and as yet, I have not figured how I could camp at the Library overnight without the smell of bacon pervading through the building and arousing suspicions the following day! So, next year it's a fortnight's stay.

And with the clock running down, it will not be too long before we are saying '…that the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War is on us next year (or next month).' One hopes that the Islands look to issue a series of postage stamps annually from 2014 to 2019 for example. There is much to commemorate as we know, but, will the 'worms, weeds and weasels' brigade dominate that agenda? Among other ideas that we could get involved in are in publications. What about 'A History of Jersey in the Great War' and its Guernsey equivalent? In similar vein, the 'Rolls of Honour', this time enhanced with photographs that are a combination of individuals, their headstones and other material that we have assembled? Both would take up the 27 months until the 4th August, 2014, and there would also be the need for sponsorship and collaboration in producing these books. How can it be achieved? It is at this point that I am reminded of Rudyard Kipling's 6 honest serving men, so beloved of Project Managers, and that:

'Their names are What and Why and When And How and Where and Who.'

The Front Cover

The front cover for this Journal carries what I regard to be one of Fortunino Matania's most enduring paintings '*The Last General Absolution of the Munsters at Rue du Bois'*. A Neapolitan, Matania was an illustrator and war artist, and many of his works can be found in the war magazines and books of the period.

The scene depicts the Roman Catholic (RC) padre to the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Munster Fusiliers, Reverend Father Francis Gleeson who is sat on his horse (centre), giving the largely catholic Battalion the sacrament of absolution the day before the Battle of Aubers Ridge on the 9th May, 1915, during which the Battalion suffered almost 400 casualties. The other horseman is the Battalion's CO, Lieutenant-Colonel Victor Rickard who would be amongst those killed next day, and it was his widow, Jessie, who originally commissioned the painting (though it apparently no longer exists due to a fire). The man standing nearest to the artist is the RSM, John Ring, who would survive the War and who would be awarded the MC and the DCM. The last identified individual with his rifle slung over his shoulder is the Adjutant, Captain Thomas W Filgate, and he would survive the battle at Aubers Ridge, only to die of wounds some four months later near Loos. The scene is set on the Rue du Bois (now the Rue de Tilleloy), running east from Fauqissart, and is about a mile across the fields from the village of Fromelles lying on the ridge to the South-East.

As well as being highly evocative, the picture has a loose Jersey link in that Captain Filgate was related to Old Victorian, Richard AB Henry, through Richard's wife who was a Filgate also, and it was possibly his death that started the ball rolling for Richard to change his own surname to Filgate by deed poll in 1917 (see Journal 34). However, it is Father Gleeson, more importantly, who leads us to look at the role of padres when we consider the life and work of Simon Stock Knapp in this Journal.

Sixteen Drummers a drumming?
Diex Aix and the Buglers played on...
(The story of the RGLI Bugle Platoon or Corps of Drums)
By Mark Bougourd

The Royal Guernsey Light Infantry (RGLI) overseas service (the 1st (Service)) and home (the 2nd (Reserve)) Battalions were formed on the 16th December, 1916 from the long-established Royal Guernsey Militia island units. There then began the training to turn a former militia unit into a British fighting Light Infantry Battalion, and as part of this process a grand parade at L'Ancresse in Guernsey was held on the 3rd May, 1917 for the presentation of new colours to the 1st (Service) Battalion and each Company, and the presentation of medals, drums and bugles.

Presentation of Colours (From the Guernsey Weekly Press, 3rd May, 1917): *His Excellency [the Lieutenant-Governor, Lieutenant-General Sir Reginald Hart, VC, KCB, KCVO] first presented the Military Medal to Mrs Bisson, representing her husband, the late [3162] Lance-Corporal HJ Bisson, of the Guernsey "D" Company, Royal Irish Regiment. Sir Reginald spoke a few kindly words to Mrs Bisson, who was accompanied by her son, and shook hands with her. Military Medals were also presented to [577] Sgt J Brehaut, of the 1st (Service) Battalion, RGLI.*

The Long Service and Good Conduct Medal was presented to Acting-Corporal W Walker, 1st (Service) Battalion, RGLI. His Excellency shook hands with all the recipients, and congratulated them upon their services. Hearty cheers were raised by the spectators.

The drums, bugles, and Company flags given by the women of Guernsey to the 1st (Service) Battalion were then presented to the Battalion by Mrs E Chepmell Ozanne [wife of the Bailiff of Guernsey], who was accompanied by Mrs HJ de la Condamine [wife of the 1st (Service) Battalion's Commanding Officer]. The flags were received by:-

- *Capt JH Falla* — *A Company*
- *Lieut JCO Beuttler* — *B Company*
- *Capt Clark* — *C Company*
- *Lieut K Le Cheminant* — *D Company*
- *Lieut (Adjutant) Borrett* — *Headquarters*
- *Lieut H Jones* — *Transport*

Seven bugles were handed to the buglers, who advanced with their old bugles. Next the nine kettle-drums, finally two side-drums, and one bass drum were presented amid loud applause. Mrs. Ozanne when presenting the Company flags and bugles said:

"Major Davey, Officers and Men of the Service Battalion, Royal Guernsey Light Infantry, - I feel very deeply the privilege allowed me of presenting to you, in the name of the Women of Guernsey, these Company flags and musical instruments, which will go with you to the war. May they serve to remind you of the dear ones and loving hearts left behind, in whose thoughts and prayers you will be so constantly associated, and who will look forward in hope and confidence to the Declaration of Peace, when you will be so eagerly welcomed on your return in triumph to your Island home.

In the name of all, I wish you good luck and a speedy return."

What became of all these Drummers; the Buglers of the Battalion? We may never know in all cases, some would clearly be wounded or killed in action on the battleground however, what we now know are the names of those who were mentioned in the Battalion's Daily Orders for the additional pay as Drummers certainly a prestigious and well-earned appointment within the Battalion.

The dates of their appointment shown as '*with effect from'* in the *'Part II Daily Orders'* hints at their new official roles after the RGLI were decimated and withdrawn from the front line fighting, rested and honourably bestowed with the responsibility for guarding General Haig's GHQ and certainly shown as mounting the Guard in Diex Aix in support of the visit of the HM King George V at the Château de Beaurepaire, Montreuil on the 7th August, 1918. A lone bugler in the centre of the picture carries his bugle and can be seen wearing the LI Bugler proficiency badge.

The Battalion's Sergeant-Drummers: During the Great War the overall appointment title of Drum or Bugle Major is given to the Sergeant-Drummer who is in charge of the Corps of Drums for the Battalion, and he would normally hold the substantive paid rank of Sergeant. The rank of Bugle (or Drum) Major was indicated by the four chevrons stripes worn inverted on the lower arm, in place of the standard sergeant rank being shown by three stripes on the upper arm. As far as can be ascertained, only three men were so appointed by the 1st (Service) Battalion, RGLI over the course of their overseas service in France, namely:

9283 Sergeant-Drummer Ernest Alfred Battle, South Lancashire Regiment: He originally enlisted in the Middlesex Regiment in November, 1895 with the number 11755 at the age of 16y 0m, before later transferring to Coldstream Guards with the number 1120, before being discharged in July, 1908, with rank of Drummer. A year later he decided to re-enlist, joining the South Lancashire Regiment in August, 1909 with the number 9283 and now aged 29y 8m. He became a member of the Royal Guernsey Militia's Permanent Staff in 1913, and then joined the 1st (Service) Battalion, RGLI on its formation. He left with the Battalion for overseas service in this role and returned home to the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion in Guernsey in January, 1918, and from there would be discharged from the Army.

586 Sergeant-Drummer Harry Leonard James DCM, RGLI: Prior to his enlistment in the RGLI on the 29th November, 1915 he had been employed as an assistant electrical engine driver, the son of Henry and Emily James. Little is known about his appointment replacing Ernest Battle as Sergeant-Drummer in the Battalion, other than it was a short lived one due to his death from wounds on the 22nd March, 1918. He was the only Sergeant named James in the Battalion, and we are sure that this was him given the promotion of Fooks (below) to Sergeant-Drummer recorded as being *'Vice James'* in the Battalion's Part II Orders No. 21 dated the 13th April, 1918.

Harry James was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal posthumously and this was published in the London Gazette No. 30961 dated the 18th October, 1918. The citation is shown below:

'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. This NCO was in charge of a Lewis gun team when the enemy delivered a heavy attack. He manoeuvred his team under severe fire to a good position whence he commanded their approach, and working his

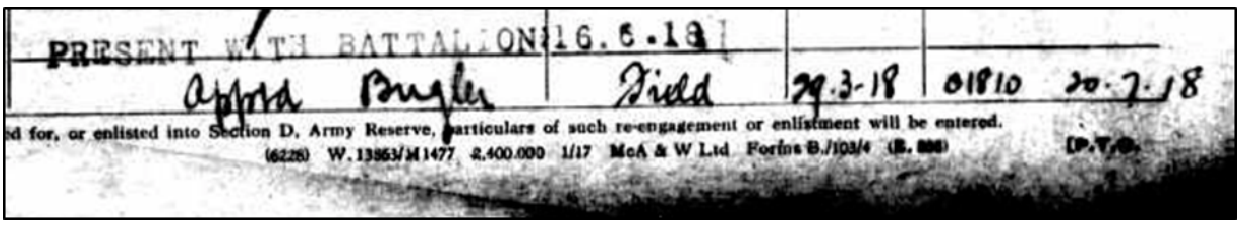
guns with great gallantry and untiring energy, he inflicted such casualties that he materially assisted in holding up the hostile advance.'

530 Acting Sergeant-Drummer Henry W Fooks, RGLI: As the Battalion's Part II Orders No. 21 dated the 13th April, 1918 showed, Henry Fooks was: 'Appointed A/Sgt Drummer with pay 25/3/18, vice James'. Furthermore, he was: 'Appointed under ACI 288/IV Certified that the duties of the higher rank were performed from dates shown', and it can be assumed that

The Battalion's Corps of Drums: Thanks to the Battalion's Part II Orders No. 41 which was published on the 20th July 1918, we know the names of the sixteen drummers who were the members of the Corps of Drums at that time, and these are listed in the table below. Those Orders would note that the Authority for the Battalion to have the Corps was derived from the Battalion's Revised War Establishment dated the 22nd March, 1918 and WO Letter No 30/Misc/749(F.6) dated the 14th March, 1918. Furthermore, the Orders generously noted that: 'Additional Pay: the under mentioned 16 'drummers' are granted additional pay at 1d per diem from the dates stated.' (**Editor:** Not to be spent all at once!)

Corps of Drums – 1st (Service) Bn., Royal Guernsey Light Infantry. "Bugle Platoon" when massed - 20th July 1918				
Regtl. No.	**Rank**	**Forename**	**Surname**	**Appointment WEF**
181	LCpl-Dmr	John W	Mahy	29/3/18
1236	Dmr	John	Falla	29/3/18
509	Dmr	Edward W	Collins	29/3/18
154	Dmr	Frank A	Archenoul	29/3/18
1118	Dmr	John	Brehaut	29/3/18
485	Dmr	Frederick	Inder	29/3/18
531	Dmr	Thomas C	Le Messurier	29/3/18
249	Dmr	Ernest	Le Cras	29/3/18
1062	Dmr	Emra	De Beaucamp	29/3/18
555	Dmr	James	Giles	29/3/18
1514	Dmr	Thomas J	Brehaut	29/3/18
187	Dmr	Albert T	Falla	29/3/18
995	Dmr	Julius	Guille	29/3/18
674	Dmr	Sylvester S	Cochrane	29/3/18
1540	Dmr	Douglas A	Duquemin	29/3/18
2232	Dmr	Pierson	Langlois	16/6/18

With regards to service papers, only three sets for the RGLI Drummers and Buglers have survived the ravages of time, these being for Buglers Thomas J Brehaut, Frederick Inder and Pierson Langlois. In all three cases, each had their service papers annotated with 'Apptd Bugler' in the 'field' with the date of award for pay. Bugler Brehaut's entry is shown below:


PRESENT WITH BATTALION 16.6.18
Apptd Bugler Field 29.3.18 01810 20.7.18
d for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.
(6228) W. 13853/M1477 2,400,000 1/17 McA & W Ltd Forms B./103/4 (P.T.O.

In addition to those soldiers who were mentioned above in the Part II orders quoted, the following three have also been known to have served as Buglers during their service within the RGLI:

298 Bugler Lawrence Mauger: Noted in Part II Orders, dated the 19th October, 1918.

499 Bugler Walter Rose: He is recorded in Eddie Parks Diex Aix, Appendix D (on page 135), and he was wounded in action on the 18th March, 1918 and thus would have been replaced in the field by one of the sixteen new Drummers.

1322 Bugler Jack Bott: Referred to in the Guernsey Weekly Press of the 6th July, 1918, Jack Bott had been seriously wounded in seven places during the battle of Cambrai, and was subsequently hospitalised in England. Finally he received notice that he was to obtain his discharge from the Army and awarded Honourable Discharge with SWB badge No. 423103. He was the fifth son of Mr and Mrs Stephen Bott.

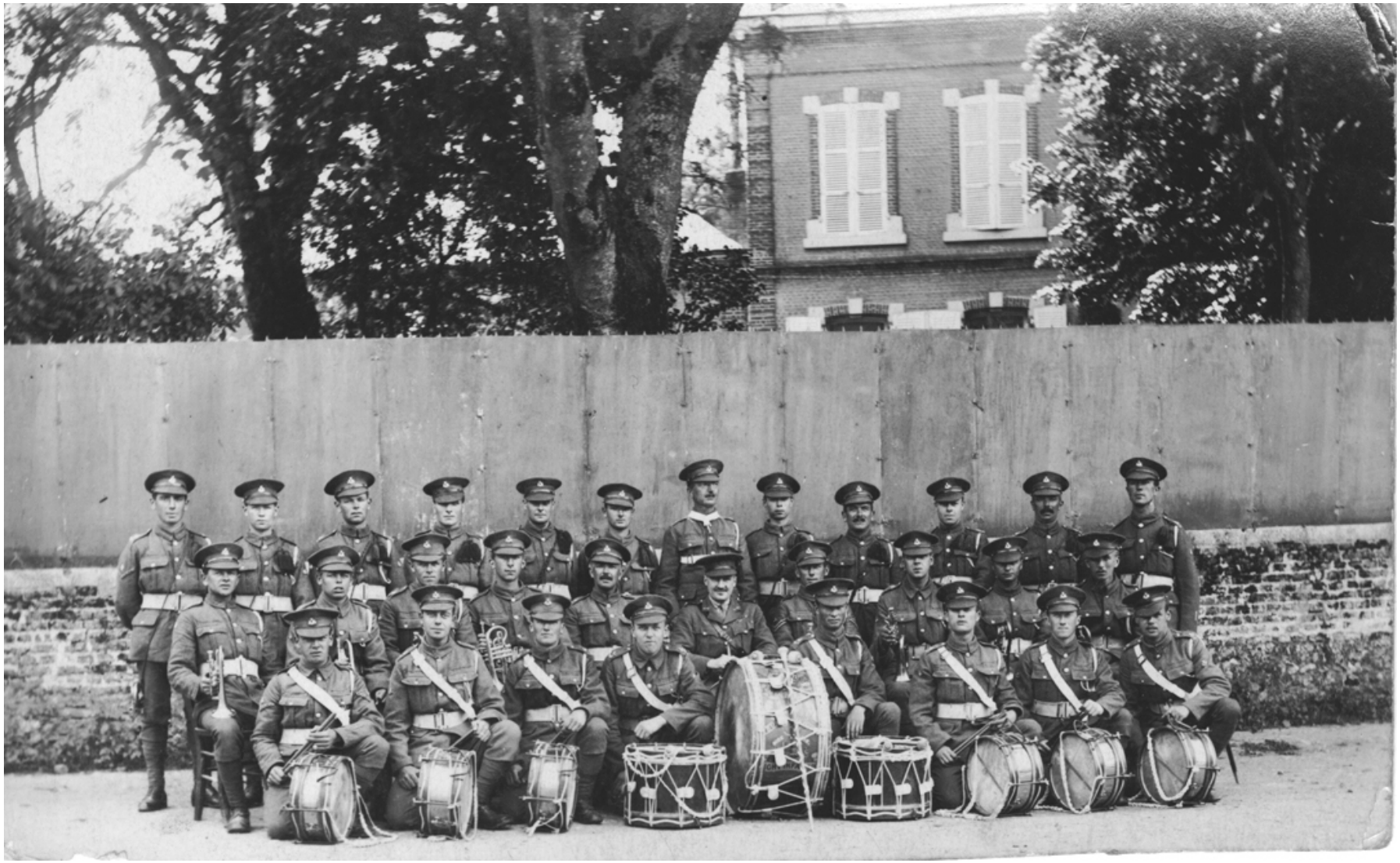
A Brief History - Corps of Drums in the British Army: During the Great War the British Army maintained a Corps of Drums in each infantry battalion other than the Scottish and Irish battalions, which had Pipes and Drums. The Cavalry and the Imperial Yeomanry units had Trumpeters. The Corps of Drums could, on occasions, be massed up. Battalions from Light Infantry and Rifle Regiments, whose original method of fighting was not conducive to carrying drums, instead formed bugle platoons of sixteen men. In Corps of Drums all private soldiers were called Drummers (frequently abbreviated to Dmr), regardless of the instrument played. This is in a similar fashion to today, where for example, a private soldier in the Royal Artillery is referred to as a Gunner (Gnr). Unlike Army musicians who were formed up into bands and who were generally limited to medical orderly duties in battle, the Drummers in a Corps of Drums were first and foremost fully trained infantry soldiers, with recruitment into the Corps of Drums coming after the standard basic infantry training. A Corps of Drums would deploy with the remainder of the Battalion, and would often form specialist platoons such as Lewis gun teams, supporting the Companies within the Battalion.

Historically, the purpose of the drum was used to convey orders during a running battle, and as such, the Corps of Drums was a fully integral part of any infantry battalion. Later on when the bugle was also adopted to convey orders, Drummers were equipped with bugles, but retained their drums or flutes. The bugle was the precursor to the later systems of battlefield communications such as flags, heliographs and Morse code. Buglers would have been instructed in learning all the bugle calls from the Army Manual: *'Trumpet and Bugle Sounds for the Army'*. This included having to learn Regimental calls, Camp and Quarter calls, and Field calls for battle. Each Battalion in a Regiment would have their own call a short call of about five or six beats, sounded at the end of the message call. So even if one could not see who was sounding the call, one would know who the message was from and who it was addressed to.

A Drum-Major, using his Mace, can control an entire parade simply by giving drill and marching orders through the bugle calls that were sounded by his Bugle Platoon. The RGLI Drum-Major's Mace has a silver plated brass head that is elaborately decorated and bears the inscription '*Pro Aris, Rege et Focis'* which translates as 'For Altar, King and Hearth'. It was made during the Queen Victoria's reign, and can be seen in the museum display at Castle Cornet. After the war the top of the Mace head was inscribed with the seven RGLI battle honours.

186 Private Edwin Burton (standing) and 187 Bugler Albert Thomas Falla, both RGLI, in 1917
(Picture by kind permission of Mrs R. Torode, daughter)

The photograph above shows Pte Albert Falla wearing the 'Bugler' appointment badge (inset picture) on his left upper sleeve arm. He also is wearing a single chevron on his left cuff for one year's good conduct service and on his right cuff he is wearing two blue chevrons that signifies two years overseas service. Overleaf we see a group photograph of Albert and his fellow Buglers/Drummers, and discounting the officer sat in the centre, there are clearly more than the sixteen men plus the Drum-Major. (**Editor:** Are there some Bandsmen present rather than just Buglers/Drummers?)



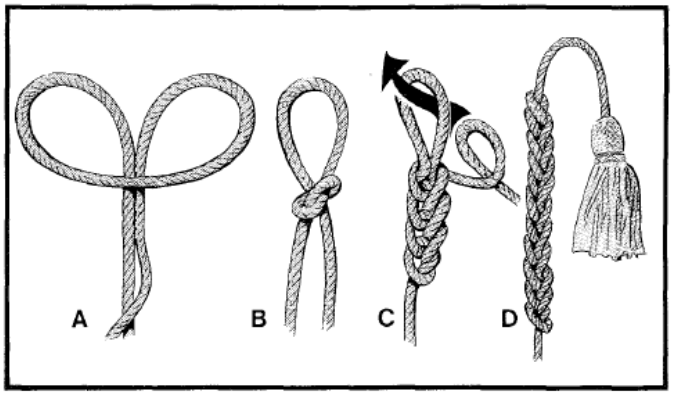
The RGLI Corps of Drums at the Château de Beaurepaire, Montreuil (Pte Albert Falla is fourth from the left in the back row
(Picture by kind permission of Mrs R. Torode, daughter)

Instructions for the dressing with Bugle Cords

The plaited bugle cords worn as dress cords came into being as a result of the practice of plaiting standard issue bugle cords to reduce their length. Bugle cords were shortened, to suite the size of the drummer, so that the top of the bugle was in line with the bottom of the skirt of the tunic, when slung from the left shoulder with the cord across the body (normal slung position). This practice is still in vogue in some regiments but not tolerated in others, for example the Foot Guards do not use the drummer's plait on bugle cords. The Light Infantry regiments most certainly do.

The bugle pictured right is thought to be the one used by Bugler Albert Fallaand is shown in 'undress' order. Every bugler would have the knowledge to dress' his bugle for parade and for normal use. On Parade the bugle is carried on the right hand side, instead of that of a rifle.

Figure 1.

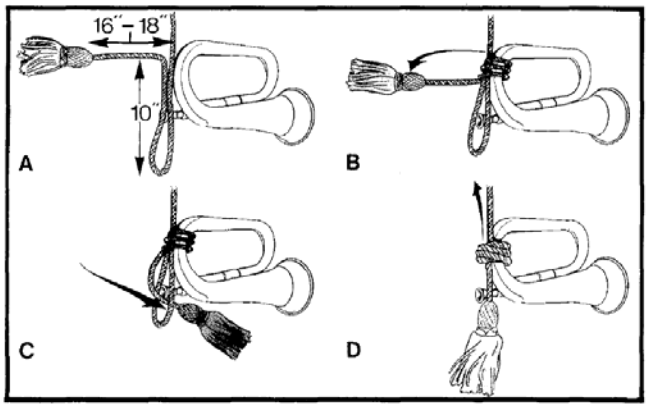


Drummer's Plait

Figure 2.

1a. Make two small loops in the cord
1b. Insert right hand loop through back of left hand loop, pull to tighten.
1c. Make further loops with the right hand cord, insert through back and pull to tighten. Continue process of looping to achieve length required.
1d. Finish plait by passing tassel on right cord through top loop and pull tight. Tidy up and flatten out the plait

2a. To attach the bugle cord to the bugle, form a loop of ten inches approximately 18 inches from one of the tassels and lay the loop against the bugle.
2b. Bind the tassel end tightly around the bugle to cover the loop, three turns at the mouthpiece end.
2c. Then four turns at the bell. Pass the tassel through what remains of the loop
2d. Draw the loop tight to secure the tassel end in place.



Attaching the Cord to the Bugle

There should be a four inch drop between the bottom of the knot and the crown of the tassel. Fine adjustment to achieve the four inch drop should be made by loosening the binding, adjusting the length of drop and then retightening the binding.

2232 Bugler Pierson Langlois, RGLI, shown in the picture is wearing the Bugle cords attached, like other Buglers within the battalion he held the specialist military qualification of 'Lewis Gunner', as shown on his Great War service papers and would additionally be entitled to wear that qualification badge 'LG' on his lower arm.

Finally: It is not known fully today; what became of the Bugles, Drums and Company flags of the Battalion but I am sure their bugle rallies will be remembered long after the breeze has carried away their tune. There are undoubtedly other Drummers or Buglers of the RGLI not covered here should you have any new details the author would be grateful to know so that these records can be updated please contact me via the website.

References and useful resources:

The Guernsey Press
The Priaulx Library
The Guernsey Museum Service – RGLI Part II Orders
Infantry Training: The Drummers Handbook
'Diex Aix' by Major Edwin Parks
'Trumpet and Bugle sounds for the Army', War Office 1895

Ancestry website	http://www.Ancestry.co.uk
Wikipedia website.	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corps_of_Drums
CI Great War website	http://www.greatwarci.net/memorabilia/falla-burton.htm
British Bugle Calls	http://www.royalengineers.ca/bugle.html

Have you got your Breathalyser With You?

This appears to be a somewhat unusual topic to raise in a journal that deals with the Great War, but it is relevant nonetheless. If you are planning to tour French battlefields or indeed are just planning to visit or drive through France on and after the 1st July of this year, you will be required by French law to carry a breathalyser in your car. Although the fine is comparatively small at 11 euros (£9), I suspect that the French police will be buzzing around the exits of ports from St Malo to Dunkirk looking out for unsuspecting motorists with GB, GBG and GBJ plates! Check out the web, or if you are in France before then, visit the well-known hypermarkets who will have ample stocks of breathalysers costing around 1-2 euros..

A Very Gallant Padre
The Reverend Father Simon Stock Knapp, OCD, DSO, MC
Temporary Chaplain to the Forces, 3rd Class

Introduction: To many of the troops who trudged through Northern France and Flanders, it would seem that every other village's name ended in 'hem', and it was with typically dark 'Tommy' humour, that three areas to the north and west of Poperinghe, which were allocated for the basing of Casualty Clearing Stations (CCS), quickly became known as Bandaghem, Dozinghem, and Mendinghem, with the word play being only too obvious. They were not villages, but their locations are still marked on maps today, sadly by the crosses which indicate that they are Commonwealth War Grave Commission (CWGC) cemeteries. They are the last resting places for those men whose injuries were so severe that it was impossible for the doctors, orderlies and nurses at the CCSs to treat them sufficiently enough to enable them to edge more closely to the French ports, by ambulance or hospital train, for the boat journey back to 'Blighty' and the sophisticated medical facilities that were necessary for a hoped for recovery.

Among those who lie in those cemeteries, there are a small number of Jerseymen. We can find Old Victorian, Captain Stuart Le Geyt Cutler in Dozinghem for example. He was an observer with the Royal Flying Corps, whose flimsy aircraft was most likely brought down by a German scout aircraft in the relentless air war above the Ypres Salient. Private Harold Single lies in nearby Bandaghem. According to a Jersey Evening Post entry it was stated that he had transferred from the Royal Navy to the Wiltshire Regiment. But, it forgot to add that neither the RN nor the Wiltshires knew of this arrangement! A pre-war regular, Corporal Henry De Ste Croix completes the picture. In his case, it appears from the 1911 Census that he was getting his knees brown in Mauritius! However, the war came, and with it a return to the UK from where he would soon head east again, this time to get his knees even browner at Gallipoli. Emerging with his life from that very unsuccessful campaign with his unit, the 2nd Battalion, the Hampshire Regiment and heading off to France and Flanders, he would succumb to injuries at Mendinghem in April, 1918.

But, we return to Dozinghem where, in Plot II.C.1, Chaplain, 3rd Class, the Reverend Simon Stock Knapp, DSO, MC now lies. A highly decorated member of the Army Chaplains' Department, Father Knapp had been the Roman Catholic (RC) Padre to the 2nd Battalion, the Irish Guards, for a period up to the 1st August, 1917 when he died of wounds. During a period of nearly three years, he had been awarded Distinguished Service Order (DSO), the Military Cross (MC), and also had been several times 'Mentioned in Despatches'. He had been commemorated in the Jersey Roll of Honour that was published in late 1919, and the initial assumption was made that he had ministered in Jersey although it was soon discovered there was no evidence to support that, for nothing has been found of an association with the RC Church in Jersey. However, for a number of reasons, effort in researching him had not been expended until February of this year, even though a reference to him in a letter written by Edward, Prince of Wales concerning Kipling's 'My Boy Jack' had been spotted in the Holts' book of that name a few years aback.

What then prompted this sudden flurry of research? It resulted from a talk that was to be given on the role of Army Chaplains at the North Lancashire WFA Branch in early

March, 2012 by a former Padre, and it somehow seemed appropriate that one should have known more about the Father Simon and his potential Jersey links, or at least, have known the right questions to ask such that something might be learnt. But, as in many cases of other similar research, the process was convoluted with nothing appearing to be logical initially. However, thanks to a number of people, along with the 'usual' sources, it has been possible to obtain a broad insight into Father Simon's life, and which follows on the next few pages.

The Penny Dropped – Very Slowly: The CWGC Register had been, as is normal, the starting point but neither Father Simon's age was stated nor was there any 'Additional Information' such as his family details. However, it was highly likely that he was in his fifties when he died. Of the three Padres who had been awarded the Victoria Cross (VC) during the Great War, the Reverend Theodore Bayley Hardy, who had also been awarded the DSO and MC, was two days short of his 55th birthday when he had died at Rouen in 1918. Indeed, a Great War Forum contributor noted of Father Simon that: 'He was not far shy of sixty when he died', and if that statement was correct, it indicated that Father Simon was born in 1857 or 1858.

Thus, the name of Simon Knapp, with or without the middle name of Stock, should have been appeared on one or more of the six Censuses from 1861 to 1911, and that some link to Jersey should have been obvious, or so the logic went! But, it was not! However, it was found that he had appeared numerous times in the London Electoral Register between 1896 and 1915, with his address given as 47 Church Street in Kensington. There were also a number of other Reverends shown as living there, and in 1915, for example, these included:

- Alphonsus Brand
- Ambrose Fatcher
- Vincent McGuirk
- Aloysius Jackson
- Columba Casey

Of that list of names, Ambrose Fatcher's was the most familiar, as it had appeared on Father Simon's Medal Index Card (MIC), and it had also shown Ambrose Fatcher's address as 47 Church Street. But then, searching through the Probate Calendar for England and Wales, it was stated that Father Simon's executor was a Reverend William Charles Fatcher. Armed with this new information, was it possible that William and Ambrose were the same man? So it proved when conducting further searches, a number of the London Electoral Registers also showed a William Fatcher living at 47 Church Street! And, on those occasions, at the same address there was a Reverend Francis Knapp!

Given that 'Ambrose = William', it thus seemed logical that 'Simon = Francis', and there was an obvious answer for this. Both had belonged to an order, in their case, the *Ordo Carmelitarum Discalceatorum* (OCD) or the Order of Discalced Carmelites (ODC), within the RC Church where members assumed a saint's name as a means of their being continually reminded of the need for the piety that was shown by 'their' saint. If any doubts had lingered with this conclusion, they were quickly dispelled, thanks, subsequently, to 'googling' 47 Church Street and finding the large Carmelite Church, designed by Sir Giles Scott, adjacent to it. Having replaced an earlier Pugin-designed one that had been wrecked by a German flying bomb in 1944, the present day Church

is at the hub of the parish of 'Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Simon Stock'. Proof positive indeed! The Church is adjoined by a Carmelite Priory, and contact was made with a Father John Hughes who very kindly provided further information and photographs.

Father Simon Stock Knapp with brother priests at the Carmelite Priory, Kensington in 1896 (Courtesy: The Reverend Father John Hughes OCD)

(**Note:** Incidentally, St Simon Stock was a 13th Century English saint, of whom more detail can be found on Wikipedia amongst other sources)

The Missing Link: However, before that contact, it had been necessary for a return visit to the Censuses, this time to look for Francis Knapp, and in so doing, an element of success was achieved. Disregarded during the first search, because there was no Simon listed, there was a family listed as living in the parish of St Lawrence in Jersey at the time of the 1861 Census. In one dwelling in the Rue du Camp (now the western 'half' of La Rue de la Fontaine St Martin) there were as follows:

Teresa Knapp	29 yo	(1832)	Born Ireland
John J Knapp	6 yo	(1855)	Born Ireland
Charles J Knapp	4 yo	(1857)	Born England
Frank Knapp	3 yo	(1858)	Born England
Edward Knapp	1 yo	(1860)	Born St Lawrence, Jersey
Susan Long	52 yo		Born England (shown as a relation)
Mary Hearn	16 yo		Born Ireland (shown as a servant)

Of the boys' father there was no sign, but, in extending the search for Knapp family members to St Helier's Baptisms' Register, we find listed:

3/2628	Charles John Knapp	Bapt.08.02.1860	Born.30.08.1856
3/2629	Frank Knapp	Bapt.08.02.1860	Born.13.04.1858
3/2600	Edward Knapp	Bapt.18.01.1860	Born.09.12.1859

The parents were recorded as Thomas and Tresa (sic) Knapp, while Frank's god-parents were listed as Henry Minors and his wife (Ellen) (later of Minor's Hotel on the Esplanade). Yet oddly, the Register was annotated with a statement that Charles and Frank had been born in St Lawrence, in contradiction of the 'Born in England' Census entries. Frank's birth date was consistent with the 'He was not far shy of sixty when he died' statement, but the argument 'Simon = Francis = Frank' was not proven, although there was a fairly high likelihood of it being correct. Fortunately, confirmation that it was indeed correct came from Father Hughes who cited the same birth-date of 13th April, 1858. However, Father Hughes also advised that Frank had been born in Brighton. Thus, at this stage, Frank's place of birth could not be resolved, not least because no corresponding entries can be found in the UK Births Register to coincide with either the date or location of birth.

What of Thomas and Teresa Knapp? Apart from the 1861 Census and the St Helier Baptisms' Register, all that could be found was that they were married at St Audeon's Church in Dublin by (special?) licence on the 13th February, 1855, and that Thomas' father was John and Teresa's was Martin Davis. At the time of their marriage, they were recorded as aged 23 and 24 respectively, and that their address was shown as 8 Usher's Quay in Dublin. There was no trace of them in the Censuses following that for 1861, and similarly of the four boys, with the exception of Edward, in 1871, when he was living at the same address in Brighton as Susan Long!

Looking through the Censuses, there were two other Knapp 'finds' with links to Jersey, and it was considered possible that they were related to Frank. The first was Terese Knapp, and she was shown in the 1871 Census as 6 years old and at a Convent School in Boreham, Essex, having been born in Jersey. Given the forename and Frank's later calling, one wondered whether it was more than a coincidence. It was also possible that Terese was also Theresa who sadly died in Coventry in the last quarter of 1881 aged just 17 years old.

The second was Ann Knapp who was found listed in the Jersey Censuses for 1841 and 1851, appearing to have been born between 1791 and 1796. If that is correct, she could have been Thomas' mother. Curiously, also listed in Jersey Archive's catalogue, there is the record of a will (Reference: D/Y/A/28/145) for Anne Knapp of St Helier. Dated the 26th February, 1855, it makes bequeaths to the poor, *25 livres* of Jersey currency, and to the Patriotic Fund for Wives and Orphans of Men who died in the Crimea, a further *100 livres*. A number of codicils were added, the last being in October of that year. Was Ann's will worth reading?

A Family in Crisis: It was fortuitous timing to have started research into Father Simon's background back in late February, because a trip to Jersey had long been planned for March. So, it became only too convenient to investigate his Island connections further, making use of resources in the Registrar's Office, the Library and the Archive, and to answer the obvious first question of: 'Was he born in St Lawrence?' the Index of Births for that parish, and St Helier for that matter, showed that neither he nor his brother Charles was! But, Edward had been born in St Lawrence, and so had Teresa (Terese, Theresa), who, according to the appropriate Register of Birth entry, proved to be the

younger sister of the four boys, having been born in Coin Motier Vingtaine on the 29th September, 1864, and who, we must now strongly suspect, died in Coventry. As to Frank and Charles' place of birth, the St Helier Baptisms' Register is incorrect, for whatever reason, and we must presume that they had been born in England as stated in the 1861 Census.

Ann Knapp's will was mildly interesting, but only because it appeared that she was leaving everything to everyone, including the kitchen sink! Such and such a person would receive the stair carpet and rods, another, the washstand, and so forth. But, on the important issue of a family connection, nothing could be proven. Indeed, it is highly unlikely that she was Thomas' mother as Knapp seems to have been her maiden name, having stated that her brother had been a Reverend Doctor Knapp, and that his widow was to receive an annual pension of *'douze livres sterling'* from her estate.

We can turn now to Frank's mother, Teresa, and thanks to the Almanacs that were produced by the Jersey Independent, Gosset and the British Press, it was found that a Mrs T Knapp was shown as dwelling as follows:

- Leda Cottage in St Lawrence, 1861 and 1862
- In St Lawrence Valley (?), 1863 to 1865
- Inkerman House, St Lawrence Valley (?), 1866
- Roseville Street, St Helier, 1867 and 1868.

The maps for that period show that there was a Leda House in the Rue du Camp. Therefore, Leda Cottage was either an annex to Leda House, or indeed the House itself wrongly named. However, during the years listed above, neither she nor her husband featured in the *Listes du Rât*. As an aside, with a Crimean connection between Ann Knapp leaving money to widows and orphans of that War, and the family living at Inkerman House, it does prompt an interesting thought. Had Thomas Knapp served there? Or, did the news of the poor conditions experienced by the troops out there serve as an impetus to charitable bequests and the patriotic choice of house name was nothing more than a coincidence?

What had happened to Teresa subsequently was answered when St Lawrence's Index of Deaths showed that she had died sometime between 1867 and 1879, and following this information up, the parish's Register of Deaths records that she had died from Consumption (TB), aged 37 years and 6 months, on the 9th August, 1869 in the Coin de Tourgis Sud Vingtaine.

But, Teresa was a *Veuve* (widow) when she died! For, having discovered an entry for Thomas Knapp in the Burial Records for Almorah Cemetery (Plot 25/23/Z) it was found that he had died at 3 Hampton Place in St Helier, aged 36 years and 11 months, from *'Hydropisie'* (Dropsy) on the 1st February, 1869, and was described on his death certificate as a *'Rentier'* (a person of independent means). In little more than six months, Frank and his siblings were orphaned, and as best as can be judged, there were few family members on the Island in a position to help, with Teresa at the 'ripe old age' of six years in Convent School in Essex, while twelve year old Edward was in Brighton with Susan Long by 1871.

Edward's removal to Brighton lent support to the argument of Frank being born there. But, having returned home, there has been an opportunity to obtain and consult the

Reverend David T Youngson's *'Greater Love: A Directory of Chaplains … who gave their lives in the period 1914-1922'*, to find that Frank's birth-place is given as Burgess Hill, which, at 10 miles is clearly quite close to Brighton. This new information provided an impetus, and searching the 1871 UK Census afresh, we now find 14 year old Charles, also born in Burgess Hill, lodging with the Martin family in Brighton while employed as a Brewer's Clerk. Of Frank and John there is no sign, while any entry in the UK Births' Register remains elusive.

By this stage, it may be that the RC Church provided a home and education for Frank, and in Diane Moore's *'Deo Gratias, A History of the French Catholic Church in Jersey: 1790-2007'* there is some evidence to support this theory. There are several avenues for further research to be explored, and fill the gap between 1869 and 1873 when we next hear of him. For that we can thank the Times of 17th August, 1917, which provided the next clue as it carried his brief obituary in the 'Fallen Officers' column which read as follows:

FATHER SIMON KNAPP, CF, DSO, MC, of the Carmelite Church, Church Street, Kensington, who died on August 1st of wounds received the day before, was attached to the Irish Guards, and had been awarded the DSO and MC. He served in the Boer War with Major Allenby, now General Sir Edmund Allenby, and received the medal with four clasps. He was born in 1858, and after being educated at St Edmund's Catholic College, Ware, he professed in the Carmelite Order in 1878, and became priest in 1883.

The Years 1873 to 1900: So, it was back to school once more to enquire about Frank's time at St Edmund's! Contacting St Edmund's, a response very soon came back, very kindly to be followed by a pack of scanned information that included cuttings from the College magazine, 'The Edmundian'.

Summarising a more detailed history, that is to be found on the College's website (www.stedmundscollege.org), it is of interest to note that St Edmund's is the oldest Catholic College in England. It was founded in 1568 at Douay (now Douai) in French Flanders and was intended to be a seminary whereby priests could be prepared to minister back in England and to keep alive Catholicism in what had become a largely Protestant nation. However, it also provided a Catholic education for boys where it was not possible for them to receive such an education in their own countries. In 1793, the English College, as it had been called, closed at Douay, due to the French Revolution, and would continue from then on in England where the attitude to Catholics had much improved and penal laws against them comparatively less stringent. Now known as St Edmund's, the work has continued to the present day, although the role as a seminary ceased in 1975.

But, back to Frank or to Francis as he was known at St Edmund's. It is slightly amusing to read in his College Obituary that, 'He was a student here in the seventies', when one has also to subtract a century to remind ourselves of the right period! He had attended the College from 1873 at the age of 14, until 1877 when he had left aged 18. There was a comment that he was 'a good student' but one does suspect that, 40 years on, there were few at the College who knew him. However, it does seem that he was an enthusiastic cricketer, and was in the Cricket XI from 1875 to 1877. A flavour of life at St Edmund's can be derived from the following synopsis of a College history that is shortly to be published:

In 1869 the Divines left St Edmund's in order to study in a separate seminary in London….. Liturgical services were continued by priests and schoolboys…... The Church Boys wore surplices in choir…... St Edmund's remained as a school, with both lay and Church Boys as well as the philosophers – indeed the lovers of cricket had to make do with matches between Church and Lay, and Westminster and Southwark. The lay and Church Boys were reunited and the old lay playroom abolished. Students continued to go forward to seminary but, since Catholics were still forbidden to enter Oxford or Cambridge, many philosophers were prepared for external degrees from the University of London. The College thus continued to fulfil an important role within the Catholic community and to prepare future candidates for the Priesthood. Between 21st July and 12th August, 1873, St Edmund's was the location of the Fourth Provincial Synod of Westminster, a meeting of the English and Welsh Hierarchy and about fifty clergy, presided over by Archbishop Manning. …..The bishops and senior clergy remained in residence for three weeks. ……Much to the students' delight, their return to the College after the holidays had to be postponed. The 1870s saw the beginnings of large public pilgrimages from England to the shrines of Catholic Europe. In 1874 a great pilgrimage was made to the shrine of St Edmund at Pontigny. Several hundred pilgrims departed from Victoria on 1st September, including Mgr Patterson and staff and students from the College.

During the period that Francis had attended College the seminary remained in London, not returning to St Edmund's until 1904. At this distance in time, it is difficult to gauge when he first sought to become a Catholic priest, and what were the influences that first encouraged or enabled him, by the time he was 14 years old, to attend St Edmund's. Nevertheless, regardless of his parents marrying in a Protestant Church of Ireland ceremony, and his Baptism conducted in St Helier's Protestant Church, it is possible that there were strong Catholic influences, even going to France or Belgium, which might explain his absence from the Census for 1871.

The College Obituary notes that, 'In 1878 he left St Edmund's to enter the Carmelite order, and, if we may so put, began his wanderings'! To which one might say *'Quelle surprise!'*, for he had already been somewhat elusive, and would continue to be! As to entering the order, Father Hughes advises us of the following process:

'This is what happens when a man joins a Catholic religious order. Canon law stipulates that everywhere, whenever a young man presents himself as a candidate to a religious Order, whether it is to the Carmelites, the Benedictines or the Jesuits, a date is set for the beginning of the canonical novitiate which is exactly twelve months in duration; after which, if the candidate wishes to continue (and the community approves of him by secret ballot), he is then invited to make his first profession of vows. Unlike some years ago, when Canon law was slightly changed, the vows were made for three years, after which they are renewed until death. So, quite a long time is given before making a life long commitment. Father Simon's name is inscribed (in Latin) upon our obituary boards in the priory, but for some reason there was no mention of the date of his ordination to the priesthood. But it would have been about six years after his first profession.'

Francis left College at the end of 1877, and from there headed off to Lyons where he would make his first profession of vows on the 8th December, 1878. The following year he would return to England, this as a consequence of laws that had been passed against the Carmelite Order in France. But, another UK Census was taken in 1881, and we now find Francis, listed as Frank and having been born in Burgess Hill, living at 47

Church Street in Kensington, and now a Theological Student. However, it would not be too long before he crossed the English Channel once more, this time, heading to Ghent where he was ordained priest in 1883.

Again returning to England, he went to Wincanton to become the sub-prior at a newly opened 'house' there, combining the role with that of master and lecturer in philosophy. There appears to be a mismatch as to the year when this occurred. The College Obituary records that this appointment took place in 1884, however, the Carmelite Priory did not open until 1889. I am inclined to the later date as I could not see a newly ordained priest assuming such a weighty role. In any case, Father Simon, as we shall now call him, developed health problems, and relinquished the position at Wincanton.

It appears that, in subsequent years, that he continued his travels. For a time he was the Chaplain at the Marquis of Bute's Cathedral Church at Rothesay, he then went to the USA, following it up with a year spent at Mount Carmel in Palestine as it was then. Much later, in a letter from General Allenby to his wife, written on the 29th September, 1918, we read that:

'I went to Haifa and Carmel yesterday. The view from the top of Carmel across the bay is lovely; very like the bay of Naples - without Vesuvius and Capri. The bay is surrounded by mountains except where the River Kishon runs in from the Vale of Esdraelon. ***On Carmel is the Carmelite Monastery; where Father Knapp lived, in his youth. I went in. Only 3 monks remain there.*** *It is a huge building; and, if I shift my GHQ to Haifa, I shall probably use it for my HQ offices. The Germans had done so, and left a lot of litter behind. All the furniture, except in one or two rooms used by the staff, has been removed by them or destroyed. On the highest point on the bluff, which rises steeply to the south of Haifa, is a monument to mark the point where the Kaiser stood, in 1898, to see the view.'*

At this juncture, the College Obituary suggests that: 'he seemed doomed to be a chronic invalid', and later on states that he was: 'doomed to the life of the hypochondriac'. Perhaps, the death of his parents and sister played on his mind as regards to his well-being, given their early ages when they died. Yet, what is striking, despite the fact that he apparently had problems with his health, he was still capable of travelling long distances and would continue to do so in subsequent years, and to be out of the UK when the 1891 Census came around! But there were the London Electoral Registers that indicate that he still had a home to go to in-between journeys.

The Anglo-Boer War: Following President Kronje's declaration of war on the 11th October, 1899, for the second time, the British Empire found itself fighting the Boers in, what is, present day South Africa. Over the next few years, Britain would muster sizeable forces, including men from Australia, Canada and New Zealand. After a number of initial reverses, the British would later apply several strategies, some very harsh, to deal with the Boers Kommandos who would engage British troops when the terrain and opportunity suited them. One of these strategies to counter Boer activity was that of the use of mobile columns that contained the traditional cavalry or the more novel mounted infantry, and in due course, Father Simon would join one of those columns.

In response to a War Office request for more padres, Father Simon would go to South Africa. Thanks to a Times report, we first find him departing from Southampton on the

Union-Castle Line's *SS Briton* over the weekend of the 24th/25th March, 1900. His departure did not go unnoticed, for in the Houses of Parliament on the Friday following, the nationalist Irish Parliamentary Party MP for Kerry, North, Michael Joseph Flavin, asked the First Lord of the Treasury:

'…whether he was aware that Father Simon Knapp a friar of the Carmelite Church at Kensington had volunteered his services as an RC chaplain to the RC soldiers now serving in South Africa; and that he had been appointed by the War Office as a chaplain and sailed in the Briton for South Africa; and, seeing that Father Knapp was a member of a religious community, which under a penal statute was an illegal monastic order, would Her Majesty's Government give facilities for the passage of a Bill now before Parliament; or whether Her Majesty's Government would take such steps as might be necessary to remove the disabilities under which certain RC religious communities were penalised in Great Britain and Ireland.'

Not yet Prime Minister, Arthur Balfour was the First Lord of the Treasury and would reply, but the answer was regarding the Bill's passage, and not Father Simon's sea passage *per se*, replying to the second 'half' of the question, the first 'half' having been raised to make the political point highlighting the contradiction between an individual being a member of an illegal religious order and yet still be considered good enough to provide religious comfort to the troops, all in the name of Her Majesty!

The passage to Cape Town would take some two to three weeks, but after disembarking, we find that before he went up the 'sharp end', he was hospitalised for, referring to the Times again, it was reported that he was discharged from hospital during the week ending the 20th May, 1900. However, lest it be thought that this was a recurrence of his 'hypochondria', he soon was with the men that he would minister to. For this information, we can be guided by Queen's South Africa Medal (QSAM) records which note the five clasps that were awarded for his service:

- A clasp inscribed 'Johannesburg' granted to all troops who, on the 29th May, 1900, were north of an east and west line through Klip River Station (exclusive), and east of a north and south line through Krugersdorp Station (inclusive).

- A clasp inscribed 'Diamond Hill' granted to all troops who, on the 11th or 12th June, 1900, were east of a north and south line drawn through Silverton Siding and north of an east and west line through Vlakfontein.

- A clasp inscribed 'Belfast' granted to all troops who, on the 26th or 27th August, 1900, were east of a north and south line drawn through Wonderfontein (the garrison and troops quartered at Wonderfontein on those dates will not receive this clasp) and West of a north and south line through Dalmanutha Station, and north of an east and west line through Carolina.

- A clasp inscribed 'Cape Colony' granted to all troops in Cape Colony at any time between the 11th October, 1899, and a date to be later fixed, who received no clasp for an action already specified in the Cape Colony nor Natal clasps.

- A clasp inscribed 'Orange Free State' granted to all troops in Orange River Colony at any time between the 28th February, 1900, and a date to be later fixed,

who received no clasp which has been already specified for an action in the Orange River Colony.

These dates also seem to indicate that he arrived too late for noted successes such as the Relief of Kimberley and at Paardeburg where Kronje surrendered.

The last two of those clasps seem to be for more general duties rather than specific actions but the others do indicate that Father Simon was moving around with the Army. As to his service in South Africa, more research is required, but it is likely that he was with the 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons, an Irish regiment. One, soon to be famous, member of that regiment was its temporary CO for a time, Edmund Allenby, a Major who would later rise to Colonel during the campaign against the Boers, and who would take charge of a Column that would carry his name. Another officer, no less famed, serving with the 'Skins' during that period, was Captain Lawrence Oates, the 'Very Gallant Gentleman' of Scott's unsuccessful 1912 Antarctic Expedition.

Father Simon's medal record shows that he had joined the Staff of Allenby's Column however it is unlikely that this did not happen until 1901, for it appears that the Column was not formed until the beginning of that year. But, according to the Times and the London Standard, along with Guernsey VC winner Sergeant George Nurse, he would be on board the *HS Avoca* leaving Cape Town on the 9th December, 1900 and arriving at Southampton on the 31st. Moreover, he was listed as being an Invalid. This appears to contradict his 1901 service, for, he is to be found on the embarkation lists once more, leaving Cape Town onboard the *SS Saxon* on the 9th September, 1901 and arriving in Southampton on the 27th. One can assume that either he actually did not return home on the *Avoca*, or more likely that, after a quick change of clothes, he very promptly headed back to South Africa. Returning to the College Obituary, there is support for the latter argument as it states that he 'signed up' for one year at a time, and was asked to return for another year. Unfortunately, outward-bound officer names were rarely mentioned early in 1901 at least, and at that time the papers were much preoccupied with the death of Queen Victoria which had occurred on the 22nd January.

The College Obituary also notes: 'The open air and the exercise, the weeks of trekking and 'roughing it' generally…', and although the College may not have appreciated the irony of the term 'roughing it', the time spent with Allenby's Column could have done Father Simon the power of good in terms of his health. The Columns, including those led by Haig, Smith-Dorrien and Plumer, were given the thankless task, by Kitchener, of 'hustling Boers' (Yes, that is the right way round!). Thomas Pakenham, in his superb book: 'The Boer War', highlights Allenby's disenchantment, and tells of the endless rainstorms at the end of March, 1901 that nearly marooned the Column near Swaziland, with floods breaking the telegraph lines, convoys towed by oxen that were unable to cross flooded rivers and men sleeping in the quagmires that resulted. Food, in the shape of mealies (or maize), had to be obtained from the Swazi tribesmen. Perhaps, during this period, Father Simon's presence proved to be a considerable help to all in terms of their morale, not least Allenby who as has already been noted, had very clear recollections of Father Simon nearly twenty years later, and who returned exhausted and ill from the trek.

One is curious as to how Father Simon travelled at this time. Did he ride and was he given a horse? Or was it simply a case of hitching a lift on the Quartermaster's wagons? Meanwhile, in addition to his QSAM, recognition of his service came in the shape of a

Mention in Despatches (London Gazette (LG) No. 27353 dated 10th September, 1901) and on the 13th November, 1902, he would be among the RC worshippers gathered at the Brompton Oratory to remember the fallen from the Anglo-Boer War.

The Years between the Wars: We almost lose sight of Father Simon following the service at Brompton, and before the outbreak of war in 1914, but according to the College Obituary, much of this time was spent in Spain. The suggestion is made that, after the period of 'roughing it', he found peacetime ministering far less exciting, an anti-climax even after trekking on the African veldt.

However, that may not be all, for his name is to be found on a memorial at St Joseph's RC Church in Chalfont St Peter, Bucks, and this would very probably have been as a result of being a member of the Carmelite community that had ministered in Chalfont St Giles, Chalfont St Peter, Chesham, Gerrard's Cross and Great Missenden from around 1909 onwards. But, the umbilical cord that had kept him connected to Kensington remained, for throughout this period and beyond, he was still included (thankfully for this research) on the London Electoral Register.

The Great War Cometh: Father Simon Knapp was 56½ years old when he became an Army padre once more. Although during the Boer War it appears that he was simply classed as a 'Civilian Chaplain', there was now a degree of military formality, for, on the 13th October, 1914 (according to LG No. 28945 dated the 20th October, 1914), he was appointed as a Temporary Chaplain to the Forces, 4th Class. This meant that, in status terms at least, he was equivalent to the Army's rank of Captain. The Army Chaplains' Department (AChD) was only 117 in number at the outbreak, and with the projected increase in the size of the Army, more chaplains like Father Simon were needed, but to do what?

Like the pre-war British Army, the AChD was deployed far and wide. Many of its padres were, like the Army's officers, from a similar social and educational background, and had little daily knowledge of the lives of other ranks, largely drawn from the working class. The comfort zone for the Army's padres was centred on the Officers' Mess. Moreover, there was little, if any, organisational structure within the AChD, and there were no job descriptions for the padres to describe their wartime role! There has been a suggestion that Church of England (CE) padres were told not to go forward whereas those padres who were either RC or from Other Denominations (OD), such as those from the Presbyterian, Wesleyan or Jewish faiths, were permitted, and certainly there was criticism of the CE padres from those in the trenches, officers and other ranks alike. But, Kitchener was considered anti-clerical, and could only see the role of a padre as dishing out tea and sticky buns well behind the lines and dealing with welfare matters. It was into this environment that these newly enlisted padres found themselves, and it was very much a case of sink or swim. Yet there were a few, and Father Simon Knapp was clearly one of those, whose previous experience of 'roughing it' would stand them in good stead, and more importantly, saw that their work was best carried out in the front line regardless of what Kitchener may have thought.

Initially spread thinly on the ground, on the basis of one CoE padre per Brigade, one RC padre per Division, and one Presbyterian padre per Division provided that the Division included a Scottish unit, giving a Divisional total of 4/5, the number assigned to a Division would eventually rise to 17, and four years into the war the number of padres would reach 3,416. And, before this stage was reached, there had also been support in

the shape of Douglas Haig who was very pro-clerical and saw the role of padres being vital to maintaining the men's morale and spiritual well-being. Haig was not adverse, either, to having padres who had not made the grade to be shipped home. Some 5,000 padres were appointed during the war on the basis of 12 month contracts (a similar arrangement to doctors with the RAMC), while in the early stages of the war they were issued with horses, although some opted for bicycles or acquired motor cycles. But, by the end of 1916, bicycles became the standard issue.

However, this is not the place to look further into detail regarding the Army's padres and we must return to Father Simon Knapp. But first, just a few more figures, not least the casualty list, based upon the CWGC data, which shows that 175 padres were killed or died during the war. Meanwhile, 3 VCs (Addison, Hardy and Mellish) would be awarded, while there were also 37 DSOs and 205 MCs or Bars to the MC. Undoubtedly there were also numerous MiDs and foreign awards, but the detail on these is not available.

With the BEF: There is a widespread view that Father Simon Knapp, having been appointed as a Chaplain on the 13th October, 1914, spent the whole of his Great War service attached to the 2nd Battalion, the Irish Guards (2/IG). This is not so, for his MIC notes that he was awarded the 1914 Star, indicating that he was 'somewhere in France (or Belgium)' on or before the 22nd November, 1914, while the 2/IG was only formed on the 18th July, 1915 at Warley in Essex, from reservists who had mustered with what was the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion. At this stage the residue of the latter Battalion would become the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, remaining at Warley 'for the duration'. The 1st Battalion, the Irish Guards (1/IG) meanwhile, had been in France since the 13th August, 1914.

As to the subsequent events following Father Simon's appointment, we can now turn to an up and coming author of the time, one Rudyard Kipling, to assist us! As is well known, Kipling lost his son John, who was serving with 2/IG, during the Battle of Loos. Kipling would subsequently write the somewhat turgid two volume *'The Irish Guards in the Great War'* based upon diaries and anecdotal evidence, where Volume 2 specifically dealt with the exploits of 2/IG, while Volume 1 obviously covered 1/IG. Father Simon was mentioned in both.

We first find Father Simon joining 1/IG as its padre on 24th May, 1915 at Lapugnoy, albeit on a temporary basis to take charge of spiritual affairs. The incumbent padre, the Reverend Father John Gwynne, a Jesuit, was suffering from lumbago that had been caused by exposure, and he was being sent to Paris for electric treatment. To cover Father Gwynne's absence until the 17th July as it transpired, Father Simon was sent over from 25th Brigade, which was part of the 8th Division that had been formed back in October, 1914, largely by regular battalions returning from the various outposts of the British Empire. This Division landed at Le Havre during the first week of November, and it is reasonable to think that Father Simon was with them at this time. Moreover, it is also very likely that his spiritual services would have been called upon during the Battles of Neuve Chapelle, Aubers Ridge and Festubert in the months preceding, especially as the Brigade included the 1st Battalion, the Royal Irish Rifles.

Meanwhile, 2/IG would land at Le Havre on the 17th August, 1915, earmarked to become part of the 2nd Guards Brigade in the newly created Guards Division. Just under a fortnight later, on the 30th, both Battalions would be bivouacked at a village called St Pierre (Kipling offers no clue where this is but it is possibly in the mining area south

west of Bethune), and Father Simon Knapp, already a familiar face to many of the members of 1/IG, now joined the 2/IG. For the Guards Division, there now ensued a period of formation training in preparation for the forthcoming Battle of Loos, although there was still time for young officers to attend a course in equitation and for 2/IG to spend a day at ceremonial drill!

Although the Battle started on the 24th September, 1915, 2/IG did not reach the front until the 26th, and then engaged with the Germans in the early hours of the following morning, remaining in action until the 30th September. During this time, 2/IG had 324 casualties, but Kipling's account does not say anything of Father Simon's activities. It was during this period that John Kipling was reported as missing, and subsequently the Price of Wales discussed young Kipling's fate with Father Simon, writing about this to a friend of John Kipling's on the 15th October. We may presume that during this period that Father Simon was busy helping the men who were injured and giving the last sacrament to those who were near to death. Perhaps it was for this and other work over the next few months while 2/IG remained in the Loos sector that Father Simon was awarded the MC (LG No. 29438 dated 11th January, 1916). However, he is mentioned in Volume 1 during this period, for on the 11th October, 1/IG's padre, Father John Gwynne would receive wounds from which he died at Bethune the following day. Of Father Simon, Kipling writes:

'But the Battalion lay at Verquin, cleaning up after its ten days' filth, and there was Mass on the morning of the 14th, when Father S Knapp came over from the 2nd Battalion and 'spoke to the men on the subject of Father Gwynne's death', for now that the two Battalions were next door neighbours, Father Knapp served both. No written record remains of the priest's speech, but those who survive that heard it say it moved all men's hearts.'

(**Note:** As an aside, Father Gwynne's eventual replacement as padre with 1/IG was the Reverend Father Frank M Browne, an Irish Jesuit priest, who would go on to be awarded the MC and Bar as well as both the French and Belgian Croix de Guerre. Father Browne is widely known today for having taken many of the final photographs of the RMS Titanic, having sailed on that fated ship from Southampton to Queenstown where he was ordered to disembark by his superiors.)

Between October, 1915 and February, 1916, 2/IG would be in and out of the line, but from the 18th to the 22nd February, they would march from La Gorgue, via Neuf, Vieux Berquin, St Sylvestre and Wormhoudt, to take up residence in a leaky, hutted camp, recently vacated by 1/IG, at Poperinghe. However, their stay, sadly punctuated by accidents during bombing-practice, was brief, for on the 6th March, 1916 2/IG entrained for Calais and a tented camp on the Dunkirk road.

Calais offered time for sport, and, not long after arriving, and undoubtedly in an attempt to emulate the Cheltenham Gold Cup meeting, 2/IG organised the 'Great Calais First Spring Meeting' on the sands, hoping that the tide would not wash away the steeplechase course. Again Kipling writes:

'Every soul in the [2nd Guards] Brigade who owned a horse, and several who had procured one, turned out and rode, including Father Knapp, aged fifty-eight.'

That comment clearly answers the earlier question as to Father Simon's equestrian skills a few pages earlier, but whether he attracted good odds is another matter, for small fortunes in francs were there to be made with a large Irish contingent ready to wager their pay away! Whatever the outcome, he was sufficiently fit to cross the Channel once more to receive the MC from HM King George V at Buckingham Palace on the 12th April, 1916.

After their brief sojourn at Calais, 2/IG would then find themselves in and out of the line at Ypres from late March, 1916 until late July, 1916 before heading off to the Somme, arriving to a shrapnel welcome courtesy of the Germans. During August they would become only too familiar with places such as Mailly-Maillet and Auchonvillers, before taking over newly dug trenches to the east of Ginchy, a village (or the remnants thereof) now very well known to Channel Islanders. From there, on the 15th September they would advance as part of 2nd Guards Brigade to take Lesboeufs. Reading Kipling's book, it is clear that this advance was soon disjointed with men becoming separated from their Battalions and trench fighting in small mixed unit squads. Casualties were also coming thick and fast, and when 2/IG was withdrawn at midnight of the following day to muster at the Citadel, they totalled 166 from the attacking force. A week later they could 'field' four companies of 100 men thanks to the arrival of a new draft of men. Undoubtedly, Father Simon would have been in much demand, and one suspects that he was alongside the troops as they advanced, ready to help the wounded or to comfort the dying.

The latter quarter of 1916 and the first quarter of 1917 were given over to the routine of trench life on the Somme. It was during a particularly cold spell in this period that Father Simon nearly blew up the Officer's Mess! Having been told not to stoke up a fractious stove, he thereupon topped it up with what he thought was coal from a nearby sandbag. Too late, the stove exploded, sending shards of glass in all directions but without, fortunately, causing casualties to anything other than to the Nissen hut roof and walls. It transpired that the 'coal' was in fact bottles of Perrier water placed close to the fire to avoid becoming frozen! It was also around this period that he was promoted to Temporary Chaplain to the Forces, 3rd Class (equivalent to an Army Major) on the 6th January, 1917 (according to LG No. 29956 dated 20th February, 1917) without increase of pay and allowances. Lest anybody question the lack of an increase, it appears to have been a standard approach for certain branches of the Army such as the AChD, and not in anyway the means of recouping the cost of repairs to a Nissen hut!

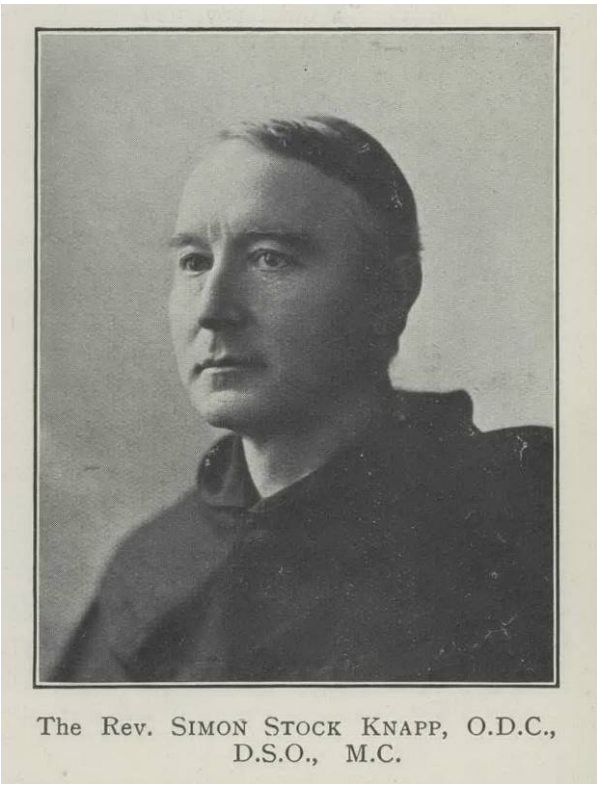
The German retreat to the Hindenburg Line and Arras followed, and then at the end of May, 1917, 2/IG headed off to the Ypres Salient once more to camps at Cardoen Farm and International Corner a few miles behind a 'quiet' sector of the line, to discover, in due course, that they were to prepare for the Third Battle of Ypres, even though the geography of the Messines Ridge was still to be altered when they arrived. The move coincided with the news that he had now been awarded the DSO to accompany his MC (LG No. 30111 dated the 1st June, 1917).

During the weeks that followed for 2/IG, time was spent in the trenches, interspersed with the dreaded fatigues and the fatiguing spells of training. It does seem that the preparations were comprehensive, and included ways of dealing with the pillboxes. During a particularly heavy British barrage in late July, the Guards Division had managed to get a foothold on the eastern side of the Yser Canal, and 2/IG would find itself holding the captured German trenches. For Father Simon, one may suspect that

his work during this time was ‘routine’, conducting masses, burial services, writing letters to bereaved families, and providing spiritual comfort to the men of his ‘parish’.

Kipling notes that HM King George V visited the Guards and watched a training exercise for a Brigade attack on the 6th July, 1917. He would have very likely spoken to both the officers and the men, and one wonders whether he was also able to present the DSO to Father Simon during the course of his visit. There is a well noted example, and on film, of such an event a year later when the Reverend Hardy received his VC ‘in the field’ from the King at one of the Army HQ in France.

Third Ypres would commence in darkness at 03.50 hours on the 31st July, 1917, with infantry from the British Divisions moving forward on a six mile front. The Guards Division was on the left flank, with the French also advancing on the Guards’ left and the 38th (Welsh) Division on their right. These two British Divisions, forming XIV Corps, proved to have made the best progress throughout that first day, crossing the Pilckem Ridge to a depth of some 3,000 yards. By the standards of the Somme, the Corps’ casualties were considered moderate at 5,000 of which some 750 were killed, including a number in 2/IG which were in the follow-up line of troops. Father Simon was among those casualties, and Kipling tells us that:



The Rev. SIMON STOCK KNAPP, O.D.C., D.S.O., M.C.

(Courtesy St Edmund’s College)

‘At three o’clock Father Knapp appeared at Battalion Headquarters – that most insanitary place – and proposed to stay there. It was pointed out to him that the shelling was heavy, accommodation, as he could see, limited and he had better go to the safer Advanced Dressing Station [at Canada Farm?] outside Boesinghe and deal with the spiritual needs of his wounded as they were sent in. The request had to be changed to a reasonably direct order ere he managed to catch it; for, where his office was concerned, the good Father lacked something of that obedience he preached. And a few hours after he had gone to what, with any other man, would have been reasonable security, news arrived that he had been mortally wounded while tending cases “as they came out” of the Dressing Station. He must have noticed that the accommodation there was cramped too, and have exposed himself to make shelter for others.’

One must assume that Father Simon, very seriously injured having been hit by shrapnel was taken back the perilous six or seven miles to Dozinghem where the medical staff at the CCS could not save him, and where he died the following day. It appears that the loss of Father Simon, and also of 2/IG’s CO, Acting Lieutenant Colonel Eric B Greer, MC, saddened the Irishmen who had taken more than 280 casualties over the previous three days. Kipling writes of the mood:

'But a clean-cut all-out affair, such as Boesinghe, was different, though it had been sadden by the loss of an unselfish priest who feared nothing created, and a Commanding Officer as unselfish and as fearless as he. The elder and the younger man had both given all they had to the Battalion, and their indomitable souls stayed with it, when next day [the 1st August, 1917]…'

The Battalion was told that it was returning to the line the following day, having been withdrawn at about 23.00 hours on the 31st for a short respite. Thus, on the 2nd August, 1917 it took over the left hand flank of the British frontline that abutted their French neighbours, before coming out again on the 4th, and being moved to Portchester Camp near Proven, where they arrived in time for breakfast, a change of socks and rum on the 5th August. At this point we leave 2/IG 'retiring to bed', and in the words of an unnamed soldier:

'We was dead done, but ye'll understand, 'twas nothing more than that. Our hearts was light – except for Father Knapp an' Greer; but if they had not been taken that day 'twould have been later. That sort of men, they are not made to live. They do an' they die.

Post Mortem: Father Simon's funeral would have, most likely, taken place on the day that he died. If so, it may have been that a small party from 2/IG were in attendance to bid farewell to their beloved padre.

However, in looking for any tangible material that included references to the death of Father Simon Knapp, there were several items discovered, in addition to the Times' 'Fallen Officers' obituary of the 17th August, 1917 that has been quoted earlier. The first of these appeared two days earlier, also in the Times, and read as follows:

'Memorial Services: The Rev. Father Knapp: *About 200 officers and men of the Irish Guards attended a solemn Requiem at Warley Catholic Church yesterday morning for the repose of the soul of the Rev. Father Knapp, DSO, MC. Father Knapp had acted as the Chaplain to the 2nd Battalion, Irish Guards since the beginning of the war, and recently died of wounds received while attending the wounded.'*

The passage, quoted earlier, from a letter written by General Allenby to his wife can be found in *'Allenby in Palestine*, *the Middle East correspondence of Field Marshal Viscount Allenby',* selected and edited by Matthew Hughes, Army Records Society/Sutton Publishing, 2004 and, from that collection, another letter written by Allenby to his wife on the 26th August, 1917, and following the death of the Allenbys' only son, Horace Michael, on the 29th July, 1917, is quoted below:

'*I don't think that Michael could have been more happily placed, than in 'T' Battery; and I like your idea of applying his money for the Battery's benefit. You and I will always feel a connection with it.* ***What a wonderful and beautiful thought yours is; that Father Knapp is with our boy, and helping him to enter bravely on his new life.*** *Oh, my brave Darling, you are the mother of a hero. Your son could have been no other. The letter he wrote to you, on the 28th of July, is a mirror in which his whole character is shown.'*

It is clear that, as previously mentioned, Father Simon Knapp had left a considerable and positive impression on both the General and Lady Allenby, from their days together,

back in South Africa. The next item that was discovered was found in Philadelphia's 'Evening Public Ledger' dated the 15th September, 1917. In an article which was titled 'The Last Call' and featured under the heading 'The World's War Through Woman's Eyes', written by a lady called Ellen Adair in what can kindly be politely described as a romanticised account of Father Simon's fate, we read the following:

'He was the best-loved padre on the western front – a fearless man who scorned bullets, and whose life was given over to ministering the fallen. When the men went out into No-Man's Land on that deadly business known as the 'advance', he went too. No one could hold him back.

'Mother o' God, 'tis he that leads the charmed life!' said the regiment of Irish Guards among whom he worked. And indeed his was a charmed life. Hail of shrapnel, patter of machine gun bullets, thunder of howitzers and heavies – none of these mattered in the least to him. He escaped death by a miracle – a hundred times. All over the world, on many a field of battle, for many long years he had been known and honoured. And it was on the battlefield that he fell at last, mortally wounded. He was bending over the body of an Irish Guardsman, bandaging his wounds and cheering him. A thud, a sudden choking sound in the throat, and 'That's my call' breathed Father Simon Knapp as he fell forward. He died within a few minutes.

'Sure we'll never have another padre his equal', said an Irish Guardsman, who told me of the impressive funeral at the front when Lord de Vesci, Adjutant of the regiment, laid the decoration of the Distinguished Service Order on his coffin.

It was in London, in Kensington, that I attended the solemn Requiem sung for this great-souled padre. A party of Irish Guards was present and formed a guard of honour, with arms reversed. And the wives and mothers and sisters of soldiers he had helped were there, weeping the loss of a very brave and noble man. The church was crowded. 'But 'twas the service on the battlefield that was more wonderful than this', I heard a soldier whisper, 'and 'twas on the battlefield the padre was wishin' his last call would come. 'For, boys', he would say, 'I'd like to die alongside ye, fightin' to the end.''

Reading through the article, one harbours a sense that *la belle Ellen* was unprepared to let facts get in the way of a good story! However, in fairness, there were some elements of truth in her article.

Finally, and what is the most curious of all, each year between 1919 and 1947 on the anniversary of his death, there was an 'In Memoriam' entry in the Times to him, placed there by a lady called Hermione! These entries stopped in 1948, and one presumes that the lady in question had died at sometime during the year that preceded the 31st anniversary of his death.

Commemoration: As has been mentioned above, Father Simon Knapp's name appears on a memorial at St Joseph's RC Church in Chalfont St Peter, Bucks. He is also commemorated on the war memorial in the chapel at St Edmund's Catholic College, Ware, Herts, as well as at the Carmelite Priory in Kensington. His name, along with those of the other 174 padres who gave their lives during the Great War, was recorded on the Royal Army Chaplain Department's memorial in the Garrison Church in Aldershot pictured on the following page.

The RAChD Memorial in the Garrison Church in Aldershot

According to the Reverend Youngson's *'Greater Love'*, after the Great War the Irish Guards commissioned a memorial window dedicated to Father Simon at the Carmelite Church in Kensington. Very sadly, it was destroyed by the German flying bomb mentioned earlier. Curiously, as best as can be determined, the only commemoration by Jersey is in the 1919 Roll of Honour, and unlike the majority of the original entries, there is no reference to a parish, and his name does not appear on any memorial, yet it probably should. But for which parish?

There is also another interesting aspect regarding Father Simon's entry in Jersey's 1919 Roll of Honour, how did anybody in the Island get to know that his name should have been included? Can we be 100% certain that he never returned to the Island after 1873 or that there were no relatives there? He had changed his name from Frank to Francis and then to Simon, and there was a forty-four year gap between him entering St Edmund's and dying in Flanders. But, possibly any sense that this was a mystery might be misplaced. As we know, St Edmund's made light of 'his wanderings' and it would not have been unusual for him to have wandered over to Jersey and to visit his former home(s) at some stage. After all, his parents were buried in the Island. Similarly, it would have been no less difficult to have kept in touch with any of the friends from his youth. So, perhaps it was a case of letter writing to old chums coupled with the occasional visits whenever his duties as a priest allowed?

In Conclusion: It has been a considerable surprise, having set out back in mid-February trying to learn more of Father Simon Stock Knapp's life than could be conveyed in a single line in the Jersey Roll of Honour, and then to discover that there was so much in print concerning him. There are, of course, the usual sources such as his MIC and the London Gazettes to start from, as well as websites such as Ancestry

and the Great War Forum. Yet, there is still the National Archive at Kew to visit, to read his War Office file (WO 339/23030) as well as the Irish Guards' War Diaries. So, this account cannot be in anyway considered conclusive, and has to remain a blend of information, some of it unsubstantiated, or well-educated (?) guess work, and of course, it has been suitably convoluted!

Father Simon was undoubtedly a very highly regarded Chaplain, well loved even, when we read and analyse the words of Ellen Adair, Edmund Allenby and Rudyard Kipling while his immense courage and humanity were reflected in the awards of the MC and the DSO. And, it is fascinating to discover that he was rubbing shoulders with names that are historically familiar to us today, not only Allenby and Oates who have been mentioned, but royalty and others such as Harold Alexander, the future World War Two Field Marshal. But, he was very much a friend and spiritual companion to the other ranks in the Irish regiments to whom he was attached to, and above all, this was the most important aspect of his life.

Acknowledgements:

The Reverend Father John Hughes, OCD, Carmelite Priory, Kensington, W8
Mr Mark Leslie, Development Director, St Edmund's College, Ware
The Superintendent-Registrar's Office, Jersey
The Parish of St Lawrence, Jersey
The Jersey Archive

References:

www.cwgc.org
www.ancestry.co.uk
www.stedmundscollege.org

Reverend David T Youngson — *'Greater Love: A Directory of Chaplains of the British Army, Australian, Canadian, East African, New Zealand and South African Forces and Ministers of Religion who gave their lives in the period 1914-1922'*

Diane Moore — *'Deo Gratias, A History of the French Catholic Church in Jersey: 1790-2007'*

Matthew Hughes, Army Records Society/ Sutton Publishing — *'Allenby in Palestine, the Middle East correspondence of Field Marshal Viscount Allenby'*

Rudyard Kipling — *'The Irish Guards in the Great War – Volume 1, The First Battalion'*

Rudyard Kipling — *'The Irish Guards in the Great War – Volume 2, The Second Battalion'*

Tonie and Valmai Holt — *'My Boy Jack? The Search for Kipling's Only Son'*

The British Library's 19th Century Newspapers
The Times Digital Archive 1785-1985
The London Gazette, Numbers 27353, 28945, 29438, 29956, 30111
The Jersey Independent Almanac, 1860-1870
The Gosset Almanac, 1860-1870
The British Press Almanac, 1860-1870

CWGC Non-Commemorations

Work on seeking further commemorations has remained rather quiet since the previous Journal, largely because of priorities within a busy workload. However, We have now had Henri Le Morzédec accepted, thanks to Tony Coleman's input while the names of Jack Marquis and Charles Lander were found and worked solely by the 'In from the Cold' Project Team. The CWGC Site Survey team is currently visiting the Islands to assess the graves of those who have been accepted, and, in due course, will surely be making arrangements for new headstones where required.

Accepted
Norcott, Gerald *
Dustan, John
Cudlipp, Herbert
Blanchet, Jean
Warne, Alfred
Bailey, Alwyn C
Leopold, Archibald
Cheney, Walter A
Poingdestre, Alfred
Jouanne, Auguste F
Syvret, Edward H
Lihou, Joseph T
Le Breton, Wilfred J
Whittle, Thomas J D'A
Orange, Walter
Ellis, John
Asser, Verney – Non-CI

Accepted
Burton, Garnet C
Helman, John W
Le Noury, Walter
Logan, Lionel H
Ounan, Thomas P
Turner, William A
Mutton, Harold C *
Le Morzédec, Henri
Marquis, Jack H*
Lander, Charles HR *

With the CWGC
Rundle, Cubitt S
De Gruchy, Alfred

Pending
Pirouet, Charles A
Owen, Guy

TBA
Anderson, Frank B
Touzel, Walter H

Rejected
Adams, Frank H
Vibert, John E

Not Submitted
Syborn, George T
Raymond De Caen
Mourant, Sydney A
Surguy, Sidney

* With assistance from the 'In from the Cold' Project Team

Jersey's Militia Pay Lists, 1914-1917

By chance last autumn, I happened to discover Militia Pay Lists for 1914 to 1917 being referred to on Jersey Archives' catalogue (References D/AP/R/2/1 to D/AP/R/2/75), and if my assumption was correct, the 74 documents (discount …-/29) listed could prove to be a cache of detailed information as to Militia membership during the Great war, from its mobilisation at in late July, 1914 until its suspended animation coinciding with the establishment of the RJGB in February, 1917. The names of individuals had been entered on the catalogue website, while I had also established with the Archives' Head, Linda Romeril that regimental numbers existed for each other rank. So, in March with prepared nominal rolls and a fistful of sharpened pencils, I planned to tackle those files to extract what information I could over the three morning periods that I could spend at the Archive while I was in Jersey. That was Plan 'A'. Before very long there, Plan 'B'

took effect, and after more than 1,550 photographic images later, I have a bucket-load of information to translate into a coherent picture, albeit of just 42 files! (Pessimism isn't my strong point while I now also have a bad back!)

But, the information is remarkably detailed, and it is well worth viewing. As one might expect with an army pay list/ledger, it lists each man by name, rank and number, and also the daily rate of pay, a Colour Sergeant drawing 3/6 per day for example while a Private only received 1/3. How much each man received in his pay packet was determined by the number of days that he was on duty, and as the ledgers were monthly based, a man's duties was marked on the actual days he performed those duties, in a fashion that would be familiar to today's Excel spreadsheet users. Clearly, 10 days duty at 1/3 for a private would mean that he received 12/6 at the end of the month, for which he would sign as having received it in the ledger (**Note:** As an aside, it was odd working in pounds, shillings and pence again!). So, the ledgers retained by the Archive are also an autograph book for our ancestors!

Interestingly, there were one or two recipients who could not write and so they placed an 'X' in the box, and this would be witness by another militia man. Married men were entitled to separation allowance, while there was specialist pay awarded for certain skills, in particular for telephone operators who received an extra -/6. Misdemeanours such as absence without leave were recorded, and if this meant the forfeiture of pay, it would then also be noted.

The entries are all hand-written, and are remarkably neat. So much so, that one can only wonder whether fountain pens were widely available as well as affordable at this time. The lists were maintained by the British Army's Colour Sergeants who formed the Militia's Permanent Staff, and who received an extra -/6 per day for every day. So, one can find the name and signature of CSgt William Beddowes, KORL Regiment frequently appearing, and more surprisingly, to me certainly, that of CSgt James Smith VC, East Kent Regiment! While it has been widely recognised that Jersey has had a number of connections with Victoria Cross winners, some of them very loose, I don't think that James Smith has been recognised as one of them. But, I digress!

Although Officers are listed as being on duty, there are no indications of their daily rates of pay, and these were contained at the 'regimental' level, kept away from the prying eyes of the privates! However, Officers had to sign off the monthly company accounts, and their progress with this task can be noted by the ticks against each entry, while adjustments to correct the occasional arithmetic error were also made. One presumes that these lists were presented to the States who, in their turn, may have submitted invoices to the War Office totalling £99,356-11s-2d!

But, by their recording of duties the files also give an indication of the involvement of the men on duty. From what can be gleaned, particularly from the 1st (West) Battalion's lists, was that the manpower demand to guard shorelines was more intense at the outset of the Great War before tailing off to a more stable level as the war progressed. Meanwhile, the 3rd (Town) Battalion were required to provide picquets at Fort Regent, and also guards for the Harbour.

Similarly, as the years progressed, it was also noted that men ceased serving with the Militia, heading off to join the British Army or the RN. It was particularly poignant to see

reference to two Jersey Contingent men, Reginald du Heaume and Jean Baptiste Blanchet who died at Ginchy so mentioned.

In conclusion, there is a lot of work ahead to extract the data which is intended to add to the Rolls of Honour and Service as appropriate, and this will last anything between three and six months. However, there is another aspect to the existence of those 74 files, and that it is probably their uniqueness. It may be that they are the only pay lists that still exist for the Great War period. So, as suggested earlier, they may well be worth examining for their exceptional historic value alone. And of course, willing photographers would be welcome to provide images of the other 32 files!

Renovating the Smith Street Memorial
By Liz Walton

Over the past couple of years Helen Glencross, the Curator of Historic Sites at the Guernsey Museum Service has been overseeing restoration and renovation work on the Bailiwick Memorial and this article is based on information supplied by her.

The project started in December, 2010 when a granite stone capping to the rear of the memorial was replaced by local stonemasons, Vaudins. The granite is local stone, carefully chosen to match the original. Working the stone made it look lighter originally but it will weather to the same colour as the rest. It is held in place by two metal dowels so once in situ there is no chance of it slipping or twisting on its base.

The next stage was tidying and cutting back the evergreen shrubs that were covering parts of the bronze panels, and replanting the areas around the memorials. This was undertaken by the parish of St Peter Port's Floral Committee in 2010/11 and is replanted seasonally. During March and April, 2011 two small areas of gravel at either end of the memorial were cleared, the areas were excavated and a concrete foundation was laid. A resin bonded gravel surface was then laid on top. A mixture of natural coloured gravels which contain some darker stones was chosen so that it blended with the blue/grey granite of the memorial. The use of resin bonded gravel has created a smooth, flat surface which is easier to maintain and keep free of litter and leaves. We know that these two areas were never paved like the rest of the memorial but it is unclear from original photos if the surface was gravel or earth. It is thought however that the gravel was recent, but this gives a safe and hardwearing surface which is in keeping with its surroundings.

In October, 2011, Hirst Conservation, a UK based company who specialise in the conservation and restoration of historic architecture and decorative schemes, sent a team of workers to the island to steam clean the granite parts of the memorial. They chemically cleaned the bronze plaques then waxed them to protect them from the elements. Delays in getting materials to the island meant that the statue of St George wasn't cleaned at the same time. So in March, 2012 the company came back to complete their task. The plaques were re-waxed as damp weather in October had spoilt the finish. Scaffolding was erected around the memorial to allow workers direct access to the statue which was scrubbed and cleaned to remove the accumulated grime of many years to reveal it in all its glory.

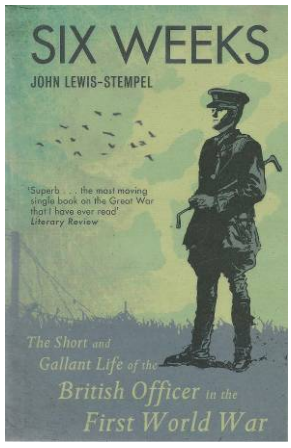
The next task was to do something about two names, Maindonald, EW and Baudains, RG which had been added to the memorial at a later date. The letters comprising their names had been glued to the surface of the plaque, whereas the original names had been cast as part of it, and over time some letters had fallen off. The lettering is very small and delicate so it wasn't possible to take castings, so Trevor Rogers–Davis from Guernsey Cans, a coppersmiths company, was approached for advice. He suggested laser cutting as being the most accurate and cost effective method. Rubbings were taken of the original letters to try to match them with an existing font. However they couldn't be matched, so the Museum Service's Paul le Tissier was called in and he adapted a standard font digitally to match the original one. A template of this was sent to a UK company who cut sample letters in steel first to check that they would in fact match. Once approved, the real letters were cut from bronze. Small pins were soldered to the back of each letter and then holes were drilled into the plaques so that the letters could be affixed permanently. This was very precise and time consuming work, and minor adjustments had to be made at the end but once they are waxed and weathered they should look as close to the originals as possible.

The final tasks were to remove the scaffolding, and it is hoped that eventually the seats around the memorial will be replaced, and the trees that overhang it will be cut back to allow more light and to reveal the memorial in all its glory. Further pictures were taken by Guernsey Museum Service staff whilst the scaffolding allowed direct access to the figure of St George and the dragon and show the details of the castings. A sample of these are on page 45.

Acknowledgements: Helen Glencross and the Guernsey Museum Service.

Book Reviews

Six Weeks
By John Lewis-Stempel
Orion Books (£9.99)



This book's title reflects the view that 'The Short and Gallant Life of the British Officer in the First World War' was reputedly a mere six weeks! It is not a book that I would have deliberately looked out for, but thanks to my mobile librarian, I am glad that I borrowed it. However, in starting to read it, I was unconvinced that I would 'last the course' thanks to the early chapters which at first seemed to dwell more on the poetry of war rather than on those young men who received the King's Commission.

We are reminded that, with the expansion at the outbreak of the war, officers were needed to lead the considerable numbers of other ranks in the newly created infantry battalions. To meet this demand, a ‘quick fix’ was required, and from where better than the public schools and universities? For, with so many young men who had received elementary military training in the Officer Training Corps, the Army had a head start when their skills were combined with the inherent sense of duty and discipline that those establishments inculcated. Most were well educated and of a ‘Classics’ bent, seemingly prepared to read Greek history and legend. It is also unsurprising to note that on average, the ex-public schoolboy was also far fitter than his states-educated opposite number, and this clearly derived from a healthier diet coupled with a strong sporting ethos at nearly all of the public schools. All of this combined to fast track young men in becoming Temporary Gentlemen!

The book takes a look at the various stages of the ‘typical’ subaltern’s career, from his recruitment until after resigning his commission thereby becoming a civilian once more. In particular it is interesting to note that most of these young men, barely 18 or 19 years old, effectively became the ‘mothers and fathers’ of the men in their platoons, regardless of the disparity in ages, given that many men would be in their 20s or 30s, and some who would be parents themselves. Given the class difference between officer and other rank, a bond of trust would develop, and most officers would be regarded by the men in their platoon with affection, a feeling that was reciprocated. In the trenches, a lot of the time would be spent on administration, such as the inspection of kit, weapons and bodies, particularly the feet, while the platoon commander also censored his men’s outgoing mail, a task that helped in understanding their inner concerns. In a few cases, this experience would help shape the post-war thinking of future politicians such as Harold Macmillan and Anthony Eden, both of whom served in the trenches.

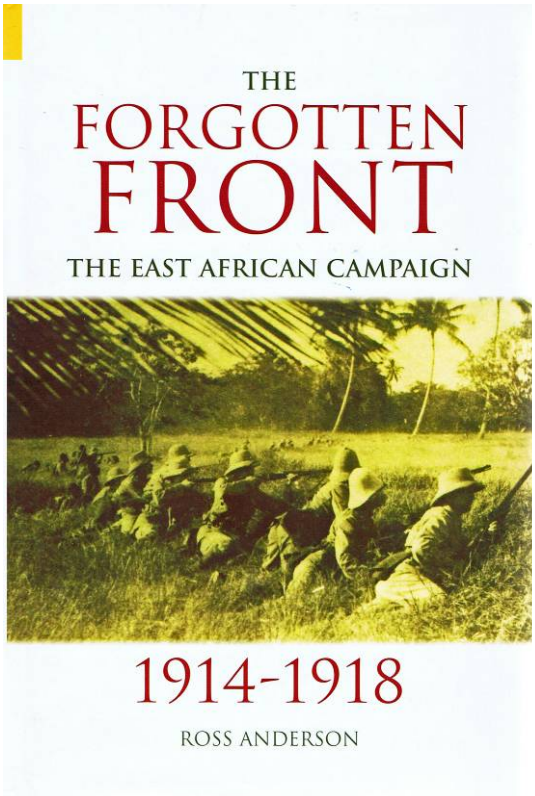
Until the manual *‘Instructions for the Training of Platoons for Offensive Action’* (SS143) was published in 1917, subalterns were ‘fair game’ for German snipers whenever the British attacked. They led from the front and were the obvious leaders, invariably armed with just a pistol, and arms waving as the urged the men forward. They paid the price, and the author cites figures for a sample of public schools, where of the numbers who served, the percentage of dead was 18-22% (Incidentally, Victoria College is around 20-21%). However, this is a simplistic measure which would need far more analysis. Once SS143 was applied, the attack formation was more fluid, and the subaltern less exposed, being located in the centre of the formation from where he could direct the men this way or that.

In due course, the laws of supply and demand were such that the number of available public schoolboys was declining, and more and more men were elevated from the other ranks to become officers. There was an element of social class harmonisation with this, albeit temporary. An analysis carried out following the war showed that of 144,075 officers demobilised, 1,016 had been miners before the war, and a further 638 had been fishermen! After the war, the army would resume its standard of social exclusivity.

And, with demobilisation, there came anti-climax and disillusion. For many subalterns, the war time command of a platoon, and very occasionally of a much larger formation such as a battalion if the rest of the officers had been killed or wounded, and the ribbon of an MC on the left breast was not an automatic ticket to gainful civilian employment. Employers could not offer young men, anything like the level of responsibilities that they had enjoyed in the Army. A few took the opportunity, where it presented itself, to

continue serving in a rapidly shrinking army, while others were able to resume their studies at university. But the war had thrown up an invisible barrier between the military and the civilians, and now, many officers could not find jobs, and increasingly found that they were unable to talk of their experiences. Perhaps when we nowadays think of 'Soldiers from the wars returning' being unwilling to talk, it was possibly that the civilian population were unable to listen?

In conclusion, this is a book which, allowing for the poetry and some flowery turns of phrase is worth reading. The author makes intelligent use of quotes of many of the more recognised officers such as Graves, Carrington, Sassoon, Blunden and Leighton, but there are also letters from the less well-known that are used. It does present a far broader picture of those 'Six Weeks' than this review ever can, and to reiterate that, despite early misgivings, it proved to be highly interesting and informative reading.



THE FORGOTTEN FRONT
The East African Campaign 1914 - 1918
By Ross Anderson
(Tempus Publishing Ltd - £25.00)
Review by Peter Tabb

THE GREAT WAR is dominated by the Western Front. Rightly so since that was where most of the carnage that has become our cumulative memory of that global conflict took place. There were, of course, other battlefields that turned the Great War into the First World War, both on land and sea and anyone who has followed my book reviews over the past years will know that I have sought out those titles which take the reader into these other areas.

Because of the domination of the Western Front, many of these other conflicts have simply been overlooked and perhaps none more so than the war in Africa.

In the introduction to his work, author Ross Anderson, a Lieutenant Colonel who spent 26 years in the British and Canadian Armies and who completed his PhD in history at Glasgow University, tells his readers that the First World War began in Africa in August, 1914 and did not conclude until the 13th November, 1918. In its scale and impact, it was the largest conflict yet to take place on African soil.

Four empires and their subject peoples were engaged in a conflict that ranged from modern Kenya in the north to Mozambique in the south. The campaign combined heroic human endeavour and terrible suffering, set in some of the most difficult terrain in the world. The troops involved, often native Askaris who were frequently treated little better than slaves and often as disposable cannon fodder, had to cope with extremes that ranged from arid deserts to tropical jungles to formidable mountains and almost always on inadequate rations. Yet the East African campaign has languished in undeserved obscurity over the years with even historians only vaguely aware of its course of events.

Indeed Humphrey Bogart and Katherine Hepburn in John Huston's '*The African Queen*' – inspired by an actual episode in the campaign – provide its only lasting image.

Ross Anderson sets out to put this matter right with what the publishers claim is the first full-scale history of this much neglected campaign. He details both the fighting and the strategic and political background to the war and the differing viewpoints of the protagonists.

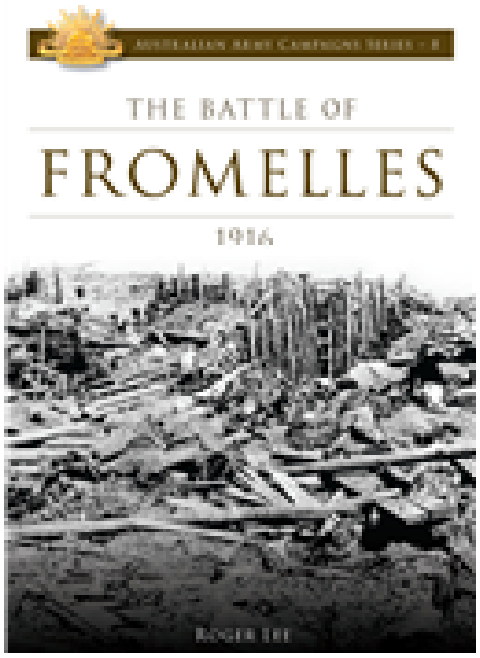
Ever since the days of Cecil Rhodes, Great Britain tended to regard Africa is being very much within its hegemony although great chunks of the continent actually 'belonged' to other European powers, principally Germany with German East Africa (modern day Tanzania) and German South West Africa (today Namibia), Portugal with Mozambique and Angola and Belgium with the Congo. To the south of these (mostly) was British Africa although British East Africa (today's Kenya) was actually to the north of its German counterpart. Further north still were great tracts of land claimed by both the |Italian and the French, although these territories (whose mineral wealth had yet to be discovered) tended to fall outside the area in which the fierce battles in this campaign were to be fought.

If one character dominates this book it is Major General Paul Emil von Lettow-Vorbeck. A soldier who had long served his country in many 'foreign parts', von Lettow-Vorbeck fought what today we would call a guerrilla war for all of those years, ducking and diving and defying the forces that the British Empire ranged against him. His tactics might best be described as 'tip and run', doing damage, particularly to the vulnerable railways, and vanishing into the jungle before being brought to action. No British general emerged who could cope with von Lettow-Vorbeck and it was left to Britain's erstwhile enemies, the former Boer generals Jan Smuts and Jakobus van Deventer, to utilise the same harrying tactics they had employed a decade and more earlier against the British to hound von Lettow-Vorbeck and his guerrilla forces although even they never quite managed to catch him.

Not all the action was confined to the land and the Royal Navy had its moment of glory when two monitors, *HMS Severn* and *HMS Mersey*, sailed up the Rufiji river to pound *SMS Konigsberg* into scrap. Like *SMS Emden* (which had a short but very successful career as a commerce raider), *Konigsberg*, a fast modern cruiser, had escaped the Battle of the Falklands but unlike *Emden, Konigsberg* became a threat to Allied shipping in the Indian Ocean by being holed up in the Rufiji. Like *Tirpitz* in World War Two she was a greater threat because of what she might do rather than that she actually did, and the Royal Navy eventually deployed significant forces from the Grand Fleet to bottle up the German cruiser in her lair and eventually destroy her.

Ross Anderson tells an intriguing story that is, at times, akin to a thriller and the reader can almost detect a hint of hero worship for the intelligent, devious and ultimately undefeated Paul Emil von Lettow-Vorbeck who was given a hero's welcome when he eventually returned to Germany, leading the gallant and tattered remnants of his forces through Berlin's Brandenburg Gate. If the East African campaign was of little strategic value in the overall scheme of things that was the Great War, it was nevertheless of overwhelming importance to those who lived and fought there. It brought large-scale devastation and suffering to an enormous region and ultimately led to the ejection of Germany from Africa. It deserves to be better remembered and Ross Anderson does this job very well.

The Battle of Fromelles
By Roger Lee
Australian Army History Unit
http://www.bigskypublishing.com.au/
A$19.99



It is rare, when one opens a book to read a totally objective account of a battle or the lives of Generals without an element of bias creeping in, either for the subject, or as frequently occurs, antagonistic. We can all suggest numerous examples, not least Alan Clark and his 'Lions led by Donkeys' opus. One particular area where such bias comes in is on the subject of Australians serving under British generals, and there is much testimony, if not evidence, to support the Diggers' dissatisfaction with their 'Pommie' leaders.

The list of examples is long! Haig above all, Gallipoli with Hamilton and Braithwaite, Poziéres and Rawlinson, Arras and Hubert Gough, and, of course, there is Fromelles. In all of these, authors, especially Australian ones have highlighted those Generals as starchy, or downright incompetent and uncaring. In fairness some, like Les Carlyon, also criticise their own and Australia's most senior commander by the end of the war, Sir John Monash, 'enjoyed' his share of criticism after Gallipoli.

Roger Lee's 'The Battle of Fromelles' is different in that the author's watchword has been objectivity. The reason for this is simple. The book, published by the Australian Army History Unit, is the eighth in a series of books that looks at Australian Army Campaigns from the Great War to Rwanda (so far anyway), and is intended to support the training of officers and NCOs through the examination of the prosecution of those campaigns. In this, the intention is to look at the decisions made, the strategy and thinking behind those decisions, and how the events unfolded. From this study, lessons can then be derived and, it is hoped, then applied in future military operations.

With this in mind, I had expected the book to be a rather dry account, with lists of military 'Dos and Don'ts' liberally sprinkled throughout. I was pleasantly surprised to receive a book from my Australian contact that was colourful and well illustrated, replete with maps, and light years away from the dry British Army pamphlets that showed one how to look after their rifle and the like. I mentioned maps, and as it will be recalled, I am keen on good ones being included. This book delights in that respect, with numerous maps starting with an overview of France and going down to each sector of German line and showing the progress (or not) of each Battalion. There are also a small number of German maps, obtained from the Bavarian State Archive by Peter Barton, showing for example the artillery dispositions, and the logistic and light railway layouts. If there is a cartographic criticism, then it is that the size of the book (10" x 7") forces the maps to be 'shrunk', and thus a magnifying glass and a Michelin map of the general area are essential aids.

The accepted view is that Fromelles was seen as an action that was intended to tie up German Divisions that might have been otherwise diverted to fight on the Somme. The

author argues in part that this is true, but also puts forward the view that whoever held the Aubers Ridge enjoyed the upper hand in seeing across the other's territory, and had the British held it, they would have been able to disrupt any strategic benefits that the Germans sought from the coal-mining area between Lille and Lens. Fromelles was thus vitally important to the Germans and this goes a long way in explaining the strong defences. And, this meant that they would not transfer their forces. Indeed, even though the discovered that the British held this as a strategy for the attack, Roger Lee suggests that the Germans remained!

The nature of the attack owes a lot to the lack of clarity in what it should have been. There was a view that it was a line straightening exercise, yet another view envisaged an artillery demonstration and little more, while a further one saw it as a feint. These were clearly considered as options, but by the time that the troops attacked, the commanders were not of one mind. The attack was also complicated by the command structure with one half of the area originally under Plumer's 2nd Army and the other under Monro's 1st, with the dividing line going through the Sugarloaf Salient! But, an attack in this area would be supported by the artillery of the adjacent corps.

As the Corps Commander responsible for the attack, General Haking has taken a lot of flak for the planning for Fromelles, but, there were aspects of it that he inherited. The criticism that he simply dusted off and used the previous year's unsuccessful plan for Aubers Ridge is a little unfair, for as a commander, he would have been obliged to have a number of alternative plans up his sleeve just in case his superiors called. But, perhaps his post-battle insensitivity earned him his reputation as a 'butcher' while the author reminds us that the Divisional Commanders below Haking, MacKenzie of the 61st British, and McCay, a Gallipoli veteran, for the 5th Australian, fared little better in being regarded as competent Generals.

Attacking, those troops who made it into the German lines and beyond soon found themselves in a confusing maze of trenches and ditches while the inter-locking machine gun fire caused casualties. Men who made it forward with supplies such as ammunition and RE stores were unable to return, and had to stay and fight. In due course the shortage of ammunition became critical while any ability to communicate regarding the situation evaporated. Of course, both the British and Australian troops were new to conditions on the Western Front, while the 'confusing maze' referred to above, had not been sufficiently assessed by those responsible for interpreting the aerial photographs, this very much due to a combination of its infancy as a discipline and individual skills.

Having discussed the 'staff' aspects, the author looks at the battle from the standpoint of the various units, while there is a section on the Pheasant Wood discovery and the events since. It is also interesting to see that the book has a number of what I can only describe as side-panels. These are best referred to as providing a separate description of what might be mentioned in the main body of the text. For example, mention might be made a 9.2" Howitzer. Thus, there is a 'side-panel' that provides the reader with more detail on that weapon. It does seem very 'Dorling-Kindersley', but it is an effective tool that helps someone with a limited knowledge to better understand the Great War.

In summary, it is well worth trying to get a copy of what is a very informative book, and if you are interested, I would suggest that the publishers are contacted via their website shown above. Among other Great War subjects listed by the publishers, there is of course Gallipoli, and also Palestine and Hamel in print or preparation.

War Horsing Around – A Correction

In the article 'War Horsing Around' contained in Journal 42, there was the suggestion that Springfield in St Helier was used as a Remounts Depot to receive and train horses for military duties. This was incorrect. Springfield was only used as a Supply Depot by the ASC. My apologies for the error.

Website Workings
By Roger Frisby

The continuing focus over the last few months has been the two Rolls of Service. In the case of Guernsey, just under 4,800 names are now listed, while longer established Roll for Jersey stands at just over 7,100. A further revision to the latter will be uploaded before the end of April.

By chance Jersey's revision also resulted in the identification of another Old Victorian who died in the Great War, Captain Hugh EF Travers at Suvla Bay in August, 1915. The College has been advised, and after they have validated it, will no doubt be adding the name to the War Memorial. The Roll of Honour has been amended to reflect.

Jersey Archive
'What's your Street Story' Talks

Jersey's Archive has now started to hold these talks on Saturdays commencing at 10.00 a.m. The remaining programme throughout 2012 is as follows:

- 21st April - Six Rues, St Lawrence
- 19th May - Five Oaks
- 16th June - St Peter's Village
- 21st July - FB Fields
- 18th August - Springfield
- 15th September - Gorey Common
- 20th October - St Brelade's Bay
- 17th November - Bath Street

If you are looking to attend, you will need to book by ringing 01534 833300.

For my part, I would have particularly liked to have attended the Six Rues talk as it is about my maternal grandparents' 'stamping ground'. In exchanges over the last few weeks with Stuart Nicolle who is delivering the talk, the discussion has centred on Vimy Cottage which I had thought had been renamed in memory of Sgt Ernest Amourette who had been killed at Vimy 95 years ago. Stuart confirmed that thought, but advised that the Amourette family had not acquired the property until 1924 when the name also changed.

However, curiosity was aroused in that the seller was Brigadier James Wilton O'Dowda who had bought it in 1919 while in India. O'Dowda had been in the Royal West Kent Regiment but had briefly taken over command of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers at Gallipoli, before becoming a Brigade Commander and being responsible for the evacuation from 'W' Beach in early 1916. He spent the rest of the War in Mesopotamia before heading off to India until 1923, and later he rose to Lieutenant-General and received a

knighthood. In carrying out research, neither Stuart nor I have been able to establish any link to Jersey, and it is difficult to see any logic in the purchase.

Chester Cecil Church

Disappointingly, as I have discovered while I am in the process of finalising this Journal, the deliberations of the Fromelles Identification Panel that met in late-March did not include Chester Church's name as one of the additional nine Australian soldiers who were identified. As a result I have asked for feedback as to whether he was considered. Having found two suitable donors in May/June of last year, I understand from my contact with family members that only one was asked to supply a DNA sample. This seems odd and not at all 'belt and braces'!

Separately on the subject of Fromelles, we've discovered that another Jersey-Australian fell during the battle, Sapper Richard Dunstan Ward. We had not recognised this until reading through a letter to his wife that was published in the JEP that described the battle. Unfortunately, the letter dated the battle as having taken place on the 17th July, 1916, and even his headstone stated the 16th. So, corrections all around are necessary.

Ronayne Writes

Writing: The manuscript for my book based upon Clarence Ahier's Great War journal is now with the publisher, Pen and Sword, while I have a copy for final proof-checking. They are a bit coy on the publication date, but I hope to have a definite date from them soon.

The manuscript for the second book that I am writing has also just gone to the publisher, this time to Seaflower Books who specialise in local Channel Islands publications. Jersey War Walks is a collection of twenty walks around the Island's remarkable layers of military history and fortifications. The intention was to launch it in June, but I am running a little late, so a new publication date is now very likely.

Teaching: Highlands College are offering my range of military history courses once again this term, with some new 'Battlefield Focus' one day courses covering some key historical battles including Waterloo, Gettysburg, the Somme and the Invasion of Normandy. I am hopeful that the three week Great War course will run, not having attracted enough students last time.

Walks: I am doing four military history themed walks for Jersey Tourism's Spring Walking Week, which runs from the 12th to 19th May, 2012 and then repeating it in the Autumn. I am also organising a day for a group of twenty-five Canadians coming to Jersey early in May (thanks to an introduction through none other than our Editor (???)), and later in July, another for Leger Tours.

Trips and Tours: At the end of April, it's the annual Ronayne Battlefield Trip, this time to Normandy for three nights. In mid-May, it is back to Normandy for a tour with the Jersey Branch of the Normandy Veterans' Association, my third year running. This will be followed up again in June with another Normandy trip, this time for Go Tours. This will be followed with another planned for Go Tours in September taking in the Channel Islands' Great War battlefields such as Guillemont, Ginchy and Les Rues Vertes.

Out and About

Looking Back: I was in Jersey in March, with visits to the Archive to see the Militia Pay Lists (see separate article) and the Library. It was a great pleasure to meet up with a number of members, including Vic Geary for the first time.

Looking Ahead: A few trips are in progress or are imminent:

Steve Bailey is heading to walk the battlefield at Loos with a few work colleagues on the weekend of the 27th to the 29th April.

Roger Frisby is off to Ypres from the 26th to the 30th April, on a photographic sortie to record the headstones of some 30 men that we have not yet visited.

Elizabeth Morey is over from New Zealand and is currently enjoying the bright lights in Paris. However, she is on the battlefields from the 21st to the 30th April, and will be commemorating ANZAC Day (on the 25th) at the Menin Gate and then a few days later on the 29th April, joining with Le Quesnoy folk to commemorate ANZAC Day yet again.

Ian Ronayne's trips are contained in the previous article.

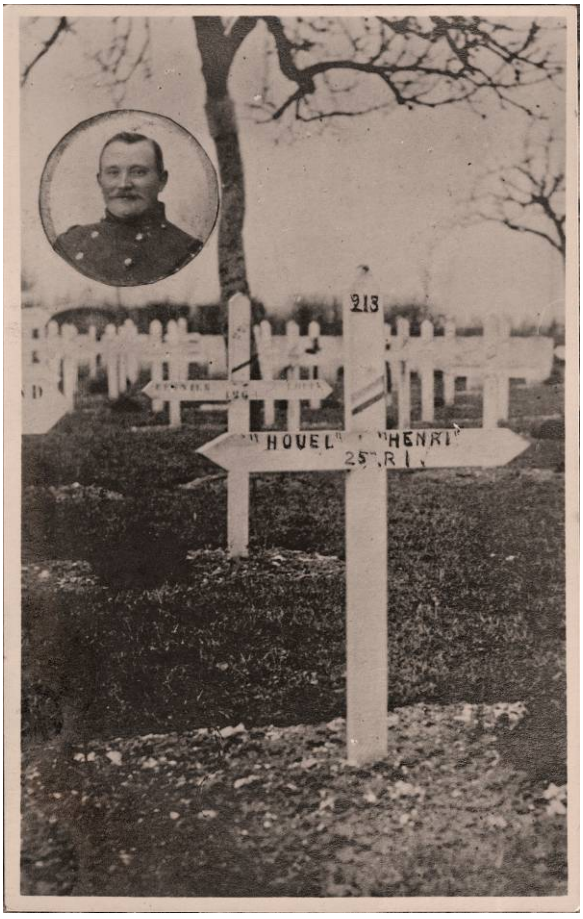
I am hoping to visit the Royal Engineers Museum at Chatham, the week commencing the 29th April, and before the next Journal is produced, a trip to Kew, hopefully.

Faces Remembered

'Faces Remembered' has not been featured much in Journals of late, but thanks go to new member, Andy Creber, who has provided the above photograph and the one on the page overleaf and below left.

Among the faces of the group, who are French and British soldiers taken Prisoners of War by the Germans, is Private John Baker, in the back row and second from the right as you look at the picture. He was serving in the RGLI, with the regimental number 1329, and according to Diex Aïx was captured on 1st December, 1917, presumably at Les Rues Vertes. He returned home almost a year later on the 29th November, 1918. These POW group photographs are fascinating for the uniform collection, and it appear that some, such as John Baker's uniform, are made of blue material.

The other photograph is of Eugene Carre and his wife Winifred. But, there is a problem as he came from Sark, and that there were two Eugene Carres with the RGLI, 861 and 1574, and again according to Diex Aïx, both had enlisted in Guernsey. So, it has so far proved impossible to identify which Eugene is which, although the smart money is on 1574 for Eugene from Sark. There is also a view that he was killed during the Great War, but again, nothing has been found to support this. Any input would be welcome.



The other picture, above right, is of Henri Marie Auguste Louis Houel inset, and a picture of his temporary grave at Habarcq, where he died of his wounds on the 8th August, 1915. It is the first French card that I've seen like this, but the IWGC (as it then was) would send photographs of temporary British graves to the bereaved families. As to the reason for his death, there no major French offensives taking place in the area between Ablain St Nazaire and Souchez where his Regiment was located at that time. But, according to the Regiment's War Diary it was taking casualties from intermittent shelling from the Germans, but of Henri Houel there was no mention.

A Philatelic Puzzle

Censored, but by Whom?

Continuing in a musical vein, Mark Bougourd has sent the above images of a postcard that he recently acquired. The young 'Master' who received it was living at 17 Mount Row in St Peter Port. Mark thinks that the surname was Luscombe but, because of the postmark and censor stamp, cannot be sure. It is dated 30th December, 1916, while I have had advice that the Army Post Office code S.11 is for Etaples. The censor stamp is coded 837, and somewhere there would have been a record of its issue to a unit. Can anyone identify the recipient and the censorious unit?

Odds and Ends

Administrative Matters: As ever, it would be of help if changes to Members' Email addresses are notified as they occur. This will enable me to keep the distribution lists up to date and for members to receive prompts on particular matters.

Enfin

As ever, many thanks to those who contributed to this Journal for their inputs, large and small. If you haven't managed to write up something this time, there is always the next Journal that is waiting for that article from you.

I apologise for the five day delay in getting this Journal out, but unfortunately some unforeseen changes to domestic arrangements disrupted the workflow.

Regards
Barrie H Bertram
20th April, 2012

Journal Issue Dates For 2012

Planned issue dates for 2012 are shown below:

Issue	Month	Articles To BB	Posted Web/Mail
42	February 2012	10th	15th
43	April 2012	10th	20th
44	June 2012	10th	15th
45	August 2012	10th	15th
46	October 2012	10th	15th
47	December 2012	10th	15th

As in previous years I will advise if there are any changes for individual issues as each publication date approaches.