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**Channel Islands
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Passchendaele Mud

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Hello All

It is unsurprising that this year, the centenary year of the Great War's outbreak, is drawing comment from all and sundry. There are those that feel we must not upset the Germans by being too triumphal, yet they make no mention of the Austrians, the Hungarians, the Turks and the others who aligned themselves with the Central Powers. Others want to see the many anniversaries as a cause for celebration, commemoration, remembrance, reflection or whatever word that the thesaurus can come up with, where the wrong choice of word can jar with many. Professor is ranged against professor over the righteousness of Great Britain's march to war and who was largely responsible for it starting. The 'Right' is arguing with the 'Left' over how the War's history should be presented at schools. And all the while the Archduke Franz Ferdinand has not yet been dead a hundred years!

To some extent, the UK's Education Secretary, Michael Gove, has a point when criticism is directed at those teachers who make use of 'Blackadder goes Forth' and 'Oh what a lovely War' as part of their syllabus to teach today's pupils about the Great War. Having recently watched DVDs of both, 'Blackadder' is amusing in a 'laddish' way, has funny lines such as 'moving Haig's drink cabinet a yard closer to Berlin', while it relies on a too simplistic characterisation of roles taken by the four main players. As to the film, it is great music, great cinema and great pathos. But neither the TV series nor the film are history, the British role in the Great War was just far too complex to be treated such, while it must be said in fairness, that the producers make no attempt to claim it as such. But if teachers are using 'Blackadder' as source material to communicate the Great War's history, does that not suggest a lack of suitable material to be referred to as one issue, and if so, do budgets need looking at for example? Or, are they just taking the easy way out?

Yet, schools in the UK are facing another problem with a syllabus that looks at the Great War, that of immigration and an associated increasing birth rate. More and more children are entering schools from an increasingly cosmopolitan population, many of whom from families where English is not their first language. Never mind the language issue, how can a child who is Somali, Rumanian or even Bulgarian say, relate to England's history, never mind that of the Great War from an anglo-centric perspective? One suspects that the topic of the Accrington Pals would mean little to them, nor will it to their descendants in years to come even when they have become fully assimilated. In any case, perhaps they should not relate to British history.

Of course, this does not excuse indifferent or poor teaching practices, a problem that is not unique in the teaching of history, and some will recall my account of overhearing a conversation between a teacher and a pupil at Thiepval, which reflected a lack of foresight and preparation before the visit in not getting pupils to say whether their families had lost men on the Somme. But, not all teachers specialise in history, and comparatively few of those focus on the Great War, indeed it is possibly its magnitude and complexity is a constraint in terms of studying the subject in a three to four year time frame.

With this in mind, it is interesting to read the summary of a recent survey commissioned by the British Council which identified that only 38% of Britons knew that Canada and the United States had taken part in the Great War, and even worse, only 35% knew of Australia and New Zealand's participation! In part this may reflect a total disinterest in the topic when there is so much else that can occupy an individual's life, but it must also highlight that the awareness of British history is lessening through society becoming ever more cosmopolitan. But, in parallel surveys it was interesting to note that in India, some

27% of those surveyed thought that Great Britain and India were on opposing sides. So, a lack of historic knowledge might not be a unique problem confined to British education.

Some may say that this is not a problem for the Channel Islands. But the reverse is true. For example, the Islands' education systems 'piggy back' on the British education system in terms of syllabi, examinations and opportunities for tertiary education, and they are obliged to apply British education's 'Highway Code'. But, conversely this 'Code' cannot address the Islands' distinct history, so, the Accrington Pals might be seen to be as alien to a Jersey child as it must be to a Rumanian one?

Schools cannot afford to keep a box of Great War teachers, ready to be launched within minutes at the syllabus, so it may be that 'gifted amateurs' could be invited to step into the breach. If they have not done so already, secondary-level Island schools might emulate what I have seen at Lancaster Girls' Grammar School by establishing history clubs, and bringing in those speakers? Liz Walton is currently involved in a cross-curricular project at Elizabeth College, while Ian Ronayne has spoken to La Rocquier and other schools in the past. Is there more that could be done?

Finally, to indulge in gratuitous name-dropping, I briefly met Peter Kerensky (you know who's grandson) about five years ago. He had definitely heard of the Occupation but nothing of Channel Islands' involvement in the Great War. Given that the Anzacs could only manage 35% in that survey, one might wonder as to whether the Islands would get into double figures? This is perhaps another area of education that should be looked at.

The Front Cover

Resisting the temptation to describe the photograph on this Journal's front cover as iconic, it is nevertheless, one of the more widely featured photographs of Canadian troops taken at Passchendaele in 1917, and frequently features on or inside books, not least Lyn Macdonald's 'They called it Passchendaele'. In fact, it was taken in late October of that year. While some of the men were dead a week or so after it was taken, the chap in the front with the Vickers gun survived the War.

He was 790913 Private Reginald Le Brun who belonged to the 4th Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps, and was the son of Peter and Clara Ann (née Chevalier) Le Brun, who were both from Jersey. The Le Bruns had gone to Australia in the 1870s where two of Reginald's siblings were born. Returning to Jersey, it appears they were there for a short time in the early 1890s before heading to Brixton, London where Reginald was born on the 27th October, 1894, and his brother Gerald three and a half years later. Their father died in 1899, and Clara would not be long in widow's weeds, remarrying within two years. Like his brother, Gerald took up the trade of machine gunner with the 29th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps. Both have been added to the forthcoming JRoS update.

Reginald's appearance on the cover reminds us that his service and pay records are available on the **Canadian Library and Archives** link from our website, one of some 13,500 records that can be currently accessed. But, in a **digitisation programme** that will run for about 16 months from March, 2014, they will look to process the remaining 640,000 service files in four batches of 160,000, with each batch being completed in four months, starting with names beginning A to D in the first batch. Given that the average file contains about 49 sheets, this is not a small undertaking. At present, it is presumed that the files will be accessible in the same manner as Reginald's today.

Their Name liveth for Evermore – But just who were they? By Dave Gumbrell

(Editor's Note: From time to time it is a pleasure to include articles from non-members of the Group, and particularly so from Dave Gumbrell, a chum of Ian Ronayne's who works in Jersey's financial industry. The article does pose the question as to what other memorials might have existed in commercial premises in the Channel Islands that are no longer readily visible or even where they were meant to be).

The world of banking and finance has changed beyond recognition in the last one hundred years but some reminders of days gone by give us pause for reflection as we live out our increasingly busy lives.

Every day customers entering the Library Place branch of NatWest in Jersey by the New Street entrance may find their gaze drawn to an array of 'St Helier in Bloom' plaques recording recent triumphs. Far fewer will focus on the wall opposite where resides a simple, stark and much more sombre memorial, commemorating three bank employees who long ago made the ultimate sacrifice whilst serving their country in the First World War.

- Newnham Liebman WINSTANLEY (Left Below)
- Harold Lawrence LE CAUDEY (Centre)
- Frederick John Noel CLARKE (Right)



They would have known each other well, although 'Billy' Le Caudey, as he was usually known, joined the staff after Frederick Clarke had left for France. All were Old Victorians employed in the Library Place branch of Parr's Bank, which in 1918 was to amalgamate with the London County and Westminster Bank to form London County Westminster and Parr's, later becoming the Westminster Bank and now familiar to all, simply as NatWest.

Second Lieutenant 'Freddie' Clarke was born in October, 1895, the only son of Frederick Charles Philip and Minnie Jane Clarke of Runnymede, Roseville Street, Jersey. A keen cricketer at College, he played rugby for Jersey and was: 'always much liked by everyone at school for his straightforward character and cheery disposition', according to the Victoria College Book of Remembrance. On leaving school, he had obtained a commission in the 3rd Battalion of the Jersey Militia, but resigned on the outbreak of War that he might go to Sandhurst. He did so well there that he passed out 'in the earliest batch' and was allowed to choose his regiment. Opting to join the 3rd Worcestershire Regiment, he was at the front by mid-June 1915.

Within two weeks he was dead - killed at Hooge, whilst leading his men from a trench which was being shelled. The staff magazine of Parr's Bank records that he: 'was always very popular and the sad news of his death cast a deep gloom over the office'. He was 19 years old and is buried at Sanctuary Wood Cemetery (Grave II.F.36), 5 kilometres east of Ypres in Belgium.

Sapper Harold Lawrence Le Caudey was the youngest son of the late Raymond B and Emily S Le Caudey of Babbacombe, Parade Road, Jersey. Born in December, 1898, he attended Victoria College for two years, leaving in 1915 to join Parr's Bank. He joined the army in March, 1917, arriving in France as a Motor Cycle Despatch Rider that same November. In March, 1918, whilst attached to the 1st Cavalry Brigade, he was severely wounded, a leg amputated and his jaw shattered.

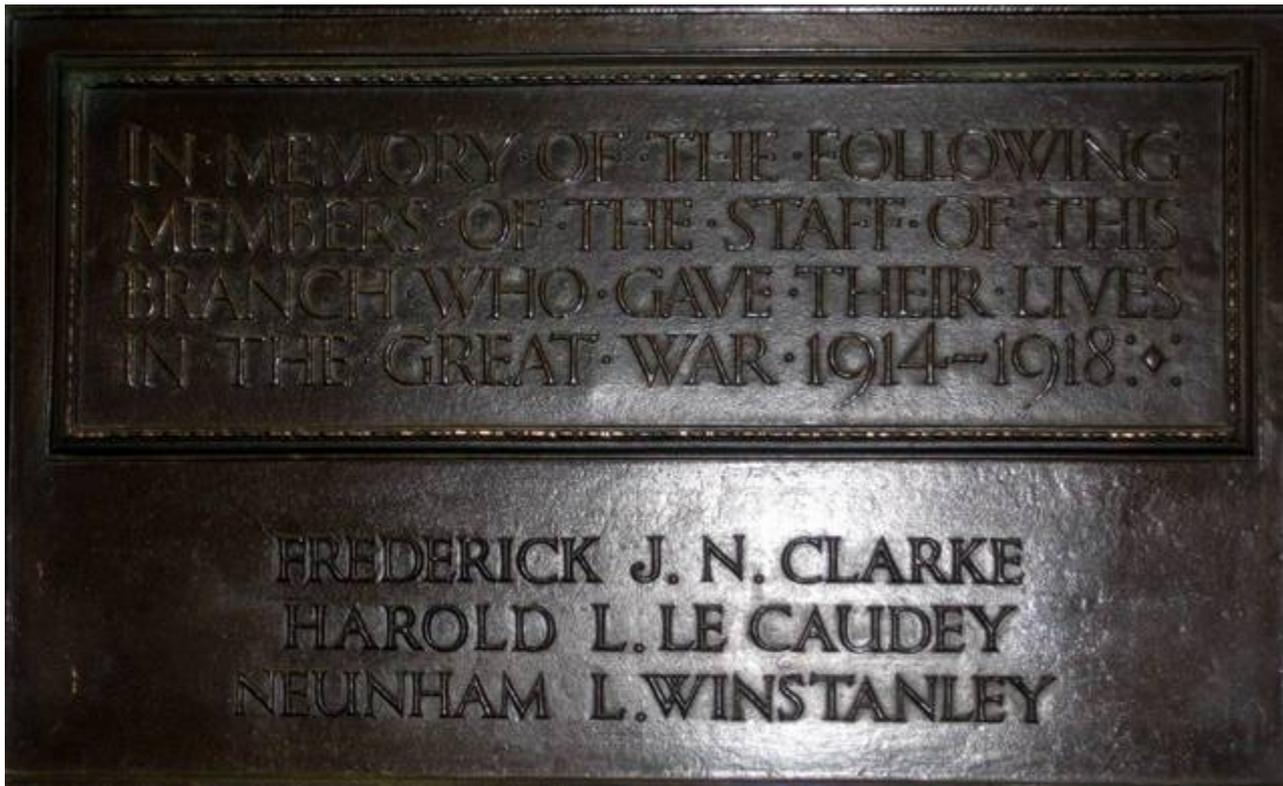
The Jersey Evening Post of the 22nd March records that Sapper Le Caudey was: 'lying seriously ill in a Field Hospital in France' but initial optimism that he might survive to return home evaporated over succeeding days and he sadly succumbed to his injuries, his death being announced in the edition of 4th April. The JEP notice records that he was: 'some years ago a soloist in St Marks Choir, a member of the Jersey Dickens Players and of Miss Peyton's Dramatic Company', now the Green Room Club. He was: 'also a member of the local YMCA and the flag was today flying at half-mast at the Association's premises in New Street as a tribute to his memory'.

Like Freddie, 'Billy' was 19 years old. He is buried in Rouen (St Sever Cemetery Extension, Grave P.VII.G.3) and is also commemorated on both the St Lawrence Parish Memorial and the St Marks Church Memorial.

At 21, Second Lieutenant Newnham Winstanley was the oldest of the three Parr's Bank, Jersey employees when he was killed in fighting on the Somme in November 1916. Like his colleagues he was buried in a war cemetery (Serre Road No 1 Cemetery, Grave I.E.23) close to where he fell, as it was both impractical and very unusual for bodies to be repatriated at that time.

The eldest son of Newnham Robert and Bertha Matilda Winstanley of Heathcot, Beaumont, he was born in January, 1895. At College for six years from 1905-11, he was recalled as a cricketer of great promise: 'in the XI in 1909 and 1910'. When war began, he obtained a commission in the 4th South Staffordshire Regiment and trained with them in Jersey, before heading for the front in the summer of 1916.

So, if ever you have occasion to visit NatWest in Library Place, please take a moment to glance at the memorial and reflect on the promise of three young men who willingly left their desk duties behind to sign up for war service.



They must all have had high hopes and aspirations. They were well-educated and clearly very able men, yet they were very prepared to swap the peace and tranquillity of Jersey for the mud and mayhem awaiting them in Belgium and France. No doubt there was excitement and anticipation of an adventure, but the reality proved very different and the fate that awaited all three was cruel. At the very least, they deserve to be remembered.

Postscript: Readers will, as I did, quickly pick up on the Germanic spelling of Newnham Winstanley's forename. His mother was born in Georgetown, St Saviour, but of German parentage. Nowhere can I find any other use of this spelling.

Three Maps, Three Leopards

It does seem that when presenting research as to the circumstances surrounding Edward de Faye's death at Gauche Wood and subsequent interments that it is a bit like a strip tease. That is not so, rather that it is to get the latest findings down on paper while still fresh, often in the hope that somebody might just come up with the 'silver bullet' that solves all. Unfortunately that bullet has not yet been fired, but there has been some interesting progress.

The end of November found me visiting Kew once more, and with regard to research I had set myself three classes of documents to look at, the first being the War Diary of the period for the 55th (West Lancashire) Division. This turned out to be a fruitless exercise, for although the Division had been holding the line, east of Gauche Wood, prior to the German counter-attack on the 30th November, 1917, and were assisted to recover ground the following day, remaining there until the 7th December, the War Diary (WO 374/2910) file did not contain any Burial Reports. Seeking advice from a chap who is an expert on the Division when I returned home, the reason for this absence of information became obvious. I had consulted the Operations War Diary and not the one (WO 374/2914) for

the Adjutant and Quartermaster-Generals' (A&Q) branches! Now, whether that file will have those reports, one cannot say, but it is now unlikely to be on the critical path, rather that it would simply add detail to the story.

In '*C'était pour brouiller les Pistes (Journal 51)*' we met 2Lt Thomas Joseph Shaw, and so, it was to his Officer's File (WO 374/61742) that I turned to next at Kew. Thomas was born on the 12th June, 1896 in Wolverhampton and had attended Brewood Grammar School before going onto Harper Adams College as an Agricultural Student (this being somewhat consistent with his medal card address in 1925). He had enlisted (or had been conscripted?) in April, 1916 and was sent to the 31st Battalion, Royal Fusiliers based at Edinburgh where he applied for a commission with the South Staffordshire Regiment. However, the way ahead was somewhat different, and he was commissioned into the Tank Corps on the 31st January, 1917, the same date as Edward de Faye was commissioned, along with some 120 other young men. Until Cambrai and Gauche Wood, both men's service records virtually mirrored each other throughout 1917. Both land at Boulogne-sur-Mer on the 25th April, Edward joins 'A' Battalion on the 26th May, Thomas follows three weeks later on the 17th June, and then both go on leave between the 13th and the 27th of October. That three week difference in May and June could have been for medical reasons.

We know that Thomas survived Gauche Wood, but afterwards? He was awarded the MC in February, 1918 to which a Bar was added in September of that year, by which time he was attached to the Royal Air Force. 'Civvy Street' beckoned and he left the forces on the 15th January, 1919. At this point there is nothing further that can be offered by Kew. So, Ancestry and the Times Archive now help with Thomas's later life, as would the 92 year old Michael Varley, nephew of Thomas's future wife, who provided me with some very helpful background.

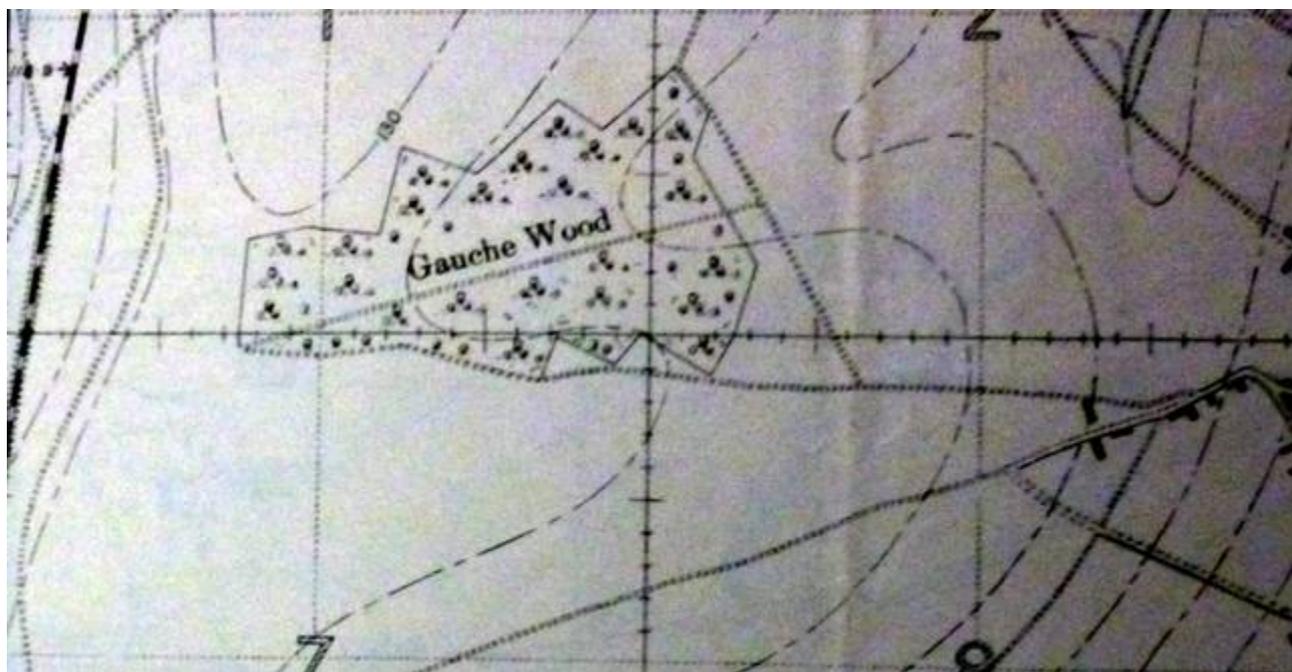
In 1922, Thomas married Kathleen Gladys Varley, a young lady 8 years his junior, in Yorkshire even though she had been born, as he had, in Wolverhampton. At this time, there was rather a large black cloud hovering above the Varley family that might explain the marriage location, for Kathleen's father, Jesse Varley, was coming to the end of a five year prison sentence for having committed 'Defalcation'. The word was a new one to me, but it equates to 'Misappropriation of public funds' or 'Embezzlement'. He had been the accounts clerk in the Wolverhampton Council's Education Department and over twelve years up to 1917, had siphoned off money (£5-6M at today's values) through the creation of a phantom army of non-existent temporary teachers. Jesse was so well respected and plausible that nobody checked the accounts, and all the while Jesse and his family were able to live at a level more than three or four times beyond his annual salary of £325. In the end, discovery finally came through the proverbial office-boy asking the awkward questions. Subsequently, the Varley case has become textbook reading for students of municipal fraud (teaching them how to safeguard against it I should add!), so one wonders how long the cloud the family remained given this publicity. A fascinating digression about a fraud variously described as remarkable, ingenious and daring!

Given his agricultural background, Thomas appears to have spent much of his life in either the civil service or the food industry, and in 1969 his efforts were officially recognised with his appointment as Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, at which time he was the Managing Director of FMC (Meat) Limited. He died just over a year later on the 1st July, 1970 at Shiplake, being survived by Kathleen who died in 1991.

As will be recalled, the interest in Thomas is due to what actions he took at Gauche Wood, and what he may have written in letters and diaries regarding Edward de Faye. But, there is the CBE to go with the MC and Bar, so, were they passed on to children with the diaries if they exist? Kathleen and Thomas had two children. The first Geoffrey MacFadyen Shaw, born in 1926, became a Doctor and was in practice at Basingstoke before dying in 2001. The second was Deirdre, born in 1932, was for a time a concert pianist, she married a chap by the name of John Larkin, and went off to South Africa. She is still alive there today, and furthermore, is a noted marathon runner and world record holder for her 80-plus age group over ten kilometres! With this information, I have now written to two possible D Larkins and the Basingstoke practice in the hope that one or both might lead to a diary.

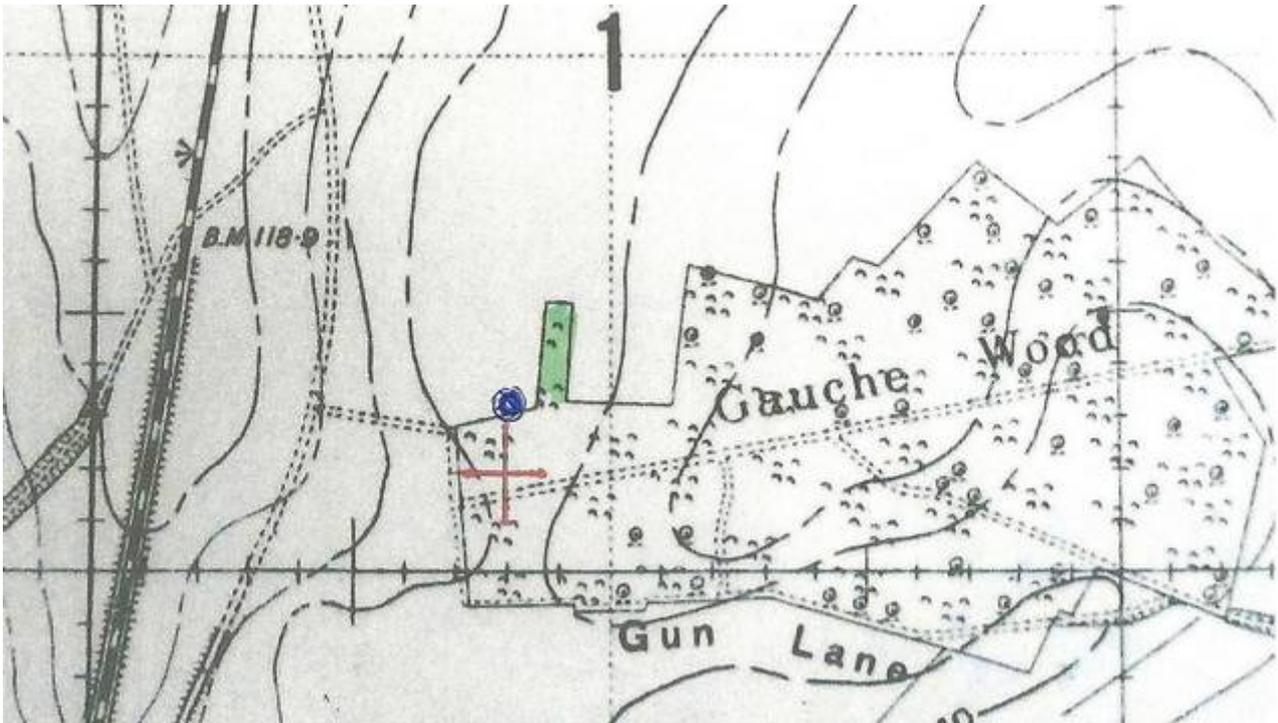
Moving on from Thomas Shaw, the third set of documents were the trench maps of the Villers-Guislain area (WO 297/1438 to /1441). Originally, the intention was to build up a composite picture of the area to plot the movement of tanks A.25 and A.28 from Revelon Farm to Gauche Wood (and back in A.28's case), but the set of maps that I was able to access allowed me to look at the area throughout the duration of the War, so, I have selected three maps which may help.

The first map of Gauche Wood was drawn by the RE Surveyors in 1914, and is, I would suggest, somewhat rudimentary. In fact, I would even suggest that it was a direct copy of French maps of the period with very little immediate surveying involvement by the British. But, of course the British would be able to thank the French for giving them a baseline from which all future trench maps could be developed, and one wonders whether this 'donation' was made before the War.



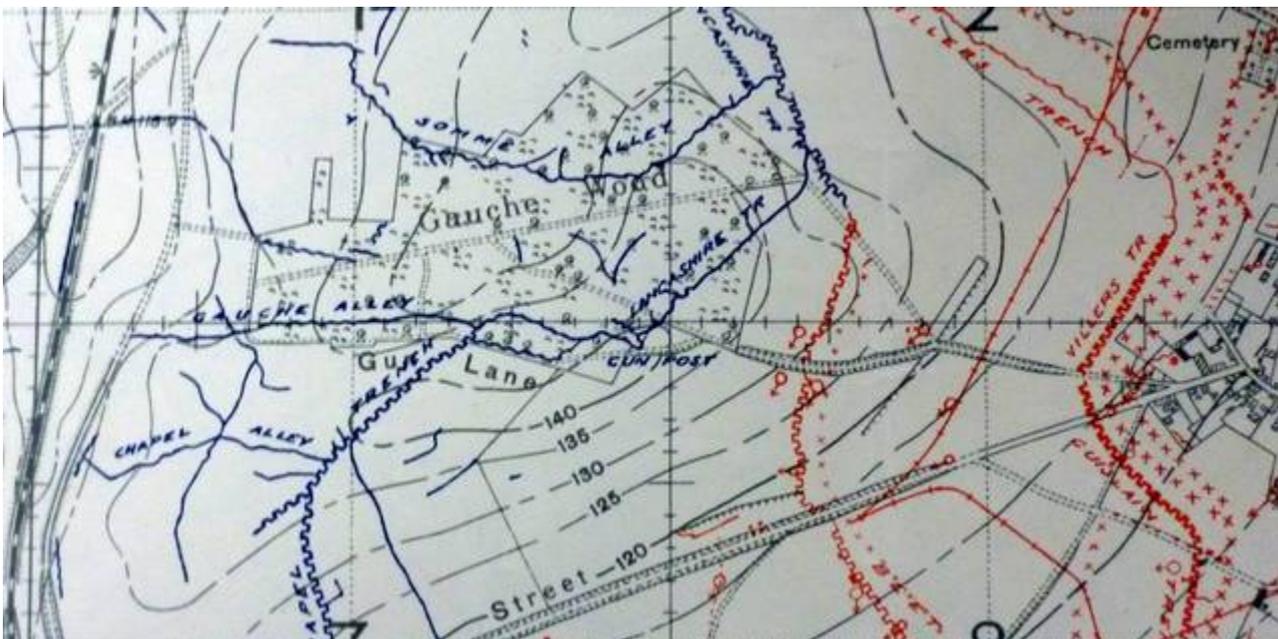
Gauche Wood - 1914

When the 1914 version is compared with the map from 1917 on the next page, it is clear that there are several cartographic differences, in particular with regards to the Wood's shape on its north eastern and western edges, as well as some of the new tracks that have appeared.



Gauche Wood – Trenches Correct to 20th November, 1917

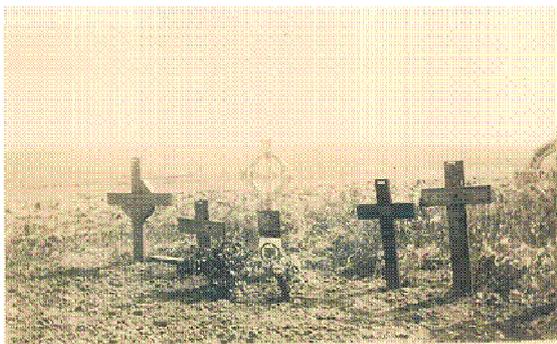
But what of the strip of vegetation highlighted in green on the 1917 map above? It was apparently not there in 1914, so was the vegetation too insignificant at the time to justify being distinctively drawn on the 1914 map? Or was the baseline used by the British far older? We will revisit the question of the vegetation later. The red cross that is shown above was the reported location (57c.X.1.c.8.2) of Edward's temporary grave while the blue dot is where Thomas Shaw waited (57c.X.1.c.8.3) for any further orders.



Gauche Wood – Trenches Correct to 16th February, 1918

If we now compare the third map for 1918, above, with the previous map, we see that Gauche Wood is covered with numerous blue lines that record the positions of the British trenches, while German positions are shown in red. The segment of the 1917 map does

not show any trenches, since the frontline was some two miles to the east of the Wood in late November. Clearly, their counter-attack on the 30th had seen the Germans take the Wood and much of the ground towards Gouzeaucourt before being pushed back the following day. But, the 1918 map is possibly interesting in another respect. In the top left-hand square (57c.X.1.c) there is a communications trench coming in from the west, going across the level crossing (57c.X.1.c.2.7) and dog-legging into the Wood to join the path (at 57c.X.1.d.0.2) that runs through the Wood. This trench appears to have run very close to the reported location (57c.X.1.c.8.2), and one might wonder whether Edward was actually buried where reported? We may even now be talking of a circle of about 50-150 feet radius centred on Thomas's reference.



Because of some copying difficulties that existed originally, the next two photographs were going to be left out of this update regarding the research into Edward de Faye, and that they would just be described. Luckily I was able to get my son to enhance the images, and while not good enough for close-up examination, they are sufficiently adequate for this article.



The above picture shows the starboard sponson from a British Male Mark IV tank on the left and a grave marker on the right. The grave marker is that of Edward de Faye, as can be seen from the picture below. Approximately mid way between the two there is another item. This is an upturned British Army shovel with its handle buried and writing on the blade to signify yet another grave. Compared with the original graves photograph on the previous page, there are four graves less so it must have been taken some time before the 21st March, 1918 when the Germans again took Gauche Wood during Operation

Michael. Whilst a better copy is yet to emerge, is it safe to assume that the shovel marks the spot where Albert Voice was buried? I think so.

Coming back to Edward's grave marker, the inscriptions are well done (stencilled possibly), while there is a shield attached to the upright. This is where we find our three leopards, for enclosed within the circle there is Jersey's coat of arms! In the circle there is the inscription 'In (?????) Memory – Jersey'.

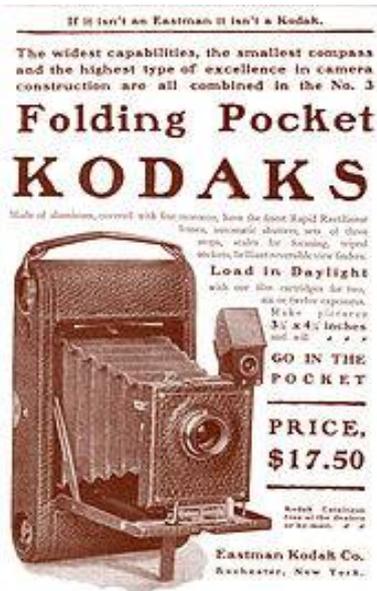


What do these new pictures tell us? The first is that, given the quality of the lettering, the wooden grave marker could never have been placed there on Edward's date of death, and nor could the shield be attached to it (nobody carried around such a Jersey shield in their tank just in case). It is obvious that it must have been done sometime afterwards, whilst someone must also have known that Edward was a Jerseyman and provided the shield subsequently. Was that 'someone' also a Jerseyman who may have made the trek to Gauche Wood via the communication trench in the 1918 map?

Whoever it was who installed the marker, they knew exactly where to go, a sort of 'second grave marker left after the sponson at map reference such and such'. They could not have missed the sponson's location having been given directions to the Wood in Gouzeaucourt, for example! Whoever it was had a camera with them to take photographs, and they were clearly well organised for their task. Furthermore, whoever it was knew to write the name as 'de Faye', and not 'De Faye'.

Why was the sponson removed, and why was it left there? To answer why it was removed, I would suggest that it was taken off so that the casualties inside the tank could be extricated by others of the crew and helpers, and in this case, the casualties were, in all probability, Edward and his driver, Albert.

As to the question's second part, the answer is a simple one of logistics. As it was armour plate, there was no way it could easily be loaded and taken back when the tanks' withdrew to Revelon Farm. What tanks did go back already had the correct number of sponsons and did not want to be encumbered by yet more weight. So, there it remained until many months later when reclamation units might have collected it along with other battlefield debris. If the Germans had not sought to make use of it before! Smaller, easy to carry, items such as ammunition and machines would have however been salvaged.



Returning once more to the vegetation, much of it in the 'sponson photograph' is at a similar height to Edward's marker, which for discussion purposes one might suggest is no more than 2-3 feet high when installed. It is not all that mature, lending support to the theory that the 1914 map was accurate in terms of an undeveloped area not worthy of being drawn on the map. As far as can be determined, there is no spoil from a communication trench.

Meanwhile the camera's 'eye level' was quite low at, say, about two feet, and it may be that the photographer was rather short, slightly stooping, kneeling or had stood on slightly lower ground. A tripod could have been used? If so, it was organisation indeed! Most likely though, the camera was possibly of a type similar to the 1900 Kodak pictured left, as opposed to a bulkier box camera.

There remains the debate of map reference accuracy here although it is not on the scale of the erroneous 'Bench Mark' theory which can be further discounted by the vegetation shown in the photographs. The difference between the map references in the WO File and A.28's Battle History Sheet equates to 50 yards. When this is related to a 1:40,000 scale map the difference is no more than 0.045" (or 1.143mm) on the map! I would contend that it would be difficult not to err by one graduation on such a map if it had become muddy, grubby and creased. (Obviously, on a 1:10,000 scale map the difference would be four times the size).

Now, to the 'sponson' related photographs. At this stage, I would point out that I received them as part of a batch of scanned images from a contact whose identity I have to keep confidential at the present time, and indeed, this contact was also the original source of the 'six graves' photograph used above. Because of the quality, the other images have not been assessed in any great detail, but there are some interesting possibilities. Hopefully I will meet the source in about six or seven week's time.

What are the next steps? At present it is to see whether anything evolves from my efforts at contacting descendants of Thomas Shaw. A further task is to assemble a dossier of the findings and to see that all aspects are coherently documented, for others to take the search for Edward forward if needs be. Lastly, at this stage, the CWGC have been asked to identify what, if any, exhumations took place in map square 57c.X.1.c rather than through a more restricted search with a particular map reference.

Editor's Note: As an aside, the South African 2nd Infantry Regiment, which was at the time part of the 9th (Scottish) Division, had been holding the line at Gauche Wood prior to the German attack on the 21st March, 1918. The day before, they had been visited in the trenches by Winston Churchill, then Minister of Munitions in Lloyd George's government. According to his memoirs, he stayed at Nurlu overnight, was awake just after 04.00, 30 minutes before the German shelling began, and staying there until 10.00 when he drove off to Peronne! Perhaps he noted the presence of Edward de Faye's grave during his visit on the 20th? After the South Africans initially fended off the Germans on the 21st, the latter's greater numbers caused the South Africans to withdraw to Gouzeaucourt, and Edward's grave was then in German held territory until the 19th September, 1918.

Postscript: Since putting the above article together, I have heard from both Mrs Larkin and Dr Shaw's widow subsequently. Regrettably, neither lady has nor knows of the existence of any diaries and other paperwork left by Thomas Joseph Shaw. So, this line of enquiry is now closed.

Faces Remembered

Having left out 'Faces Remembered' from the last Journal, we can welcome it back with the following photograph to start us off. But, while we can remember the faces, at present, we know the name of only one chap as you will in reading Ian Ronayne's note below:



'I had some interesting correspondence from an old work colleague of mine to do with one of the Jersey Company, Charles Blampied, who was the son of Charles and Madge, of 8 Almorah Crescent, St Helier. Prior to the war he had worked for Mr W Shaw of Bath Street, St Helier. He was one of the militiamen who volunteered to join the Jersey Company at the start of 1915. Known as 'Charlie', he was unable to leave with the main contingent in March, 1915 due to illness, so he did not arrive in Ireland until April. After training at Buttevant he moved with the rest of the Jersey Company in June, 1915 to Ballyhooly for further training. Shortly after arrival he drowned while swimming alone one evening in the River Blackwater.

Swimming in the river had been a popular activity with the Jersey lads. None of them saw what happened to Charlie that evening, however, but the nineteen-year-old was missed after tea. A group coming down to the river spotted him under the water and dived in to rescue. Although they managed to haul him out and attempted resuscitation on the riverbank, it was too late. Charlie was buried in the private cemetery on Lord Listowel's estate, with his comrades in attendance. The funeral was an elaborate affair. The coffin was borne on a gun carriage drawn by six horses, and there was a service in the chapel

at Convamore Castle. He was the second of the contingent to lose their life. Sadly, his brother John also died while serving with the Middlesex Regiment in 1916.

I met another Charlie Blampied many years later while doing my apprenticeship at the Jersey Electricity Company (JEC). He was one of the older electricians working there, and young apprentices were always a bit in awe of him. It was only towards the very end of my five years that I got to work with Charlie, and found out what a nice guy he was. In fact he was instrumental in getting the manager to allow me to finish my 'time' six months earlier than the intended five years, telling his that 'I was more than ready to become a full electrician'. For me it meant a pay rise and a feather in the cap.

When working with him, I asked him about the Occupation, Charlie did his apprenticeship during the war, and all sorts of things about the 'old days' at the JEC. Of course it never occurred to me to ask about the Great War. If I had, I may have found out my Charlie was named after his Uncle Charlie who had drowned while training with the Jersey Company in Ireland. It just shows how close the personal events of one hundred years ago are to the present time. Charlie let me have a photograph of his uncle with comrades at Ballyhooly (he is marked with a cross) and of the grave. I wonder if the headstone is still there?'

It is hoped that the JEP will soon publish the above photograph with a 'Who were they?' question being asked of Islanders. But perhaps one or two of you may recognise a family member, and will get in touch with Ian or myself.



The young man pictured left is Frank Thomas Corbet who was born in Vale, Guernsey in 1896, whose photographs were very kindly supplied by his grandson, Keith Corbet, who is located in Spain.

Frank first enlisted in January, 1915, joining the Royal Army Service Corps as a Driver, with the regimental number T4/042431, giving his home address as Homelands on the Braye Road in Guernsey. However, he was discharged after a few days as he was 'not likely to make an efficient soldier.' At that time, the RASC did seem to be a little fussy as to who would be able to drive (one presumes horse and cart), so he was not alone in getting his discharge papers from the RASC earlier than he had expected. He then reenlisted in April, 1915, and this time joined the Royal Irish Regiment, to be given the new number of 7885. Initially at the Depot for a fortnight, he was then transferred to the Regiment's 3rd Battalion, then at Dublin, at the beginning of May. On the 4th October of that year he was transferred to the 7th Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers at Pirbright.

He had managed, in just nine months, to have three regimental numbers, with the Fusiliers' number of 21805 being issued!

Then on the 17th February, 1916 he went out to France when the Battalion was sent there, as part of the 49th Brigade in 16th (Irish) Division, and later probably took part in the battles at Guillemont and Ginchy. However, in mid-October, 1916 the 7th and 8th Battalions amalgamated, suggesting that both Battalions had incurred high casualties and that few men were now coming from Ireland as replacements to fill the gaps in the ranks.

On the 19th August, 1917, he was posted to a Depot, which cannot be identified, as the regimental detail is illegible in his records, but we can assume that he had been in France and Flanders for 18 months. This date might also suggest that he had been wounded a few days before when the 7th/8th Battalion fought at Langemarck on the 16th August. If so, the transfer from Battalion to Depot was part of the administrative process to reflect movement backwards through the medical evacuation chain.

It is likely that following his return, Frank Corbet was subsequently transferred to the RGLI with his regimental number now 1600. 'Diex Aix' suggests that he never went to France with the RGLI, and given that the service record is illegible there is nothing to refute Eddie Parks's analysis. The 7th/8th Battalion would disband in February, 1918, with remaining Guernseymen transferring to the RGLI also.

It appears that the action at Langemarck would cost Frank his two legs, although the picture of him in his 'hospital blues' gives no hint of this. However, this did not appear to hinder him later on in life as grandson Keith recalls with the following anecdotes:

'My Grandpa was the worst driver on the Island. He had a specially adapted car with only hand controls and when he drove around the island people would jump in the harbour, climb up the lamp posts, run into shops and hide behind the letter-boxes shouting, "Look out! Frank is on the road!" A slight [Editor: Slight?] exaggeration but he was famously the worst driver on the Island.

When he went to see my father who had been posted to Germany, with the Royal Hampshire Regiment, he took the greatest pleasure in smuggling duty-free cigarettes in his tin legs back to Guernsey, despite the fact that cigarettes were tax-free on the Island.

When Frank visited his sister, who lived in Rhodesia, he sailed down to South Africa and when the traditional ceremony of Crossing the Line took place, the Purser on the ship spoke to my Grandpa to say that due to his not having any legs, he would be excused taking part in the ceremony. Grandpa was not having anything of that and retired to his cabin, took off his artificial legs, stumped across to the ceremony and joined the queue to have King Neptune shave him and to be ducked in the pool. He was very proud of the certificate to show he that had passed King Neptune's initiation at the equator.



East Yorkshire Roots

Introduction: In early December, 2013 the seemingly simple question was put to the Group from a gentleman in Jersey by the name of Rupert Hague-Holmes, as to 'Why is D Wilson MC not commemorated on the Roll of Honour?' As research subsequently showed, the question proved to be anything but simple, yet it would also touch upon the events of a somewhat famous scandal in the 19th Century.



At first being somewhat nonplussed by the name, the first act was to turn the question around and ask, 'Why should D Wilson MC be commemorated and, if so, on which Roll of Honour?' The answer came back that his name was listed on the Freemason's memorial in Jersey's Masonic Temple on Stopford Road in St Helier. So, there was now a starting point, and if D Wilson could be traced and the evidence supported it, he would be added to Jersey' RoH.



However, this was not new ground needing to be covered, for back in 2008 the existence of the memorial, a replacement of the original that had been stolen or more likely destroyed by the German occupying forces in 1941, was known about by the Group, and the list of 20 names had been investigated. At the time it was found that of that list, six men (Bamber, Blades, Ford, Reed, Smith and Wilson) could not be associated with the names listed on the JRoH, and subsequent enquiries failed to turn up any information linking these men to Jersey. The outcome in 2008 was 'to park' the research in the Micawber-ish hope that something would show up later. The question regarding D Wilson, MC was now that 'something'.

Checking the CWGC's Register, one can find that there are 118 D Wilsons listed, but, fortunately this number could be quickly whittled down, the reason being that the MC was only awarded to Officers and Warrant Officers. On this basis, the list of 118 was reduced to just 10 men, and then the 10 records were examined for an entry of MC in the Awards field. From that just two names resulted, a Second Lieutenant Douglas Russell Wilson of the King's Royal Rifle Corps (KRRC) and a Captain David Wilson of the Royal Flying Corps (RFC), and at first pass, neither could be linked to Jersey. Finding material on Douglas Wilson would prove difficult. His parents were listed by the CWGC as Mr and

Mrs Robert Wilson, with no address being given, while the medal cards indicated that he had been commissioned from the KRRC's ranks (Corporal, C/3172) some nine months before he was killed on the 25th October, 1918. Efforts at tracing him on 'Ancestry' were proving unsuccessful. Fortunately however, help was at hand in the shape of a Roll of Honour for Freemasons on the web at:

www.masonicgreatwarproject.org.uk

The discovery of this site provided me with a vital short cut, for on it I found David Wilson as being listed as having been initiated into one of Jersey's lodges in 1916, and with this, Douglas Wilson could now be discounted from any further research. Incidentally, the website also provided information on the other five (Bamber, Blades, Ford, Reed and Smith) and this has been reflected in our website page for the Masonic Temple's memorial.

Early years: But, even with having a name to work with, conducting research into David's background would still prove complicated. The CWGC, usually the starting point, was barely more helpful in his case than that of Douglas Wilson, given that it recorded the names of both parents, the Reverend David and Mrs May Wilson and their address in London's Tavistock Square, or so it was thought, therefore it was thanks to the Royal Aero Club (RAeC) that provided the first clues.

According to the RAeC index card for his pilot's certificate number 2275, David Wilson was born on the 29th January, 1893 at Camborne in Cornwall. His father was indeed the Reverend David Wilson, MA, but according to the Probate Register, he had died at sea on the 10th October, 1893 while living at Nancegollan, midway between Camborne and Helston. Looking through 19th Century British Newspapers, the Reverend's name did appear a few times officiating as a Curate in Swansea and also Cornwall, and perhaps this is a clue to the nature of his death. Given the much longer distance to travel overland, a boat crossing the Bristol Channel between, say even between Bideford and Swansea, might have been saved time. At the very least his was a curious death? Meanwhile, the Reverend's widow's name was stated to be Maria, and not May, in the Probate Register while it would not be until the 19th May, 1894 that she was granted probate in London.

First, turning the clock backwards from 1893, David's parents were indeed living in Swansea at the time of the 1891 Census and where his father was recorded as being a Clerk in Holy Orders, aged 34 and born in Hull (in 1857). Maria was six years his junior and had also been born in Hull (in 1863). A 23 year-old Selina Barnby (a fairly common Yorkshire surname) was visiting the couple, and she was Maria's unmarried sister. As yet, the Wilson had no children.

Progressing forward in time, we find the widowed Maria living in Waterlooville at the time of the 1901 Census, apparently with her 70 year-old widowed mother, also Maria, and Selina. David is also listed as is an elder sister, Madeleine, who was born in Swansea, one or two years before him.

But, by 1911, Maria and David are now living in Hull while Madeleine cannot be readily found. At this time, his occupation showed that he was an apprentice marine engineer, not a surprising one given Hull's shipping industry.

Into Uniform: Once again, the RAeC index card proved useful. There is a photograph of him and, while it was not apparent in his CWGC record, it noted that he was a Lieutenant in the 11th Battalion, the East Yorkshire Regiment. This now placed the research firmly into the realm of the Pals Battalions!

With the rapid expansion of the British Army becoming necessary in 1914, the dignitaries of many towns and cities took the initiative and established New Army Battalions given that the War Office was incapable of handling this military expansion on its own. Places like Liverpool, Accrington, Bradford and Leeds all raised Battalions, and Hull was no different. Furthermore, it raised the following four Battalions that would become part of the East Yorkshire Regiment:



E. Yorks. Bn.	Hull Bn.	Known As
10 th	1 st Hull	Hull Commercial
11 th	2 nd Hull	Hull Tradesmen
12 th	3 rd Hull	Sportsmen and Athletes
13 th	4 th Hull	T'others

This was thanks to the second Lord Nunburnholme, the Lord Lieutenant of the East Riding of Yorkshire, and the East Riding Territorial Force Association. The rate of recruiting was such that the first three Battalions would be up to their full establishment by the beginning of September, 1914, while 'T'others' would be completed two months later. All would be together at Hornsea by November, 1914 and at Ripon in June, 1915 when the Battalions would form the 92nd Brigade, part of the 31st Division which was solely comprised of Pals Battalions, drawn largely from Yorkshire and Lancashire.

It is possible that David Wilson would have been amongst the first to enlist in August, 1914, if his Medal Index Card is anything to go by, for his first regimental number was 385, although this appears to have later changed to 12925. However, this may be an unreliable assumption, for it seems that for men who served with one of these Battalions had a regimental number that was accordingly prefixed by 10/-, 11/- and so forth. Notwithstanding, LG 28960 informs us that he was appointed as a Temporary Second Lieutenant, with the 2nd Hull Battalion as of the 3rd November, 1914, while a few weeks later his date of appointment was corrected to the 29th October by LG 28982.

With one pip up on his cuff, David would now be thrust into the training of the men under him, including a few former colleagues undoubtedly, all of this in preparation for wherever they were sent. Around the beginning of September, 1915 the four Hull Battalions now

became the War Office's responsibility, and in October, 1915 they headed off to Salisbury Plain. Warm climes soon beckoned, for on the 15th December, the Division left Devonport and just over a fortnight later arrived at Port Said. But, it is clear that David Wilson had not accompanied them. Rather that he had previously submitted his application to learn to fly and to join the Royal Flying Corps.

Now, the RAeC index card notes that he 'took his certificate' at the Military School at Catterick Bridge on the 14th January, 1916, flying a Maurice Farman Biplane. But now, with his certificate tucked away in his pocket, some two months of further training would follow before he crossed the Channel to join 24 Squadron, RFC at Bertangles on the 30th March, 1916. As to 24 Squadron, it was commanded by Major Lanoe Hawker, VC, DSO, and had only reached France the previous month, having been the first Squadron to be equipped with the Airco DH 2 aircraft designed by Geoffrey de Havilland.



With Hawker as his CO, David Wilson was in very good company to learn the trade of fighter pilot, and less than two months after arriving in France he would gain his first confirmed 'kill'. This victory, on the 20th May, 1916, was reported in RFC Communiqué number 37 as follows:

'An Albatros was attacked by three of our machines over Pozieres: a Martinsyde of No 22 Squadron, pilot, Capt Summers, and two De Havillands of 24 Squadron, pilots Lt Wilson and 2Lt Tidmarsh. Lt Wilson attacked first, opening fire at 50 yards range, and turned aside owing to his gun jamming. Capt Summers on the Martinsyde then attacked, firing half a drum at 30 yards range, apparently without effect. 2Lt Tidmarsh then dived on to the hostile machine from above and fired a drum at 40 yards from behind it. The hostile machine burst into flames and fell between Pozieres and Contalmaison. Shortly afterwards Lt Wilson sighted another hostile machine, an LVG being fired on at about 12,000 feet, north of Albert. He overhauled it and got within 200 yards. The hostile machine flattened out suddenly at 9,000 feet, and then went down in a spinning nosedive, falling in our lines south of Maricourt, and burst into flames'.

It is believed that the LVG was crewed by pilot, Lt d R Bernward Groß and observer, Lt Karl Musset, being shot down in the area between Maricourt and Curly, where Lt d R Groß and Lt Musset were respectively buried. For this action, David Wilson was awarded the MC, the citation in LG 29637 being as follows:

'For conspicuous gallantry and skill. After his machine had been damaged in a combat with an enemy machine and was difficult to control, he continued his patrol and assisted another officer to bring down an enemy machine. Later he found another enemy machine, dived at it, and brought it down in flames within our lines.'

Family Connections: A further victory is believed to have been gained by David on the 19th July, 1916, but the Flight magazine for the 17th August, 1916 carried the following stark announcement:

'News has come to East Yorkshire of the death in one of the base hospitals in France of Lieutenant David Wilson, of the RFC, previously of the East Yorkshire Regiment, who succumbed to injuries suffered during a flight on Sunday, July 30th. He was awarded the Military Cross in May of this year, and had just been posted flight-commander and detailed for duty with another squadron, being under orders to transfer the next day. He was the son of the late Rev. David Wilson, and a nephew of the first Lord Nunburnholme and of the late Mr. Arthur Wilson, of Tranby Croft, East Yorkshire.'

Meanwhile, 'The War Illustrated' (Number 114, Volume 8, Page 240, dated 21st October, 1916) noted that David was the grand-nephew of the first Lord Nunburnholme, and also carried a photograph of him.

It does appear that his death was the result of an accident, while there also does appear to be some confusion as to his date of death, the CWGC states that he died on the 30th July, 1916, this being consistent with the Probate Register and 'ODGW'. But the hitherto trusty RAeC index card states the date as the 8th August, 1916. Either way, he was buried at St Pierre Cemetery (reference V.A.5) in Amiens, where it seems that the graves of officers there were segregated from the other ranks.

With that announcement, a few questions are answered. The first Lord Nunburnholme was Charles Wilson before he was raised to the peerage in 1906, and was Arthur's elder brother. Both had jointly managed the eponymous shipping company 'Wilson Line of Hull' (actually Thomas Wilson and Sons Company) founded by their father in 1822. The baronetcy passed to Charles's son, also Charles, in 1907. The Wilsons were active in East Yorkshire affairs and in politics, while the shipping company had, at one time, one of the largest fleets of ships in private ownership. In 1916, the Ellerman Line bought the company. Without the family tree, it is unclear as to the exact link that the Reverend David had to Thomas's sons, but one assumes that they had supported his widow and the young David over the years subsequently. This was clearly so in terms of his apprenticeship in 1911 and the commission in 1914.

The mention of Arthur Wilson of Tranby Croft brings the whiff of scandal to this article. He was a good friend of Edward, Prince of Wales (the future King Edward VII), and in September, 1890, the Prince with his party were house guests at Tranby Croft. During their stay, the Prince and others played baccarat, a game then illegal in England. One player, Sir William Gordon-Cumming, appeared to have been cheating, and won a sizeable amount over two days. The accusation was put to him and which he denied, but the news of this gradually became common knowledge in society circles, such that Sir William sued others in the party for libel. He lost the case, but the Prince of Wales was called as a witness, having been made aware of the accusation originally. Not surprisingly this attracted unwelcome publicity for the Prince at home and overseas, while the affair has become known as the Royal Baccarat Scandal.

However, all of this interesting research has not established a link between David Wilson and Jersey. Well, not until Rupert Hague-Holmes pointed out that a Charles Henry Wilson had been Master, in 1897 and 1917, of the same Lodge (Royal Alfred) that David had been initiated into. Charles, who had also been the Deputy Provincial Master of the Masons' Province of Jersey, and whose portrait hangs in the Masonic Temple, appears to have been born in 1864 in either Bridlington or Hull, and lived in Jersey for some 50 years from 1891 or even earlier, mostly in St Aubin, and was reputedly of private means. However, we find him and his wife Minnie travelling to Southampton on the 1st August, 1919 where it was stated on his travel documentation, now held by the Jersey Archive, that he was a Shipping Agent. A direct connection with the owners of the Wilson Shipping family cannot be confirmed, but, it is very likely that Charles was related to them, and was also instrumental in introducing David to the Lodge.

There may be more: But, finally and frustratingly, at this stage there are no other tangible connections between Jersey and David Wilson, and with no further obvious detail to fill the gap between 1911 and 1914, if not 1916, research has come to a halt. It is possible that he had been in Jersey for a period after his apprenticeship and had stayed with Charles, or that there had been a wartime marriage that had not been approved of by his family, and certainly not by his mother. But that is idle speculation. However, there is one puzzling fact, and that it is the existence of a copy of the Dowager Lady Nunburnholme's will in the Jersey Archive, she having died in London in June 1968?



New Zealand Commemorations

Every so often, Elizabeth Morey very kindly supplies me with the latest NZ Branch WFA Newsletter. February's issue contains the following link:

www.ww100.govt.nz

This excellent website will be publicising various commemorative projects and activities that will take place in New Zealand over the next five years.

But the site offers much more as I soon discovered. It is providing links to a range of other websites that have details of the men and women who served, in many cases by directly accessing service records, troopship lists and photographic collections (from which 'The Kiwis learning their parts for a pantomime during World War I' is taken (right)). The website contains an interactive map to enable a search of where there are New Zealanders buried in 430 cemeteries throughout the British Isles and western Europe.



CWGC Non-Commemorations

For the second time this has proved to be a very quiet quarter. I visited the Metropolitan London Archive (MLA) at the end of November to locate hospital records for John Breban, but without success. Having travelled down to London in the morning, after going through the Archive's induction process to get the reader card there were only a few hours available to get my bearings and research. I was able to search through some of the records for the hospital where he died but could not locate him. His 'year' was unavailable, so it seems likely that his record cannot be accessed due to a blanket Data Protection requirement. I will contact the MLA to see whether there are alternate ways to circumvent this.

Liz Walton is working on Ira Le Messurier's submission, but is struggling to locate details of his grave at St Pierre du Bois cemetery.

We have added Winter Tite and Edward Troy who were two Militia men who died within a week of each other in November, 1914. They have been on the JROH from its inception, but, further detail would be appreciated from the Morning News or Evening Post of the time, as well as their grave locations. Similarly some help is required in the case of Amant (or Armand?) Ferret (or Ferré?) (TBA below). There are two possible candidates, but they are both listed on the French SGA database. If this can be confirmed, a submission to the CWGC for Amant would obviously no longer be required.

Accepted

Norcott, Gerald *
Dustan, John
Cudlipp, Herbert
Blanchet, Jean
Warne, Alfred
Bailey, Alwyn C
Leopold, Archibald
Cheney, Walter A
Le Morzédec, Henri
Mutton, Harold C *
Poingdestre, Alfred
Jouanne, Auguste F
Syvret, Edward H
Lihou, Joseph T
Le Breton, Wilfred J
Whittle, Thomas J D'A
Orange, Walter
Ellis, John
Marquis, Jack H *
Lander, Charles HR *
Asser, Verney – Non-CI
Burton, Garnet C
Helman, John W
Le Noury, Walter
Logan, Lionel H
Ounan, Thomas P
Turner, William A

Being Progressed

Breban, John
Quinquenel, John (Jean)
Lindsey, Samuel WT
Le Messurier, Ira

Pending

Owen, Guy
De Ste Croix, Harold P
Tite, Winter JS
Troy, Edward J

TBA

Anderson, Frank B
Touzel, Walter H
Ferrer, Amant

Not for Submission

Mourant, Sydney A
Surguy, Sidney
Pirouet, Charles A
Syborn, George T
Le Cocq, Clarence E
De Caen, Raymond
Malzard, Snowdon

With the CWGC

Rundle, Cubitt S
Vautier, Alfred P *
De Gruchy, Alfred
Godfray, Edwin de V
Marquand, Clarence D

Rejected by CWGC

Adams, Frank H
Vibert, John E

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

A Mass of Myths

Understandably individuals will have many different thoughts of the War, whether such and such a general was a butcher, or that Britain should have stayed on the sidelines secure behind the might of the Royal Navy for example. If those thoughts have reasoned arguments behind them, all well and good, the difficulty comes when they are based solely on an emotional view. And then there are the myths!

The following paragraphs featured as an item on the BBC's website where its author, the historian Dan Snow, has addressed statements that he had seen as creating a mythological view of the Great War. Slightly edited, readers may wish to consider whether they are myths and if so, does Snow present valid arguments for their demolition?

It was the bloodiest war in history to that point: Fifty years before the Great War was declared, southern China was torn apart by an even bloodier conflict. Conservative estimates of the dead in the 14-year Taiping rebellion start at between 20 and 30 million. Around 17 million soldiers and civilians were killed or died as a result of the Great War.

Although more Britons died during the Great War than in any other conflict, the bloodiest war in British history relative to population size is the Civil War which raged in the mid-17th Century. It saw a far higher proportion of the population of the British Isles killed than the less than 2% who died in the Great War. By contrast around 4% of the population of England and Wales, and a considerably larger percentage than that in Scotland and Ireland, are thought to have been killed during the Civil War.

Most soldiers died: Around six million men were mobilised in Britain, and of those just over 700,000 died, some 11.5%. Proportionally, a British soldier would have been more likely to die during the Crimean War than during the Great War.

Men lived in the trenches for years on end: Front-line trenches could be a terribly hostile place to live. Often wet, cold and exposed to the enemy, units could quickly lose their morale if they spent too much time in them. As a result, the British Army rotated men in and out continuously. Between battles, a unit spent perhaps 10 days a month in the trench system, and of those, rarely more than three days right up on the front line. It was not unusual to be out of the line for a month. During moments of crisis, such as big offensives, the British could occasionally spend up to seven days on the front line but were far more often rotated out after just a day or two.

The upper class got off lightly: Although the great majority of casualties during the Great War were from the working class, the social and political elite was hit disproportionately hard by the Great War. Their sons provided the junior officers whose job it was to lead the way over the top and expose themselves to the greatest danger as an example to their men. Some 12% of the British Army's other ranks were killed during the war, compared with 17% of its officers. Eton alone lost more than 1,000 former pupils, some 20% of those who served. Great Britain's first wartime Prime Minister, Herbert Asquith, lost a son, while future Prime Minister Andrew Bonar Law lost two. Anthony Eden lost two brothers, another brother of his was terribly wounded and an uncle was captured.

Lions led by donkeys: This saying was supposed to have come from senior German commanders describing brave British soldiers led by incompetent old 'toffs' from their chateaux, many miles back from the front line. In fact the expression was invented by

historian Alan Clark who then attributed to the Germans. During the Great War more than 200 British generals were killed, wounded or captured. Most generals visited the front lines every day. In battle they were considerably closer to the action than generals are today. Naturally, some generals were not up to the job, but others were brilliant, such as Arthur Currie, a middle-class Canadian, failed insurance broker and property developer.

Rarely in history have commanders had to adapt to a more radically different technological environment. British commanders had been trained to fight small colonial wars, now they were thrust into a massive industrial struggle unlike anything the British Army had ever seen. Despite this, within three years the British had effectively invented a method of warfare still largely recognisable today. By the summer of 1918 the British Army was probably at its best ever and it inflicted crushing defeats on the Germans.

Gallipoli was fought by Australians and New Zealanders: Far more British soldiers fought on the Gallipoli peninsula than did the Australians and New Zealanders put together. Britain lost four or five times as many men in the brutal campaign as did her imperial Anzac contingents. The French also lost more men than the Australians. The Australians and New Zealanders make considerable effort to commemorate Gallipoli, and understandably so, as their casualties do represent terrible losses both as a proportion of their forces committed and of their small populations.

Tactics on the Western Front remained unchanged despite repeated failures: Never have tactics and technology changed so radically in four years of fighting. It was a time of extraordinary innovation. In 1914 generals on horseback galloped across battlefields as men in cloth caps charged the enemy without the necessary covering fire. Both sides were overwhelmingly armed with rifles. Four years later, steel-helmeted combat teams dashed forward protected by a curtain of artillery shells. They were now armed with flame throwers, light machine guns and grenades fired from rifles. Above, aircraft, that in 1914 would have appeared unimaginably sophisticated, duelled in the skies, some carrying experimental wireless radio sets, reporting real-time reconnaissance. Huge artillery pieces fired with pinpoint accuracy, using only aerial photos and mathematics they could score a hit on the first shot. Tanks went from the drawing board to the battlefield in just two years, also changing war forever.

No-one won: Swathes of Europe lay wasted, millions were dead or wounded. Survivors lived on with severe mental trauma. Britain was poor. It is odd to talk about winning. However, in a narrow military sense, Britain and her allies had won convincingly. Germany's battleships had been bottled up by the Royal Navy until their crews mutinied rather than make a suicidal attack against the British fleet. Germany's army was collapsing as a series of mighty allied blows scythed through supposedly impregnable defences. By late September, 1918 the German emperor and his military mastermind Erich von Ludendorff admitted that there was no hope and Germany must beg for peace. The Armistice on the 11th November, 1918 was essentially a German surrender. Unlike Hitler in 1945, the German government did not insist on a hopeless, pointless struggle until the allies were in Berlin, a decision that saved countless lives, but it was one later seized upon to claim that Germany had never really lost.

The Versailles Treaty was extremely harsh: The treaty of Versailles confiscated 10% of Germany's territory but left it the largest, richest nation in central Europe. It was largely unoccupied and financial reparations were linked to its ability to pay, most of which went unenforced anyway. The treaty was notably less harsh than treaties that ended the

Franco-Prussian War and the Second World War. The German victors in the former annexed large chunks of two rich French provinces that had been part of France for between 200-300 years, and home to most of French iron ore production, as well as presenting France with a massive bill for immediate payment. After the Second World War Germany was occupied, split up, her factory machinery smashed or stolen and millions of prisoners forced to stay with their captors and work as slave labourers. Germany had lost all the territory that it had gained after the Great War and another giant slice on top of that. Versailles was not harsh but was later portrayed as such by Hitler who sought to create a tidal wave of anti-Versailles sentiment on which he could then ride into power.

Everyone hated it: As with any war, it all came down to luck. A man may have witnessed unimaginable horrors that left him mentally and physically incapacitated for life, or he might have got away without a scrape. It could be the best of times, or the worst of times. Many soldiers enjoyed the Great War. If they were lucky they would have avoided a big offensive, and much of the time, conditions might have been better than at home. For the British soldier there was meat every day - a rare luxury back home - cigarettes, tea and rum, part of a daily diet of over 4,000 calories. Absentee rates due to sickness, an important barometer of a unit's morale, were, remarkably, similar to peacetime rates. Many young men enjoyed the guaranteed pay, the intense comradeship, the responsibility and a much greater sexual freedom than in peacetime Britain.

Naval Gazing

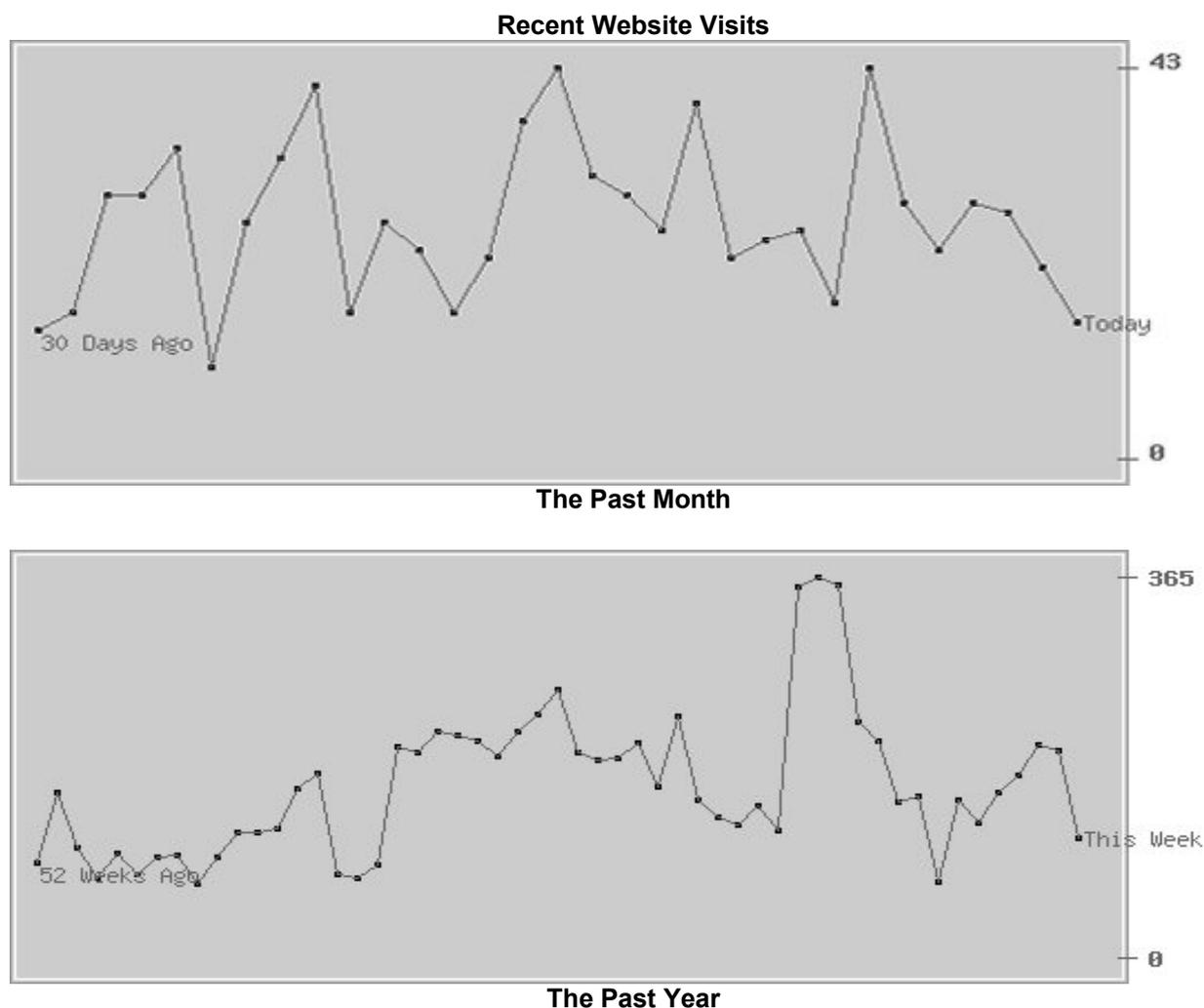
Visiting Kew at the end of November, some 42 records were again copied off and the summaries of their naval careers can be found on pages 42 to 45. These were all for men who were already listed on the JRoS, although in one case, that of William W Bunter, it was not possible to establish him as a connection with the PO Bunter who served (?) in the Great War.

As ever, the bulk of the men had disciplinary records that varied from the good to the, well, less good shall we say with some 230 days spent in cells spread across the sample. Even so, one must hand out plaudits to Sidney Rowden, who was imprisoned in 1924 for fraudulently selling an anchor. Perhaps he might have got away with it had it not been chained to HMS Victory at the time? However, there was one man who spent far more time incarcerated than the 'criminals' combined, but as a prisoner of the Ottoman Empire. This was Charles Gosling who was a member of HM Submarine E15's crew of 31 when it became stranded and 24 men being captured on the 17th April, 1915. He would not be repatriated until the end of December, 1918, leaving six men behind, including Henry Barter, who had died in captivity.

Now and again, past Naval Gazing articles have referred to men who went 'on the run', and this one is no different, in that Sidney Harben did so while serving on board a Q-Ship, HMS Q7 (HMS Penshurst) at, it is thought, Queenstown in Ireland in September 1916. It is interesting that, in this case, it occurred in Ireland following the Easter Rising, but more generally one must wonder how men who had gone 'on the run' fared subsequently. After a time, did they hand themselves in, took their punishment and were then discharged? If so, this is not evident on the service records, with the final entry being the word 'Run'. So, is it safe to conclude that they simply vanished, headed off to foreign quarters, or stayed in Britain with assumed names? A few may have left wives, children and their families. It is an interesting issue.

Website Workings By Roger Frisby

The total number of website visits has now reached around 38,870 an additional 2,355 visits since the last Journal was published in November.



With regards to the respective Rolls of Honour and Service, the statistics for changes to our numbers since mid-August are as follows:

- Guernsey Roll of Honour – 1,469 names (up by 4)
- Guernsey Roll of Service – 5,543 names (up by 249)
- Jersey Roll of Honour – 1,640 names (up by 3)
- Jersey Roll of Service* – 7,446 names (up by 18)

* Jersey RoS is updated in batches.

Both of Jersey's Rolls should be receiving updates by the end of February.

Editor's Note: Over the last 4 to 6 weeks Roger has endured an ophthalmic complaint but which is fortunately on the recovery path, such that he has found that spending excessive time at the computer screen has been, at times, uncomfortable. This has hindered his work a little, but hopefully this will not greatly affect what is being accessed. We wish him well!

Photograph Requirements for the Rolls of Honour

The weather **WILL** improve!! No doubt that some of us will again start thinking of battlefield visits. Please look at our RoH photograph aids pages in the website's Members Area and see if there are any photographs needed from the areas you will be visiting.

For those travelling in the British Isles we still need photographs to add to our Rolls of Honour from:

Alfreton, Derbyshire	Manchester Southern
Burnley, Lancs	Sunderland
Camberwell, London	County Cork, Ireland
Dunfermline, Fifeshire	Downpatrick, Northern Ireland
Gosport, Hants	County Donegal, Ireland
Liverpool	

Full details can be found in the Members Area of our website, and if advice is required, please contact Roger.

Literary Efforts

As is referred to in the Guernsey Great War Commemoration Press Release below and overleaf, Liz Walton's book, 'A Guernseyman Goes to War' will be released by the Guernsey Museum in the next few months.

Heather Morton is currently in the planning stage for a book on the German POW Camp at Blance Banques.

Ned Malet de Carteret is similarly looking to produce a book on three members of his family, Jack Armstrong, Philip Malet de Carteret and Harold Ackroyd, VC.

Alasdair Crosby is currently working to assemble a collection of essays on aspects of the Great War as it impacted Jersey. You may already have been contacted or will be if he feels that you can provide an essay.

Lastly, Ian Ronayne is hard at work on his 'Jersey in the Great War' book, which is in effect, the first official history of the conflict as it affected the Island. Most of it is currently at first draft stage, and I am presently reading through it to give him some thoughts on the Chapters' content and the overall continuity.

We will look to those named above to provide more detail as they progress forward

Great War Commemorative Events

Clearly, as the 4th August approaches, information is slowly emerging from organisations, official and otherwise, as to how the Great War will be commemorated. We kick off with Guernsey and the following Press Release:

'Guernsey will be marking the centenary of the First World War in many different ways. The Culture and Leisure Department is compiling a list of events and projects which will be taking place in the islands over the next five years. These will involve the Royal Court, several States Departments and many other organisations.'

Guernsey Museum at Candie will mount a foyer display showing how Guernsey responded to the outbreak of war, and will also be publishing Liz Walton's book 'A Guernseyman Goes to War'. Other official events are still at the planning stage and will be announced later.

Other organisations are also announcing their plans. The National Trust's Folk & Costume Museum is holding an exhibition 'Peace Before War 1900-1914', opening in March, whilst the WEA's Raymond Falla Memorial lecture will be by Eddie Parks on May 22nd. On July 9th, the Red Cross Summer Fete at Government House will draw special attention to that organisation's role in alleviating suffering in the conflict. The Guernsey Society will also be hosting a lecture by Rory Stevens at the Frossard Theatre on July 15th. A recital of Songs and Poems will be held as part of 'Summer Music at Town Church' on Monday 4th August, the actual date when Britain declared War. The St Peter Port Douzaine is undertaking a project to refurbish the Town War Memorial. The Philatelic Bureau will be issuing a set of stamps and the Westminster Collection are minting a set of coins. It is expected that over the next five years, local media will be following local stories which came out of the conflict.

Anyone planning something relating to the First World War in the islands is asked to contact Jason Monaghan, the Museums Director, who is maintaining the list of commemorative projects. This will help avoid clashes, and assist with drawing up the programme of official events'.

Turning to **Jersey**, as has been mentioned in the last Journal, the Bailiff's Committee had been working away for about 9 months, but news of progress has not been forthcoming. Now 3 months on, real news remains elusive. But, I gather that a proposed list of events and budgets are being submitted to the Island's Council of Ministers as this is being written. However, there are some elements that are emerging from various sources, some of which are firm, others with varying degrees of probability.

Among the firm events, Jersey Heritage and the Museum are holding a 'Voices of the Great War' exhibition at the Museum between the 3rd August and the 30th November, this year. In the advertising Jersey Heritage notes that:

'On the 4th August, 1914, following the German failure to withdraw from neutral Belgium, Britain joined in a war that was to last over four years, range over the entire globe and cost over 750,000 of her citizens their life. At the time Jersey had a resident population of just below 52,000 and approximately 20% of them served the British or French war effort, which left few islanders untouched by the tragedy of war. While the story of the Great War is a story of millions, it is also the story of individuals. 'Jersey and the Great War' recounts some of those stories'.

One understands that the exhibition will focus on 12 lives, including those of Philip Malet de Carteret, Martin Kadrewell and William Bruce, VC. For my part, I trust that the French will be suitably represented. *'N'oubliez pas les français!'* is my motto for 2014!

It is hoped that amongst the States-funded activities, there will be budget cover for school battlefield trips that may take place over the next 4-5 years led by Ian Ronayne. Similarly, we hope to see money set aside for a reprint of the updated JRoH. Daniel Benest is progressing this, having problems with one potential supplier coming up with data that is useful.

Some thoughts are being given to a war memorial for St Helier, the only one out of the twelve parishes lacking one. Early days.

The JEP is looking at carrying Great War articles, and I received the following from Chris Bright, the present Editor, back in November:

'...plans are in hand for celebrating the newspaper's 125th anniversary in 2015 by making extensive use of our own archives in a number of ways, including special publications. Similarly, we will be marking the centenary of the start of the First World War next year with a series of features and/or special publications recalling both Jersey's involvement in the conflict and Island life in general during that period. While I suspect that your suggestion of bi-weekly four-page supplements might be impractical, and perhaps of limited interest, the basic idea of running more regular longer extracts from the archives throughout the second half of our anniversary year (the Evening Post having first appeared on 30th June, as you will know) is one to which we should certainly give more consideration as the plans are finalised'.

The EP along with the Morning, as it was then, has a considerable amount of relevant material on activities in Jersey that understandably cannot be sourced elsewhere.

Lastly, Jersey Post is also looking to release stamps to commemorate the Great War. Ian Ronayne and I have been in touch with them regarding a number of aspects about the proposed programme. Hopefully more can be advised in the next Journal.

Floods, Fire and Famine

We're not at the stage where famine has set in, but certainly the UK's recent floods have had a considerable effect. Given that the Thames Valley is suffering at present, there may be difficulties for CWGC staff getting to and from their offices at Maidenhead.

As to Kew, again, there may also be a risk of flooding, but there was a fire there on the 15th February, which caused disruption to visitors wishing to access records. Fortunately, no documents have been damaged by the fire, and normal opening hours have resumed.

In the Media - Around the Press and Television

In January the BBC released the news that 2,500 hours of programming will be assigned to the Great War over the next five years, and one might presume that means an average 10 hours per week either watching TV or listening to the radio! The first shots to have been fired in this campaign were Jeremy Paxman's 'Britain's Great War' and 'Royal Cousins at War'. Both have proved interesting and informative.

Although Paxman has been accused of buying his script at Poundland (!) by one critic, he has provided a fresh view of those Great War's events back in Britain, that have not enjoyed great public display hitherto, such as the German naval spy Carl Hans Lody, and the shelling and bombing of English east coast towns in 1914 and 1915, such as Hartlepool and Great Yarmouth.

'Royal Cousins' looks at Queen Victoria's descendants, and particularly the characters of the Tsar Nicholas, Kaiser Wilhelm, and Britain's Kings, Edward VII and then George V. In

watching the two-part programme, it became clear that the lynch pin in that tale was the Kaiser, and this centred upon his unstable nature that had been attributed to a withered arm resulting from his delivery at a difficult birth. At once undiplomatic, bombastic, tactless and warlike in his international dealings, he became vacillating and nervous of the consequences as to the result of his utterances once the pfennig dropped. Is it going too far to say that the war resulted from the 'blank cheque' that he gave to the Austrians? Possibly, but it is apparent that Bismarck had established a German nation that lacked a political system that did not provide the checks and balances to compensate for autocratic rule. In his own way, the Tsar Nicholas was equally unsuited to the task of autocratic rule, and was not equipped to take overall command of the Russian armies in the field. In part, his fate, and that of his family and immediate servants, was attributed to King George V's unwillingness for Nicholas to take up exile in Britain in 1917. A curious, inhumane stance, but one intended to safeguard the British Monarchy in revolutionary times?

Over the coming months and years, I am sure that we will again be treated to re-runs of 'Oh, what a Lovely War', 'The Monocled Mutineer' and 'Blackadder goes Forth'. Turning to the press, it is noticeable that there is an increase in Great War related articles, even when one sets aside the 'professor versus professor' debates and whose fault it was. Much of this increase can be put down to the emergence of photograph albums or human interest stories.

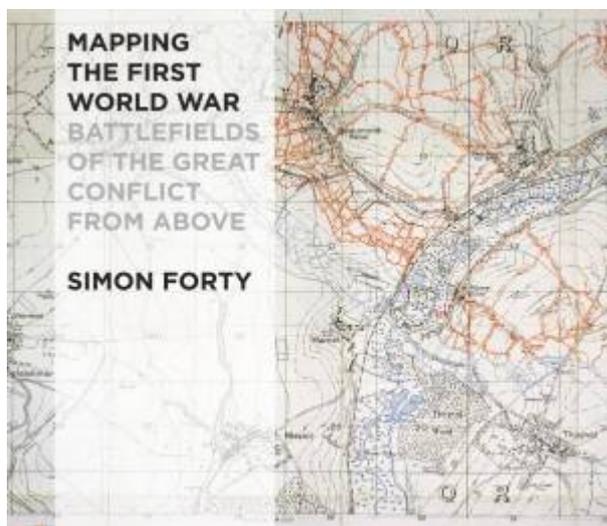
'*First World War: An Illustrated History*' is no longer appearing on newsagent shelves, but it can still be obtained via the link below for those interested:

<https://shop.keypublishing.com/product/View/productCode/WWSPEC>

The Telegraph's monthly supplement continues, but it still does not quite appeal. However, on the plus side, from the beginning of January, they have made available the papers of the same date 100 years ago on their website. The print is difficult to read on screen, and with a PDF reader such as Foxit, the eyesight tests can be avoided, the trick being to download a day's issue as a PDF file from the following website:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/ww1-archive/>

Book Reviews



Mapping the First World War By Simon Forty Conway Publishing (RRP £20.00)

Whilst we generally do not overindulge in too many festive delights in our household at Christmas, it is the time for serving up turkey, and I am afraid to say that, this year, this book also turned out to be just that very bird! It will therefore come as no surprise when I say that it is a 'Do not Buy', and I can only express my relief that I did not pay the full RRP! It is dire!

The basic concept of the book is fundamentally sound in that it seeks to depict various styles used to chart the Great War such from sketch maps showing tunnels under the front, the standard 1:10,000 trench map, to the larger scale regional maps. It also contains panoramic drawings, the odd aerial photograph and charts showing which divisions, both British and German, were deployed during a particular battle and on which days. In all, there are some 180-200 illustrations set out on 116 of the book's 144 pages. But, it is this 'pick and mix' that causes the first problem, that of illustrative clarity.

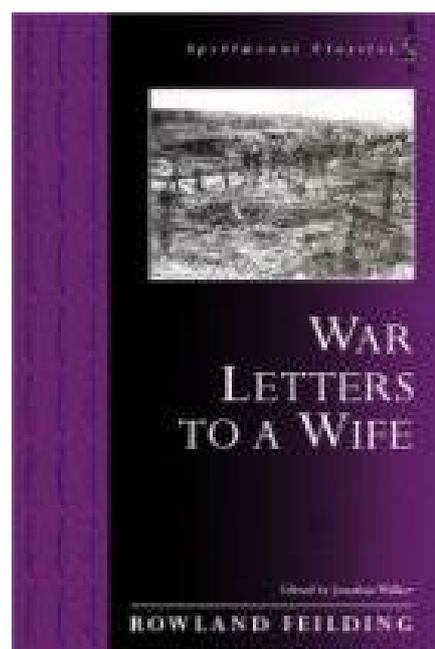
The pages are 9.5" (H) x 10.5" (B) and the majority of the maps (copied from the National Archives' Library) cannot be read without using a magnifying glass to digest what annotations there are on the map, in some cases the locations themselves, and even then invariably unsuccessfully. As an example, a map showing the East Africa campaign in 1916 covers an area of over 708,000 square miles well within the border of one page and whatever is contained in it is, with the exception of the major geographical features such as Lake Victoria and some of the islands in the Indian Ocean, largely indecipherable. Similarly, a 1:10,000 trench map is confined to one page and there is no hope of reading what is normally displayed on a sheet that measures about 6' x 4'.

The remaining 28 pages are given over to describing each of the nations that were involved in the Great War and a summary of how the war progressed in the various theatres. This material can best be described as padding. While it may be of mild interest, there has been no attempt at connecting the maps to the story, indeed, one starts to question the relevance of the whole book. In my experience, albeit in a different context, of producing technical illustrations and textual material the former should be sufficiently clear to give the reader what an item looks like, while the accompanying text gives the reader a description of the features illustrated. A minor irritation is that text is American English and there are at least one or two historical errors.

In conclusion, the book proved to be a considerable disappointment. According to the publishers the book, *'is essential for anyone interested in military history and strategy, and in the development of cartography'* and I had seen it in that light before purchasing it. I do not now!

War Letters to a Wife
By Rowland Feilding
(Edited by Jonathan Walker)
Spellmount Classics
(RRP £14.99)

This is a book that, had it been spotted on the shelves of a bookshop, or on the internet, I would have been unlikely to have bought it on the too simple basis that it was not 'my sort of book'. Having now read it, I realise that would have been a great shame. However, buy it I did, second hand, solely upon the basis of a contact by a chap in Dubai who pointed to the fact that both John and Simon Knapp were referred to in it. The letters were originally published in 1929, and this book is a reprint that appeared in 2001, although I understand that that Naval and Military Press may have also produced their own version since, but without the Editor's input.



Along with a simplified family tree, the book introduces Rowland Feilding, and it is immediately that his family had connections, given that his paternal grandfather was the 7th Earl of Denbigh. Many of his brothers and uncles in the Feilding line were in the military with three at least killed during the Great War. His wife Edith's family, the Stapleton-Brethertons were no less affected. However, we quickly discover a Channel Island connection in that Evelyn, one of her sisters, was married to Prince Gebhart Blücher von Wahlstatt, the Tenant of Herm up until the outbreak of war when he had returned to Germany. The Stapleton-Brethertons were Catholic, and Rowland had also converted to Catholicism.

Rowland was not a professional soldier. After Haileybury he had attended Manchester University where he had studied Civil Engineering and mining, the latter skill later taking him to Rhodesia. Here he encountered John Knapp as he was present there at the time of the Matabele Campaign of 1896 and joined Gifford's Horse, to which Knapp also belonged. Returning from his travels in 1898, he now obtained a Territorial Force commission with the 6th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers. By the outbreak of war, the 43-year old Rowland was serving as a Captain with the County of London Yeomanry, and would be lodged at Finsbury Park until the beginning of April, 1915, when, having pulled strings with a cousin, he now joined the Coldstream Guards' 3rd Battalion in France, before transferring to the 1st Battalion in May.

The letters are remarkably frank and detailed in terms of the conditions of the trenches, the terrain, German opposition in terms of shelling and sniping and the casualties. In terms of his fellow officers, he names names when they are killed or injured, so he is quite open to Edith, but one wonders at whether some detail should have been struck out by the censor. Or was he the censor? The letters vary in length, but after Loos for example, there is a particularly lengthy one as he caught up with the events of the previous week. Meanwhile, on the basis that 'any fool can rough it' there is no danger of that when his wife sent him parcels containing plover's eggs and smoke salmon. Even without such dietary supplements, Rowland was an individual who was enjoying his war, as were most of his men who, it seems, regarded him as a fair officer who would stick up for them where necessary. He was fair in another sense, being white haired, and thus was referred to by them as 'Snowball'!

Rowland had a charmed life when the bullets were flying, but the end of 1915 he was sent home for three months with a severe knee infection and on his return in April, was transferred from 1st Battalion to the 4th which was a Pioneer Battalion. This did not sit comfortably with him, and he was seeking a return to a fighting unit. At the time of the Somme battles in July, he now found himself as a sight-seer, visiting places like Mametz, Carnoy and Pozières, and his letters were descriptive of the scenes and the bodies, in one case, of a French skeleton still wearing *les pantalon rouge*.

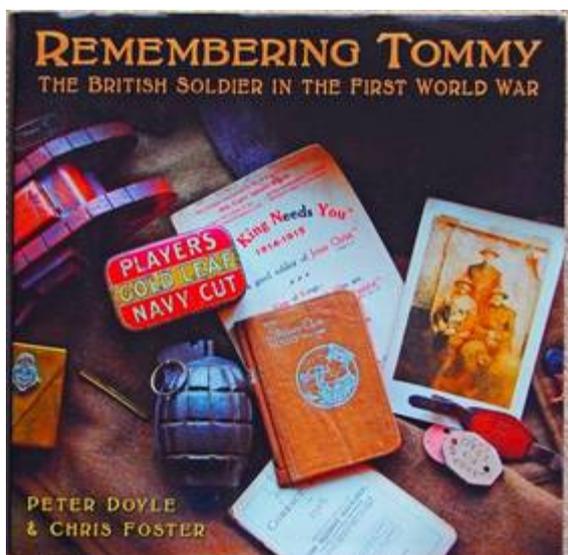
Whether any string-pulling had been necessary or not, he was appointed CO of 6th Battalion, Connaught Rangers on the 7th September, 1916 while it was lodged at Carnoy. The following day his Battalion was in the trenches in front of Ginchy and then took part in the assault the day after. His wife is informed in a letter on the 10th that, in all, his Battalion started out with 266 men at Ginchy, of which just below 35% became casualties! There was another aspect to Rowland's appointment, and that was the fact that, although English, he was a Catholic. In an Irish regiment, not too long after the Easter Risings, the British Army was being careful not to alienate the Irish. Of his Irishmen, he noted a fortnight after Ginchy that they would be 'difficult to drive, but easy to lead' and that they

were 'intensely religious, loyal'. Rowland remained with the Battalion until April, 1918 and maintained a steady flow of letters. He notes that in June, 1917 that, nine months after Ginchy, he is the only officer, out of forty, who took part in that battle. He was hospitalised again, this time with a dislocated elbow having fallen while running across the battlefield. At the end of the War he was CO of the Civil Service Rifles.

His letters are a fascinating and descriptive insight into Battalion life, with the alternation between the trenches and life behind the lines. They are interspersed with what would be familiar names to Edith back home, and there are also more affectionate letters to his daughters. There is in his letters, an undercurrent of the London social circuit having been translated to the battlefields, it is as if his neighbours in Kensington and Chelsea are all there, and indeed, they probably were! He writes of a Battalion concert evening where 'considerable talent comes to the surface', the programme being put together by an 'officer named Holloway'. It takes the Editor to tell the reader that this was Stanley! Staff Officers do not get off lightly, while there are some anecdotes to liven the letters. The reason for getting this book had originally been the reference to Simon Knapp, so it was interesting to note that Rowland's house (1 Gordon Place) in Kensington was a mere 100-200 yards from the Carmelite Church. The family would surely have attended services there.

The Editor has done a very good job, Rowland frequently mentions meeting such and such, and a brief note is included about the individual, viz Stanley Holloway. But he also includes the location where Rowland was when he wrote the letter on a particular date, but could not say where. Where needed, explanations are provided for more general aspects.

Finally, 'War Letters' is well written, well edited, and well worth getting if you can find this version.



Remembering Tommy
The British Soldier in the First World War
By Peter Doyle & Chris Foster
(The History Press - £25.00)
Review by Peter Tabb

Knowing all too well my book-lined study, the Christmas presents my children (and now even grandchildren) choose for me are invariably books and similarly knowing my inclinations, invariably history books.

Inevitably with 2013 turning into 2014 and the looming centenary of the start of the Great War, there has been a veritable torrent of new works on the shelves of WH Smith, Waterstones and of course, on Amazon.

One such to find its way into my Christmas stocking was '*Remembering Tommy*', very much a coffee table tome, large and lavishly illustrated. This is no typical history book and is a long way from the works of, say, the late Richard Holmes. While he is a military historian with a significant number of Great War titles to his credit, Peter Doyle is also a geologist and a specialist in battlefield terrains. Co-author Chris Foster is an artist and

photographer and *'Remembering Tommy'* uses original artefacts in historic settings to bring the men who went to war vividly to life.

The British soldier of the Great War has already been depicted in many books. Invariably Tommy Atkins is portrayed as a stoic, joining up in patriotic fervour and destined to serve four years on the Western Front in appalling conditions and in some of the most costly battles in history. What this book seeks to do, and in my view succeeds admirably, is to portray what it was like in the trenches, how the soldiers lived, where they slept, how they went 'over the top' and when they did what they carried with them. It also features those left behind and these are some of the book's most poignant pages.

Now there is nobody left to tell us how it was from personal experience, our views of what it was like to be in the trenches is hazy, conditioned by the images of faded monochrome photographs and we can only image what it must be like to be 'drowning in mud' or to experience the 'pitiless misery' of Passchendaele. Although the television series *'Blackadder goes forth'* has been criticised for the manner in which the Great War itself is portrayed as farce and futility, the physical depiction of trench life in a dugout was fairly accurate, the artefacts with which Captain Blackadder and his colleagues surrounded themselves realistic.

'Remembering Tommy' is all about the uniforms the men wore, the equipment that they carried, the letters they wrote home, their personal possessions, mementos and photographs, and the homes they left behind them.

I was expecting something of a Dorking Kindersley work, with maps, and detailed and carefully worked colour illustrations but what the authors have done is to take real artefacts and photograph them in context. There is, for instance, on page 29, a colour photograph of a front door typical of any street in any town or city in Britain, or even St Helier or St Peter Port for that matter, and propped against the door is an SMLE 0.303" rifle with its firing mechanism wrapped up for travelling. The photograph is captioned *'Leaving for the front'*, a powerful and compelling image. Similarly, on page 72 there is the photograph of a table ostensibly in a YMCA hut where soldiers could find simple refreshment, games and the chance to write home. The photograph shows a typical YMCA mug of tea, a draughts board a bottle of Roses Lime Juice a pack of playing cards, a pack of ten Gold Flake cigarettes and a box of matches, everything placed as though the draughts players had momentarily left and would be back any minute. A couple of pages later there are some letters home that might have been written by one of these draughts players, Families often heard of the death of their loved ones by returned letters and the ones depicted are from Private Percy Edwards of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers who died of wounds on the 28th September, 1918.

If anyone needed proof that the trench devised by fellow Jersey historian Howard Baker and myself in 2008 to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the end of the Great War was an accurate representation (despite having to comply with 21st century Health and Safety regulations) then the photographs on page 98 and 137 provide it.

What are also compelling are the pictures of the recreation of front rooms on the 'home front' with all the paraphernalia of daily life while the man of the house is away at the Front. These recreations are supported by contemporary photographs and the authors have, in my opinion, wisely not put models into any of their domestic interiors and they are much more atmospheric for that.

This is not a book for those readers looking for a definitive history of the Great War because, apart from anything else, it deals only with the Western Front and the men who fought there. But what it does do, by using real artefacts rather than illustrations, allows the reader to reach out and almost touch history. As you can imagine this is a book that I believe should be on any Great War enthusiast's bookshelf.

Around the UK



Birmingham – Hall of Memory

Having decided to visit the new Birmingham Library whilst staying with our daughter and her family, who live near Solihull, over Christmas, I came across the Hall of Memory shown above. It is an interesting departure from the more traditionally styled war memorials that sprang up in cities and towns around the UK, with the names inscribed in books rather than on the walls.



Eastney - Royal Marine Museum



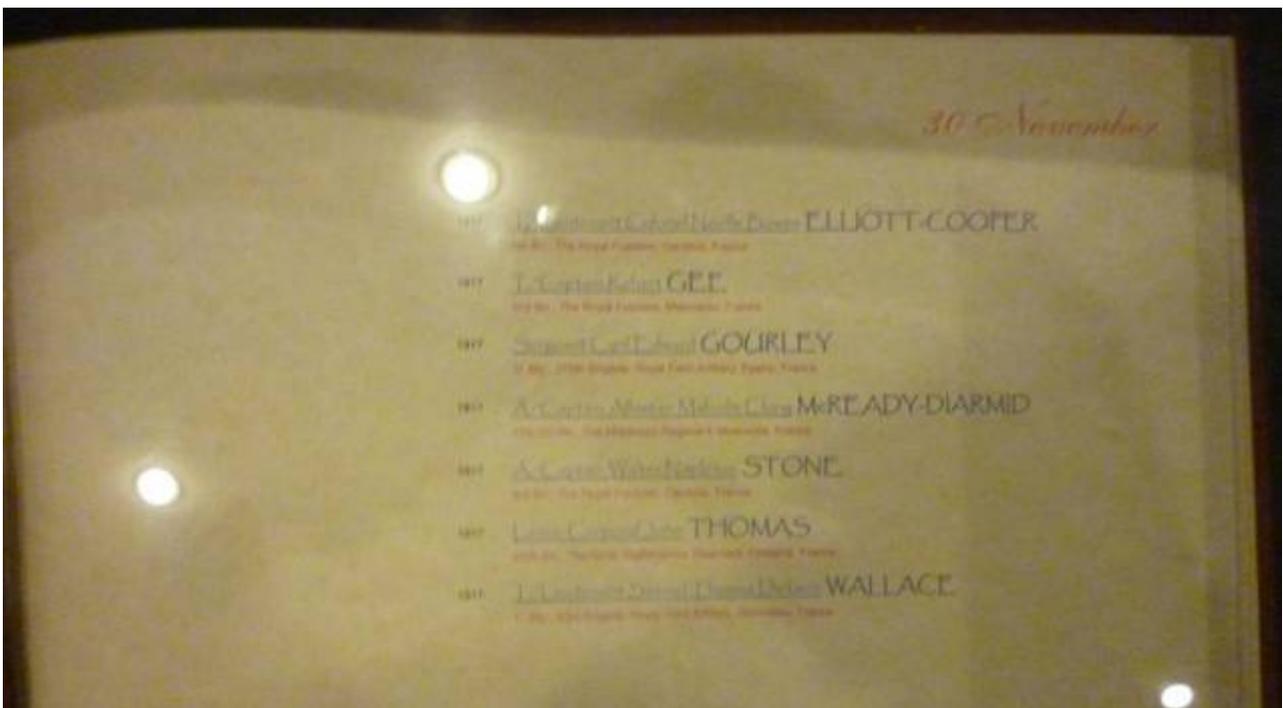
Meanwhile a few days were spent visiting Portsmouth in January for a change of scenery and to see old work colleagues (well not so old then!), and whilst there it gave me the chance to visit the Royal Marine Museum at the former Eastney Barracks. Given that it looks at the Corps 350 year history (it's the anniversary this year), the Great War element is rather small scale with a range of artefacts, many of which that can be seen in other museums. Even so, Gallipoli is well represented as is Zebrugge with an excellent diorama (not pictured). I was particularly impressed by the silver model of the 15" Siege Howitzer, a type used by the Royal Marine Artillery. Not to be outdone, there is a Corporal in the Royal Marine Light Infantry poised in a trench system being observed by the obligatory rat!

Whenever we're in London, we stay at the Union Jack Club, just across from Waterloo Station and very convenient for the Underground and other forms of transport. Founded in 1907, the original Edwardian building (which I stayed in back in 1959), shown below with a mixed group of Australian and British soldiers, has sadly been replaced by a pair of high rise accommodation towers.



Originally just intended for servicemen on-leave in London or just passing through, armed forces reductions has necessitated an expanded membership, taking others such as civil servants. The management tries to maintain much of the service/ex-service ethos in terms of the facilities, fittings and the décor. One particular feature that I recall from my very first stay was the Victoria Cross awards panel, and it still features today, even though

I felt sure (a memory playing tricks?) that the original was made from marble as opposed to the wood panelling that can be seen below.



Our stay covered the date 30th November, and this coincided with the day that the Germans counter-attacked following Cambrai. As such, the Book of Remembrance was open at that date and OV Captain Alastair McReady-Diarmid featured, as did Captain Robert Gee who won his VC at Les Rues Vertes, directing various parties of his Brigade's staff and RGLI reinforcements to fend off the Germans so stoutly.

Out and About

Looking Back: We welcome the following article, by Steve Foote, on the Guernsey Society's recent Battlefield Tour:

'In September last year, the Guernsey Society organised a Battlefield Tour following in the footsteps of the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry. Over the course of the week, the party was taken on a tour led by Battle Honours which took in all the major actions of the RGLI at Cambrai, Le Doulieu and Passchendaele, as well as paying our respects to the those who died at the relevant memorials and cemeteries.

The tour party included a number of descendants of RGLI members – including the nephew of Major William Foote, second in command at the Battle of Cambrai, members of the Stranger family, whose father and three other relatives fought in the RGLI: two of them died in the fighting at Le Doulieu, one was taken prisoner of war, and another, Capt Harry Stranger was the first member of the RGLI to be awarded the MC and sadly died of his wounds on his way back to England. Other families represented including the niece of Lieut TdeJ Lainé who was killed during the attack on Nine Wood at the Battle of Cambrai, and the nephew of Lieut FW Arnold who died during the German counter-attack at Les Rues Vertes. Other members of the tour party included the Chairman of the Guernsey Society, Keith Le Page, and the President, Bailiff Richard Collas.



The photo on the previous page shows members of the tour party during a visit to the only surviving tank from the Battle of Cambrai which is in a barn in Flesquières, and was discovered buried in a field by battlefield enthusiast, Philippe Gorcynski. He is now in the process of establishing a permanent museum for the tank (see www.tank-cambrai.com).

Feedback from all the participants was very positive. The tour has already been featured in the February edition of Military History Monthly as part of a Battle Honours advertorial feature. A full report of the tour, photos and biographies of some of the ancestors of the tour party will be featured in the forthcoming Summer edition of The Review of the Guernsey Society.'

Looking Forward: Alan Bertram has already booked to go to Ypres over the 4th/5th August. For me a trip to Portland Bill in March/April (assuming that it has not been washed away!) with the hope of doing some research at the Tank Museum. I am staying near Hesdin for a fortnight in June/July, and will again be heading to Verdun for another fortnight in September/October.

Ian has a GoFrance visit to the Somme and the Salient lined up for the 25th to the 28th June. Check their website www.gotours.je for the brochure details.

Imperial War Museum Initiatives By Steve Foote

I have been taking a keen interest in some of the recent announcements by the Imperial War Museum of their initiatives to mark the centenary of the start of WW1 in August.

This weekend I had a look at 'Operation War Diary' (www.operationwardiary.org), and made a minor contribution as a "citizen historian" by tagging a number of pages of the official war diaries now available on their web site. The process was quite easy to get the hang of, and I was soon tagging away. The project seems to have got off to a flying start with 600,000 pages tagged within the first couple of days of launch, and the tagging of the first batch of war diaries released is rapidly reaching a conclusion.

What is more interesting is how this will be used to start creating outline records of the service of the soldiers recorded in the war diaries. This is due to be launched in August, as part of the Lives of First World War project (www.livesofthefirstworldwar.org), where the public will have the opportunity to contribute photos of family members and other WW1 heirlooms to complement the official records from war diaries, census, service records and other official documents. The initial publicity for this project states that the intention is to allow the creation of communities of interest – and it would be great if our group takes the lead in creating communities of interest for Guernsey and Jersey.

(Editor's Note: I must confess that I came away somewhat confused when I first visited the 'Operation War Diary' website about three weeks ago following a prompt, similar to Steve's note, from Liz Walton. Perhaps the mechanics of data tagging was too much for this simpleton?

Likewise, the 'Lives of First World War' project struck me as reinventing what so many groups up and down the UK are doing, and pertinently, what we are doing with our own website. My reading of the present situation is that, warts and all, we have already created communities of interest for Guernsey and Jersey which can be 'sliced and diced'

in numerous ways. A Jerseyman can appear on the Roll of Honour, the College memorial, his parish memorial and the Freemason's memorial, and thus he would belong to four communities. So it does sound as if the IWM are seeking to embark upon a vast, highly complex IT data gathering project, and I wonder if they are 'man enough' for it.

But, Steve has a valid point in suggesting that 'our group takes the lead'. There is first and foremost, the benefit that, if our role is widely publicised, it can forestall others wasting their efforts in reinventing what we have already created. The other aspect is that we may need to think of our website's future and whether the IWM path could be the way forward. Of course, there is the alternative that the mainstream Island Heritage organisations, official or otherwise, might progressively become more involved, but that could mean money!

I have obviously presented my initial reaction, but it would be useful to hear the thoughts of others as to what the IWM is intending, how it might be supportable by us, what the role of Heritage groups might be, and how might the 'Kerensky view' of Island non-involvement be prevented. The floor is yours!)

Odds and Ends

Administrative Matters: As ever, it would be of help if changes to Members' E-mail 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.

Jersey's Militia Pay Lists, 1914-1917: This remains a stop-go activity with the emphasis very much on stop at the moment with other work taking greater priority.

Jersey Archive: The Archive's 2014 talks on Jersey's streets are as follows:

15 th March	- Georgetown
19 th April	- Mont Millais
17 th May	- St John's Village
21 st June	- Beaumont and Sandybrook
19 th July	- La Route de la Hougue Bie
16 th August	- Corbière and Petit Port
20 th September	- Bouley Bay
18 th October	- Plémont and Portinfer
15 th November	- Broad Street, Charing Cross and Sand Street
20 th December	- Talk on Researching Your House History

Call 833300 or email archives@jerseyheritage.org to book your place. Free entry. All talks start at 10 am.

Chester Cecil Church: No news as yet, I have dashed off notes and letters prompting the apparent need for some proper sample administration and feedback. But, I have yet to receive feedback!

Help Wanted: We're trying to piece together an idea of the British Army's organisation in the Channel Islands during the Great War. We know, for example that after the respective Military Service Acts that home defence fell on the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion, RGLI and the RJGB, while 109 and 110 Companies, RGA commenced. But any data as to the

command under the two Lieutenant-Governors would be of interest. If you can help, please contact Mark Bougourd.

CWGC Visit: Vic Geary the present CWGC Vice-Chairman, Air Chief Marshal Sir Joe French in Jersey in November during the latter's somewhat rain-sodden visit.

BBC Jersey: From Monday, 24th February at 08.15 hours and at later stages that day, BBC Jersey, in conjunction with other Local BBC radio stations will be commencing a number of programmes on the Island during the Great War. They will also be available on 'Listen Again' and 'Listen Live' as well as being available on www.bbc.co.uk/ww1

Journal to Website Transfers: There are a lot of articles appearing in past Journals that could also feature on the website with a limited amount of editing. Can authors give thought to see what might feature on our site and supply fresh copy?

Enfin

As ever, my thanks to those who contributed to this Journal for their inputs, both large and small.

Regards
Barrie H Bertram
15th February, 2014

Journal Issue Dates For 2014

Journals 53, 54 and 55 are currently planned to be published on the 15th of May, August and November, or very shortly after those dates. As ever, I shall be looking for articles by the 10th of each of those months.

NAVAL GAZING PART 13

Surname	Forenames	Number	Rank	Service	Ship	Born	Parish	Remarks	RoS	RoH
BUNTER	William Walter	81295	Ordinary Seaman	RN	HMS Duke of Wellington	17/01/1858	St H	Served 7 May 1873 to 18 Jul 1878 when he went on the run at Portsmouth. No evidence to link him with the PO Bunter on the JRoS at present.	TBA	No
CORAM	William Frank	2514	Private	RM	RM Depot, Deal	28 Jun 1879	St Mn	Served 20 Oct 1917 to 25 Feb 1918 when transferred to RJGB (878). Former Army (Militia?) service of 12 days recognised.	Amend	No
DUFFETT	Tom Minchinton	363747	Domestic 2nd Class	RN	HMS Africa	20/12/1883	-	Born in Weymouth Dorset. Two spells of RN service, 1 Jul 1905 to 31 Dec 1906, and 5 Feb 1907 to 5 Apr 1907, when discharged as 'Unfit for Situation'. In GW served with 9th DAC as Gunner 91806.	Amend	No
GALE	Wilfred Frank	M14870	Joiner 4th Class	RN	HMS Research (HMS Aiglon)	31/01/1897	-	Born in Guernsey. Resident in JY in 1911, and mother JY born. Served 17 Aug 1915 to 6 Oct 1919 when invalided out with Neuresthenia.	Amend	No
GILLARD	William John	350500	Chief Sick Bay Steward	RN	HMS Victory I	01/01/1876	St H	Served 1 Apr 1897 to 24 Nov 1919 when demobilised. Sound service record.	Amend	No
GODEL	Albert Gard	239027	Able Bodied Seaman	RN	HMS Leander	20/10/1889	-	Born Morice Town Devon to JY father. Served 24 Jul 1907 to at least 14 Feb 1928. Good service record.	Amend	No
GODEL	Arthur	K19246	Stoker 1st Class	RN	HMS Egremont (HMS Asphodel)	22/05/1895	-	Born in Devonport to JY father. Served 26 May 1913 to at least 7 Dec 1927. Two cell spells.	Amend	No
GORIN	John Philip	J78795	Boy 1st Class	RN	HMS Dido	20/07/1901	Gr	Served 28 Sep 1917 until at least 21 Feb 1928.	Amend	No
GOSLING	Charles Emile	295949	Leading Stoker	RN	HM Submarine E15	26/11/1881	St H	Served 20 Sep 1900 to 18 Apr 1913 when discharged by purchase. Joined RFR 19 Apr 1913 and mobilised 2 Aug 1914. Taken POW on 17 Apr 1915 when E15 ran aground while in the Dardanelles. Repatriated 31 Dec 1918 and demobilised 20 Mar 1919.	Amend	No
GOUFFINI	Alfred John	J32866	Leading Seaman	RN	HMS Bacchante	26/04/1899	Ty	Served 30 Nov 1914 to 30 Jun 1926 when he was transferred to the Officers Section.	Amend	No
GOUFFINI	Francis John	J76738	Ordinary Seaman	RN	HMS Empress of India	19/11/1899	Ty	Served 17 Aug 1917 to 18 Feb 1919 when demobilised. Deserted and recovered to receive 60d detention.	Amend	No

GOUFFINI	Joseph Louis	J69645	Boy 1st Class	RN	HMS Repulse	17/09/1901	Ty	Served 19 Apr 1917 to 28 Feb 1918 when invalided out suffering from hysteria.	Amend	No
GOULD	William Henry	303840	Petty Officer Stoker	RN	HMS Cleopatra	31/05/1882	St H	Served 23 Apr 1903 to 19 Jun 1919 when demobilised. Joined RFR. 3d Cells in 1906	Amend	No
GRADY	Sidney	L7532	Officer's Steward 2nd Class	RN	HMS Neptune	09/02/1917	St H	Served 24 Oct 1915 to 28 May 1919 when invalided out, cause not stated.	Amend	No
GRAHAM	Percival George	J26544	Able Bodied Seaman	RN	HMS Achilles	30/09/1897	-	Served 30 Aug 13 to 19 Dec 1919 when invalided out, cause not stated. Son of Sgt Samuel Graham. Born in Fermoy, Co Cork. May have lied about his age.	Amend	No
GRANDIN	Francis Reginald	K51040	Stoker 2nd Class	RN	HMS Vindictive	02/05/1900	-	Born in Cardiff to a JY Father. Served 3 May 1918 to 16 Sep 1920 with invalided out with NCO Initial Incompetence? Died Weymouth in 1962	Amend	No
GRANDIN	Philip Arthur	139364	Petty Officer 1st Class	RN	HMS Arlanza	11/11/1870	St H	Served 26 Oct 1886 to 4 Feb 1919 when demobilised. 28d imprisonment in 1889 for Smuggling. MiD in 1916. HMS Arlanza was an AMC	Amend	No
GREGORY	Alfred John	200793	Able Bodied Seaman	RN	HMS Espiegle	07/08/1881	St H	Served 23 Aug 1898 to 3 Sep 1921 when pensioned to shore. Good service record.	Amend	No
GROUNDSELL	Percy John	M10329	Ship's Cook	RN	HMS Pembroke I	31/07/1887	-	Born in Chichester. Served 4 Jan 1907 to 7 Apr 1910 as Cooks Mate 365556 when invalided out. Rejoined 4 Nov 1914, served until 14 Aug 1918, when again invalided out, this time with heat stroke.	Amend	No
GRUCHY	Thomas	213887	Able Bodied Seaman	RN	HMS Wallington (HMS Boyne)	06/01/1885	St H	Served 17 Mar 1901 to 15 Nov 1925 when pensioned to shore. Good service record.	Amend	No
GUENIER	William Wyatt	309499	Chief Stoker	RN	HMS Pembroke II	10/11/1887	Gr	Served 28 Dec 1905 to 27 Dec 1927 when pensioned to shore. Mobilised in 1938.	Amend	No
GULLEY	William Ernest	J58137	Boy 1st Class	RN	HMS Ramillies	05/03/1901	St H	Served 6 Sep 1916 to 25 Feb 1922, having transferred to Stoker's branch with number SS124890. Given free discharge probably as a result of naval reductions.	Amend	No
GUY	Frederick William Richiardi	222607	Leading Signaller	RN	HMS Blenheim	14/07/1884	-	Born in Kentish Town, London. Living at St Saviour in 1901C. Served 28 Aug 1902 to 17 Apr 1919 when demobilised. Good service record.	Amend	No
HACQUOIL	Francis Mollet	K21946	Leading Stoker	RN	HMS Kent	20/06/1895	St H	Served 17 Feb 1914 to at least 23 Jul 1928. Good service record.	Amend	No

HACQUOIL	George Richard	SS101117	Stoker 1st Class	RN	HMS Victory II	10/09/1886	St O	Served 1 Oct 1904 to 22 Oct 1909 then discharged shore as time expired. Joined RFR. Called up 13 Apr 1914 until 8 Feb 1919 when demobilised. May have lied about his birth, true date being 7 Apr 1887? Rejoined RFR in Feb 1919.	Amend	No
HALEY	James	157662	Petty Officer 1st Class	RN	HMS Cormorant	03/01/1875	St H	Served 18 Oct 1890 to 14 Sep 1919 when demobilised. Good service record.	Amend	No
HARBEN	Clarence George	L11712	Officer's Steward 3rd Class	RN	HMS Victory I	23/09/1899	St H	Served 3 Oct 1918 to 28 Jun 1919 when demobilised.	Amend	No
HARBEN	Sidney Winter Le Gros	239391	Able Bodied Seaman	RN	HMS Q7	19/11/1890	St H	Served 12 Aug 1907 to 9 Sep 1916 when he went on the run, probably in Queenstown. Medals were forfeited.	Amend	No
HARNETT	Henry George	J45694	Ordinary Seaman	RN	HMS Caesar (HMS Kinross)	09/02/1900	St C	Served 19 Oct 1915 to at least 17 Feb 1928. Two 5d spells in cells	Amend	No
LARBALESTIER	Charles Herbert	194470	Leading Seaman	RN	HMS Victory I	02/06/1882	St H	Served 16 Jul 1897 to 5 Oct 1911 when invalided out with diseased eyes. Recalled 2 Aug 1914 until 2 Oct 1914 when discharged medically unfit. 4w later joined RASC as a driver, M1/08228.	Amend	No
LAWRENCE	Ernest Raymond	SS124008	Stoker 1st Class	RN	HMS Queen Elizabeth	07/07/1900	St H	Served 26 Jun 1919 to 9 Jun 1922 when discharged due to RN reductions. Had previously served as J51569.	Amend	No
LE LIEVRE	Walter James	K24154	Stoker 1st Class	RN	HMS Victory II	14/01/1898	St H	Served 4 Feb 1915 to 16 Oct 1919 when demobilised. Two spells in cells, and arrested in Somers Town and sent back to ship. Not to be confused with SS120127.	Amend	No
LE MOIGNAN	Edward Nicolle	344657	Joiner 1st Class	RN	HMS Renown	18/04/1883	St H	Served 7 Oct 1901 to 24 Dec 1922 when pensioned to shore. Good service record.	Amend	No
LE MONNIER	Edward Francis	345974	Shipwright 3rd Class	RN	HMS Actaeon	18/07/1884	St Mn	Served 26 Mar 1903 to 25 Mar 1925 when pensioned to shore. Good service record.	Amend	No
LE SUEUR	William John Hawkins	J92975	Boy 2nd Class	RN	HMS Powerful	23/12/1900	St H	Served 17 Sep 1918 to 16 Oct 1928 at least. Good service record.	Amend	No
LINDSEY	Edward	230160	Able Bodied Seaman	RN	HMS Victory I	12/03/1888	NK	Served 19 Mar 1904 to 2 Nov 1922 when invalided out with eye defects. Received 90 days detention for 'Wilfully producing (?) Sickness' in 1916.	Amend	No
LINDSEY	George Archibald Templeman	216088	Leading Seaman	RN	HMS Canada	06/02/1886	St H	Served 6 Jul 1901 to 17 Feb 1919 when demobilised. Transferred to RFR. Good service record.	Amend	No

MUTTON	Herbert	344311	Shipwright 4th Class	RN	HMS Caroline	01/04/1883	St H	Served 1 Jul 1901 to 18 Jun 1922 when pensioned to shore. Good service record.	Amend	No
PARKER	William Charles	SS4520	Able Bodied Seaman	RN	HMS Sandhurst (HMS Patrician)	01/03/1895	St H	Served 25 Nov 1913 to 6 Mar 1919 when demobilised. Transferred to RFR.	Amend	No
PEARSE	Ernest Henry	J70284	Boy 1st Class	RN	HMS Iron Duke	16/09/1901	St H	Served 9 May 1907 to at least 18 Sep 1928. Some post-War disciplinary issues including absence.	Amend	No
RENOUF	Richard Roy	J94055	Boy 2nd Class	RN	HMS Impregnable	03/06/1903	St Mn	Served 2 Jan 1919 to at least 7 Feb 1928. Died 1975	Amend	No
ROWDEN	Sidney	J5101	Able Bodied Seaman	RN	HMS Victory I	27/12/1893	St H	Served 25 Aug 1909 to 1 Jan 1924 when discharged as colour service expired. Had a few disciplinary problems with using obscene language and being insubordinate. Received 28d detention in 1923 for fraudulently selling an anchor! Joined RFR in 1934.	Amend	No