

JOURNAL  
55

Channel Islands  
Great War  
Study Group  
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November  
2014



**Lieut. William Arthur McCrae Bruce, VC  
59<sup>th</sup> Scinde Rifles (Frontier Force)**

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## IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO FELL



**1<sup>st</sup> November, 1914  
to  
31<sup>st</sup> January, 1915**

### **November, 1914**

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 01. Adams, Arthur                   | 06. Conroy, Donald Patrick                 |
| 01. Bluett, Bertie William          | 06. Nortier, Charles Edouard               |
| 01. Courcoux, Guillaume François    | 08. Dunlop, Frederick Cleave Strickland    |
| 01. Deacon, William James           | 10. Leek, Henry George                     |
| 01. Frame, Frederick Francis        | 10. Marie, Auguste Manvieu Louis           |
| 01. Isaacs, James Clifford          | 10. Robilliard, Adolphus                   |
| 01. Journeaux, William Francis      | 11. Drelaud, Walter Harold                 |
| 01. Le Brun, Chris                  | 11. Sprot, James William Lennox            |
| 01. Le Page, Edmund John            | 12. Richardson, Laurence                   |
| 01. Le Vesconte John Thomas         | 14. Douglas, William Sholto                |
| 01. Lihou, Thomas Elisha            | 16. Picot, George Philip                   |
| 01. Lindsay, George Lawrence        | 18. Caulfield, James Crosbie               |
| 01. Long, Thomas                    | 18. Gregory, William Henry                 |
| 01. Marquer, Toussaint Marie        | 18. Swift, Frederick Ernest                |
| 01. Palmer, George                  | 19. Blondel, Jules                         |
| 01. Poling, Charles William         | 21. Maxwell-Moffat, Alexander Logan Nathan |
| 01. Saunders, Stanley Roland        | 24. Moylan, Edward Claud                   |
| 01. Skin, Albin Samuel              | 24. Moylan, William                        |
| 01. Smith, Alfred                   | 24. Stone, Albert                          |
| 01. Solley, Alfred John George      | 24. Troy, Edward John                      |
| 01. Spiller, James                  | 25. Lemoine, Joseph Marie Celestin*        |
| 01. Tremblay, Georges               | 25. Rault, Pierre Marie François           |
| 01. Underhill, Clarence Gordon      | 26. Brehaut, James                         |
| 01. Wright, Harry Thomas            | 26. Dartheney, Adolphus Isidore            |
| 01. Goodread, John                  | 26. Le Milliére, John Batiste Charles      |
| 02. Ross, Fleetwood George Campbell | 26. Queripel, Cecil Mervyn                 |
| 02. Ryley, Herbert Frank Brownlow   | 27. Toms, Arthur Woodland                  |
| 03. Williams, John                  | 30. Lock, Walter Henry                     |
| 05. Burton, William James           | 30. Ozard, John Philip                     |
| 06. Cobby, Sidney Richard           |  |

\* Various recorded as Lemoine, Le Moine or Le Moigne



## IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO FELL



**1<sup>st</sup> November, 1914  
to  
31<sup>st</sup> January, 1915**

### **December, 1914**

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 06. Yates, Aaron James                   | 20. Murray, Thomas Francis          |
| 08. Le Masurier, John                    | 20. Picton-Warlow, Wilfred          |
| 08. Nolais, William John                 | 20. Tooley, Harold Augustus Rupert  |
| 09. Gavey, Alfred W                      | 21. Bourgaize, Wilfred Henry        |
| 12. Gallichan, W                         | 21. Darcel, François Mathurin Marie |
| 15. De Gailhard-Bancel, Marie Joseph R A | 21. Fautrel, Oliver Alfred          |
| 15. Le Vasseur, Reginald Clifford        | 21. Howard, Bertie                  |
| 16. Le Boucher, Yves Marie               | 21. Le Villio, Pierre Marie         |
| 17. Bovin, Frank                         | 21. Male, George Edward             |
| 17. Cooch, Charles Rollo                 | 22. Durand, Francis William         |
| 17. Hamon, Jean François Marie           | 23. Lempriere, Henry Anderson       |
| 18. Collins, John Francis                | 24. Parr, George Henry              |
| 19. Bruce VC, William Arthur McCrae      | 25. Mauger, Walter George           |
| 19. Leray, Leon Jean François            | 29. Hale, Charles C                 |
| 19. Webb, Eli                            |                                     |

### **January, 1915**

- |                                     |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 01. Davies, Frank                   | 15. Stokes, William Thomas       |
| 01. Mourant, Roland Walter Blundell | 16. Duchemin, Camille Alfred     |
| 03. Bloor, Samuel                   | 16. Taylor, William John         |
| 03. Reynolds, Charles Hubert        | 18. Brieant, John                |
| 05. Harman, Charles Edward          | 19. Gale, James John             |
| 06. Heyes, John Arthur Manley       | 20. Le Taconneur, Emile François |
| 06. Noel, Stanley John              | 23. Ryan, George Julian          |
| 11. Fitzgerald, Alfred Patrick      | 25. Rumfitt, Arthur Thomas       |
| 11. Howe, Ernest William            | 26. Gradwell, George             |
| 13. Girard, Bertram Washington      | 29. Alderman, Albert Joseph      |
| 13. Logan, John Frederick           | 29. Maturin, William Kyrle       |
| 15. Noel, Herbert Charles           | 30. Rondel, Pierre Marie Ange    |

Hello All

Looking back at the past year, it is clear that the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War has struck a chord with countless numbers of people throughout what, in 1914, was the British Empire. From the national commemorative services to the many local parish level displays, from articles and programmes in the press and on television to the Tower of London's ceramic poppies in its moat, few places have remained untouched by the events of the first year, and certainly the Channel Islands are not in that category. But, what strikes me as a sad element of this almost continuous act of remembrance is that there is comparatively little in the way of family recollection of what those Islanders actually did or where they went, be it at sea, in France and Flanders, or in the Mesopotamian desert!

To give an example, my maternal grandfather was Auguste Marie Collet who served with the Labour Corps for some two years. I don't recall him, he died, so the account goes, in an accident on a farm in Jersey in the 1930s. His widow died in 1953, my mother in 1983. I can remember originally seeing his medals in the 1950s (in a Canadian Red Cross parcel box!), and I later claimed them along with the family photographs from my mother's estate. But, never at any time did I ask about him, and on reflection I should certainly have from, say, around 1968 onwards. The example of Auguste is not unique, albeit that the circumstances behind not getting the story from the 'horse's mouth' will differ from person to person. Nearly 100 years on, one can only presume that no contemporary account exists of Auguste's brief military career, and that anything written about him is based upon what few documents exist, and that it can only be an educated guess.

With regards to the Great War, the phrase 'If only I had asked...' has become very much over-used! At the same time, it is impossible to give a minute-by-minute account of a man's service, and there has to be a level at which the researcher stops. It is very much a balancing act, and hopefully we have been getting it right wherever we can. But, it is something that we cannot do without family inputs. This needs to continue in the one hundredth anniversary years still to come, and continuing engagement and publicity by whatever means or media is essential. I feel sure that there is still much that is untapped!

### **The Front Cover**

Given that the British Empire saw the enlistment of nearly 8m men and women for service during the Great War, the award of just 628 Victoria Crosses (one a bar to Noel Chavasse) seems rather low. Sadly many acts meriting that award would pass unnoticed in the mayhem of a battlefield, while other acts might be simply rejected for not being worthy of the highest honour. So, in some way, two awards with a strong ownership claim from such a small group of Islands seems remarkable. Given that the first award was made for events at Givenchy one hundred years ago to 24 year old Lieutenant William Arthur McCrae Bruce of the 59<sup>th</sup> Scinde Rifles (FF), it is appropriate that William features on this Journal's cover. It can seem as if the award was a mere afterthought to the Great War, after all, the Treaty of Versailles had only been signed just over two months prior to London Gazette 31536 of 4<sup>th</sup> September, 1919 which had announced that William Bruce would posthumously receive the VC:

*'For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty. On 19<sup>th</sup> December, 1914, near Givenchy, during a night attack, Lieut. Bruce was in command of a small party which captured one of the enemy's trenches. In spite of being severely wounded in the neck, he walked up and down the trench, encouraging his men to hold on against several counter-attacks for some hours until killed. The fire from rifles and bombs was very heavy all day,*

*and it was due to the skilful disposition made and the example and encouragement shown by Lieut. Bruce that his men were able to hold out until dusk, when the trench was finally captured by the enemy.'*

But the 4¾ year interval was as result of those other officers, now released, who could recommend the award, having been held as Prisoners of War after capture at Givenchy.

The news of the award came just in time for his parents. William's 77 year old father Colonel Andrew McCrae Bruce CB, was seriously ill and would die in April, 1920. As a result of his illness, the Colonel was not sufficiently well enough to travel and to receive the medal on his son's behalf from HM King George V at Buckingham Palace. Instead, there were special arrangements made for Jersey's Lieutenant-Governor to present it to Mrs Margaret Hay Bruce in the Island. Following Margaret Bruce's death in March, 1935, one assumes that William's Victoria Cross passed to his younger sister Janet who had been on war service as a VAD. Janet died in 1969, so the trail of the medal becomes unclear, but it was later bought at auction on behalf of Victoria College who retain its possession today, albeit safely under 'lock and key' in a bank vault.

Recently, the Group was approached to assist the College on establishing what other medals William was entitled to, with the view of obtaining replicas. A few of the members were able to confirm that he had been entitled to the 1914 Star, the British War and Victory Medals, but it seems that neither mother nor sister ever made a claim for the originals.

### First Ypres



**Ypres – A few years before the Great Powers came calling (15<sup>th</sup> July, 1911?)**

**Author's Note:** Until recently, I had known far less about what had constituted First Ypres than I should have, and I am sure that it is the same for many others. Visiting the

battlefields in the area one tends to get drawn into ‘the Passchendaele experience’ where, like countless men in 1917, one soon gets bogged down. But, as readers may note, First Ypres was a critical event for the British, even though it was not solely conducted by them. The Belgian and French were very much involved also. It was also somewhat unusual in that both sides, at least initially, were trying to take the offensive, while, for the British at least, it was still an infantryman’s war.

The account that follows was derived largely from Field-Marshal Sir John French’s despatch (see LG 28989) to the British government in late November, 1914, albeit that some of the key elements of that despatch have been re-ordered to fit the chronology which takes account of the Battle’s phases and the area. Some data has been taken from Ian FW Beckett’s book, ‘Ypres 1914: The First Battle’ and used to emphasise certain points.

**Introduction:** As the twentieth, and indeed the twenty-first, century has shown us, modern warfare is a continuous killing business with deaths occurring on a daily basis. There is no longer the ‘tidy’ packaging of battles such as Blenheim, Malplaquet or even Isandlwana, where the fighting takes place during the course of one or two days and where the surviving victors and vanquished head off in opposite directions, either to enjoy the spoils of war or to lick their wounds, leaving the scavengers and looters to find rich pickings amongst the dead and the dying.

With the Great War, war itself became a very blurred and unbounded affair. No more the ‘thin red lines’ or the ‘infantry squares’ seen at Waterloo for example. What would evolve, after the first blushes of mobile warfare, was a front line that extended for miles on either side of one’s flanks. Your next door neighbours were as continually involved as you were.

**Now, First Ypres!** This was the invention of a Whitehall committee in 1920. To be more accurate, this committee, the War Office’s Battles Nomenclature Committee, was to decide that the term ‘First Ypres’ encompassed the BEF’s battles that had taken place between the 10<sup>th</sup> October and the 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 1914. In some way it does reflect a bureaucratic desire to have a convenient, tidy package to encapsulate the events of that time. In fairness, it makes sense for the reader to understand, but in terms of the War, First Ypres was much more than a battle that simply confined to the immediate surrounds of a small town with some 14,500 residents.

To expand ‘First Ypres’, we are looking at the following four separate battles:

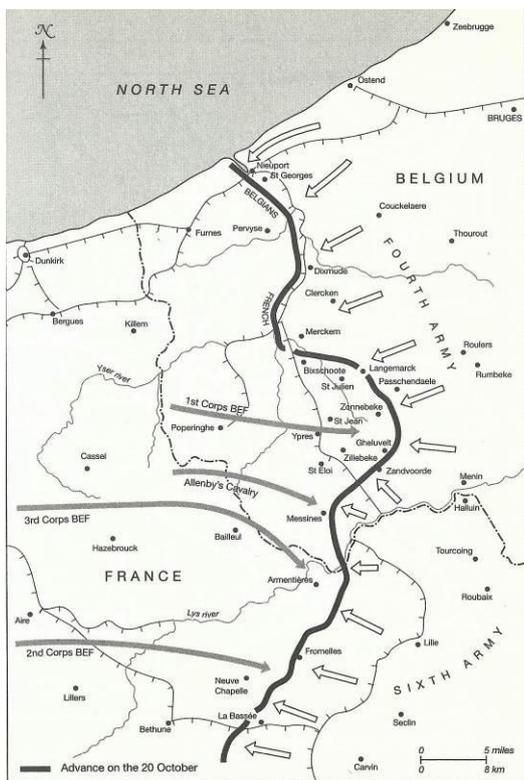
- La Bassée (10<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November)
- Armentières (13<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November)
- Messines (12<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November)
- Ypres\* (19<sup>th</sup> October to 22<sup>nd</sup> November)

While Ypres\* can even be further subdivided into:

- Langemarck (21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October)
- Gheluvelt (29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October)
- Nonneboschen (11<sup>th</sup> November)

Of course, in 1914 the troops on the ground would have no inkling of the Committee’s future decision. After all, one could not expect a company commander telling his troops

“...that you are fighting First Ypres chaps!” Some bright spark in the rear rank, a Baldrick perhaps, would surely have chipped up with “And when do we fight Second and Third Ypres Sir?” Ignorance may have been bliss!



But, as we well know, there were other warring nations, namely the Belgians, the French and, most obviously, the Germans, who gave their own designations for the battles between the 10<sup>th</sup> October and the 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

During this period, the Belgians who would defend the line from Nieuport to Dixmude, with some assistance from the Royal Navy and its monitors (HMS Humber, Mersey and Severn), would refer to their actions as the Battle of the Yser, the Germans meanwhile had the Battles of Lille, Yser and Ypres, while the French, with all the economic élan that they could muster, confined themselves with ‘*La Bataille de Flandres*’.

Yet, in a fine example of modern day European solidarity we will just stick with our own name! We can look at the major formations of both sides involved during the Battles over the next few pages.

**First, the BEF** (under Field-Marshal Sir John French) comprised the following:

- I Corps (Haig)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Division (Lomax) – 1<sup>st</sup> (Guards), 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Bdes
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Division (Monro) – 4<sup>th</sup> (Guards), 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Bdes
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Division (Capper) (From IV Corps on 27<sup>th</sup> October)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Division (Byng) (From IV Corps on 27<sup>th</sup> October)
- II Corps (Smith-Dorrien)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Division (Hamilton/Mackenzie/Wing) – 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Bdes
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Division (Fergusson/Morland) – 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Bdes
- III Corps (Pulteney)
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Division (Wilson) – 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Bdes
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Division (Keir) – 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Bdes
- IV Corps (Rawlinson) (Corps HQ to England 27<sup>th</sup> October)
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Division (Capper) – 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Bdes
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Division (Byng) – 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Bdes

- Cavalry Corps (Allenby)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division (de Lisle) – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Bdes
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Division (Gough) – 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Bdes
  
- Indian Corps (Willcocks)
  - Lahore Division (Watkis) – Ferozepore and Jullundur Bdes
  - Meerut Division (Anderson) – Dehra Dun, Garwhal and Bareilly Bdes

Two of the Corps are worth mentioning. Rawlinson's IV Corps would have only been in Belgium for about five days at the commencement of the 'Battle', and within 7<sup>th</sup> Division, nine of the twelve infantry battalions having been drawn from such exotic places as Egypt, South Africa, Malta, Gibraltar and Guernsey, where they had been replaced by Reserve or Territorial units. By and large they had been brought up to their war establishment with reservists being called up. However, there were fitness issues among the men in this Division while its staff had had little time to practice divisional tactics. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Division was little better, two Regiments having arrived in England four days before they re-embarked, heading to Zeebrugge and Ostend.



47<sup>th</sup> Sikhs of the Jullundur Brigade

The Indian Corps meanwhile had arrived at Marseilles in late-September to early-October, the first time that they had been deployed to Europe since 1879. However, they would need to be re-equipped with the SMLE while their move to the Flanders battlefield would depend on whatever trains could be supplied to carry them. In terms of logistic arrangements, another problem was the Indians' staple diet which meant that normal British Army rations were off the menu.

The Indian Divisions and Brigades were generally referred to by their names, to avoid confusion with the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Divisions.

**Turning now to Britain's Allies:** First, there existed the Belgian Army (King Albert of the Belgians) which comprised a total of six Divisions and one Cavalry Division although all were much reduced in fighting strength since Brussels and Antwerp.



Belgian Army scouts taking a break



After a good night in the trenches? Doubtful! (Above)



King Albert of the Belgians (Right)

There was also *Le Détachement d'Armée de Belgique* (d'Urbal). Actually the title is misleading because we're talking of the French. The French contribution was largely a combination of serving conscripts and those with an existing reserve commitment. Indicatively, these were men whose ages would range from 20 to 33 years old. Also amongst the French there were two Territorial Divisions, the 87<sup>th</sup> from Rennes and the 89<sup>th</sup> from Limoges. The majority of the men in these latter two Divisions were generally aged 34 years and upwards.

Meanwhile, the other French element to note were the Fusiliers Marins, a Brigade of which being led by Admiral Pierre Ronarc'h. In effect, they were the equivalent of the Royal Marine Light Infantry in those days, and similarly today are comparable to the RM Commandos.



General d'Urbal (right)

The French contribution comprised:

- IX Corps (Dubois)
  - 17<sup>th</sup> Division – 33<sup>rd</sup>, 34<sup>th</sup> and 304<sup>th</sup> Bdes
  - 18<sup>th</sup> Division – 35<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> Bdes
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Division – 5<sup>th</sup> (Cuirassier), 6<sup>th</sup> (Dragoon) and 6<sup>th</sup> (Light) Bdes
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Division – 6<sup>th</sup> (Cuirassier), 1<sup>st</sup> (Dragoon) and 7<sup>th</sup> (Light) Bdes

- XVI Corps (Grossetti)
  - 31<sup>st</sup> Division – 61<sup>st</sup> and 62<sup>nd</sup> Bdes
  - 32<sup>nd</sup> Division – 63<sup>rd</sup> and 64<sup>th</sup> Bdes
  - 39<sup>th</sup> Division – 77<sup>th</sup> and 78<sup>th</sup> Bdes
  - 43<sup>rd</sup> Division – 85<sup>th</sup> and 86<sup>th</sup> Bdes
  
- XX Corps (Balfourier)
  - 11<sup>th</sup> Division – 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Bdes
  - 26<sup>th</sup> Division – 51<sup>st</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> Bdes
  
- XXXII Corps (Humbert)
  - 38<sup>th</sup> Division – 75<sup>th</sup> and 76<sup>th</sup> Bdes
  - 42<sup>nd</sup> Division – 83<sup>rd</sup> and 84<sup>th</sup> Bdes
  - 89<sup>th</sup> Territorial Division – 177<sup>th</sup> and 178<sup>th</sup> Bdes
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Division – 3<sup>rd</sup> (Cuirassier), 4<sup>th</sup> (Dragoon) and 4<sup>th</sup> (Light) Bdes
  - Marine Fusilier Brigade
  
- I Cavalry Corps (Conneau)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division – 2<sup>nd</sup> (Cuirassier), 5<sup>th</sup> (Dragoon) and 11<sup>th</sup> (Dragoon) Bdes
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Division – 3<sup>rd</sup> (Light), 4<sup>th</sup> (Cuirassier) and 13<sup>th</sup> (Dragoon) Bdes
  - 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Division – 10<sup>th</sup> (Dragoon) and 15<sup>th</sup> (Dragoon) Bdes
  
- II Cavalry Corps (de Mitry)
  - 87<sup>th</sup> Territorial Division – 173<sup>rd</sup> and 174<sup>th</sup> Bdes
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Division – 5<sup>th</sup> (Light), 3<sup>rd</sup> (Cuirassier) and 7<sup>th</sup> (Dragoon) Bdes
  - 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Division – 1<sup>st</sup> (Cuirassier), 9<sup>th</sup> (Dragoon) and 16<sup>th</sup> (Dragoon) Bdes

### Resting up in Ypres

Men from one of the French Reserve Divisions having a rest from their duties. (Right)

In a similar vein (overleaf) a unit of French Cavalry are giving their horses a break near the railway station at Ypres.





**Admiral Pierre Ronarc'h (Above)**

**Fusilier-Marins (Left)**

Now, we come to the Enemy, the Germans forces engaged:

The Fourth German Army (Albrecht)

- III Reserve Corps (Beseler)
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Reserve Division
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Reserve Division
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Ersatz Division

- XXII Reserve Corps (Eugene von Falkenhayn)
  - 43<sup>rd</sup> Reserve Division
  - 44<sup>th</sup> Reserve Division
- XXIII Reserve Corps (Kleist)
  - 45<sup>th</sup> Reserve Division
  - 46<sup>th</sup> Reserve Division
- XXVI Reserve Corps (Hügel)
  - 51<sup>st</sup> Reserve Division
  - 52<sup>nd</sup> Reserve Division
- XXVII Reserve Corps (Carlowitz/Schubert)
  - 53<sup>rd</sup> Reserve Division
  - 54<sup>th</sup> Reserve Division
- The following were assigned to higher formations, i.e. Army Corps, within Fourth Army, at various times
  - 9<sup>th</sup> Reserve Division
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Bavarian Reserve Division (From Sixth Army, XIV Reserve Corps)
  - Marine Division

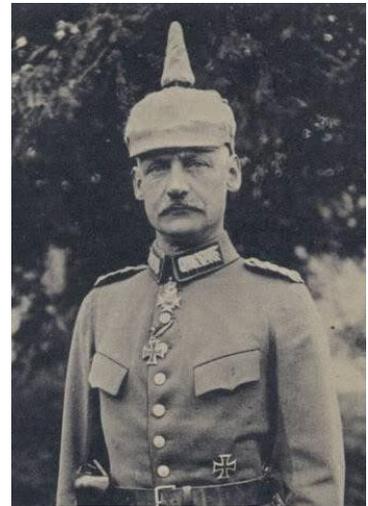


**The German Army Commanders**

**Albrecht (Left)  
Rupprecht (Right)**

**The Army Group Commanders  
(Below, Left to Right)**

**Fabeck  
Linsingen  
Gerok**



## The Sixth German Army (Rupprecht)

- II Corps (Linsingen)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Division
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Division
  
- VII Corps (Claer)
  - 13<sup>th</sup> Division
  - 14<sup>th</sup> Division
  
- XIII Corps (Fabeck)
  - 26<sup>th</sup> Division
  - 25<sup>th</sup> Reserve Division
  
- XIX Saxon Corps (Laffert)
  - 24<sup>th</sup> Division
  - 40<sup>th</sup> Division
  
- XIV Reserve Corps (Loden)
  - 26<sup>th</sup> Reserve Division
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Bavarian Reserve Division
  
- Army Group Fabeck (Fabeck)
  
- XV Corps (Deimling)
  - 30<sup>th</sup> Division
  - 39<sup>th</sup> Division
  
- II Bavarian Corps (Martini)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Bavarian Division
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Bavarian Division
  - 26<sup>th</sup> Division (From Sixth Army, XIII Corps)
  
- Army Group Gerok (Gerok)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Division (From Sixth Army, II Corps)
  - 25<sup>th</sup> Reserve Division (From Sixth Army, XIII Corps)
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Bavarian Reserve Division
  - 11<sup>th</sup> Landwehr Brigade
  
- Army Group Linsingen (Linsingen)

- XV Corps (Deimling) (From Army Group Fabeck)
  - 30<sup>th</sup> Division
  - 39<sup>th</sup> Division
- Plettenberg's Corps (Plettenberg)
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Division (From Sixth Army, II Corps)
  - Composite Guards Division

#### German Cavalry

- I Cavalry Corps (Richthofen)
  - Guards Cavalry Division
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Division
- II Cavalry Corps (Marwitz)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Division
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Division
- IV Cavalry Corps (Hollen)
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Division
  - 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Division
- V Cavalry Corps (Stetten)
  - Bavarian Cavalry Division
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Division

One is struck by the fact that Albrecht's Fourth Army was a collection of Reserve Divisions, most being formed in August, 1914. Indeed, a majority of the men, around 75%, while undoubtedly very willing, were either under-trained, under-age or over-age, the other 25% being Landwehr and Ersatz Reservists. We thought that there were problems in Britain in 1914 when Kitchener started his campaign to recruit the New Armies. Germany was similarly experiencing shortages when they were arming and equipping these new formations.

In all, this meant that there were the following approximate war establishments who were thought to be engaged in action:

	Divn	Cav Divn	Bde	Men
BEF	9	3	-	190,000
Belgians	6	1	-	95,000
France	12	8	1	225,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>410,000</b>
<b>Germany</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>485,000</b>

Of course, the numbers take no account of prior casualties, the actual unit strengths in many cases being lower with casualty replacements awaited. Indeed, The Times of the 18<sup>th</sup> October had noted that the Battle of the Aisne, which preceded First Ypres had resulted in more than 13,000 casualties within the BEF. Although some later returned to the fray, it is not realistic to imagine that reinforcements could have bridged the numbers gap in such a short time.

Third Ypres has been mentioned. Well, First and **Third Ypres**, and indeed the Second, were like chalk and cheese, the scenery in 1914 was nothing like that shown in the accompanying picture taken in October, three years later.

In 1914 the trees, farmhouses, cottages and outbuildings were still intact, there were fields, woods, orchards and hedgerows while the streams (the *beeks*) were flowing normally, and not flooding the land. In many respects, the Flanders countryside in 1914 was not too dissimilar to aspects of the Normandy *bocage* in the later conflict thirty years later. The odour would be of the farmyard variety, and not one of human flesh, gas and cordite. Records show that the weather was considered typical for that time of year in Flanders, it was certainly not the rain that, during 1917, had, with the accompanying shelling, churned up the area into a quagmire.

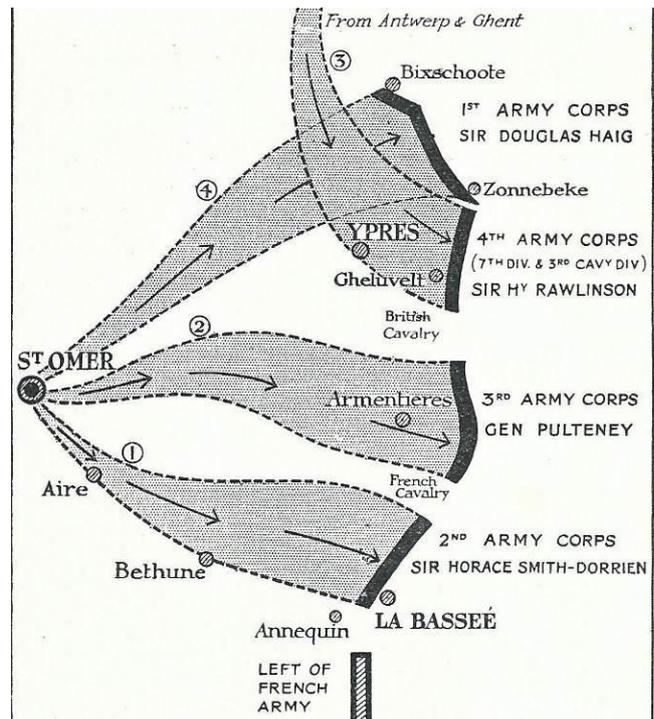
As for the shelling, while there was plenty for both sides, it was not as plentiful as it might be for all were experiencing the first signs of shell shortages and there would be a need to ration the usage as fighting progressed. For the opposing forces, visibility was limited hindering target acquisition by artillery spotters as well as gathering intelligence on the enemy's strength and disposition. Reconnaissance by cavalry patrols could soon come to a sticky end due to force concealment. Of course, there was the RFC ready to take to the air when the weather allowed it, with the crews hoping that their reports would be believed.



The above map shows that the Germans had not bothered to extend their lines northward in September, and had not troubled Dunkerque.

**The opening moves:** In October, the 'Race to the Sea' came to an end for the BEF. In reality, it had never been a race as such, there were no Pickelhaube helmeted Germans stripped to their bathing suits, with beach towels under their arms, planning to reach the best spots on the Belgian and French beaches before the British could arrive in large numbers. In any case, both sides were already at various parts of the coast between Calais and the Scheldt Estuary! Having originally left little more than light screening forces, the protagonists were now seeking to outflank each other to gain a decision in Flanders.

The Germans, their plan to be in Paris within 40 days now somewhat redundant in part due to the Russians having been more efficient in their mobilisation than had been anticipated, now saw the need for a mini-Schleiffen Plan that would sweep around northern French coast, denying the BEF access to the Channel ports of Dunkirk, Calais and Boulogne as well as turning the Allied flank.



**A simplified view of the British deployment for First Ypres (Above)**

**No sign of a Race to the Sea!**

Belgium, having held up the Germans at Liege and Namur thereby also contributing to the demise of the Schleiffen Plan, and then having fallen back from Brussels to Antwerp, had withdrawn from that city and were taking up new defensive positions along the Yser on a line from Nieupoort to the north of Ypres, in part assisted by IV Corps as a covering force. Falling back with the Belgians there were to be found elements of the nascent Royal Naval Division sent to help the Belgians in their defence of Antwerp, namely one Royal Marine and one Royal Naval Brigade. Another Royal Naval Brigade had crossed the border into Holland and there entered into internment for the next 3 to 4 years.

For the British, in particular for the C-in-C BEF, it was clear that with the Marne and Aisne battles, the first signs of trench warfare were appearing. Flanders and beyond could still provide fertile ground for a battle of fire and movement to turn the German flank. Success would also secure the Channel ports, thereby allowing the BEF's lines of communication, which had seen supplies temporarily coming in via Brest, Nantes and St Nazaire on the west coast of France, to be re-established at Rouen, Le Havre and Boulogne.

Meanwhile the French appeared happy for the British to re-deploy to Flanders, although Joffre, in particular, was concerned that Sir John French should not go off completely at a tangent to do his own thing. Incidentally, Joffre had also wanted to split the Belgian forces and integrate them into French formations, something that King Albert rejected out of hand.

Now we will focus on the BEF, and the events subsequent to the majority detraining at St Omer.

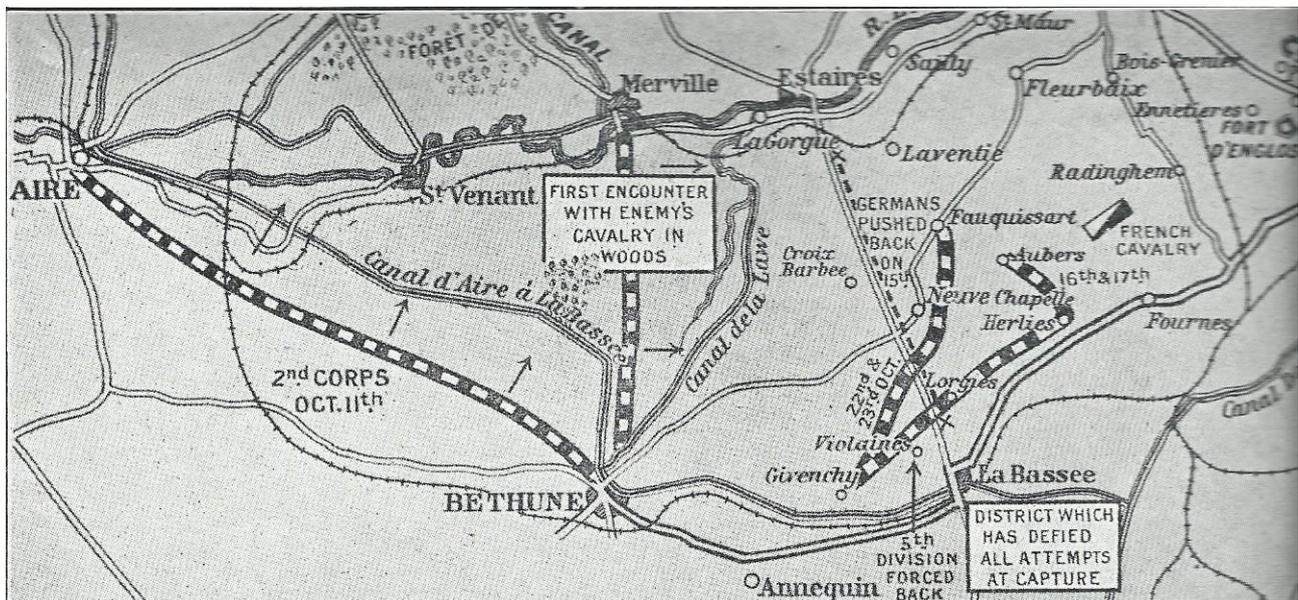
**The Battle of La Bassée:** II Corps arrived on the line Aire-Bethune on the 11<sup>th</sup> October, to connect on their right with the French Tenth Army and, pivoting on the French left, to attack the flank of the Germans who were opposing the X French Corps.

The Cavalry Corps moved on the northern flank of II Corps and were to support that Corps' attack until III Corps, which was to detrain at St. Omer on the 12<sup>th</sup> October, came up. They were then to clear the front and to act on the northern flank of III Corps in a similar manner, pending the arrival of I Corps from the Aisne.

IV Corps, which were then operating in support of the Belgian Army and assisting the Belgian withdrawal from Antwerp, were ordered to co-operate as soon as circumstances would allow. In the event that these movements overcame the resistance of the enemy as to enable an advance to be made, all the Allied Forces were to march in an easterly direction. The road running from Bethune to Lille would be the dividing line between the British and French, the right of the BEF being directed on Lille.

This battle may be said to have been joined on 11<sup>th</sup> October, the date on which 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Division, first encountered the enemy's cavalry who were holding some woods to the north of the Bethune-Aire Canal. These woods were cleared of enemy by the British cavalry, which then 'joined hands' with the Divisional Cavalry of 6<sup>th</sup> Division near Hazebrouck. On that same day the right of 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Division connected with the left of II Corps which was moving in a north-easterly direction after crossing the canal.

By the 11<sup>th</sup> October, II Corps had reached the line of the Bethune-Aire Canal and were to continue their march on the 12<sup>th</sup> October, bringing up their left in the direction of Merville. The Corps was to move east to the line Laventie-Lorgies, which would bring them on the immediate left of the French Army and threaten the German flank. On the 12<sup>th</sup> October, this movement was commenced. 5<sup>th</sup> Division connected up with the left of the French Army north of Annequin.



They moved to attack the Germans who were engaged at this point with the French, however, the enemy once more extended his right in some strength to meet the threat against his flank. 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, having crossed the canal, deployed on the left of 5<sup>th</sup> Division, and II Corps again advanced to the attack, but was unable to make much headway owing

to the difficult character of the ground upon which it was operating, and which was similar to that usually found in manufacturing districts. The region was covered with mining works, factories, buildings, and so forth.

The ground throughout this part of France was remarkably flat, rendering effective artillery support very difficult. Before nightfall, however, II Corps had made some advance and had successfully driven back hostile counter attacks with great loss to the enemy and the destruction of some of his machine guns.

On and after the 13<sup>th</sup> October the object of II Corps was to wheel right, pivoting on Givenchy, and to get astride the La Bassée-Lille Road near Fournes, so as to threaten the right flank and rear of the enemy's position on the high ground south of La Bassée. Throughout the battle the enemy's position at La Bassée would defy all attempts at capture, by either the French or the British. On this day II Corps could make little progress, with the Dorsetshire Regiment suffering no less than 400 casualties, 130 of them being killed, yet retaining their hold on Pont Fixé all day.

The fighting of II Corps continued throughout the 14<sup>th</sup> October, in the same direction. On this date the GOC of 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, General Hubert Hamilton, was killed.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> October, 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, crossing the dykes with planks, fought and drove the enemy back from one entrenched position to another in loop-holed villages, until that night when they at last pushed the Germans off the Estaires-La Bassée Road, while establishing themselves on the line Pont de Ham-Croix Barbée.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> October, the move was continued until the left flank of II Corps was in front of the village of Aubers. This village, which was strongly held by the Germans, was captured on the 17<sup>th</sup> October by 9<sup>th</sup> Brigade; and at dark on the same day the Lincolnshire Regiment and the Royal Fusiliers carried the village of Herlies at the point of the bayonet. At this time, it was thought that II Corps were opposed by 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> German Cavalry Divisions, supported by several Jaeger Battalions and a part of the XIV German Corps.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> October, powerful counter attacks were made by the enemy all along the II Corps' front, and were mostly repulsed. Only slight progress could be made by II Corps.

Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> October, II Corps defended of their position against very superior numbers, the enemy having been reinforced, during that time, by at least one Division of VII German Corps, a Brigade of II German Corps and the whole of the XIV German Corps, which had moved north from in front of XXI French Corps.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> October, the Royal Irish Regiment stormed and carried the village of Le Pilly, which they held and entrenched. On the 20<sup>th</sup> October, however, they were cut off and surrounded, suffering heavy losses.

The Lahore Division arrived in its concentration area in the rear of II Corps on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October. Two days later on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October, the Ferozepore Brigade, less one of its Battalions, was detached to support the Cavalry Corps.

On the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup> October, the enemy made a very determined attack on 5<sup>th</sup> Division, who were driven out of the village of Violaines, but they were sharply counter-attacked by the Worcestershire and Manchester Regiments, and prevented from coming on. The left of II Corps being now somewhat exposed, it withdrew from the line during the

night to a position previously prepared, running generally from the eastern side of Givenchy, east of Neuve Chapelle to Fauquissart.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> October, the Lahore Division of the Indian Corps having arrived, were sent to the neighbourhood of Locon to support II Corps. Very early on this morning the enemy commenced a heavy attack, but, owing to the skilful manner in which the artillery was handled and the targets presented by the enemy's infantry as it approached, they were unable to come to close quarters. Towards evening a heavy attack developed against 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade, which was repulsed, with very heavy loss to the enemy, by the Wiltshire and the Royal West Kent Regiments.

Later, a determined attack on 18<sup>th</sup> Brigade drove the Gordon Highlanders out of their trenches, which were retaken by the Middlesex Regiment. The Jullundur Brigade, which had come into line on the left of II Corps, was also heavily attacked, but the enemy was driven off. In both of these cases the Germans lost very heavily, and left large numbers of dead and prisoners behind them. II Corps was now becoming exhausted, owing to the constant reinforcements of the enemy, the length of line which it had to defend and the considerable losses that it had suffered.

From the 25<sup>th</sup> October onwards, the remainder of the Lahore Division were heavily engaged in assisting 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade in the fighting around Neuve Chapelle. The Jullundur Brigade took over a number of positions previously held by I French Cavalry Corps, and did excellent service. On the 28<sup>th</sup> October, the 47<sup>th</sup> Sikhs and the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Companies of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sappers and Miners distinguished themselves by their gallant attack on Neuve Chapelle, losing heavily in officers and men.

After the arrival of the Meerut Division at Corps Headquarters the Indian Army Corps took over the line previously held by II Corps, which was then partially withdrawn into reserve. Two and a half Brigades of British infantry and a large part of II Corps artillery still remained to assist the Indian Corps in defence of this line. Two and a half Battalions of these Brigades were returned to II Corps when the Ferozepore Brigade joined the Indian Corps after its support of the Cavalry Corps to the north. The Secunderabad Cavalry Brigade arrived in the area during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> November, and the Jodhpur Lancers came about the same time. These were all temporarily attached to the Indian Corps.

The line held by the Indian Corps was subject to a continuous bombardment by the enemy's heavy artillery, followed up by infantry attacks. On two occasions these attacks were severe. On the 30<sup>th</sup> October the 8<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Rifles of the Bareilly Brigade were driven from their trenches, and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November a serious attack developed against a portion of the line west of Neuve Chapelle. On this occasion the line was to some extent pierced, and was consequently slightly bent back. It was later restored.

**The Battle of Armentieres:** On the evening of the 11<sup>th</sup> October, III Corps had practically completed its detrainment at St. Omer, and was moved east to Hazebrouck, where it remained throughout the 12<sup>th</sup> October. On the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup> October, III Corps' advanced guard, consisting of 19<sup>th</sup> Brigade and an RFA Brigade, occupied the position of the line Strazeele Station-Caestre-St Sylvestre. III Corps was then directed to move towards the line Armentières-Wytschaete, with a warning that, should II Corps need assistance, III Corps must be ready to move south-east to support it.

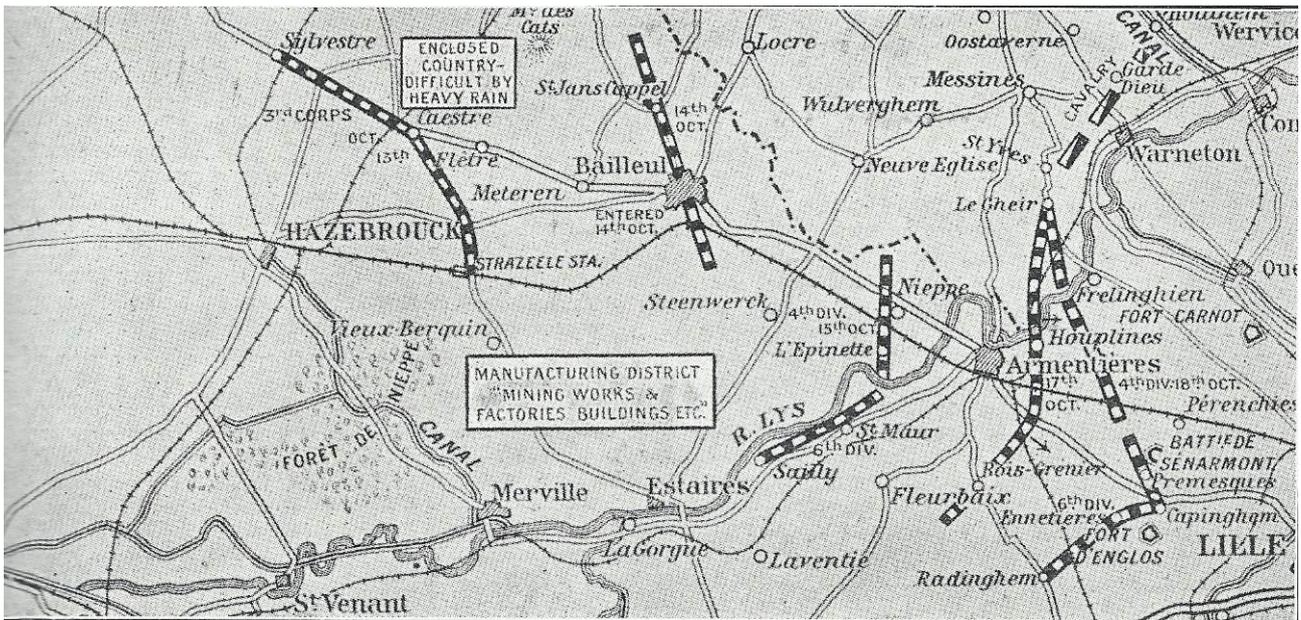
Conneau's I French Cavalry Corps was operating between II and III Corps. IV German Cavalry Corps, supported by a number of Jaeger Battalions, was known to be occupying

the position in the neighbourhood of Meteren, and they were believed to be further supported by the advanced guard of another German Corps.

III Corps proceeded to attack the enemy to its front. The rain and fog which prevailed prevented full advantage being derived from the BEF's more numerous artillery. The country was very much enclosed and rendered difficult by heavy rain. The enemy was, however, routed; and the position taken at dark, with a number of prisoners being taken.

III Corps made good the attacked position during the night and entrenched it. Bailleul was known to be occupied by the enemy, and arrangements were made during the night to attack it; but reconnaissance parties sent out on the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup> October, showed that they had withdrawn, and the town was taken at 10 am that day, while many wounded Germans were found and taken in. III Corps then occupied the line St Jans Cappel-Bailleul.

On the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup> October, III Corps were ordered to make good the line of the Lys from Armentières to Saily, which, in the face of considerable opposition and very foggy weather, they succeeded in doing, with 6<sup>th</sup> Division at Saily-Bac St Maur and 4<sup>th</sup> Division at Nieppe. The enemy to its front having retired, III Corps occupied the line Bois Grenier-Le Gheir on the night of the 17<sup>th</sup> October.



On the 18<sup>th</sup> October, the enemy were holding a line from Radinghem on the south, through Pérenchies and Frelinghien on the north, whence the German troops which were opposing the Cavalry Corps occupied the east bank of the River Lys as far as Wervik.

On this day III Corps were directed to move down the Lys valley and endeavour to assist the Cavalry Corps in making good its position on the right bank. To do this it was necessary first to drive the enemy eastward towards Lille. A vigorous offensive in the direction of Lille was made, but the enemy was found to have been considerably reinforced, and little progress was achieved.

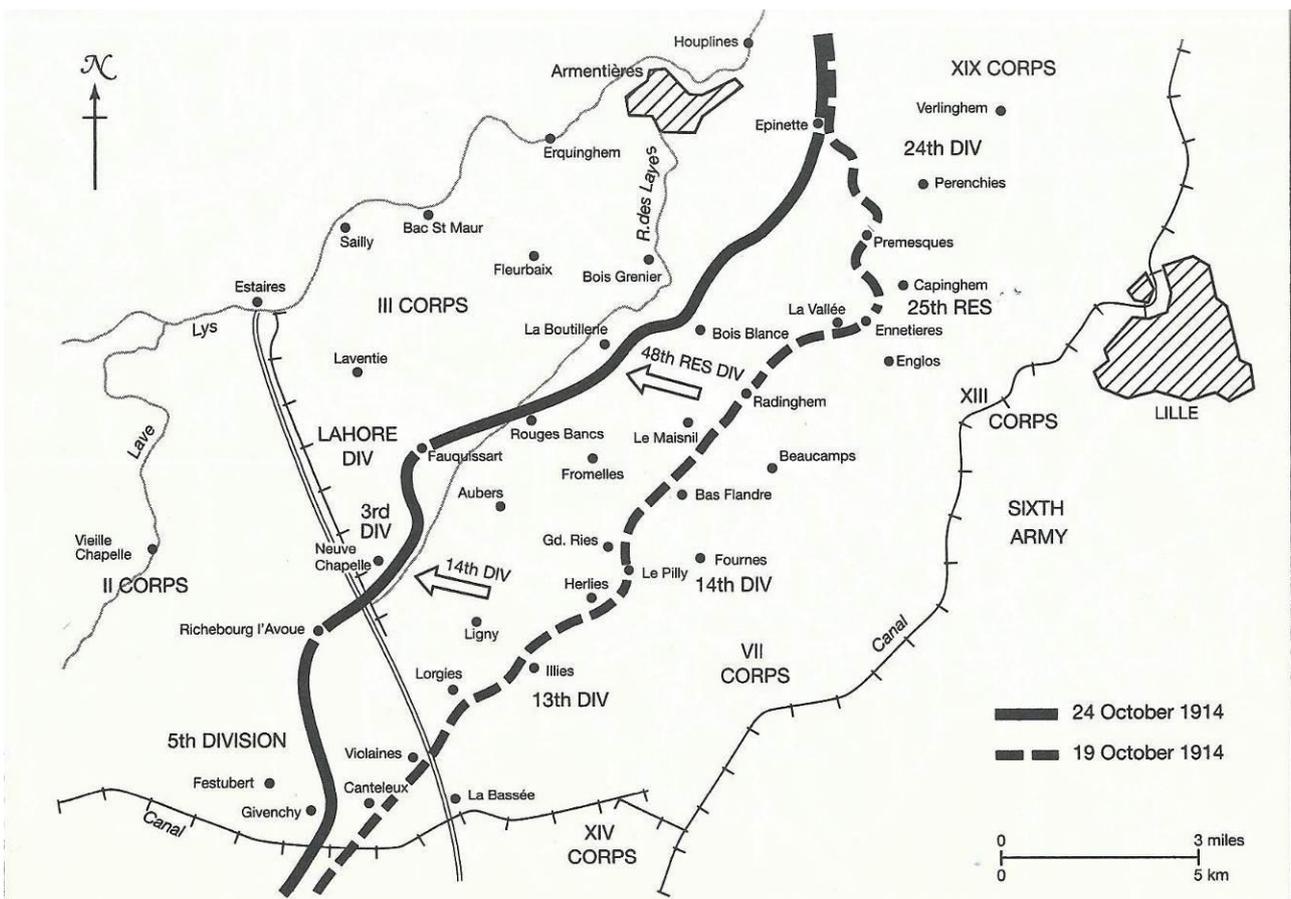
The situation of III Corps on the night of the 18<sup>th</sup> October, was that 6<sup>th</sup> Division was holding the line Radinghem-La Vallée-Ennetières-Captinghem-Premesques-Railway Line 300 yards east of Halte, while 4<sup>th</sup> Division were holding the line from L'EpINETTE to the River Lys

at a point 400 yards south of Frelinghien, and from there to a point half a mile south-east of Le Gheer. III Corps' reserve was at Armentières Station, with its right and left flanks in close touch with French Cavalry and the Cavalry Corps.

Since the advance from Bailleul the enemy's forces in front of III Corps and the Cavalry Corps had been strongly reinforced, and on the night of the 17<sup>th</sup> October, they were opposed by three or four Divisions of the enemy's Cavalry, XIX Saxon Corps and at least one Division of VII German Corps. Reinforcements for the enemy were known to be coming up from the direction of Lille.

In the meantime the centre of the line, occupied by III Corps and the Cavalry Corps, was being heavily pressed by the enemy in ever increasing force. On the 20<sup>th</sup> October, advanced posts of 12<sup>th</sup> Brigade were forced to retire, and at dusk it was evident that the Germans were likely to make a determined attack. This ended with the enemy occupying Le Gheer. As the position of the Cavalry Corps at St Yves was thus endangered, a counter-attack was decided upon.

This proved entirely successful, the Germans being driven back from Le Gheer with great loss and the abandoned trenches being reoccupied. Some 200 prisoners were taken and about 40 of our prisoners released. During these operations, the King's Own and the Lancashire Fusiliers were highly commended for their work.



III Corps did particularly well. Its position in the right central part of the line was of the utmost importance to the general success of operations at the time. The length of the front that it was called to cover, was some twelve or so miles, while the position presented many weak spots, and was also astride the River Lys, the right bank of which from

Frelinghien downwards was strongly held by the enemy. It was impossible to provide adequate reserves, and the constant work in the trenches tried the endurance of officers and men to the utmost.

During the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> October frequent attacks were made along the whole line of III Corps, and particularly against 16<sup>th</sup> Brigade; but on all occasions the enemy was thrown back with loss. During the night of the 25<sup>th</sup> October the Leicestershire Regiment were forced from their trenches by shells blowing in the pits they were in; and after the situation was assessed by the Brigade Commanders of 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Brigades it was decided to pull back the line temporarily in this neighbourhood.

On the evening of the 29<sup>th</sup> October the enemy made a sharp attack on Le Gheer, and on the line to the north of it, but was repulsed. About midnight a very heavy attack developed against 19<sup>th</sup> Brigade south of Croix Maréchal. A portion of the trenches of the Middlesex Regiment was gained by the enemy and held by him for some hours until recaptured with the assistance of a detachment from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders from 19<sup>th</sup> Brigade's reserve. The enemy in the trenches were all bayoneted or captured. Later information from prisoners showed that there were twelve Battalions opposite 19<sup>th</sup> Brigade. Over 200 dead Germans were left lying in front of the Brigade's trenches, and 40 prisoners were taken.

On the evening of the 30<sup>th</sup> October, 11<sup>th</sup> Brigade's line near St Yves was broken. A counter-attack carried out by the Somerset Light Infantry restored the situation.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> October, it became necessary for the 4<sup>th</sup> Division to take over the extreme right of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division's trenches, although this measure necessitated a still further extension of the line held by III Corps.

**The Battle of Messines:** Following the movements completed on the 11<sup>th</sup> October, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Division pushed the enemy back through Flêtre and Le Coq de Paille, and, after stiff fighting, took Mont des Cats just before dark.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> October, it was joined by the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, and the entire Cavalry Corps, moving north, secured the high ground above Berthen, overcoming considerable opposition. With a view to a further advance east, the Cavalry Corps was ordered to reconnoitre the line of the River Lys on the 15<sup>th</sup> October, and endeavour to secure the passages on the opposite bank, pending the arrival of III and IV Corps.

This reconnaissance in strength was skilfully and energetically carried out in the face of great opposition during the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October, especially along the lower line of the river. These operations were continued throughout the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> October, but, although valuable information was gained, and strong forces of the enemy held in check, the Cavalry Corps was unable to secure passages or to establish a permanent footing on the eastern bank of the river.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> October, while engaged in an attempt to force the line of the River Lys, the Cavalry Corps was attacked from the south and east. In the evening 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division held the line St Yves-Messines, while the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Division held the line from Messines through Garde Dieu along the Wambeck to Houthem and Kortewilde.

At 4 pm on the 21<sup>st</sup> October a heavy attack was made on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Division, which compelled it to fall back to the line Messines - 9 Km stone on the Warneton -Oostaverne

Road - Hollebeke. Then, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October, the Ferozepore Brigade, less one Battalion, proceeded to Wulverghem to support the Cavalry Corps, and two of its Battalions were then sent to Wytschaete and Voormezele to be placed under the orders of the GOC 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Division.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> October, several attacks were directed against the Cavalry Corps and repulsed with loss to the enemy. On the 26<sup>th</sup> October the Cavalry Corps was directed to try and regain a more forward line, moving in conjunction with the 7<sup>th</sup> Division. But, this Division, being apparently quite unable to take the offensive, meant that the attempt had to be abandoned. On the 30<sup>th</sup> October, heavy infantry attacks, supported by powerful artillery fire, developed against the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Divisions, especially against the trenches about Hollebeke held by 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Brigade. At 1.30 pm this Brigade was forced to retire, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Brigade, less one Regiment, was moved across from the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division to a point between Oostaverne and St Eloi in support of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Division. The 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, near Messines, was also threatened by a heavy infantry column. The Cavalry Corps still retained the two Battalions of the Ferozepore Brigade, although they were in a somewhat exhausted condition.

The four Battalions of II Corps, which had recently been relieved by the Indian Corps, were now required to move to Neuve Église to support the Cavalry Corps. The London Scottish Battalion was also sent to Neuve Église. It now fell to the lot of the Cavalry Corps, which had been much weakened by constant fighting, to oppose the advance of two nearly fresh German Corps for a period of over forty-eight hours, pending the arrival of French reinforcements. Their action was successful.

After the critical situation in front of the Cavalry Corps, which was ended by the arrival of the head of XVI French Corps, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Division was relieved by Conneau's I French Cavalry Corps and concentrated near Bailleul. The 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division continued to hold the line of trenches east of Wulverghem. Subsequently, the Cavalry Divisions relieved one another at intervals, and were supported by their artillery and attacks made by the French throughout that period on Hollebeke, Wytschaete and Messines. III Corps, on the right of the Cavalry Corps, continued throughout the same period to repel frequent attacks against its front, and suffered severely from the enemy's heavy artillery fire. East Lancashire Regiment, the Hampshire Regiment and the Somersetshire Light Infantry did particularly well during this period, while the 4<sup>th</sup> Division's artillery were constantly assisting the French in their attacks.

**The Battle of Langemarck:** IV Corps, who had been operating at Ghent and Bruges, formally joined the BEF on the 16<sup>th</sup> October, and was directed to be the left column in the BEF's eastward advance and to conform to movements of III Corps and the Cavalry Corps. The 7<sup>th</sup> Division was ordered to the east of Ypres on a line extending from Zandvoorde through Gheluveld to Zonnebeke. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Division was on its left towards Langemarck and Poelcappelle. In this position IV Corps was supported by the 87<sup>th</sup> French Territorial Division in Ypres and Vlamertinghe, and by the 89<sup>th</sup> French Territorial Division at Poperinghe.



**'British Troops at Ypres'. The men are thought to be from Byng's 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Division**

Due to the importance of retaining possession of the ground towards the north which was already held, it was necessary for IV Corps to operate on a broad front until I Corps arrival, anticipated around the 20<sup>th</sup> October. There were no troops available with which to support or reinforce IV Corps. On this extended front it would eventually encounter very superior forces, but would fight with the utmost gallantry.

Intelligence had indicated that considerable reinforcements had been brought up by the enemy during the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October, but that these were to be directed principally on the line of the River Lys and against II Corps at La Bassée. It was then considered unlikely that I Corps would be opposed north of Ypres by anything more than III German Reserve Corps, which was known to have suffered considerably in its previous operations, and perhaps one or two Landwehr Divisions.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> October, four French Cavalry Divisions deployed to the left of 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Division, and repulsed enemy advanced parties beyond the Fôret d'Houthulst. It was considered that the possession of Menin constituted a very important point of passage, and would greatly ease the advance of the rest of the BEF. IV Corps was directed to move the 7<sup>th</sup> Division to Menin, and try to seize the river crossing on the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> October. The left of the 7<sup>th</sup> Division was supported by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Division, and further north by the French Cavalry near Roulers.

It was reported that large hostile forces were advancing upon IV Corps from the east and north-east, and that the left flank was severely threatened. GHQ BEF was aware of likely threats from that direction, but had hoped that there was no greater force coming from the

north-east than could be held off by the combined efforts of the French and British Cavalry, and the Territorial troops supporting them until the passage at Menin could be seized and I Corps brought up in support.

In hindsight, it was probably wise that IV Corps was not fully committed to attack Menin in its somewhat weakened condition; but the result was that the enemy's continued possession of the passage at Menin certainly facilitated the rapid reinforcement of his troops and thus rendered any further advance impracticable.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> October, I Corps, coming from the Aisne, had completed its detraining and was concentrated between St Omer and Hazebrouck. By this time the Germans were in greatly superior strength on the River Lys, and that II, III, IV and Cavalry Corps were holding a much wider front than their numbers and strength warranted. It might have seemed appropriate to have committed I Corps to strengthen the line, but this would have left the country north and east of Ypres and the Ypres Canal open to a wide turning movement by III German Reserve Corps and at least one Landwehr Division which was operating in that region. There was intelligence that the enemy was bringing large reinforcements up from the east which could only be opposed for a few days by two or three French Cavalry Divisions, some French Territorial troops, and the Belgian Army. After the hard fighting that it had undergone the Belgian Army was in no condition to withstand such an attack, unsupported. Unless substantial resistance could be offered to this threatened turning movement, the Allied flank must be turned and the Channel ports would be vulnerable to the enemy.

It was considered that a successful movement of this kind by the Germans would be fraught with such disastrous consequences for the Allies. The risk of operating on an extended front was marginally less so, must be undertaken, and I Corps was sent to the north of Ypres.

On the evening of the 19<sup>th</sup> October, I Corps was instructed to advance through Ypres to Thourout, the object being the capture of Bruges and subsequently, if possible, to drive the enemy towards Ghent. In the event of an unforeseen situation arising, or the enemy proving to be stronger than anticipated after passing Ypres, it was for the GOC of I Corps to decide whether to attack the enemy lying to the north or hostile forces advancing from the east. The French Cavalry were to operate on the left of I Corps and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Division on its right. The Belgian Army were rendering what assistance it could by entrenching on the Ypres Canal and the Yser River; and the troops, although in the last stage of exhaustion, gallantly maintained their positions, buoyed up by the hope of substantial British and French support.

With I Corps now being sent forward, II, III and Cavalry Corps were to go on the defensive, given the superiority of the German force which had gathered in their front. As to IV Corps, they were now required to conform to I Corps' movements.

On the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup> October, the 7<sup>th</sup> Division and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Division retired to their former positions extending from Zandvoorde through Kruseik and Gheluveld to Zonnebeke.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> October, I Corps reached the line from Elverdinghe to the cross roads a mile and a half north-west of Zonnebeke. On the 21<sup>st</sup> October, I Corps was ordered to attack and take the line Poelcapelle - Passchendaele. IV Corps was moving on the right of I Corps, and French troops, consisting of Cavalry and Territorial infantry, moved on their

left. The advance was somewhat delayed owing to the roads being blocked; but the attack progressed favourably in face of severe opposition, often necessitating the use of the bayonet. Now, with news of heavy attacks being made upon the 7<sup>th</sup> Division and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Division on the right of I Corps, its reserve was halted on the north-eastern outskirts of Ypres. Although threatened by a hostile movement from the Fôret d'Houthulst, the advance was successful until about 2 pm, when the French Cavalry Corps received orders to retire west of the canal.

Due to this and the demands from IV Corps, I Corps was unable to advance beyond the line Zonnebeke-St Julien-Langemarck-Bixschoote. It was reported that there was congestion with French troops at Ypres, and, during the evening of the 21<sup>st</sup> October, this was resolved, the French promising that the town would be cleared of the troops at once, and that the French Territorial Divisions would immediately move out and cover the left flank of I Corps.

Now, unexpected enemy reinforcements were coming up, and it would become impossible for I and IV Corps to carry out the original tasks assigned to them. But, the French were now sending IX French Corps to Ypres, that further French troops would follow later, and that it was intended that, in conjunction with the Belgian troops, the French would drive the Germans eastwards. However, it would not be possible to commence this movement before the 24<sup>th</sup> October.



It and IV Corps were now required to go on the defensive, and to strengthen their positions as much as possible, being prepared to hold the ground for two or three days, until the French offensive movement to the north could develop. It was becoming clear that the best that could be done was to ward off any attempts by the Germans to turn the north flank, or to break in from the eastward, was by maintaining the somewhat extended front, and holding fast to the existing positions until French reinforcements could arrive from the South.

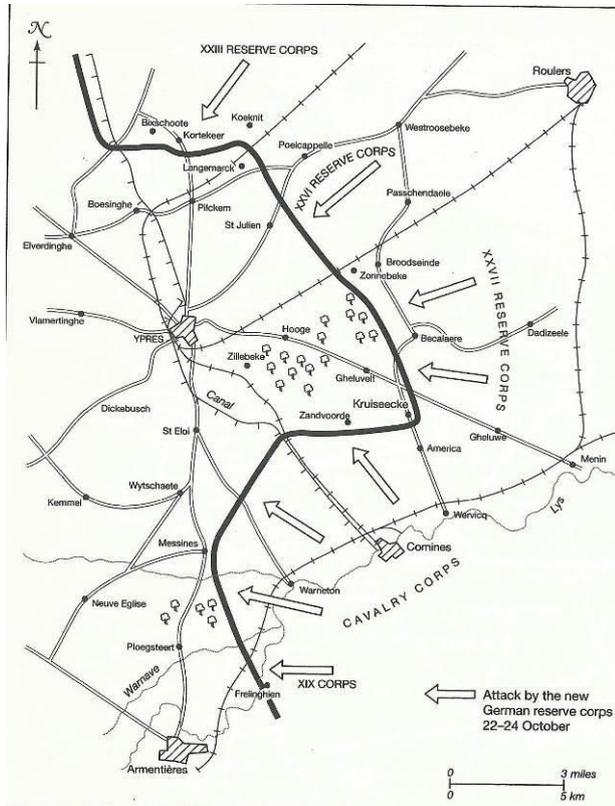
During the 22<sup>nd</sup> October, the necessity of sending support to IV Corps somewhat hampered I Corps' operations, but a series of attacks all along I Corps' front were driven back that day with heavy loss to the enemy. Late that evening the enemy succeeded in penetrating part of the line held by the Cameron Highlanders north of Pilkem.

**The BEF Commander, picture left  
Field Marshal Sir John French  
(Painting by John St Helier Lander)**

At 6 am on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October, a counter attack to recover the lost trenches was made by the Queen's Regiment, the Northamptonshire Regiment, the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment and the King's Royal Rifles Corps. The attack was very strongly opposed and

the bayonet had to be used. After severe fighting during most of the day the attack was successful, and over 600 prisoners were taken.

Again on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October, an attack was made on 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade. The enemy advanced with great determination, but with little skill, and consequently the loss inflicted on him was exceedingly heavy. Some 1500 dead were counted at Langemarck.



Correspondence found subsequently on a captured German officer stated that the effectives of this attacking Corps were reduced to 25%, in the course of the day's fighting. In the evening a Division of IX French Corps came up into line and took over the portion of the line held by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, which, on the 24<sup>th</sup> October, had taken up the ground occupied by the 7<sup>th</sup> Division from Poelzelhoek to the Becelaere-Passchendaele Road.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> October repeated attacks by the enemy were continuously being repulsed, while overnight, the 1<sup>st</sup> Division was relieved by French Territorial troops and concentrated about Zillebeke. During the 25<sup>th</sup> October, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, with the 7<sup>th</sup> Division on its right and IX French Corps on its left, made good progress towards the north-east and captured a number of guns and prisoners.

**(Note:** This passage of the Battle has become known as the 'Kindermord', the 'Slaughter of the Innocents', where barely trained young volunteers had attacked in close order formations and had paid heavily with their lives).

On the 27<sup>th</sup> October, it was decided to break up IV Corps temporarily, and to place the 7<sup>th</sup> Division with I Corps, due to the continuous marching and fighting that it had endured, since its hasty disembarkation, in aid of the Antwerp Garrison, the 7<sup>th</sup> Division had suffered great losses, and were becoming very weak. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Division was similarly detailed for service with I Corps. As a consequence:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Division was to hold the line from the Menin Road to a point immediately west of Reytel [Reutel] Village.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Division was to hold the line from Reytel Village to near Moorslede-Zonnebeke Road.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Division was to hold the line from the Chateau east of Zandvoorde to the Menin Road.

Meanwhile, the GOC of IV Corps, with his Staff, now returned to England, to oversee the mobilisation of the 8<sup>th</sup> Division.

**The Battle of Gheluvelt:** In the early morning of the 29<sup>th</sup> October a heavy attack developed against the centre of the line held by I Corps, the principal point of attack being the cross roads one mile east of Gheluvelt. After severe fighting, nearly the whole of I Corps was employed in the counter attack, the enemy began to give way at about 2 pm, and by dark the Kruseik Hill had been recaptured and 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade had re-established most of the line north of the Menin Road.

Shortly after daylight on the 30<sup>th</sup> another attack began to develop in the direction of Zandvoorde, supported by heavy artillery fire. In face of this attack, 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Division withdrew to the Klein Zillebeke ridge. This withdrawal involved the right of 7<sup>th</sup> Division. The situation at this time was serious, the Germans being in possession of Zandvoorde Ridge. Subsequent investigation showed that the enemy had been reinforced by XV German Corps. I Corps was ordered to hold the line Gheluvelt to the corner of the canal at all costs. When this line was taken up, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade was ordered to concentrate in the rear of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division and 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade line. One Battalion was placed in reserve in the woods one mile south of Hooge. Further precautions were taken at night to protect this flank, and IX French Corps sent three Battalions and one Cavalry Brigade to help. I Corps' communications through Ypres were threatened by the advance of the Germans towards the canal, and so orders were issued for every effort to be made to secure the line then held and, when this had been done, to resume the offensive.

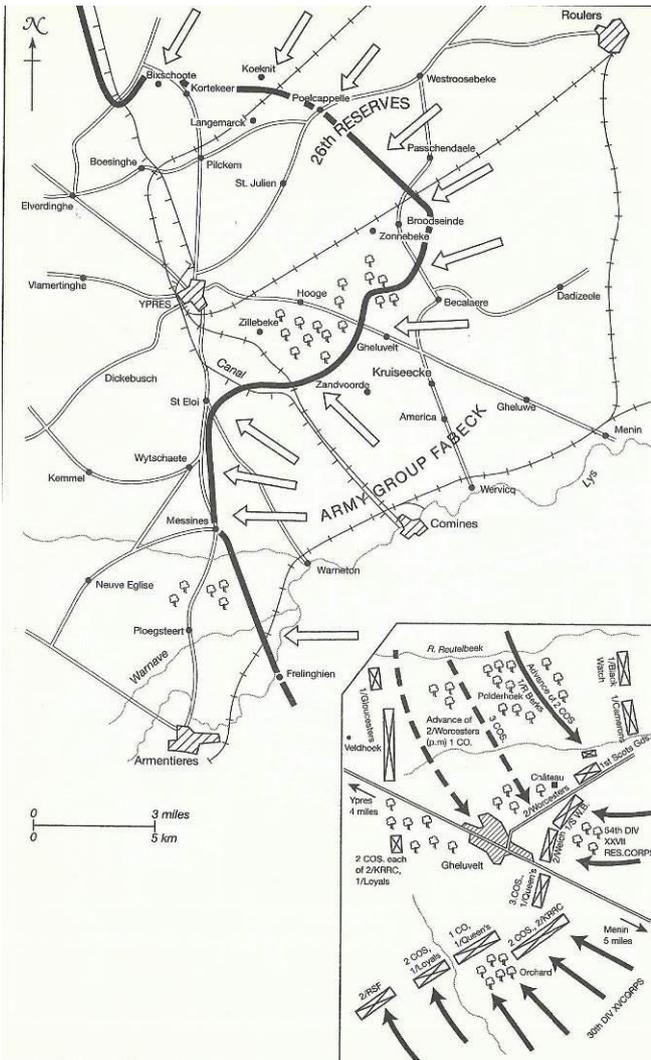
An order taken from a prisoner, captured on this day, purported to come from the German General, von Deimling, and said that the XV German Corps, together with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bavarian and the XIII German Corps, were entrusted with the task of breaking through the line to Ypres; and that the Emperor himself considered the success of this attack to be one of vital importance to the successful issue of the war.

Perhaps the most important and decisive attack made against I Corps during the whole of its arduous experiences at Ypres took place on the 31<sup>st</sup> October. The detachment which had been sent by IX French Corps on the previous day and deployed on the right of I Corps, moved to the attack early in the morning, but was brought to a complete standstill, and could make no further progress.

After several attacks and counter attacks during the course of the morning along the Menin-Ypres road, south-east of Gheluvelt, an attack against that place developed in great force, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Division's line was broken. In the south the 7<sup>th</sup> Division and the detachment from 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade were being heavily shelled. The retirement of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division now exposed the left of the 7<sup>th</sup> Division, and owing to this, the Royal Scots Fusiliers who remained in their trenches, were cut off and surrounded.

A strong infantry attack was developed against the right of the 7<sup>th</sup> Division at 1.30 pm.

Shortly after this the Headquarters of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Divisions were shelled. The GOC of 1<sup>st</sup> Division was wounded, and three Staff Officers of his and another three from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division were killed. The GOC of 2<sup>nd</sup> Division was also severely shaken, and was unconscious for a short time. General Landon from 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade assumed command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division. On receiving a report about 2.30 pm from the wounded GOC that the 1<sup>st</sup> Division had moved back and that the enemy was coming on in strength, I Corps issued orders that the line, Frezenberg-Westhoek bend of the main road-Klein Zillebeke-bend of canal, was to be held at all costs.



The 1<sup>st</sup> Division rallied on the line of the woods east of the bend of the road, the German advance by the road being checked by enfilade fire from the north.

The attack against the right of the 7<sup>th</sup> Division forced its 22<sup>nd</sup> Brigade to retire, thus exposing the left of 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade. The 7<sup>th</sup> Division's reserve, already posted on its flank, was sent to restore the line; but, in the meantime, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, finding its left flank exposed, had been forced to withdraw. The right of the 7<sup>th</sup> Division thus advanced as the left of 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade went back, with the result that the 7<sup>th</sup> Division's right flank was exposed, yet it managed to retain its former trenches until nightfall. Meantime, on the Menin road, a counter attack delivered by the left of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division and the right of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division against the right flank of the German line was completely successful, and by 2.30 pm. Gheluvelt had been retaken with the bayonet, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Worcestershire Regiment being to the fore in this, admirably supported by 41<sup>st</sup> Brigade, RFA.

**The Worcesters take Gheluvelt (Below)**



The left of the 7<sup>th</sup> Division, profiting by the recapture of Gheluvelt, advanced almost back to its original line, and connection between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Divisions was re-established. The recapture of Gheluvelt released 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade, until then held in support of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division. Two regiments of this Brigade were immediately sent to clear the woods to the south-east, and close the gap in the line between the 7<sup>th</sup> Division and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade. They advanced, partly mounted and partly dismounted; and, surprising the enemy in the woods, succeeded in killing large numbers and materially helped to restore the line.

At about 5 pm the French Cavalry Brigade also came up to the cross-roads just east of Hooze, and at once sent forward a dismounted detachment to support 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade. Throughout the day the extreme right and left of I Corps' line held fast, the left being only slightly engaged, while the right was heavily shelled and subjected to minor infantry attacks. In the evening the enemy were steadily driven back from the woods on the front of the 7<sup>th</sup> Division and 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, and by 10 pm the line as held in the morning had practically been reoccupied. During the night contact was restored between the right of 7<sup>th</sup> Division and left of 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, and the Cavalry were withdrawn into reserve, the services of the French Cavalry no longer being required.

As a result of the day's fighting, 870 wounded men were evacuated.

The hour between 2 pm and 3 pm on the 31<sup>st</sup> October, when the 1<sup>st</sup> Division was retiring, was regarded as the most critical moment in the whole of the battle. The Division's subsequent rally and recapture of the village of Gheluvelt were fraught with risk. But, if any one unit can be singled out as having saved the day then must be the Worcestershire Regiment with its bayonet charge.

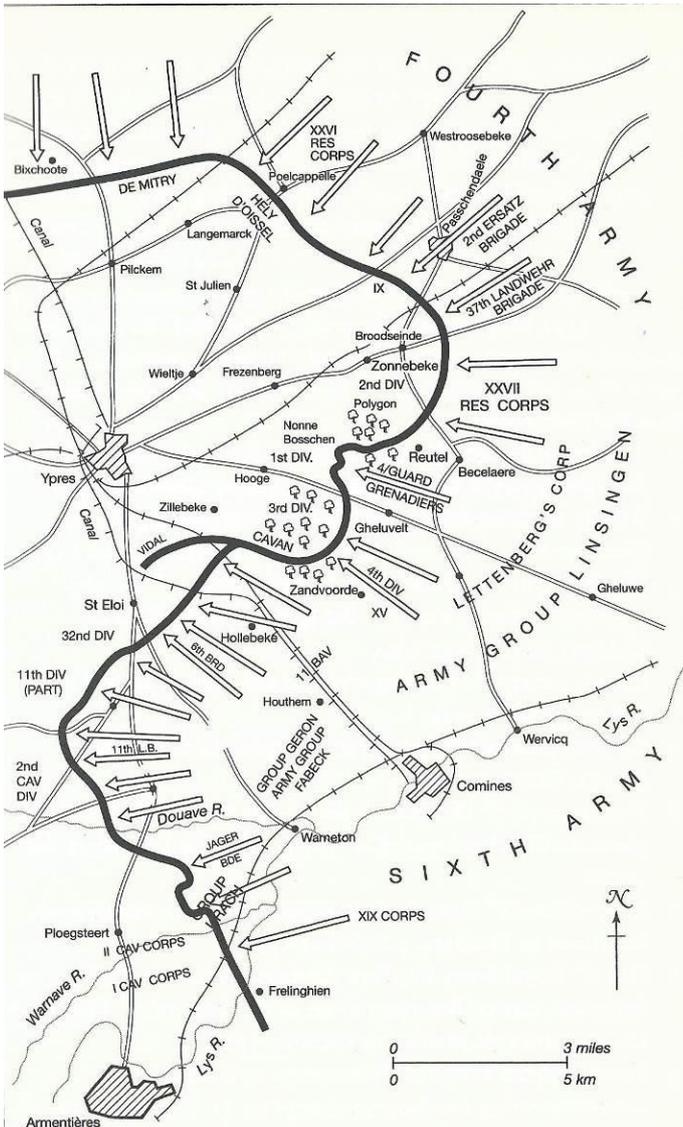
**The Battle of Nonnebosschen:** After the Battle of Gheluvelt, the whole of the British line continued to be heavily pressed, the enemy's principal efforts from the 1<sup>st</sup> November being concentrated upon breaking through the line held by I Corps and IX French Corps, thereby gaining possession of the town of Ypres. From the 2<sup>nd</sup> November onwards, the German XV and XXVII Reserve Corps, and parts of the German XIII and II Bavarian Corps, along with other units, were all directed against this northern line.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> November eleven battalions of II Corps, all considerably reduced in strength, were sent to relieve the infantry of the 7<sup>th</sup> Division, which was then brought back into general reserve.

Three more Battalions of the same Corps, the London Scottish and Hertfordshire Battalions of the Territorial Force, and the North Somerset and Leicestershire Regiments of Yeomanry, were subsequently sent to reinforce the troops fighting to the east of Ypres.

**(Note:** At this point, it is probably appropriate to be reminded that a number of Yeomanry and Territorial Force units were involved, the majority during the later stages of First Ypres. These included the Northumberland, Northamptonshire, North Somerset, Leicestershire and Oxfordshire Regiments of Yeomanry Cavalry; and Battalions of the London Scottish, Hertfordshire, Honourable Artillery Company and the Queen's Westminster Rifles from the Territorial Force).

On the night of the 7<sup>th</sup> November, 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade was brought up to support the French troops when the latter were driven back near the village of Klein Zillebeke.



Around the 10<sup>th</sup> November, after several units of these German Corps had been completely shattered in futile attacks, a Prussian Guards' Division, which had been engaged at Arras, was moved up to Ypres with considerable urgency and secrecy. Documents later found on dead German officers showed that the Guard had received their Emperor's special commands to break through and succeed where their comrades had failed. They took a leading part in the vigorous attacks made against the centre on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November; but, like their comrades, they were repulsed with considerable loss.

If the 31<sup>st</sup> October had been the most critical day of First Ypres then, the 11<sup>th</sup> November was not that far behind. There were no reserves, either French or British, to be used to plug gaps in the firing line. The Germans attacked for a few more days but there was nothing of serious note to perturb the Allies.

#### The Battle of Nonneboschen (Left)

**First Ypres, The Curtain Call:** Both sides were now exhausted, but what were the German intentions?

The majority of the senior German commanders, Erich von Falkenhayn excepted, saw that a breakthrough to the west was now virtually impossible, with the German infantry that was either available or could be made available to them from other sectors of their two fronts. In any case, as of the 11<sup>th</sup> November, the weather turned for the worse, a prelude to Third Ypres, three years hence perhaps?

Light snow fell on the 15<sup>th</sup> November, the first serious frost of the winter was on the 18<sup>th</sup> November and then the 'deep and crisp and even' stuff arrived a day later. Now casualties were arising from trench-foot and frostbite. Both sides were affected similarly, while the logistics of feeding and supplying men at the front became far more difficult as the mud increased.

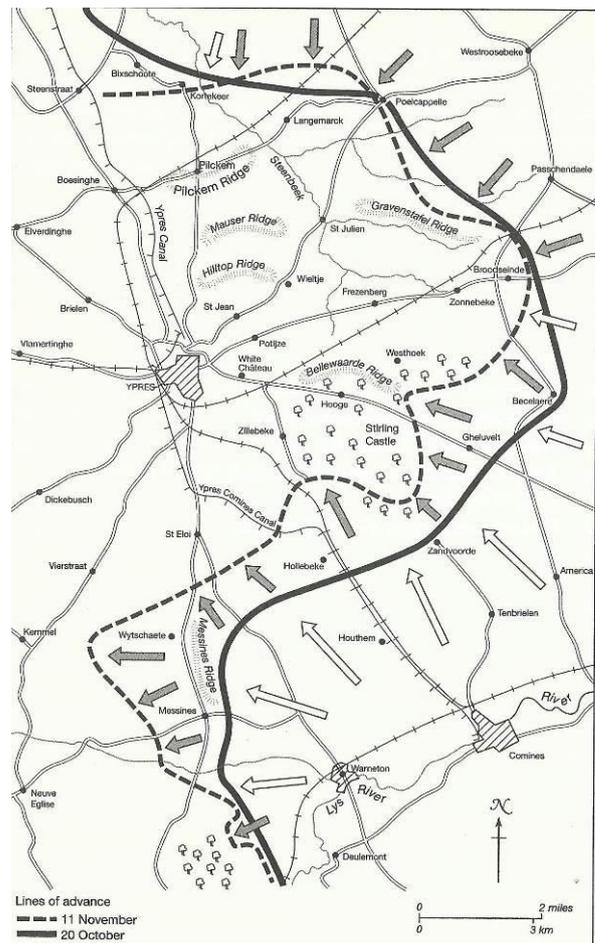
During the Battles of the four or so weeks prior to the 13<sup>th</sup> November, French and British formations had become intermixed as one or other had been sent forward to close gaps in the line. Now a period of consolidation saw the adjustments to have a continuous British frontline, albeit that their flanks met with those of the French at either end. And they dug down! On this date also, the 8<sup>th</sup> Division fortunately turned up at long last, since the Divisions already present were much reduced in men. In those four weeks referred to, British casualties had been running at about 10,000 per week.

What of casualties? The Holts talk of British at 58,000, the French at 50,000, while the Germans opposite endured 130,000. In terms of attrition, one could theoretically say that the Allies did better, but the Belgian figures are not included. Therefore, one could conclude that it was marginal. But, the British casualties were experienced soldiers, the Germans far less so, especially those from the Reserves who were not adequately prepared for war.

Ian Beckett in his book on First Ypres highlights the fact that on the 1<sup>st</sup> November, the strengths of the BEF's 84 Battalions could be categorised as follows:

Cadre Strength	0-100	18
Very Weak	100-200	31
Weak	200-300	26
Medium	300-450	9

These figures are worth consideration in the light of the fact that a Battalion's War Establishment is 1007 all ranks. Based upon the figures one uses, one is talking of 10 to 19 Battalions at full strength.



Around the 20<sup>th</sup> November, intelligence was received that a number of German formations were leaving the front and heading eastwards to recuperate. But, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November, there were still enough manning their newly dug trenches and artillery to draw First Ypres to a symbolic conclusion. Having shelled Ypres steadily throughout the battle, Ypres' Cloth Hall was set ablaze!

The 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 1914 was the end of the qualifying period for the 1914 Star, the starting date having been the 5<sup>th</sup> August, a balmy summery Tuesday.

**Conclusions:** One might ask if the Battle was a victory for one side or the other, or was it a draw. The following might, or might not, be regarded as a few of the conclusions that could be drawn:

Mistakes were made on both sides, but it is suggested that some of these had resulted from decisions previously made.

The Germans having infringed Belgian neutrality at the outset, should have stuck with the original von Schlieffen Plan and skirted the coast. The French had biased their forces to the south and had little, by comparison, to 'load' the northern end of the front.



**Bloody Wipers!**

The BEF should have been allowed to build up and not be rushed in at Mons for example. Had they been so, Sir John French's ideas for continuing mobile warfare might have borne fruit.

Given that the Germans objectives had been thwarted, they were then clearly the losers, but at a cost, and only just.

Those British casualties saw a loss of men who could train others. One can regard First Ypres as an infantryman's battle where the traditional individual skills of fire and movement (see Postscript) could be applied. In the next three to four years the battles would become generals' battles where individual infantry skills and initiative became stultified.

Yet, whether it was regarded as being contemptible or otherwise, the 'old' British Expeditionary Force proved to be an outstanding little army whose efforts and courage helped to save France from defeat in 1914.

**Postscript:** By coincidence, my 'chum' IWM historian Peter Hart had his latest book published at the end of October. It just happens to be titled 'Fire and Movement', and looks at the BEF during 1914! I suppose that I will just have to buy it now.

**Brigadier Godfrey Leicester Hibbert  
– A Jersey Connection 300 yards away**

One day earlier this year the memsahib suddenly developed a curiosity regarding the background of the men commemorated on the village war memorial here in Caton.

In her research she discovered a website that featured that information including a reference to a small number, including a Godfrey Leicester Hibbert, for whom no CWGC information had been found and who were not on the memorial. Then, by checking the medal cards, it was discovered in Godfrey's case that he had been a Brigadier and his regiment before becoming a member of the staff had been the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment. Furthermore, his address was given as Moor Platt in the village, and which had been a substantial property about 200-300 yards from my front door.



**Moor Platt in 1912. That is probably Godfrey Hibbert's daughter, May Arethusa, aged 8 or 9.**



I say that it 'had been [.] substantial'! A few months before the research, and after years of appalling neglect following its use as a Lancashire County Council's old peoples' home, the builders at last moved in, levelled the original house, and are currently in the throes of building a small estate. Ah, such is progress!

But bells started ringing in my head, and Hibbert's name seemed somehow familiar. Indeed, I eventually recalled that, as a Lieutenant-Colonel, he had commanded the King's Own's 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion throughout the time that it had garrisoned Jersey, between November, 1908 and September, 1911. So, a few hundred yards away, there was a connection with Jersey, while his name could regularly be found in *Temps Passé* articles between 2008 and 2011 where it was noted that the King's Own band frequently performed 'by Kind Permission of...' for example.

Looking at his service career, he seemed to have been a good steady officer rather than an outstanding one. Born in January, 1864 he attended Cheltenham College before being commissioned into the Northamptonshire Regiment in February, 1884. Three weeks later he transferred to the King's Own and would later be awarded the DSO for his service in South Africa whilst Adjutant of his Regiment's 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion. As we know, there was then his service in Jersey, and he remained in command until December, 1912 when he was placed on the Half-pay List. During this period he bought Moor Platt. However, any risk of poverty was averted three months later when he was appointed to command the North Lancashire Territorial Brigade which comprised two territorial Battalions of the King's Own and another two from the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment with a combined catchment

area of the towns around Preston and as far north as Barrow and Ulverston, and with their drill halls widely spread. Caton was probably centrally situated for Godfrey Hibbert to visit the various sub-units which formed his command, with the former Caton railway station being next door to Moor Platt, which was complete with its own private access to the platform. Similarly the Lune Valley, in which the village lies, was regularly used for the annual training camps with 2000-6000 men under canvas at any one time during the summer months.



**Lt-Col Godfrey L Hibbett, taken in Jersey  
(Hamilton Toovey)**

Soon after the outbreak of the Great War Godfrey, along with many of his fellow Colonels, now became a temporary Brigadier General.

At the beginning of May, 1915 he took his Brigade, which had been originally titled the 164<sup>th</sup> (North Lancashire) Brigade to France. But, in true British military fashion, a few weeks before it had been assigned to the 51<sup>st</sup> (Highland) Division, and renumbered as the 154<sup>th</sup> (Third Highland) Brigade! The Brigade would not revert to its original number until early 1916, when it returned to the newly reformed 55<sup>th</sup> (West Lancashire) Division. But, in the intervening period, the 'tartan Lancastrians' had fought during the course of Second Ypres, at Festubert and then at Givenchy. Before that transfer happened, Godfrey would be wounded at Aveluy (Somme) on the 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1915, and his time with the Brigade was now over.

But, his injuries were fortunately slight and after a brief spell of leave, a quick return to the fray was made and he was again at the sharp end, taking command of 77<sup>th</sup> Brigade, part of 26<sup>th</sup> Division, at that time in France.

In November, 1915 the 26<sup>th</sup> Division headed off to Salonika where he spent some two years before returning to the UK where, for a further two years, he commanded a Training Brigade before eventually retiring in 1919 with a CB and a CMG to accompany his DSO, along with two 'Mentions in Despatches'. We find that he died in late March, 1924, and, according to The Times, his funeral took place at Caton with military honours, and with senior officers of the King's Own acting as pall-bearers. Looking in the village church's cemetery I have not, so far, located his grave. So there is more work to be done there. His wife Mabel died at the end of 1933, but by that time Moor Platt had been sold to a Bradford family by the name of Jowett (and possibly relatives of the Jowett car manufacturing family) However, there does also appear to be family links to Jersey via his wife's family – the Faunces, one of her sisters having married a (Borlase) Stevens. Something to be researched on a rainy day!

### **CWGC Non-Commemorations**

After having provided the necessary data to the CWGC some three or more years ago, it was a pleasant surprise to receive notification that Lieutenant Colonel Cubitt Sindall Rundle is to be commemorated. In addition, and because he died in the UK, the 'In from

the Cold' team have managed to get Alfred Prowings Vautier commemorated. Their names now appear on the CWGC Debt of Honour Register, but in due course their graves will be noted.

**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  
 Godfray, Edwin de V  
**Rundle, Cubitt S**  
**Vautier, Alfred P \***

**Being Progressed**

Breban, John  
 Quinquenel, John (Jean)  
 Lindsey, Samuel WT  
 Le Messurier, Ira  
**Anstee, Laurence WL**

**Pending**

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

**TBA**

Touzel, Walter H  
 Ferrer, Armand  
 Anderson, Frank B

**Not for Submission**

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

**With the CWGC**

Marquand, Clarence D  
 De Gruchy, Alfred

**Rejected by CWGC**

Adams, Frank H  
 Vibert, John E

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

Laurence Anstee has also been added to the list of names for progression. Originally listed on the Roll of Service, his inclusion resulted by chance in that, when his Royal Naval medal record was checked, it was discovered that the medal(s) had been issued to his mother in 1923. After Vic Geary had checked with Jersey's Registrars, Laurence's date of death is within the CWGC's criteria, and the cause was, as ever, the dreaded TB. Having his death certificate, the next step is to obtain his service records. In doing so, it will be a novel departure from previous submissions, for Laurence first served with the RNAS, but on the 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1918, he was transferred over to the RAF. Kew beckons!

**Unknown Islanders**

Readers will recall the following photograph having appeared in the last Journal which does lead to a bigger question than has been previously posed. To misquote Donald Rumsfeld somewhat, with the image of three headstones showing a Jerseyman flanked by two Guernseymen (one being Arthur Chapman), as regards to Islanders, one might ask 'How many known Unknowns are there and what do we know of them?'



It is beyond reasonable doubt that the regimental badges shown on the headstones show that they belonged to the Jersey Company and the RGLI respectively. In the first case, men of the Jersey Company wore Jersey shoulder titles to distinguish them from their Royal Irish Rifles, and later Hampshire Regiment, comrades as part of the near unique background to the Company's *raison d'être*. Jersey men serving with other regiments and corps would not have, while the only cap badge available for engraving was that for the RMIJ.

Meanwhile, only RGLI men would have been wearing RGLI titles. So, we cannot be looking at an Islander who died while serving with the Cheshire Regiment, say, and who has no known grave. Sadly, any attempt at future identification of that Cheshire Regiment soldier would be nigh on impossible short of exhumation and DNA testing being undertaken. Can anyone see the CWGC heading in that direction? No would be the answer!

Similarly, short of a fluke entry in the CWGC's data, it is unlikely that an RGLI man could be identified. The reason for this is simple. If the arithmetic is correct, the number of RGLI men with unknown graves totals a remarkable 207, namely 94 on the Ploegsteert Memorial, 83 on the Cambrai Memorial and 30 at Tyne Cot. For the numbers on each memorial, Ploegsteert reflects the hasty retreat from positions at Le Doulieu, Bleu and Vieux-Berquin with little or no time to bury the dead, Cambrai is, largely, the result of the severe fighting at Les Rues Vertes, while Tyne Cot is the Passchendaele mud. Yet, it would still be interesting to see how many unknown RGLI men have been identified as such.

To that end, fourteen have so far been identified and they are buried at:

- Outtersteene Cemetery (Graves II.H.53 and II.H.60) – 2 men
- Trois Arbres Cemetery (Graves II.K.11, II.K.26, II.K.27, II.L.2, II.L.4, II.L.5, II.M.26\*, II.M.31, II.M.35, II.O.24, II.O.25 and II.O.27) – 12 men (\*Officer)

Based upon the geography, those men's names will be engraved on the Ploegsteert Memorial.

Turning to the Jersey Company, the situation may be marginally better with just 36 unknowns, namely 1 on the Loos Memorial, 18 on Thiepval, another 1 on the Menin Gate, 10 at Tyne Cot, 3 on the Cambrai Memorial, and 3 at Ploegsteert. With Ian Ronayne's discovery at Outtersteene Cemetery back in July, the number of known Unknown Jersey Company men has now risen to 3, and are at:

- Bazentin-Le-Petit Communal Cemetery (Grave A.3) – 1 man
- Cerisy-Gailly French National Cemetery (Grave II.A.6) – 1 man
- Outtersteene Cemetery (Grave II.H.59\*\*) – 1 man

\*\* Incorrectly noted as II.G.59 in Journal 54.

Efforts in identifying the first two ground to a halt about six years ago and, although the man at Cerisy-Gailly had been carrying a medallion engraved with the name of JM Kenny, no connection could be made. However, it is believed that the two men are Sergeant Reginald du Heaume and Corporal Harold Carver, although which is which cannot be determined.

There is still the Jerseyman at Outtersteene and his name, like those of the RGLI men, will be on the Ploegsteert Memorial. Given that fact, he is almost certainly one of the following three men:

- Pte Harry Richards, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, Hampshire Regiment (KIA 10<sup>th</sup> April, 1918)
- Pte Walter Hopkins, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, Hampshire Regiment (KIA 17<sup>th</sup> June, 1918)
- Pte St Elmo Le Breton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, Hampshire Regiment (KIA 11<sup>th</sup> August, 1918)

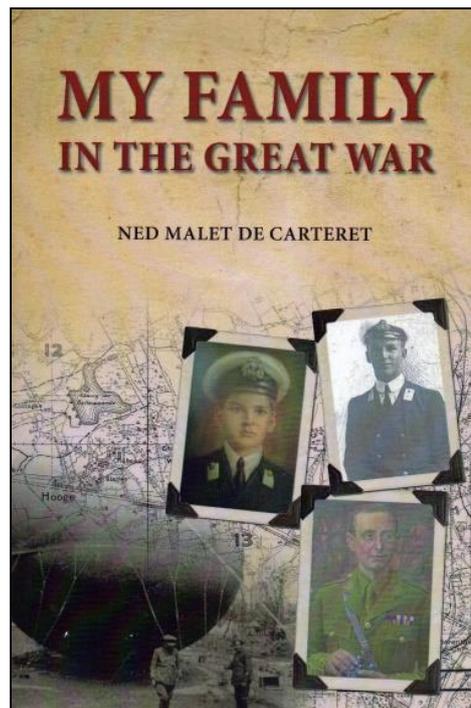
With the 8-10 week separation in dates, it initially appears from the Battalion's War Diary (WO 95/2308/3) that there is also a measure of separation between the areas where each man died. Having been in touch with the CWGC several times and having received some information (sadly not of real use), the essential data element that is still required is the map reference of the location from where the man was exhumed/recovered. This would be contained in the Burial Reports (Exhumation & Re-Burials) for the Cemetery, and the CWGC is aware of the requirement, although it may yet regrettably prove that the Reports have gone AWOL!

Whether or not those Reports are found, the next requirement is to obtain suitable map coverage for the area (currently thought to be 1/10,000 Sheets 27.SE, 28.SW, 36A.NE and 36.NW) and then overlay the positions from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion's War Diary at around about the dates when the men died. It may just be possible that the man at Outtersteene can be identified. It would be easier if the map reference is available, but given that he is flanked by the two Guernseymen, it might suggest recovery from an area close to Vieux-Berquin. But as ever, the theory is simple...!

## Book Reviews

**My Family in the Great War**  
**Ned Malet de Carteret**  
**(Reveille Press - £15.99)**  
**Review by Peter Tabb**

'There seems to be something wrong with our bloody ships today' was famously quoted by Vice Admiral Sir David Beatty to his Flag Captain as they both observed the champion gunnery ship of the Grand Fleet, the battlecruiser HMS *Queen Mary*, blow up, one of three vessels of that ill-fated class to be destroyed in a hail of High Seas Fleet gunfire in the clash in May 1916 we know today as the Battle of Jutland. Serving aboard HMS *Queen Mary*, and not one of the nine survivors of her complement of 1,266 officers and men, was Midshipman Philip Reginald Malet de Carteret, the author's great uncle and one of three members of his family to whom this book is devoted.



Although Ned Malet de Carteret is rightly identified as the author of the work, it is probably more accurate to say that he compiled it because the book consists largely of letters written by the three family members – Midshipman Philip Malet de Carteret, Midshipman John Malet Armstrong and Captain Harold Ackroyd VC MC MD RAMC – to their relatives during the Great War. The result is a fascinating and often very poignant record of three devoted family men to whom serving their country, with the risk of ultimate sacrifice, was as natural as breathing.

In these days of emails and mobile telephones we tend to forget just how commonplace in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century was the handwritten word. Neighbours used to send postcards to each other (often delivered the same day they were written and posted) and relatives and friends would write long letters to each other often on a daily basis. Thus compiling much of the text of a book largely from such letters gives us a truly descriptive insight into the experiences and emotions of the writers and makes for compelling reading.

Two of the protagonists of the book have tragic outcomes – Midshipman Philip Malet de Carteret dies on the ill-fated *Queen Mary* and Captain Harold Ackroyd is killed by a sniper on the 11<sup>th</sup> August, 1917 during the Third Battle of Ypres.

Midshipman Philip's career began on HMS *Canopus*, a pre-Dreadnought battleship (not, Ned, a pre-war Dreadnought) which almost took part in the Battle of Coronel off the coast of Chile against the German East Asia Squadron led by Admiral Graf von Spee. She just about took part in the subsequent Battle of the Falkland Islands when a grounded HMS *Canopus* fired the first shots against Von Spee's marauding armoured cruisers *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*, victors of the Battle of Coronel, while the battlecruisers HMSs *Inflexible* and *Invincible* (sent to the Falklands at First Lord Churchill's insistence to intercept the home-coming German squadron and sink them – it was rumoured that the Squadron's commander Vice-Admiral Sir Doveton Sturdee was told that if he didn't, he

need not bother to come home!) raised steam and proceeded to chase after and destroy the German ships following a brief battle.

First Sea Lord Admiral Fisher and Vice-Admiral Beatty (who would command the battlecruiser force at Jutland) may well have been impressed at that time by the performance of their two oldest battlecruisers, which they took as vindication of the concept of a heavily armed but lightly armoured and faster battleship. The flaw in this concept would be illustrated by the destruction at Jutland of the battle cruisers *Invincible*, *Indefatigable* and *Queen Mary* by plunging shellfire because of their thinly armoured decks over the magazines (and demonstrated again in 1941 when the last of the breed, HMS *Hood*, was sunk by plunging shellfire from the German battleship *Bismarck*).

HMS *Canopus* also served on the periphery of the Gallipoli campaign and in the eastern Mediterranean before Midshipman Malet de Carteret enjoyed a brief posting to HMS *Mary Rose*, a coastal motor gun boat. On the 17<sup>th</sup> May, 1916 he was assigned to HMS *Queen Mary*, just two weeks before the Battle of Jutland. In his last letter to his father, written before his final posting, Philip bemoans that fact that he believes he is being posted back to HMS *Canopus* which has now been consigned to the Third Fleet which means he is unlikely to see any action...

Harold Ackroyd was born in Southport, Lancashire in 1877. A bright boy, he gained a place at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge in 1896 where he gained a BA and continued his studies at Guy's Hospital, eventually qualifying as an MD in 1910. He married Mabel Smythe in 1908 and their daughter Ursula is the author's grandmother.

In February, 1915, at the age of 37, Harold enlisted and was commissioned as a Temporary Lieutenant in the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal Berkshire Regiment as a medical officer and sailed for France in July of that year. Thus began a stream of letters to his daughter Ursula.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment was in the front line at the Battle of the Somme which commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1916, by which time Harold had been promoted to Temporary Captain. The Battalion was heavily involved in the fighting throughout that terrible month and, following the fighting in Delville Wood and his administration to the wounded, when he himself was wounded, Harold was awarded the Military Cross.

After a period of sick leave that was spent in Cornwall, Harold rejoined his Regiment in time to participate in the Third Battle of Ypres which began on the 31<sup>st</sup> July, 1917.

*And in that hellish turmoil, there had been one quiet figure, most heroic, most wonderful of all, Doctor Ackroyd, the 6<sup>th</sup> Royal Berks Medical Officer, rose to supreme heights that day. He seemed to be everywhere; he tended and bandaged scores of men. No wounded man was treated hurriedly or unskillfully. Capt. Ackroyd worked as stoically as if he were in the quiet of an operating theatre.*

On the 11<sup>th</sup> August, dodging from shell-hole to shell-hole on the Ypres-Menin road to administer to the wounded, he was killed by a single shot from a German sniper and he died without knowing that he has been awarded the Victoria Cross, the result of no fewer than twenty-three separate recommendations for his ministrations to the wounded and dying during that attack on the German lines by the 6<sup>th</sup> Royal Berkshires on the 31<sup>st</sup> July.

He is buried at Birr Cross Road Cemetery at Ypres and his medals (the Victoria Cross, Military Cross and 'Pip, Squeak and Wilfred') were sold for £120,000 to endow an annual scholarship at Gonville and Caius College. The medals are now on display in the Lord Ashcroft Gallery at the Imperial War Museum in the same grouping as his fellow RAMC Medical Officer – the double VC winner Noel Chavasse.

The third protagonist is Midshipman John Malet Armstrong who like Midshipman Philip Malet de Carteret was born in Australia albeit two years later in 1900. John, always known as Jock, joined the Royal Australian Navy as a cadet in 1914. Jock's aunt, his father's sister Amy Armstrong, married the author's great grandfather Jurat Reginald Malet de Carteret of St Ouen's Manor, Jersey, and thus is his great grandmother.

Jock was appointed Midshipman on the 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1918 and travelled to Britain to join the battlecruiser HMAS *Australia* at Scapa Flow and served in that same ship until at least August, 1919 when the flow of his letters to his father (always signed '*Your affection son, John M Armstrong*') stops with Ned's comment that thus 'ends Jock's time in the Great War on HMAS *Australia*'.

HMAS *Australia* had had rather a quiet Great War (although it was her presence in the Pacific that caused Admiral von Spee to decide to bring the German East Asia Squadron home via Cape Horn) having missed Jutland by being in dock for repairs (after colliding with her sister-ship HMS *New Zealand*) and only fired her 12-inch guns twice in anger, once at a German merchant ship in 1915 and once at a German submarine in 1917. She was scuttled 20 miles off Sydney in 1924.

However a postscript does tell us that Jock went on to command the new HMAS *Australia* (a County-class heavy cruiser), was awarded the DSO and US Navy Cross for his actions at the Battle of Linguyen in the Philippines in January, 1945, when *Australia* was hit by no fewer than five Kamikaze aircraft. Unlike her predecessor this HMAS *Australia* sailed more miles and fought in more actions in World War II than any other ship in the Royal Australian Navy.

Jock finished his career as a Commodore with a CBE and membership of the Australian Navy Board. He and his wife Philippa Marett (of La Haule Manor) retired to Jersey in 1962 and Jock died on the 30<sup>th</sup> December, 1988, and is buried in the Marett family plot in St Brelade's Churchyard.

This is not a book that you would buy to read a detailed history of the Great War since it does not set out to do that, but what it does do is convey, very poignantly, just how valuable in every sense family relationships are, particularly at a time of such conflict. Ned can be very proud of his family members' contribution to that 'war to end all wars' and I am very glad he has taken the time and the trouble to let us share in their story. For anyone who still believes that the Channel Islands' participation in the Great War is not writ large, this is a 'must read' alongside Ian Ronayne's 'Ours'.

**Haig (Part 1)**  
**By Duff Cooper**  
**Faber and Faber 1935**

Bungler, butcher, donkey, all terms that have been applied to Douglas Haig down the years. Some, like the late Alan Clark, no doubt used them to inject a little spice into their books with the intention of improving sales. Others, Lloyd George and Churchill quickly

spring to mind, were clearly out to give a favourable spin to their political careers, all the while forgetting their democratic right to set strategy for the forces in war time. Duff Cooper's book was the first biography of Haig, and Cooper was invited by the executors of Haig's estate to write it. So, in criticising the salesmen and the spinners, it is fair to point out that this book presents him in a positive light, and one must thus keep an open mind, given Duff Cooper's 'terms of employment'.

The book is Part 1 of 2, and takes the reader to the conclusion of the Somme battles and is very much in chronological order, birth, schooling, university and so forth. The young Haig was regarded as a bit of a dunce while his sporting prowess was limited to playing football and cricket for his house at Clifton, yet he went up to Oxford, no doubt helped by family wealth. At Oxford he became involved in various clubs, not least the Bullingdon, and gained contacts, but much of his leisure time was spent horse riding and developing his excellent horsemanship skills. Never graduating, due to a missed term because of illness, he crammed for the entrance examination to Sandhurst and entered in February, 1884. The dunce now vanished, and at the end of that year he passed out first in the order of merit, and became regarded as a star for the future.

Commissioned into the 7<sup>th</sup> Hussars, regimental life in Britain and India followed, with an appointment to Adjutant in 1889, and then leaving the Hussars with the intention of attending Staff College a few years later. This did not immediately happen as he missed passing the entrance by a few marks and was told that he was colour blind! It is interesting to note that during the subsequent few years he was visiting the French and the German armies to observe their cavalry manoeuvres and tactics, and it seems that, with no apparent likelihood of a European War, this was quite the thing to do. This even led to attending a dinner and meeting Kaiser Wilhelm. Meanwhile, a number of the German officers that he met would themselves rise to command divisions and corps during the war. Having failed to enter Staff College in 1893, he would make it in 1896 where he spent almost the next two years.

It is clear that Haig had become 'known' by the time he had finished Staff College, and it was the Adjutant-General, Sir Evelyn Wood, who saw that he could take up a two year commission with the Egyptian Army in its dealings with 'countless hordes of barbarous fanatics'. Kitchener, at that time the Sirdar, met Haig for the first time, and appeared to be impressed with reports. Of the British officers who ambitiously sought such a commission, Cooper writes, 'Many applied, but few were chosen'. But, it is interesting to note that, as with his visits to the French and the Germans years earlier, he was writing to senior officers, not least Wood, about cavalry tactics as were practiced in peace and war.

We do find him assigned as a 'spare' to a cavalry squadron commanded by a Jerseyman (OV 1382), Major Philip Walter Jules Le Gallais\* from the 8<sup>th</sup> Hussars. It is while serving with Le Gallais that Haig came under fire for the first time, and was clearly picking up tactical lessons. He subsequently became a Staff Officer to Colonel Broadwood's Cavalry Corps, took part in the Battle of Omdurman and played a contributing role in that Corps success. Resigning his Egyptian commission following Omdurman, he returned to England and the 7<sup>th</sup> Hussars for a period of some six months, before becoming the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Brigade's Brigade Major.

A few months later, he was sent to South Africa as Chief Staff Officer to Sir John French. After peace had been agreed, there was a need to deal with Boer guerrillas who were still opposed to the British. For this, Haig was to lead a column of some 2,500 men and at the same time, appointed as CO of the 17<sup>th</sup> Lancers, much to the disappointment of another

officer who immediately resigned, even though Cooper makes no reference to it. Returning to the UK with the Regiment and competing his time as CO, Haig headed back to India as Inspector-General of Cavalry and later to the War Office. From now on, he was going up the slippery pole of staff appointments, and further impressing those who would make the decisions as to his future career leading to C-in-C of the BEF.

Cooper's book does convey the sense that he enjoyed the backing of others from HM King George V down, and that there was a degree of patronage from senior officers who had a high regard of him. Certainly Kitchener and French did, while Sir Evelyn Wood ensured that he would be in line for the next 'plum' appointment when it became vacant. However, Wood would, on occasion, find Haig's elder sister on the doorstep ready to lobby her brother's cause. A case perhaps of 'Who you know...'? French had not advanced him for the 17<sup>th</sup> Lancers, possibly because he did not wish to lose his right-hand man? But, there is no doubt that, as he progressed, he continued to impress, while he was not averse to providing reports and letters, some of which contained forthright criticisms of superiors. For the 'run of the mill' officer, that would have been the death knell of a promising career, but in Haig's case, he enjoyed 'top cover'! Cooper also counters the argument that Haig was technology averse.

While Haig was not an innovator in the Churchillian sense ('Let us invent the tank'), he would seek to find answers to problems, within the scope of resources that were available or were potentially so. Given that many of the criticisms only emerged after Douglas Haig's death in 1928, Cooper is circumspect in dealing with them with no reference to the source. Undoubtedly Haig's early years shaped his outlook later on, but, if he had not impressed at Sandhurst and in the first ten years of service, he would not have risen so far. After all, how far up that slippery pole can incompetence be pushed? The book is worth reading to gain a better understanding of Haig's formative years and it is for the reader to consider whether he reached high office through patronage or performance?

**Postscript:** If it has not been done previously, a study of Philip Le Gallais' military career should be undertaken. He was regarded as a brilliant commander of cavalry, and, as a Lieutenant Colonel, had he not been killed at Bothaville in the Orange Free State in November, 1900, would have very likely, at least, gone on to become a Corps Commander during the Great War.

### Naval Gazing

Further records have been obtained from the National Archive of some 100 sailors which are, after analysis, winging their way to the Jersey Archive. A list of their names appears on pages 55 to 62.

In many respects, there has been little different in what happened to these men or what they got up to when compared to those 700 to 800 already analysed. A number have died in service, some through enemy action, others have been invalided out of the service for a variety of reasons, whilst there was the usual crop who were regarded as 'criminal' and who spent a few weeks in the cells or, more seriously, months at hard labour. And then there are the 'Runners', but we will return to them in a short while. Because of workload, generally the analysis can only skim what is stated on the service record, so that 'what you see is what you get'. There seems to be no obvious guide to what a particular acronym might stand for, so guesswork is often the order of the day. It has only been realised half way through the current batch that 'DSQ' probably stood for 'Discharged Sick Quarters'.

Many men seemed to shuttle between ships quite frequently, but it is often clear that some of these 'ships' are in fact shore bases, naval establishments, 'stone frigates' or barracks, where a ship's crew is quartered whilst the ship is moored alongside at Portsmouth, Devonport or Chatham say. There is a logic to this, the ship may be undergoing 'in dock' maintenance while its crew would be unable to sling hammocks or to mess on board. As a result, HMS Vivid II or HMS Victory III say, would assume temporary responsibility for accommodating, victualling and administering the men until their ship was again ready to sail. In many cases, smaller ships would depend upon depot ships for those functions.

The naming of ships and shore establishments is an area that merits more detailed analysis. You might find a man such as George Vincent for example. In his case, his 'ship' is listed as HMS President IV (Donaghadee) and one realises that he was being administered by the Navy accounting branch in London responsible for Coast Guard services. It becomes clear that he was billeted at Donaghadee in Ireland, since it is improbable that there was a ship with that name, and that it is likely the Naval Party to which he belonged might have been watching out for gun smuggling to the Ulster Volunteer Force given the location.

We've touched on 'crime and punishment', but until this batch, no consideration as to the administering of Corporal Punishment has been given. With one exception, it had clearly ceased by 1913 according to King's Regulations and Admiralty Instructions, but the exact date is not immediately obvious. Was such an event noted on a man's service record? The exception to this is that caning would continue at training establishments for boys such as HMS Ganges until the 1960s or 1970s. Meanwhile, men (e.g. James Williams) who had committed crimes that involved the theft of money might be discharged to shore with a corner cut off their discharge book, thus signifying to a prospective employer that the man was not trustworthy. No thoughts of encouraging rehabilitation then!

We return to the 'Runners', and one might wonder what happens to them subsequently? We may recall Horace Robert Champion who went on the run from HMS Venus in 1911, and then joined the US Army and was later killed in the Argonne in 1918. But most seem to have vanished without trace. It was far easier in those days before NI numbers and the paraphernalia of the state to assume a new identity, while the Navy would have cut its losses after a certain point. But it was interesting to follow through on Henry Charles Reuben Thatcher. He went on the run for the second time from HMS Canopus while it was at Malta in 1908. He was recorded as having died in Australia in 1963 clearly using his name and not an alias. Somehow he must have been pardoned, or simply escaped official attention thanks to the passage of time.

As can be seen, the list is a mixture of those who served during all or part of the Great War, and those who did not. The simple reason for this is that selection is based upon the stated place and date of birth. While the likely age of a man would indicate wartime service, as in the case of John Eugene Marie Vitel who was born in 1891, the devil is in the detail on the record showing that he died, aged 19, in 1911. Similarly, Armand Varailon should have served in the Great War, but the verdict as to his death in 1908 is a rather unusual 'Drowning through Sleepwalking'!

With what is a growing pile of service record sheets at Jersey's Archive, it may be that some researcher will take a closer look at the Jerseymen who served in the Royal Navy both before and during the Great War. It might prove fascinating. In closing, the reader might ponder as to whether William Tout's grave is still cared for and whether it is visited?

## Philatelic Matters

Amongst a number of events in Guernsey on Armistice Day, the Post Office released a set of stamps (pictured right) with which to commemorate the events of the Great War. The set costs £3.73 and features Dorothy Nicolls, Ada Le Poidevin, George le Page, Frank Lainé, Latimer Le Poidevin and Yves Cataroche, names that we are familiar with, thanks to the work of Liz Walton and Eddie Parks over the years. It is understood that the design approach will again be used for the next four years with different people. The backgrounds are interesting although I am a little perplexed at the yellow strands behind Dorothy. Is it cordite?

In comparing this set of Great War stamps to those issued by the Isle of Man and the UK, I would say that that it is superior. But, in fairness, it would be difficult for the latter to take the same approach given the many millions who served. A comparison with Jersey's Great War issue? I am sad to say that it is a 'no-brainer'! Ideas were put to Jersey Post, not dissimilar to the Guernsey and IoM offerings, over a year ago, but they obviously knew better and could only come up with a set of ovine featured androids!



## Permanent Staffers

It is a fact of service life that military reserve units cannot operate without the presence of a small nucleus of full time servicemen. Army reserves, be they Yeomanry, Militia men, or territorial soldiers are, by definition and commitment, only serve full time then they are called out in an emergency or when the nation is at war. When there is peace, they turn up for a number of drill nights and an annual camp each year. There are, of course some exceptions to this, but it is a basic principle of functioning. The regular soldiers are assigned to units to carry out administration, maintenance and training so that a unit is ready to be called upon. Training is probably the most important function as it turns a raw recruit into a reasonably effective soldier, but it is undertaken against the backdrop that, at the end of the training period(s), the man can head off home and not to the barrack block. Continuity is a major problem. Of course the tasks of administration and maintenance are very close behind. Somebody has to organise the ammunition for the rifle range while the rifles have to be serviceable. These principles applied to Jersey's Militia, and suitable candidates were drawn from the British Army and posted to the Island.

In looking through the various Militia material, it is clear that the Adjutants of each of the three Battalions, the Artillery and the Engineers were experienced serving officers, while there was, broadly, at least one senior non-commissioned officer (SNCO) per company or battery, no less experienced and skilled in his role. There was no pattern as to the parent

regiment of each Adjutant and SNCO, save that permanent staff for the Artillery and the Engineers were specialists in those fields, and in one instant, the Royal Marine Artillery provided an Adjutant (Captain Nathaniel F Trotman). In principle, the postings were for 5 years. The infantrymen came from any and every regiment.



Having looked into the SNCOs, who were stationed in Jersey during the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and the Great War, it is interesting to see the facts that emerged in six cases. The first man, who is probably the most well-known is Shropshire born William Beddows, largely due to the 'Who do you think you Are' programme on satirist Ian Hislop. William had joined the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment in 1895, had survived the shambles on Spion Kop, and had come to Jersey with the Battalion and then stayed on with the Militia and then the RJGB, and then finding the time to marry the daughter of St Peter's Hotel, who also had a daughter, Helen, who was Ian's mother. His administrative efforts when the Militia was suspended and the RJGB created was recognised with a 'Mention in Despatches'.

Another SNCO, James Smith from the East Kent Regiment and born in that county, is undoubtedly worthy of note given that he was a holder of the Victoria Cross. In 1911 he was living at Fern Lodge in St Saviour's Road and his signature frequently appeared on attestation papers stating that the commitment of enlisting had been properly understood and witnessed. His picture and the reason for the award are below:

On the night of the 16<sup>th</sup> of September, 1897, Lieutenant Watson (VC) called for volunteers to enter the burning village of Bilot (North-West Frontier of India), and drive the enemy out with the bayonet. Corporal Smith followed his officer, and was particularly noticeable for his gallant conduct on that occasion. Later, although wounded, he continued firing coolly and steadily, and assisted in removing the wounded to a place prepared for their reception. The officer afterwards left to obtain assistance for the wounded, leaving Corporal Smith in charge of the men; and during his absence Smith directed the fire of his party, exposing himself freely in order to watch the enemy, who were unable to take the position, which was held most gallantly.



### *The last time*

**Y**ESTERDAY morning, so I am told, it was announced over the radio that the last time an Olympic medal for shooting was won by a Briton was in 1912. Actually, two bronze medals were won that year at Stockholm by Sergeant-Major A. J. Kempster, who, in his heyday, was very well known in the Island for his varying activities. A photograph of the two medals, one for the 50 metres revolver shooting competition and the other for the 30 metres duelling, together with a large commemorative medal and a certificate, appeared in the "Jersey Illustrated Weekly," now the "Jersey Weekly Post," on October 16th, 1912.

### *Remarkable*

Sergeant-Major Kempster was a really remarkable man. He fought in the Boer War; as a corporal in the 2nd Battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment, he won the Army lightweight boxing championship; he was a first-class gymnast, rifle-shot and athlete. Appointed to the permanent staff of the Royal Jersey Militia in the early years of the century, he very soon made his mark in the Island. He was a member of the Jersey team at Bisley on many occasions and was the proud wearer of the Albert Medal awarded to him by King George V for gallantry in stopping two runaway horses, thereby saving the lives of two ladies and two children. But perhaps he was best known locally as the possessor of a wonderful tenor voice. He appeared in very many Green Room Club productions of Gilbert and Sullivan operas, in oratorios, etc., besides being in constant demand on the concert platform. A book of Press cuttings concerning him and kept by members of his family makes fascinating reading.

*Meridian*

From an undated Evening Post 'Under the Clock' article (above).

Albert Kempster's Olympic Medal (right)



The next man we look at is Albert Joseph Kempster (pictured above with his array of shooting awards) who came from Bedfordshire, and who was awarded the Albert Medal in 1910 for having stopped a carriage with two runaway horses at Pontac, thus probably saving the lives of those on board, or at least avoiding serious injury. Albert, as the Meridian article implies, was clearly an all-rounder



Unfortunately, as yet, we do not have a photograph of the next man, CSM Thomas Cowey, and the two following. In his case, he had returned from his retirement to serve in 1914 at the age of 58, having been born in Lanarkshire. Too old to serve with the Royal Garrison Artillery overseas, he joined the Militia's Artillery as a member of the permanent staff in September, 1915. Just under three years later, he sadly died at the Brighton Road Military Hospital from infective endocarditis at the age of 62. Although two officers who had been Adjutants died during the War, as far as can be determined to date, CSM Cowey was the only permanent staff SNCO to have died during the War.

As an Artilleryman Thomas Cowey would have worked closely with Patrick Keany who was also a CSM in the RGA. Born in Belcoo, County Fermanagh in 1875, Patrick Keany had previously served with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. It does seem that he was partial to drink, having spent a brief period in hospital in 1916 drying out and it may have been his tipping that nearly toppled him later. In March, 1917 he returned to the RGA and joined the 179<sup>th</sup> Siege Battery in France, but within a month was being tried at a Field General Court Martial for having threatened an officer with violence. Found guilty, he was sentenced to revert to the rank of Sergeant. However, he would later go on to redeem himself when he gained the Military Medal.

The sixth and final man is Somerset born Samuel Robert Caple is also commemorated by the CWGC, but not through having died during the Commission's qualifying period for the Great War. Having returned from the Militia to the Coldstream Guards in 1917, he served until 1919 and then returned to civilian life and employment in London with the Guinness Trust.



The Trust was originally set up to provide housing for the less well off in London and Dublin although it later spread to other areas. Having been at a number of the Trust's London properties in the inter-War years, in 1944 he was the resident manager at the building (pictured left) near the World's End pub in Chelsea. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> February, the building was hit by two (some say four) bombs dropped by a solitary German bomber, which had apparently been aiming for the nearby Lots Road power station. Samuel and his wife Mabel lost their lives along with about 80 others.

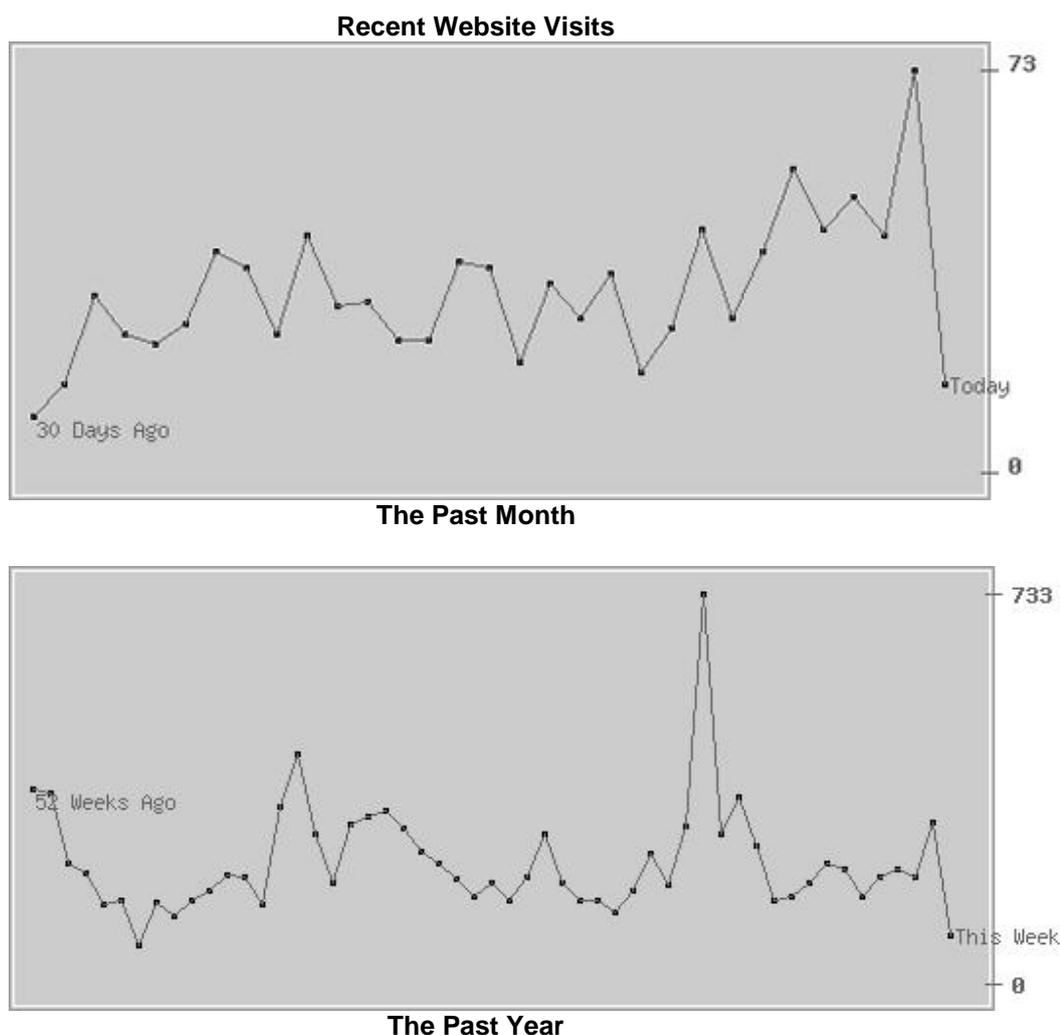
So, six men all 'doing their bit' with the Militia, bringing their experience to their given roles, and being successful in doing so. How much of Albert Kempster's shooting skills were transferred on, and similarly those of Thomas Cowey and Patrick Keany for example? Ian Ronayne's 'Ours' makes reference to the Jersey Contingent turning up Ireland as already well-trained, and in doing so, inherently implies the importance of Permanent Staffers with Jersey's Militia.

But, there is also the human aspect, not least the death of Samuel Caple in 1944. In a sense it seems ironic that, like Major Albert L'Estrange Le Gallais (who was a former Permanent Staff Adjutant with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion and then a POW for 4 years during the Great War), he was killed by the Germans when his soldiering was well in the past.

## Website Workings By Roger Frisby

The past month has seen a gradual increase in visits to our website, probably reflecting the media coverage of commemorative events during the period leading up to the 11<sup>th</sup> November.

The total number of website visits has now reached around 48,707, an additional 3035 visits since the last Journal was published in August.



**Rolls of Honour and Service:** 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 – 1471 names (up by 1)
- Guernsey Roll of Service – 6224 names (up by 186)
- Jersey Roll of Honour – 1640 names (unchanged)
- Jersey Roll of Service\* – 7500 names (up by 54)

\* Jersey RoS is updated in batches.

Last month saw me pay a brief visit to the Somme whilst Barrie was near Verdun. Both trips added some of the few remaining photographs needed for our Rolls of Honour. Friends at [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) have sent us several photographs from around the UK and Ireland recently and our six men at Cologne Southern cemetery have been promised. With the increasing availability of online records it is also getting easier to discover the resting places of the many French Channel Islanders. A focus for 2015 perhaps?

The Guernsey RoS now includes many names transcribed from the Elizabeth College "*Roll of Service of Old Elizabethans*" from 1920. There is scant detail for many of them so more detective work is needed.

Keith Pike's magnificent work to reinstate the St Peter Port War Shrine also included collecting press photographs of many of the men listed there. Over sixty of these have now been added to individual pages connected to our Guernsey Roll of Honour.

A gentle trickle of contacts, via our website, have added more photographs and information to all of our Rolls. In short we already have an extensive visual picture of many of those who served and I am sure this will increase.

### **'Billy Doos'** **Notes from France**



At the Historial de la Grande Guerre, Péronne

This will hopefully be a regular feature that looks at events and other features about the Great War in France. There is undoubtedly much, not that you would notice it!

**L'Anneau de la Mémoire:** The French President, François Hollande, was at Notre-Dame-de-Lorette on Armistice Day where he led the dedication of a new memorial that lists the names of nearly 580 thousand men, French, German and British Empire who died in the *région* on panels that form a large circle (the Ring of Memory). The event was little (if at all) covered by the British TV media, and it did not appear that there were masses of spectators, but discounting that, it should merit a visit in the future.

**Mémorial de Verdun:** This is the Museum adjacent to Fleury-devant-Douaumont. It is closed at present, and will be through much, if not all, of 2015. The official re-opening is planned on the 21st February, 2016, the anniversary of the beginning of the Battle of Verdun. Work appears to have extended the ground floor while an additional storey has also been added.

**The Tranchées Magazine:** It was interesting to see that the current issue, number 19 (that covers the last quarter of 2014) carries an article on the 59<sup>th</sup> Scinde Rifles in the action at Givenchy in December, 1914. William Bruce is strongly featured, along with the photograph that this Journal has on its front cover.

**Montreuil-sur-Mer:** It somehow looks rather different to how it was portrayed in the film of *Les Miserables*! The town was, as we know, the site of the GHQ of the BEF for much of the period of the Great War and from where Sir Douglas Haig directed efforts, and indeed, where he is today commemorated on a statue in the square. During the war, a number of the town's larger buildings and properties were commandeered for military purposes, GHQ itself being located at the *Ecole Militaire Préparatoire* (no longer there) while the Signal Centres (a belt and braces approach?) were in the town's theatre and in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century Citadel's casemates.

It was in the latter location that an exhibition was mounted between March and October of this year, titled *Le Monde à Nos Portes* (loosely translated to 'A Friendly Invasion'). How should one describe it? Well, the choice of location had not considered visitor care! Access was down a near vertical flight of 70 (Yes, I counted them up!) uneven steps with a rope standing in for a handrail. In no way was it wheelchair accessible. It was cold, only the hardy (or foolhardy) would choose to stay long, and some of the presentation material was only readable from a kneeling position, and not in the best of light. It is annoying as the conditions detracted from what is a very important and interesting exhibition on military life some 40 miles behind the lines.



**Not a conducive environment for visitors!**

Returning to Haig's statue, it is a replacement erected in 1950. The original was erected in 1931 on the third anniversary of his death, however, during WW2 the Germans used it for target practice and later removed it for the metal!

### New Data Sources - A Revision

It was stated in Journal 54 that:

**'CWGC.** *The CWGC have recently modified their website, by the introduction of further material regarding men's graves or commemorations on memorials. At present there is no tie up from where a body might have been recovered from, especially if the man's name is unknown. Not of great value, but it is there.'*

This is partially incorrect, although to what extent, cannot be assessed due to the volume of data. To be able to discover what exists, one has to go on a fishing trip because unknown soldiers are not recorded on the CWGC's Debt of Honour register. The cemetery has to be found so that a list of all known soldiers can be generated. From there, it is a case of finding the nearest man to the unknown soldier that is being sought.

In the example below, we knew that there was the Jerseyman in Grave II.A.6 at Cerisy-Gailly, but it was only by visiting LCpl Moore's entry at II.A.10 that the Concentration of Graves (Exhumation and Reburials) Burial Return was linked.

*CERISY-GAILLY 7-52*

PRINTED IN FRANCE BY ARMY PRINTING AND STATIONERY SERVICE  
 No. 8 Area, I.W.G.O.  
 Serial No. 05/52.  
 18/4/50.

CONCENTRATION OF GRAVES (Exhumation and Reburials).

**BURIAL RETURN.**

Name of Cemetery of Reburial CERISY GAILLY FRENCH NATIONAL CEMETERY. 62d. Q.2. d.60.35.

Plot	Row	Grave	Map Reference where body found	Was cross on grave?	Regimental particulars	Means of Identification	Were any effects forwarded to Base?
2.	A.	6.	57c. 1.20. c.7.7.	No.	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER. x Jersey Rifles.	Khaki, Boots, & titles.	W proof.sh. "PF" F.R.SLAV. Hamilton J.M.KENNY. June 18th, 1899. No. "PF"
2.	A.	7.	57c. 1.20. c.70.65.	No.	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.	Khaki & Boots.	No. "PF"
2.	A.	8.	57c. 1.20. a.3.3.	No.	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER. R.M.F.	Khaki & Titles.	Spoon 5 M.F. "PF" 21302. No. "PF"
2.	A.	9.	62d. K.13. b.1.7.	No.	UNKNOWN AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER.	Khaki, Boots, & titles. False teeth Top Jaw (broken by plough).	No. "PF"
2.	A.	10.	57d. Q.24. b.3.1.	No.	MOORE W., 496. 13th R.I.Rifles. 1.7.16	Disc.	Disc. "PF"
2.	A.	11.	57d. Q.24. d.7.9.	No.	2548 Mc DOWELL Pte. W., 11th Batt. R.I.Rifles 1-7-16	Discs.	2 Discs. "PF"
2.	A.	12.	57d. Q.24. d.67.92.	No.	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER, R.I.R.	Khaki, Boots, & titles.	No. "PF"
2.	A.	13.	57d. Q.24. d.65.92.	No.	1865 BROWN J., 13th R.I.R. 1.7.16.	Disc.	Disc. "PF"
2.	A.	14.	57d. Q.24. d.62.89.	No.	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER. Yorkshire I.R.	Khaki, Boots, & titles.	No. "PF"

Certified crosses erected and map references correct.

Assoc. Registration Officer,  
for Area Superintendent, No. 8 Area, I.W.G.O.

This form to be made out in triplicate, two copies being handed to the D.A.D. (C. of G.) and the other retained by the Burial Officer.

x No ACTION card

### In the Media - Around the Press and Television

As suspected in Journal 54, the '1914' magazine put out by the 'Britain at War' people has already been followed by an issue for 1915.

One suppose that it falls into the category of media TV, but the Sainsbury supermarket chain has brought out a seasonal advertisement based upon the 1914 Christmas truce. A British soldier receives a bar of Sainsbury's chocolate from home, the two sides, Germans and British, fraternise, and after a game of football he hands a greatcoat back to a German whom he has become acquainted with, and after all have returned to their trenches, the German discovers the chocolate bar in his pocket, put there by the British soldier now left with a hard tack biscuit for Christmas. The theme is about Christmas is for sharing but, there is the product placement. The debate and the complaints are about advertising in such a way given the countless tragedies of the Great War, and many feel uncomfortable about it. That apart, the filming and authenticity is good.

Looking through the past few months of newspapers, one notes that there are the usual personal stories of lost loves and relatives, but as has been referred to previously, the field of ceramic poppies has taken up a lot of column space with photographs. Whilst there, some 5M people visited, including Roger Frisby who went there three times. There has been several pungent reminders that Indians, Australians, Canadians and the other countries of the then British Empire should be equally remembered, the focus being on the IWM who may have forgotten that the 'I' stands for Imperial in its Great War display.

BBC's 'Countryfile' programme on Remembrance Sunday took a look at the Great War and a number of topics not generally discussed. It was surprisingly wide-ranging and to anyone not well versed in the War, very informative. Horses, ponies and mules were discussed, but the use of dogs was looked at. The 'Iron Harvest', the tunnels at Arras, and how trenches evolved and the landscape changes were covered. A simple demonstration of the poor visibility from a trench was spot on. A look at the work of the CWGC in terms of cemetery maintenance covered the horticultural and headstone maintenance roles very well. All in all, it was an excellent programme though I was slightly disappointed that the mapping of battlefields was too brief. Perhaps that topic merits a far longer programme or series than the time allocated to it on 'Countryfile'.

### **Out and About**

**Looking Back:** On Remembrance Sunday Ned Malet de Carteret gave the address at Grouville Church.

Roger Frisby was in France for 4-5 days at the end of September, while I was at Verdun in September/October.

**Looking Forward:** I will be at Kew on the 25<sup>th</sup> November, and hopefully getting to the Museums at Carlisle and Richmond in the next few months.

Ned will be giving a talk on the Battles of the Coronel and the Falkland Islands at Jersey's Maritime Museum on the 28<sup>th</sup> November, at 8 pm.

### **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.

**Help Still Sought:** We're still 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 2<sup>nd</sup> (Reserve) Battalion, RGLI and the RJGB, while 109 and 110 Companies, RGA were formed. But any data as to the command under the two Lieutenant-Governors would be of interest. If you can help, please contact Mark Bougourd.

**Jersey's Militia Pay Lists, 1914-1917:** This work is progressing, albeit slowly.

**Chester Cecil Church:** Nothing has emerged as to why Chester Church was not identified at the last Fromelles Panel, even after writing twice to the responsible department. A letter has now gone to the Australian Deputy Minister of Defence asking for an explanation!

**Edward de Faye:** Work has paused into researching Edward's fate at Gauche Wood. This is about to resume given that cemetery data for Gouzeaucourt and Villers Hill has only just been received in the last day. The JEP recently featured the loan of his portrait to the Museum.

**Faces Remembered:** Being carried over to the next Journal.

**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. A repeat call for authors to give thought to see what might feature on our site and supply fresh copy?

**IT Difficulties:** As I have previously advised, I have had my PC and laptop upgraded with more recent MS software as well as starting to make use of the Cloud. In addition, I am flip flopping between my BT Internet and Gmail accounts, not necessarily successfully, as I try to fuse calendars, address books and the like. I may be inadvertently deleting or missing Emails. My son is doing the upgrading, but we're competing for time, he to sort, me to continue normal work. My apologies, but if I owe you a response, please get back to me with a hastening note.

## Enfin

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

Regards  
Barrie H Bertram  
20<sup>th</sup> November, 2014

## Journal Issue Dates For 2015

The four Journals for 2015 are currently planned to be published on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February, May, August and November respectively, or very shortly after those dates. As ever, I shall be looking for articles by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**NAVAL GAZING**

Surname	Forenames	Number	Rank	Service	Ship	Born	Parish	Remarks	RoS	RoH
CHEVALIER	Charles Le Vesconte	215174	Stoker, 1st Class	RN	HMS Achilles	01/05/1884	Ty	Served 3 May 1900 to 8 Aug 1912 when he went 'On the Run. A frequent visitor to the cells'.	No	No
GARDE	Philip	296469	Stoker	RN	HMS Drake	12/06/1882	St H	Served 16 Jan 1901 to 17 Aug 1905 when he went 'On the Run' in Quebec. Was he the Philip Garde in the Dorsets (29486)?	TBA	No
GUILLIOS	Victor Jules	SS100286	Stoker, 2nd Class	RN	HMS Nelson	15/01/1884	St H	Served 24 Dec 1903 to 5 May 1904, cause not stated.	No	No
LE GEYT	Alfred Edmund	166058	Boy, 1st Class	RN	HMS Boscawen	22/09/1876	St H	Served 8 Feb 1892 to 9 Mar 1894 when invalidated out. Later joined S Staffordshire Regt?	Amend	No
LE TOURNER	Henry Peter	L7288	Officer's Steward, 2nd Class	RN	HMS Vivid I	30/07/1897	St H	Served 31 Aug 1915 to 23 May 1917 when invalidated out with organic heart disease. 1914-15 Star	Amend	No
LE TOURNER	Walter Philip	L7156	Officer's Steward, 2nd Class	RN	HMS Magpie	09/09/1896	Gr	Served 28 Jul 1915 to 26 Feb 1919 when demobilised.	Amend	No
LE TURGEON	John	J78115	Ordinary Seaman	RN	HMS Victory I	03/10/1892	St H	Served 21 Sep 1917 to 14 Dec 1917 when transferred to RNR as a Deckhand?	Amend	No
LE VESCONTE	John Thomas	302978	Stoker 1st Class	RN	HMS Good Hope	19/01/1879	St H	Served 22 Jan 1903 to 1 Nov 1914 when HMS Good Hope was sunk in the Battle of the Coronel. Occasional spells in cells and 28d HL after going on the run.	No	Amend
LE VESCONTE	Winter Noel	308365	Stoker, 1st Class	RN	HMS Blenheim (HMS Ruby)	24/12/1883	St C	Served 4 Apr 1905 to 17 May 1919 when demobilised. On the Run earning 42d spell in cells and another occasion 21d HL. Former service in RMLI PO/12023 having enlisted 8 Nov 1901. 1914-15 Star	Amend	No
LE VEY	Frank	231613	Leading Seaman	RN	HMS Monitor M25	16/10/1888	St L	Served 27 Jul 1904 to 4 Aug 1919 when demobilised. Awarded DSM, 1914-15 Star. Good service record.	Amend	No
MANN	Thomas	295386	Chief Stoker	RN	HMS Bristol	25/03/1882	St H	Served 29 May 1900 to 17 Jun 1922 when pensioned. Awarded DSM, no 1914-15 Star	Amend	No
MANNING	Oscar Charles George	L4143	Officers' Steward, 2nd Class	RN	HMS Hecla	16/12/1894	Gr	Served 14 Dec 1912 to 29 Jun 1917 when invalidated out, reason not known.	Amend	No
TAAFFE	Robert	154437	Petty Officer, 1st Class	RN	HMS Firequeen	28/01/1875	St H	Served 27 Mar 1900 to 27 Jan 1905 when discharged as Colour Service expired. Received 2 years Imprisonment with HL in Aug 1894. Reason not known. Believed to have died in 1911.	No	No

TACHON	Philip	K20794	Stoker, 1st Class	RN	HMS Titania (HM Submarine J6)	13/05/1895	Ty	Served Oct 1913 to 15 Oct 1918, when he drowned. Left widow Amelia J Holland whom he married in 1917. 1914-15 Star	No	Amend
TANGUI	Alfred George	138535	Boy, 2nd Class	RN	HMS Impregnable	15/10/1871	St H	Served 17 Sep 1886 to 8 Jul 1887 when invalidated out, cause not known	No	No
TARDIVEL	Frank	279894	Petty Officer Stoker	RN	HMS Laurentic	16/06/1876	St P	Served continuously from 10 Jul 1895 when killed. Good service record. 1914-15 Star	No	Amend
TARDIVEL	James Edward	300677	Stoker, 1st Class	RN	HMS Prince of Wales	07/12/1883	St H	Served 29 May 1902 to 27 Jul 1906. Poor service record with spells 'on the run' earning several spells in cells and HL. Dismissed SNLR.	No	No
TARDIVEL	Alfred Auguste	218519	Ordinary Seaman	RN	HMS Victory I	30/11/1884	St H	Served 16 Jan 1902 to 22 May 1905 when discharged SNLR. Frequent visitor to the cells	No	No
TAYLOR	Charles John	364764	Domestic, 3rd Class	RN	HMS Pembroke I	12/11/1883	St S	Served 29 May 1906 to 9 Jul 1906 when discharged SNLR	No	No
TAYLOR	Frederick George	358623	Domestic, 2nd Class	RN	HMS Albacore	27/07/1882	St H	Served 7 Aug 1900 to 8 Aug 1902 when invalidated out, cause not known	No	No
TERRY	Alfred	307033	Stoker, 1st Class	RN	HMS Drake	20/09/1883	NK	Served 27 Jul 1904 to 11 Jul 1906 when he went 'On the Run'. Poor disciplinary record.	No	No
THATCHER	Henry Charles Reuben	212388	Able Bodied Seaman	RN	HMS Canopus	15/07/1885	St H	Served 22 Oct 1900 to 6 Aug 1908 when he went on the run in Malta. Previous 'On the Run' in Sydney. Spells in cells. Died in Australia in 1963. Service in Great War not known!	No	No
THERIN	Alfred Francis	295759	Stoker	RN	HMS Duke of Wellington II	20/09/1881	Ty	Served 11 Jul 1900 to 11 Sep 1902 when discharged by purchase. Twice 'On the Run', 90d HL. Later joined Army (2/S Lancers) fraudulently	No	No
THOMAS	Charles James	133556	Able Bodied Seaman	RN	HMS Victory I	15/02/1870	St H	Served 1 Jun 1885 to 15 Feb 1919 when demobilised. Brief spell in Cells, otherwise good service record	Amend	No
THOMAS	Henri Julian Ives	K55224	Stoker, 1st Class	RN	HMS Victory II	25/11/1900	St H	Served 16 Jan 1919 to 22 May 1919 when invalidated out, cause not known. Received 35 days cells for absence. Had previously served as 9481 Rfmn Harry Thomas in 7/RIR, 3/RIR and Depot RIR	Amend	No
TIERNEY	Sydney Herbert	282729	Stoker, 1st Class	RN	HMS Gunner (HMS Kendal?)	16/02/1876	St H	Served 13 Jun 1896 to 19 Jun 1908 when discharged shore. Joined RFR. Mobilised 2 Aug 1914, served to 12 Feb 1919 when demobilised. With RN Division. 1914 Star	Add	No
TISSON	Alfred Peter	SS4593	Able Bodied Seaman	RN	HMS Hecla (HMS Fortune)	13/08/1882	St H	Served 8 Jan 1914 to 1 Jun 1916 when killed as HMS Fortune was sunk during Battle of Jutland. 1914-15 Star. Medals to Father.	No	Amend
TITCOMBE	Reginald Basil Dark	J107826	Able Bodied Seaman	RN	HMS Impregnable	23/07/1907	St H	Served 21 Jul 1922 to 19 Dec 1941 when died on-board HMS Neptune. On CWGC.	No	No

TITE	Samuel John	139546	Petty Officer Stoker	RN	HMS Vivid II	15/10/1867	St H	Served 28 Sep 1886 to 7 Oct 1908 and then pensioned. Joined RFR 8 Oct 1908. Mobilised 2 Aug 1914 to 27 Jun 1919. No 1914-15 Star	Add	No
TITE	Henry	M11551	Cook's Mate, 2nd Class	RN	HMS Victory I	15/09/1896	St H	Served 23 Jan 1915 to 13 Feb 1915 when he died from bronchial pneumonia at RN Hospital Haslar. 21 days service!	No	Amend
TOUT	William	135281	Ordinary Seaman	RN	HMS Turquoise	10/09/1870	St B	Served 6 Oct 1885 to 19 Oct 1889 when he died at Mahe in the Seychelles. Cause not clear but starts with 'Cerebr'	No	No
TOUZEL	Philip Alfred	211191	Able Bodied Seaman	RN	HMS Victory I	09/02/1885	St H	Served 22 Aug 1900 to 5 Nov 1908 when invalided out, cause not known. Later service in Mercantile Marine	Amend	No
TOUZEL	Herbert George	L5481	Officer's Steward, 3rd Class	RN	HMS Hecla (HMS Victor)	26/08/1893	St H	Served 14 Jul 1914 to 21 Feb 1916 when discharged SNLR. Then joined Army and KIA in 1918. 1914-15 Star	No	Amend
TRAINEL	Peter	290050	Stoker, 1st Class	RN	HMS Victorious (HMS Dahlia)	29/07/1880	St S	Served 16 Sep 1898 to 23 Oct 1920 when pensioned.	Add	No
TREDANT	John Victor	342322	Shipwright, 1st Class	RN	HMS Indefatigable	07/04/1880	St Mn	Served 13 Sep 1898 to 31 May 1916 when killed at the Battle of Jutland. 1914-15 Star. Medals to widow	No	Amend
TREMEUR	William	K6582	Petty Officer Stoker	RN	HMS Torrent	02/09/1887	St P	Served 18 Sep 1905 to 3 Jul 1910 as SS101418. Transferred to K6582 on 4 Jul 1910, served until 23 Dec 1917 when killed as a result of mine. 1914-15 Star. Medals to mother.	No	Amend
TRENCHARD	Walter Henry	J9717	Able Bodied Seaman	RN	HMS Victory I	22/09/1894	St H	Served 5 Sep 1910 to 20 May 1928 minimum. May have served with Canadian Navy in GW. May have had a few disciplinary problems in 1914-15.	Amend	No
TRESSARD	Alfred Leon	298842	Leading Stoker	RN	HMS Victory II	25/04/1882	St P	Served 3 Oct 1901 to 9 Oct 1913 when discharged colour service expired. Joined RFR on 10 Oct 1913. Reported to British Consul in New York on 6 Aug 1914 for call up. Reengaged for pension. 1914-15 Star	Add	No
TROON	William Kempthorne	363530	Officers' Cook, 1st Class	RN	HMS Powerful	08/06/1886	St H	Served 12 Apr 1905 to 6 Jun 1908 when discharged shore in Sydney Australia. Had been 'On the Run'.	No	No
TRUSCOTT	Edward James	L7319	Officers' Steward, 2nd Class	RN	HMS Saria (?)	03/02/1894	St H	Served 1 Sep 1915 to 30 Jan 1919 when demobilised	Amend	No
TRUSCOTT	John Richmond	340128	Chief Writer	RN	HMS Fisgard	04/05/1879	St H	Served 9 May 1894 to at least 15 Jun 1919. Later commissioned	Add	No
TUCKER	Henry Charles	NA	Chief Gunner	RN	HMS Orion	21/07/1874	St H	Served 31 Dec 1890 to at least 1 Dec 1919, Commissioned from PO, 1CI 158222. Good service record, 1914-15 Star	Add	No

TUCKER	Charles Edward	SS104354	Stoker 1st Class	RN	HMS Hazard	18/03/1888	St H	Served 14 Jan 1906 to 14 Jan 1912. Joined RFR on 15 Jan 1912 then no further service record. Not known if he served in the GW	No	No
TUCKER	John William	205348	Able Bodied Seaman	RN	HMS Royal Sovereign	22/12/1881	St H	Served 25 Jul 1899 to 2 Mar 1922 when pensioned. Joined RFR on 3 Mar 1922. Two spells in Cells. 1914-15 Star	Amend	No
TURBERVILL	Glenalvon Randolph	188708	Able Bodied Seaman	RN	HMS Victory I	13/02/1880	St H	Served 17 Apr 1896 to 12 May 1910 when discharged, CS Expired. Died 20 Sep 1936.	No	No
UNDERHILL	Clarence Gordon	208615	Leading Seaman	RN	HMS Good Hope	06/03/1884	St H	Served 5 Jan 1900 to 1 Nov 1914 when HMS Good Hope was sunk in the Battle of the Coronel. One spell in cells. 1914-15 Star. Medals to father	No	Amend
VALON	John	293339	Stoker	RN	HMS Firequeen II	02/09/1881	St H	Served 25 May 1900 to 8 Feb 1905 when he went 'On the Run'. The RN advised the Jersey Police in Aug 1908 that they did not want him back!	No	No
VARAILLON	Armand	232094	Able Bodied Seaman	RN	HMS Exmouth	27/01/1887	St H	Served 29 Aug 1904 to 7 Oct 1908 when he drowned, apparently by sleepwalking overboard. Court of Inquiry rejected suicide. May have been French born	No	No
VARDON	George Touzel	J10282	Leading Seaman	RN	HMS Queen Mary	23/03/1882	St H	Born 23 Mar 1882. Served 28 Oct 1905 to 24 Oct 1910 as SS1124, and as from 25 Oct 1910 to 31 May 1916 as J10282 when he was killed at the Battle of Jutland. Was briefly assigned service number K9439, but this was not used. 1914-15 Star.	No	Amend
VASSELIN	Frank Augustus	356620	Domestic, 3rd Class	RN	HMS Champion	02/06/1880	St L	Served 13 Jun 1898 to 1 Mar 1899 when discharged as unfit for duty (?)	No	No
VAUTIER	Herbert John	148389	Able Bodied Seaman	RN	HMS Katoomba	10/03/1874	St H	Served 20 Apr 1889 to 6 Jul 1900 when he went on the run in Sydney.	No	No
VAUTIER	Walter John	140678	Leading Seaman	RN	HMS Britannia	21/10/1871	Gr	Served 6 Apr 1887 to 6 Nov 1896 when apparently invalided out, cause unclear. Suggestion of wartime service but unconfirmed.	No	No
VETIER	Joseph Francis Eugene	270725	Engine Room Artificer, 2nd Class	RN	HMS Hebe	06/11/1880	NK	Served 8 Jul 1902 to 22 Feb 1912 when discharged by purchase. Good service record. May have emigrated to Australia	No	No
VIBERT	Percy Herbert	203532	Leading Seaman	RN	HMS President III (SS Aragon)	10/05/1883	St H	Served 15 Mar 1899 to 9 May 1913 when colour service expired. On 10 May 1913 joined RFR. Mobilised 2 Aug 1914, demobilised 2 Sep 1914, remobilised 3 Sep 1914! Killed when the DAMS SS Aragon sunk on 30 Dec 1917. Serving as member of guncrew. 1914-15 Star. Medals to Widow.	No	Amend

VIGOTT	Alfred John	296074	Petty Officer Stoker	RN	HMS Queen Mary	10/12/1878	Gr	Served 8 Oct 1900 to 31 May 1916 when KIA on board HMS Queen Mary. Good service record. 1914-15 Star. Medals to Sister.	No	Amend
VILLALARD	John Francis	231087	Able Bodied Seaman	RN	HMS Birmingham	12/06/1888	St Mn	Served 31 May 1904 to 5 Aug 1916 when he died at home from Acute Gastritis while on leave. 1914-15 Star. Medals to Widow.	No	Amend
VINCENT	George	169520	Leading Boatswain	RN	HMS President IV (Donaghadee)	14/04/1877	St H	Served 23 Sep 1892 to 30 Apr 1919 when transferred to Coastguard (NF). Assume service from 17 May 1905 had been with CG also.	Add	No
VITEL	John Eugene Marie	J2389	Ordinary Seaman	RN	HMS Vivid II	15/11/1891	St H	Served 26 Aug 1908 to 10 Jan 1911 when he died at RNH Plymouth. Cause not known.	No	No
VOISIN	Adolphus George	L7201	Officer's Steward, 2nd Class	RN	HMS Julius	16/01/1898	St H	Served 12 Aug 1915 to 18 Mar 1920 when demobilised. May have added 1y to his age!	Add	No
WAKLEY	George Reed	311156	Petty Officer Stoker	RN	HMS Hecla	14/05/1884	St H	Served 15 Jan 1907 to 1 Oct 1922 when discharged Shore.	Amend	No
WAKLEY	William James	305204	Stoker, 1st Class	RN	HMS Fortune	13/04/1885	St H	Served 29 Oct 1903 until 1 Jun 1916 when killed at the Battle of Jutland. 1914-15 Star, medals to father	No	Amend
WALL	Edward	128049	Chief Engine Room Artificer, 1st Class	RN	HMS Espiegle	12/11/1862	St H	Served 14 Jul 1884 to 31 Aug 1906 when pensioned.	No	No
WALSH	John	104455	Able Bodied Seaman	RN	HMS Vivid	23/07/1863	St H	Served 23 Apr 1878 to 5 Sep 1891 when discharged CS Expired. Couple of cell spells	No	No
WALSH	William Patrick	184617	Petty Officer	RN	HMS Victory I	23/11/1879	St H	Served 7 Aug 1895 to 22 Dec 1919 when demobilised. Good service record. 1914-15 Star. Joined RFR subsequently.	Add	No
WARDLEY	Ernest Abraham	276051	Petty Officer Stoker	RN	HMS Fisgard	18/09/1874	St H	Served 19 Jan 1894 to 9 Sep 1922. Invalided out with defective vision. 1914-15 Star.	Add	No
WARNE	Walter Edward	K22005	Stoker, 2nd Class	RN	HMS Monmouth	04/01/1896	GY Born	Served 16 Feb 1914 to 1 Nov 1914 when he was killed at the Battle of Coronel. <b>NO JERSEY CONNECTION.</b>	No	No
WARNE	Frederick Joseph	239397	Petty Officer	RN	HMS Suffolk	09/11/1890	GY Born	Served 14 Aug 1907 to 31 Dec 1928 minimum. <b>NO JERSEY CONNECTION.</b>	No	No
WARNE	Mark	306864	Chief Stoker	RN	HMS Victorious II	03/06/1886	GY Born	Served 25 Jul 1904 to at least 24 Jul 1926 when he joined RFR. <b>NO JERSEY CONNECTION.</b>	No	No
WARNE	William John	112097	Boatman	RN	Weymouth	28/01/1865	St H	Served 1 Apr 1880 to 12 Feb 1903, when he joined RFR. Pensioned?	No	No

WARNE	James Henry	111559	Ordinary Seaman	RN	HMS Boadicea	04/09/1863	NK	Served 24 Dec 1879 to 20 Mar 1883 when he drowned.	No	No
WARNE	Bertie	224356	Boy, 2nd Class	RN	HMS St Vincent	31/07/1887	St H	Served 20 Jan 1903 to 5 Nov 1903. Reason for leaving RN unclear.	No	No
WARREN	Hugh White	180300	Boy, 2nd Class	RN	HMS Boscawen	28/02/1879	St S	Served 30 Jul 1894 to 4 Jan 1895 when invalidated out, cause not known. Served in Mercantile Marine.	Amend	No
WARREN	James	156170	Petty Officer, 1st Class	RN	HMS Psyche	11/09/1874	St H	Served 9 Jul 1890 to 9 Nov 1908 when dismissed from the service in disgrace and 6m HL following a court-martial, offence not known. Later served in Mercantile Marine.	Amend	No
WARREN	Sidney John	166226	Petty Officer, 1st Class	RN	HMS Victory I	16/06/1876	St H	Served 7 Mar 1892 to 28 Mar 1919 when demobilised. Good service record. 1914-15 Star. Subsequently joined RFR.	Add	No
WATERS	John Henry George	SS100285	Stoker, 1st Class	RN	HMS Victory II	30/07/1879	St H	Served 28 Dec 1903 to 17 Dec 1907 when invalidated out with Epilepsy. Later served in Mercantile Marine. Naval Record may have incorrect DOB.	Amend	No
WATTS	Henry James	153339	Chief Engine Room Artificer, 1st Class	RN	HMS Vivid II	01/03/1869	St H	Served 10 Mar 1890 to 8 Mar 1902 when pensioned. Appears to have been mobilised from 2 Aug 1914 to 4 Aug 1914, but no subsequent service noted. With his engineering skills, did he serve with RFC or RAF?	TBA	No
WATTS	Archibald Grant	J26887	Ordinary Seaman	RN	HMS Hampshire	27/11/1896	St H	Served 10 Sep 1913 to 5 Jun 1916 when HMS Hampshire was sunk carrying Lord Kitchener to Russia	No	Amend
WAY	William Henry	138131	Stoker	RN	HMS Audacious	16/07/1868	St H	Served 4 Aug 1886 to 31 Dec 1896 when discharged by purchase.	No	No
WAY	John	117914	Petty Officer, 1st Class	RN	HMS Vernon	29/07/1866	St L	Served 21 Jan 1882 to 31 Aug 1904 when pensioned. Joined RFR Jan 1905. Mobilised 2 Aug 1914 and served until 22 Dec 1916 when invalidated out. 1914-15 Star	Add	No
WEBB	Alfred	210670	Able Bodied Seaman	RN	HMS Dreadnought	25/04/1885	St H	Served 26 Jul 1900 to 3 Apr 1919 when demobilised. Joined RFR subsequently.	Add	No
WEBB	Arthur Frederick	294561	Stoker, 1st Class	RN	HMS Victory II	13/03/1881	St H	Served 31 Jan 1900 to 28 Jan 1912 when discharged CS Expired. Several spells in cells.	No	No
WEBB	Arthur George	363833	Domestic, 3rd Class	RN	HMS Terrible	10/04/1887	St H	Served 17 Oct 1903 to 31 Mar 1905 on HMS Firequeen, when considered unsuitable as Dom 3Cl 361995. Then served 20 Sep 1905 to 25 Jun 1907. Later served in RASC and Labour Corps. 1914 Star	Add	No
WEBBER	Harold George	L5354	Officers' Steward, 3rd Class	RN	HMS Caroline	13/04/1898	St H	Served 19 May 1914 to 17 Jun 1919 when demobilised	Amend	No
WHERRY	William Henry	210676	Able Bodied Seaman	RN	HMS Furious	17/09/1884	St H	Served 24 Jul 1900 to 6 Sep 1906 when invalidated out with Epilepsy. Several cell spells.	No	No

WHETTINGSTALL	George Francis	NA	Commissioned Engineer	RN	NK	05/01/1880	St H	Served 10 Apr 1901 to 30 Sep 1910 as 270433 as an Eng Room Art, 2nd Cl and then commissioned.	Add	No
WHITE	Henry Frederick	124887	Stoker	RN	HMS Hearty	06/04/1862	NK	Served 15 Oct 1883 to 18 Jan 1888 when he went 'On the Run' at Sheerness.	No	No
WHITEL	John Charles	180149	Leading Seaman	RN	HMS Princess Irene	23/03/1879	St H	Served 16 Apr 1894 to 27 May 1915 when KIA	No	Amend
WHITTLE	John Thomas	104236	Able Bodied Seaman	RN	HMS Jumna	02/10/1861	St H	Served 22 Feb 1878 to 7 Mar 1884 when invalidated out, reasons not known, but HMS Jumna was troopship to India?	No	No
WILKINS	Herbert Edward	351453	Sickbay Petty Officer	RN	HMS Victory III (RNH Haslar)	16/07/1885	St H	Served from 28 Jan 1904 to 27 Jan 1926 when pensioned. 1914-15 Star	Add	No
WILKINSON	George Edward	M20264	Wireman, 2nd Class	RN	HMS New Zealand	03/04/1880	St H	Served 6 May 1916 to 10 Mar 1919 when demobilised. Unclear as to role of Wireman?	Add	No
WILLIAMS	James	181910	Petty Officer	RN	HMS Halcyon	08/11/1879	St H	Served 30 Oct 1894 to 13 May 1912 when dismissed from the service, following Court Martial where he was awarded 6m HL for fraudulence. Character rating of Bad!	No	No
WILLIAMS	George Giffard	175257	Able Bodied Seaman	RN	HMS Vernon	22/02/1877	St H	Served 5 Aug 1893 to 7 May 1903 when invalidated out, reason not given.	No	No
WILLIAMS	Edward Arthur	297398	Stoker, 1st Class	RN	HMS Victory II	06/08/1875	St J	Served 9 Jul 1901 to 7 Nov 1912 when invalidated out. Had 21d detention for breaking out in 1911/1912 and was noted as being a Widower in 1911 Census	No	No
WILSON	Henry (Harry)	M129	Engine Room Artificer, 3rd Class	RN	HMS Queen Mary	06/12/1892	St H	Served 3 Jan 1908 to 31 May 1916 when HMS Queen Mary was sunk.	No	Amend
WOOD	Arthur George	L7668	Officer's Steward 2nd Class	RN	HMS Vivid I	03/05/1894	Gr	Served 6 Nov 1915 to 20 Sep 1917 when invalidated out with incontinence.	Amend	No
WOODFORD	Martin John	177132	Petty Officer, 1st Class	RN	HMS Firequeen	05/06/1887	St Mn	Served 3 Jun 1893 to 9 Jun 1904 when invalidated out, cause not known.	No	No
WOODNUTT	Walter Charles	184602	Able Bodied Seaman	RN	HMS Britannia	18/04/1880	St H	Served 17 Jul 1895 to 17 Apr 1910 when discharged, Colour Service expired	No	No
WOODS	Thomas	300198	Stoker, 1st Class	RN	HMS Essex	15/04/1883	Gr	Served 17 Mar 1902 to 9 Sep 1909 when he went 'On the Run'. Recovered in Jul 1909, but not claimed for further service by the RN. Frequent spells in Cells	No	No
WOODS	William George	300417	Stoker, 1st Class	RN	HMS Europa I	19/08/1882	Gr	Served 1 Apr 1902 to 31 Mar 1914 when discharged Colour Service expired. Joined RFR 21 Sep 1914 and served to 30 Jul 1919 when invalidated out with Neuresthenia. Slightly wounded at Battle of Jutland. 1914-15 Star	Add	No

WYNNE	Sydney	355958	Domestic 2nd Class	RN	HMS Renown	08/06/1876	St H	Served 31 Jul 1897 to 9 May 1898 when discharged Unfit. Brief spell in cells.	No	No
YEALLAND	George	84698	Petty Officer, 1st Class	RN	HMS Bacchante	07/05/1858	St H	Served 13 Jan 1874 to 4 Dec 1885 when died of Cholera	No	No
YELLAND	William George	158711	Stoker	RN	HMS Resolution	25/12/1871	NK	Served 3 Jan 1891 to 1 Jan 1894 when he went 'On the Run'. Several spells in Cells.	No	No