



THE WESTERN FRONT
ASSOCIATION

Lancashire North Branch

Despatch

Issue 13: May 2014



This month's frontispiece is a photo taken on the Braemar Castle when bound for France on 22nd August 1914. Leaning on the rail (centre) of the upper deck with cigarette in hand is Lieut. Col. Le Marchant of the 1st Battalion East Lancashire Regiment. To his left is Lieutenant Hopkinson, the author of *Spectamur Agendo* which records the exploits of the Battalion to the end of its time on the Aisne, and to his left the taller figure of Major Green.

Read inside about; Hidden Gems; training of the 4th (Extra Reserve) Battalion of the South Staffordshire Regiment; the second Kentish tale about dinner in the trenches; writing the Official Histories of the Great War; remembering WW1 animals and more.

Editor's Musing

Four months into the first centenary year and already I am overwhelmed with the interest being expressed in WW1. At times I ponder what I am missing and have come to rely on friends (and others) drawing my attention to things. Some I could never have imagined, an example being the eight pages devoted to his great-grandfather war hero by a Contributing Editor to the *Esquire*.

When putting together the November 2012 Despatch, which reported on the surfacing of Major Lambert's album some 98 years after he operated his camera, I briefly pondered about the use of his photos this year. I certainly envisaged using his photos in updating my "Lancashire Contemptibles" talk (see page 20) but did not contemplate one would form the frontispiece for Despatch and never imagined they would provide a focus for an article in the next 100th "Stand To!" about the losses of the BEF in the 100 days from Mons to the end of November 1914.

In February, when musing over the form and content of this Despatch, I received a message from Mike Glover that Mackereth's medals had appeared. I formed a picture in my head of a back page photo with the returned medals on Sir Gilbert's remembrance plaque. I pondered whether the donor of the medals had photos and other memorabilia of Gilbert's. When I subsequently visited the Fusilier's museum in Bury to take photographs I also obtained details of the donor not thinking it would provide the answer to a related search in Australia.

MORE INFORMATION FOR ARTICLES WHEN:

(+P) : photos, maps in Photo Gallery,

(+S) : supplementary information report

See our website www.wfanlancs.co.uk and look against this Despatch

LIUTENANT GEORGE HENRY GOLDIE, 1ST BATTALION LOYAL NORTH LANCASHIRE REGIMENT: Terry Dean

In searching for photographs of officers named in "*FROM MONS TO THE FIRST BATTLE OF YPRES*" by Captain J.G.W. Hyndson of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment I found a photo of Lieutenant George Henry Goldie and also information about his death which impelled me to tell his story.

George Henry (GH) was born in India on 1st June 1888, the only son of Robert Henry, a tea planter, and Alice Francis Goldie. In

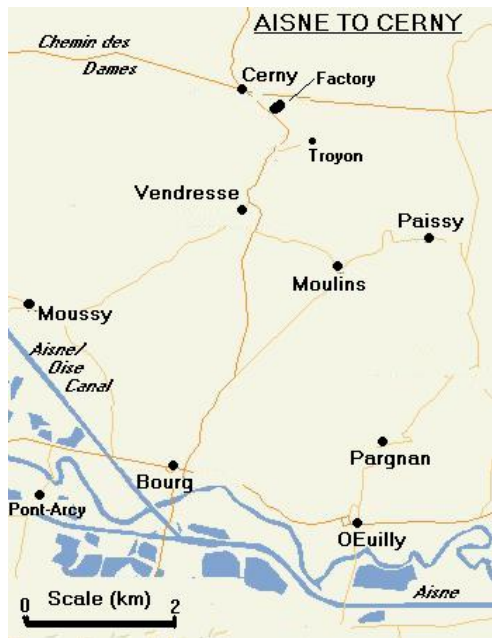


1901 GH attended St Christopher's School, Bath. He entered Rugby School in 1902, played in the School XV in 1904 and left in 1905 when he passed into the Royal Military College Sandhurst. He was gazetted to the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment in 1906 and in January 1910 was promoted Lieutenant.

He is mentioned in a number of the Regimental Journals prior to WW1 concerning the sports he played and acknowledging the skills he gained with respect to signalling, musketry, and with the Maxim machine gun. Also it is reported that on 1st June 1912 he married Mary Fione Anderson in St Stephen's Church, Lansdown, Bath. The aisle being lined with Loyal's non-commissioned officers and Lieutenant Spread of the Loyals acted as best man. Their daughter (Pamela Margaret) was born in 1913.

GH was with the 1st Loyals when they crossed to France on 12th August 1914. The Battalion was in 2nd Brigade of 1st Division

within I Corps commanded by Sir Douglas Haig. The Loyals saw little action at Mons or during the retreat with the most serious casualties being apparently caused by stampeding transport horses on 23rd August. However having crossed the river Marne they suffered several killed, including Lieutenant Colonel Knight, when hit by “friendly” artillery fire whilst moving to engage retreating Germans.

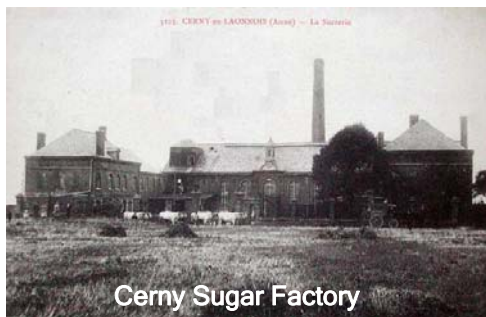


By nightfall on 13th September all of 1st Division were across the Aisne near Paissy and Haig’s first objective for I Corps next day was the Chemin de Dames Ridge. However the British infantry were opposed on their whole frontage and excerpts from Hyndson’s book tell what happened:

“The ground in front of us consists of a steep ridge along the top of which runs the Chemin des Dames. A big sugar factory is situated on the highest point of the ridge, and the ground is undulating and broken with numerous small woods and clumps of trees scattered here and there.

Our turn soon comes and we move up the road in the wake of the other troops, and as we approach the top of the ridge we see many signs of the battle. A stream of lightly-wounded men keep on passing us on their way to the first-aid posts which have been formed in Troyon. Just before reaching the point where the road turns left-handed over the ridge, we are met by the brigadier, and told to halt. We receive orders to attack the factory, and assist the 1st Guards Brigade, 2nd K.R.R.C., and the Royal Sussex Regiment, who are being held up.

I draw my sword and call on my men to follow me. We rush forward, and are immediately exposed to a devastating fire. Suffering severe losses, we at last reach the firing line and mix up with the regiments from the Guards and our own Brigades. Here the casualties are appalling, and our men are literally lying on the ground in heaps. We lie down in the open, as there is not a vestige of cover of any kind. I order the men to use their hand shovels to dig themselves into the ground. On my right I see that “A” Company



have carried the sugar factory. Goldie and his platoon reach the firing-line and take post on my left. He comes up to speak to me, and then crawls away to get nearer the centre of his platoon, and I do not see him again, although about an hour later I receive a message to say that he has been wounded and is trying to make his way to the rear.”

It was on the website of Memorials to Rugbeians that I found his photo and that:

"Evidence was given before Lord Bryce's Commission by the sole survivor of the party, that Lieutenant Goldie and others who were wounded took refuge in a chalk pit, where the Germans shot them all down except one, who escaped by pretending to be dead."*

L.Cpl Issac Thomasson's story *"Stillness of Death"* on www.loyalregiment.com by Paul McCormick confirms Lieutenant Goldie was shot in the head by Germans.



One of the 3739 names on the La Ferte-sous-Jouarre Memorial is that of Lieutenant Goldie G. H. With his name being at the top of one of the panels and through ageing it does not photograph well and possibly the panel will be one of those to be replaced by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) in June/July. His CWGC certificate indicates GH died on 14th September 1914. (*[www.firstworldwar.com/source/brycereport.htm#\(a\)The Killing of the Wounded and of Prisoners](http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/brycereport.htm#(a)TheKillingoftheWoundedandofPrisoners))

THE SILENT STARS IN LOVE LOOK
DOWN WHERE OUR DARLING DADDY
LIES - Private W Burton Duke of
Wellington's Regt.

EXTRA RESERVE: Barrie Bertram

The first part of this article in last November's Despatch finished with the question of whether that was the CO's dog sat in front of the right-hand marker, and nobody bothered to find out! Yes it was, and he was called Shep!

As has been seen, the 4th (Extra Reserve) Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment had arrived in Jersey in August, 1914, and had begun training men for the fray. By October,

1914, when this photograph was taken, the men were beginning to look like soldiers. Shortly after, they would split in two through the formation of the 11th (Service) Battalion, albeit that it had not been assigned to a formation. However, by May, 1915 this new Battalion had left Jersey, to become a Reserve Battalion at Harrogate.



An accompanying photograph to that above notes the fact that the number on parade totalled a remarkable (and prescient?) 1918 all ranks, a figure that was almost double the establishment for a regular Battalion, and thus requiring more than the standard quantity of rifles, sets of equipment and uniforms to kit the men out. But these were strange times. More pertinent is the fact that this number was probably two to three times the combined strength of the Devonshire Regiment and the Artillerymen who had left the Island shortly after mobilisation. So, more bed spaces would be needed and there were more mouths to be fed. There was space at Fort Regent overlooking the town of St Helier and St Peter's Barracks in the west of the Island clearly, while it seems from the collection that a number of the officers were billeted in the Grand Hotel at West Park on the west of town. Bell tents were also erected at the Barracks, and it is likely that the vacated married quarters at Green Street in St Helier and St Peter's Barracks also housed men. There are some photographs taken at Elizabeth Castle out in St Aubin's Bay, but it

is not evident that it was used as accommodation. Would those extra hungry mouths have been a problem? One suspects not. Before the War the regular army garrison would have had contracts placed upon civilian suppliers, arranged by the District HQ, and this would have continued with increased numbers. Suppliers would welcome this increase given that civilian trade would have dropped with the mobilised French and British reservists leaving the Island.

Once settled in, the new drafts would find soon become very familiar with the Fort's drill square and the intricacies of the Drill Manual. The photograph below probably contains some of the men featured in the final photographs below. It is doubly interesting in that there are six artillery pieces, probably 15-pdrs, partially concealed under canvases on the left. Presumably left by the RGA Company, they would soon be put to regular use by the Artillerymen of Jersey's Militia.



Drill is an important feature in the training of men as it engenders an *esprit de corps* in terms of having pride in ones unit and appearance, builds teamwork, and establishes the sense of military discipline that is necessary for obeying the orders of one's superior. On a battlefield this is critical. But, training also includes other military skills. If so, it had to be relevant. As the next two photographs show, men were being trained in visual communication techniques. These skills, more suited to the open veldt of Africa

and the mountains in India, would prove to be largely irrelevant as the front lines became static. This is not a criticism as, at the time that these photographs were taken, the nature of the War was still one of movement.



'Send three and four pence, I'm going to a dance!' So runs the apocryphal message that was received by a unit in the last war, whereas the real message that was transmitted was 'Send reinforcements, I am going to advance'. Well, it is a good story, and was, if one recalls correctly, published in the British Army's Manual of Signals. But, would that have been the case in the days when heliographs and flags had been the normal means of battlefield communication?

The above photograph, was probably taken in 1914 and shows St Aubin's Bay, with the fenced off Jersey Railway line just visible by the sea wall. The officer operating the heliograph was Second Lieutenant Daniel GM Robinson who died in France in May, 1915, while the other officer on his right is Second Lieutenant Alex De Hamel who, surviving the War, would later receive the MC and attain the rank of Major. The names of the Sergeant and the Corporal are not known, but they were members of the Signal Section. They 'enjoyed' a clear line of sight to Fort Regent at the time. One wonders whether they would do so from the same position today?

The photograph on the next page shows the Signal Section with the two officers and

the two NCOs now seated after their exertions in a rather overcast day.



As the war progressed, training had to be adapted to take on board new weaponry such as hand grenades. It also proved dangerous as the two young officers above would discover at St Peter's Barracks, one tragically. The officer on the left is Lieutenant Charles EC Bartlett who in February, 1916, when a man dropped a grenade whilst he was loading it into a catapult thrower and then panicked, quickly picked up the live grenade and threw it over the parapet where it soon exploded, the fuse time being a somewhat brief 5 seconds. For this he was awarded the Albert Medal, adding it to an MC received the previous year while serving with the Regiment's 1st Battalion. The other officer, on the right, was Second Lieutenant Gerald Dutton whose luck, in very similar circumstances to Bartlett's, ran out on the 5th May, 1916 just under six months after receiving a probationary commission. He was buried with full military honours at St Peter's Church.

But, in 1916, other new weapons such as the BSA produced 0.303" Lewis Gun was now becoming readily available as is illustrated below. Waiting for their turn to



have a go at the range near the Barrack's, the officer nearest to the camera certainly looks a little apprehensive while his shovel might soon be put to unintended use! Looking behind the instructing officer's right shoulder there is a linear structure. Is that the pipeline that fed water to the nearby Prisoner of War Camp at Blanche Banques?

Of the seven officers above, only the instructing officer, Second Lieutenant Edmund Sacheverell Wilmot would die, on the 13th November, 1916, and is buried at Serre Road No 2 British Cemetery. He had come from Canada and had been a Sergeant in the Canadian Mounted Rifles. In some ways it is interesting note the survival rate of six out of these seven given the much higher ratio of subalterns who died.



The culmination of the recruits' basic training would probably take the form of a 'passing out' parade where the men would 'bull' their kit and parade in front of the inspecting officer. The photograph above shows just such a parade at Fort Regent with the men drawn up. They are also

accompanied by the Corps of Drums, and after being inspected, they would have marched around the square a few times, led by the 'Drums', and one assumes that, at this time, they were ready to be sent as part of a draft for the 1st or 2nd Battalions.

A brief spot of leave would now follow, but not before the men had received a medical inspection, inoculations, railway warrants and travel instructions. And of course, if they had the opportunity to leave barracks, they may have also needed to say fond farewells to one or two Jersey ladies! The final photograph shows a draft of men each waiting their turn to be examined by the Medical Officer at the Brighton Road Military Hospital in St Helier in March, 1915. This later became Rouge Bouillon School. (Author's Note: There was also a much



smaller Military Hospital on Pier Road adjacent to Fort Regent. This site is now given over to housing). **To be continued.**

THEY NEVER FAIL WHO DIE IN A
GREAT CAUSE - Gunner Lionel Overton
Oliver Can. Garrison Artillery

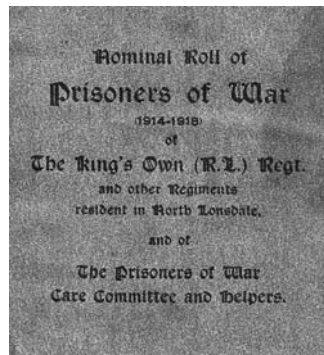
"HIDDEN GEMS".....NEW SOURCE OF INFORMATION: Rick & Sue Preston

From time to time new information is discovered which adds and complements an existing area of knowledge. These often appear by accident and are a total surprise but they are, in themselves, "little gems".

One such item was given to Bob Matthews when an elderly neighbour died and on dispersal of her possessions he was given a little booklet entitled:-

"A nominal Roll of Prisoners of war (1914-1918) of the Kings Own (Royal Lancaster) Regt. and other Regiments resident in North Lonsdale and of the Prisoners of War Care Committee and Helpers."

The booklet, 100mm x 130mm with 16 pages, was in two parts, the first were lists of personnel on the



Committees,

those who looked after the stores and the packers and the second part was a list of the POWs who received the parcels sent from England.

This Care Committee, chaired by the Mayor of Barrow in Furness, and the other volunteers totalled 83 people (10 males and 73 female). They were from the towns of Dalton, Ulverston and Barrow in Furness and were mainly sending out parcels to the 4th battalion the Kings Own Royal Lancaster Regiment (a territorial Unit who were recruited from the area north of the Sands, (Morecambe Bay area encompassing the Furness area of Lancashire and Southern Westmorland).

The second part of the booklet showed the rank, name, regiment and home address of the 311 soldiers who were POWs, six of whom were to die in captivity. The distribution of home addresses shows a wide geographical distribution but obviously a large number came from the area north of the sands as can be seen from the table overleaf.

Table 1

Area from where the POW Soldiers of the Kings Own lived	Number
Area N. Of Morecambe Bay and S Westmorland	156
Lancashire	73
Greater Manchester	44
Northumberland and Durham	8
Yorkshire	3
Other areas	27 Include 1 USA
TOTAL OF SOLDIERS	311

The importance of a simple document like this is that there are no national lists of POWs. The exception being lists of Officers who returned, as they had to be interviewed to see that they had become POW legitimately. These lists are kept at the National Archives at Kew but no such list exists for other ranks. This small booklet therefore is rare and important and it gives an insight into one battalion and compassion on the home front.

Bob intends to donate it to the Kings Own Museum in Lancaster.

Red Cross Book

The second book came to light after Bill Myers referred to the WW1 medals of Agnes Mary Fletcher in his article he sent to Terry Dean for inclusion in last November's Despatch about the 1914-15 Star.

As a Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) nurse she received 3 medals; the 14/15 Star, the British War Medal and Victory Medal but also on one of the ribbons was an Oak leaf indicating that

she had been mentioned in despatches by Sir Douglas Haig on 13th November 1916.

Although living in Grange over Sands she had been born (1885) in the small colliery village of Howe Bridge close to Atherton in Greater Manchester which was where Terry had been brought up many years later. With his personal connection to her birth place Terry started on the quest to discover the background of this young woman who at the age of 29 became a VAD and went overseas to nurse the wounded soldiers of the First World War. As well as contacting a descendant of "Molly's" family he identified a possible book which could be useful and the librarian in Grange over Sands, where Molly had lived, helped him locate a copy.

The long forgotten small, rare and invaluable book is entitled: *"Red Cross War Work 1914-1919: The War Work of Hospitals and Voluntary Aid Detachments of Cumberland, Westmorland and part of N W Lancashire"*. The Geographical area described is the present county of Cumbria (with the exception of a small area of what was N. Yorkshire around the Sedbergh area) so for the rest of this paper I will use the modern county term for simplicity.

It was in the store of Carlisle Library and by chance I was in that library some days after Terry had seen it there. I was talking to the Head Librarian about the First World War and he rushed off very excitedly and came back to showed Sue and I the book as a "new find". I wonder what other gems are hidden in other libraries? He had no idea of its existence until Terry had caused it to be unearthed.

The book, some 111 pages long, includes many photos and



describes the overall arrangements for the County organisation of, Government Grants

to finance these voluntary hospitals, details of their finances and the activities of each Hospital. On being sent a digital copy of the book Sue Light, who has spoken about WW1 nurses to the Branch, made a spread sheet of people involved, and it contained some 2364 names in some 27 different establishments. The vast majority of those involved in these hospitals and their foundation gave their time freely.



**Glingerbank
"Invalids"**

She also commented that the book "*proved a very interesting foray into detachments, and says a great deal about how the hospitals were organised and staffed. I tend to think that it can be taken as a model for other areas of the UK during the Great War.*"

Table 2: Hospitals that dealt with Injured Soldiers in the Cumbria Area 1914-1919

Hospital Type	No
Carlisle Infirmary (1)	1
Military Hospital: Fuse Hill, Carlisle (2)	1
Officers Hospitals	4
Auxiliary Hospitals (5 contained in more than one building) (3)	25
TOTAL	31

Notes :

- 1 A civilian hospital that took some military casualties.
2. Carlisle Work house was converted to be a Military Hospital but no figures of patients or deaths are given.

3. i. Some of these hospitals were only open for a short time, whilst others were convalescent establishments.

ii. 5 of the hospitals had more than one establishment under their control: the largest being Penrith with four separate named buildings.

Some of these hospitals had a short life while others lasted for the duration of the war. The largest, by far, was Stramongate Auxiliary Hospital, Kendal which had in the



Stramongate Hospital

end 130 beds and treated 2009 patients, the smallest, Claremont Auxiliary Hospital, Longtown which was open for a period during 1915-1916 and had 12 beds and treated just 60 patients.(There were smaller establishments but they were considered annexes of larger central hospitals eg. Hynning- 4 beds and treated 7 patients- was under Stramongate Auxiliary Hospital Kendal). The total number of patient treated in Cumbria (Excluding Fuse Hill- no figures given) was 11607 with 48 deaths (13 British troops, 17 overseas troops and 18 from the Gretna Troop train Railway Crash).

In the booklet each hospital is given its own chapter describing its establishment, the number of beds, patients treated, number of deaths, personnel involved, and the activities of the hospital.

At the end of the book there is a very interesting section about the transport arrangements both nationally and within the County. One chart describes the direct connections between France and the Auxiliary hospital at Penrith. The chart has the date of the movement, ambulance train

number, starting point in Britain, the Hospital Ship that was used, number of casualties delivered and how the patients were distributed between Penrith and Greystokes. Ironical, in my own researches in the Penrith Observer I had found a hospital official was quoted as saying that some of the casualties were on the battlefield on Wednesday and in Penrith by Friday. Though from my reading I know that was exceptional rather than the rule, and that journey times were considerably longer; the hospital trains were given a low priority over troop and ammunition trains on French Railways.

Penrith had 35 train deliveries from March 1915 until May 1919: 16 emanated from Dover and 19 from Southampton. It received 1448 casualties the highest number being 77 on 20th July 1916 and the lowest 8 on 31st Dec 1918 the average delivery of patients being 41.2. These trains would have delivered casualties to towns on the main line through N W England, including in Cumbria, Kendal and Carlisle, and then it may well have continued up in to Scotland.

A good deal of more research will be needed to tease out the detail of the find, but it certainly will add knowledge to the workings of the VADS and Auxiliary hospitals in Cumbria as a whole, and perhaps an indication to the national picture.

BRIGADIER GENERAL REGINALD JOHN KENTISH (RJK) & HIS 2nd TALE: Terry Dean



Last November's Despatch contained the first tale written by RJK describing amusing incidents he had experienced during WW1. Together with other similar accounts it was in the 2

boxes of RJK's documents which are held by the Imperial War Museum. It was felt worthy of inclusion in March's WFA Bulletin which

has encouraged me to transcribe his 2nd tale and thanks to help from Jonathan Maguire of the Royal Irish Fusiliers museum in Armagh I am able to include a photo of two of the Dramatis Personae.

A DINNER PARTY IN THE TRENCHES

SCENE: TIME: PLACE: About 7 p.m. some time in November 1914, in the cellar of moated farm in ruins on the River Douve - in flood - under Messines, the 'Huns' trenches only thirty yards away separated from ours by the moat, a few sandbags and some barbed wire.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE: Brigadier General J. H. Davidson (afterwards Lt. General Sir John H. Davidson), Brigadier General General Staff 3rd Corps; Captain Viscount Castlereagh (Royal Horse Guards) and A.D.C. to our Corps Commander Lt. General Sir William Pulteney ('Putty' to his friends); Captain R. W. R. Jeurwine ('Judy'), my Second-in-Command; several soldiers from my Battalion; myself, a Captain and commanding 'A' Company of my Battalion, the 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers, holding that sector of the line - and a 'baler-out'!

A few days before, when out of the line, I had received a letter from Castlereagh, an old friend from my Sandhurst days, inviting me to dine with the Corps Commander, an invitation I had accepted with much pleasure, not only, because I knew that I should dine and wine exceptionally well, but also, because the letter contained an invitation to have a hot bath in the Chateau before dinner, not because the Corps Commander thought I might perhaps bring some of my "little trench friends" into his house, and wanted to get me clean first, but because a hot bath was considered a luxury of the first order in those days and they were at a premium!

And so, on the day appointed, I hied me to the Chateau, was received '*en prince*' by the

Corps Commander, and after a marvellous hot bath, I sat down to and enjoyed one of the best dinners I'd ever had, and it was not surprising, because one or other of 'Putty's' A.D.C.'s was always in Paris bringing every kind of delicacy for the Mess, and with a French chef, a refugee from Lille, as good as one could wish for, the dinner was, as I have already said, just about 'the best ever'.

But all good things must come to an end, and so did this dinner, and as I was wishing them 'Good night' and thanking them all for a wonderful evening, I said to Castlereagh:



"What about coming and dining with me up in the line? I shan't be able to do you like you've done me tonight, but we'll do our best!"

"Love to," said Castlereagh.

"Then what about next Tuesday. We shall be in the line then."

"Suit me well," he said.

"Right," I said, "and bring 'Tavish' (Brig.Gen. J H Davidson, known throughout the Army as 'Tavish Davidson') if he can come, or anyone else you like with you. We can't manage more than two guests," and then wishing them all 'Good night' I returned to my billet.

Next morning I sent for Privates Atter and Rushmore, told them of my guests coming to dine in the line on Tuesday and left it to them to prepare me a menu.

Within an hour or so they returned and put the following in front of me:-

Potage Mulligatawny

Filet de Boeuf aux Champignons avec

Pommes frites

Peches a la Creme

Sardines aux croute anchoise

Cafe.

"Excellent Atter" I said, "thank you," and then handing it to 'Judy' I said :-

"I think this with a glass of sherry to start with, a couple of bottles of Charles Heidsieck 1906, a bottle of Gilbey's Port and then a glass of 65 Brandy and a Corona Cigar all round, ought to be good enough for anyone don't you think?"

"By Jove, yes," said 'Judy', who appreciated good food and drink every bit as much as I did. Thus did we plan to receive and entertain our guests.



'Judy' (top left) and RJK (bottom right) at Royal Irish Fusilier dinner in 1924

On the Monday we returned to the line and on the Tuesday, just before 7, 'Tavish' Davidson and Castlereagh arrived and greetings over we all sat down and then to the accompaniment of bursts of machine gun and rifle fire and an occasional salvo of shells coming over just to cheer us up, the dinner was served exactly as it appeared on the menu! It was really a remarkable effort on the part of Atter and Rushmore, for only a single wall and a moat some forty feet wide, a few sandbags and some barbed wire separated us from the Huns and all the time one of my men was in the corner of the cellar baling the water out for, with the Douve in flood, as it was, it quickly rose well over our ankles.

After we had dined, I took my guests round the line to show them the kind of life the men were actually leading, for trench warfare had only just begun, and the Staff then had little

knowledge of the appalling conditions under which the men were living, and when we got back again to my cellar and my guests were having 'one for the road', 'Tavish' Davidson said:-

"Well Reggie, old man, you've given us a wonderful evening, tell me before I go, is there anything I can do for you or your men when I get back to Corps Headquarters?"

"Yes, Tavish" I said, "you can help us very much. It is useless

sending up, as they have been doing lately, fresh meat, because the men just can't cook it in the trenches. Tinned meat is the only thing that's any good to them under these conditions."

"Right old man," said Tavish, "I'll see to it when I get back," and off they went to their 'comfy' Headquarters in their Chateau, whilst 'Judy' and I went off to spend a night with our men in the trenches.

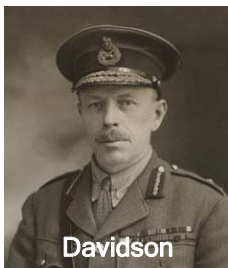
The following evening, when it was dark, I went across from the trenches to the cellar in the Moated Farm to have a 'wash and brush up' and collect my mail. When I arrived I found O'Gorman my Company Quarter-Master Sergeant already there.

"Good evening O'Gorman," I said, "You're early tonight. What's the news?"

"Oh, sor," he said, "the news is excellent, sor, for I've got preserved meat for the men, sor, and there's to be no more fresh meat issued to the men whilst they're in the trenches, sor."

"Splendid," I said, "full marks to 'Tavish' Davidson!" and I told O'Gorman of my visit from General Davidson and Lord Castlereagh the night before.

And then O' Gorman said: "Oh, sor, I'm almost after forgettin' it! I've an important letter for you, sor, from Battalion Headquarters." and with that he handed me



an 'O.H.M.S' foolscap-size envelope, across the top of which was written 'Confidential'.

To my astonishment I read that my Commanding Officer had received a letter from Brigade advising that the Brigade Commander had received a telephone call from the Divisional Commander telling of a conversation with the Corps Commander earlier that morning. Brigade required to know why I had complained direct to the Corps Commander's B.G.G.S. (Brig. Gen J.H. Davidson) about the problem with fresh meat instead of through proper channels.

After discussing things with 'Judy', RJK finally wrote, "If the Brigade Commander had bothered to visit me in the same way - which he never has - I should have put in the same request." This explanation was not, he thought, passed back by his Commanding Officer, but he heard no more on the subject.

I PRAYED FOR COURAGE AND
GOT IT: 2nd Lieut J Billing East
Yorkshire Regt

WORLD WAR 1 ANIMALS: Barbara Martindale



We must not forget the forgotten Army of Animals that were conscripted to serve in the First World War. There were horses, mules and donkeys, elephants, camels, dogs, oxen, pigeons, mice and canaries.

On the Western Front horses and mules bravely fought and suffered in extreme

conditions utterly alien to them - sudden loud bangs, gunfire, flashing lights, wet cold weather, and sometimes starvation. In other parts of the world there were extreme weather conditions of the heat, sand flies and disease and a lack of water.

Through all the fighting and suffering, there was a close relationship between the men and their horses they were often a comfort and a morale booster. The men did their best to care for them in the most tragic and testing conditions. Some men became as close to their horse as to their fellow soldiers and their loss was felt as deeply.

ANIMALS CLAIM NO NATION P.E.T.A
(Peoples for the Ethnic Treatment of Animals)

They are in involuntary servitude to Human Kind,
And although they cause no threat, and own no weapons
Human beings always win in the undeclared war against
them. For animals there is no Geneva Convention and no
Peace Treaty, just our mercy.

Some animals appear to be willing helpers, but none can
Agree to haul heavy loads through mud, sniff at mines,
Enter burning buildings (dogs) or attack armed men.

Ingrid Newkirk (President, P.E.T.A)

Sadly, after serving bravely in the war most of the horses were sold in Europe and left neglected, only the chosen few came home.

WW1 MEDALS - THE SILVER WAR MEDAL (+S) : Bill Myers



Although huge numbers of the British War Medal were issued no one knows how many have survived with families, collectors and museums. They contain close to an ounce of sterling standard silver and many tens of thousands have been scrapped for their bullion content. It is said that in the 1970s, when there was a great increase in the price of silver, up to 750,000 of these distinctive

First World War medals were melted down for their scrap value. The same was starting to happen a couple of years ago when the price of silver topped £20 an ounce.

Many surviving medals are seen with the suspender removed or roughly sawn off so they can be carried as pocket pieces or even mounted as brooches.

Prices for single British War Medals start at £22 to £25 these days, although examples to women will be at least double this and one from a soldier killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme would be closer to £300.

The medal bears a standard coinage head of King George V on the front which was designed by Sir Bartram Mackennal.

The reverse was the work of William McMillan and features St George on horseback carrying a sword with the horse trampling on the eagle shield of the Central Powers. At the bottom is a skull and crossbones. Above, the sun has risen in Victory, Although bearing the dates 1914 to 1918, its issue was extended to service into 1920.

The medal riband was available in a two-inch strip from August 1919 to demobilized personnel and military nurses.

The medal, unlike the First World War stars and Victory Medal, could be awarded by itself to those who did not see any fighting. These include many Royal Naval Air Service personnel, civilians and those who served in India.

Late entitlement to the medal included service in Russia for 1919 and 1920 and for mine clearance in the North Sea, the eastern Baltic, Siberia, the Black Sea, and the Caspian up to November 30 in 1919. Many relatives - and probably a lot of soldiers and sailors - were not happy about still being in uniform long after the Armistice had been



signed. A protest event was held in Barrow-in-Furness Public Park in 1919 called "Hands off Russia" designed to get Lancashire troops home from providing support to anti-Communist forces following the Russian Revolution.

Another version of the British War Medal in bronze was available to members of the Native Labour Corps and other native workers who were mobilized for war service and received military pay. They are most commonly seen to members of the South African, Chinese and Maltese Labour Corps. Examples currently cost in excess of £100.

A total of 110,000 were issued in bronze. This compares to 6.5 million of the silver version.

The British War Medal was originally intended to come with campaign clasps to fix on the riband, like those seen for the Boer War and earlier conflicts. A total of 70 different clasps were recommended by the

Army and 68 by the Royal Navy. The idea was abandoned by 1923.

The British War Medal was originally approved for issue to officers and men of British and Imperial forces who had rendered service between 5 August 1914 and 11 November 1918. They were required to have either entered an active theatre of war, or left the United Kingdom for service overseas, between 5 August 1914 and 11 November 1918, and completed 28 days mobilised service. The medal was automatically awarded in the event of death on active service.

The same rules applied for staff in hospitals run by the Red Cross and for members of the women's auxiliary forces.

For the Royal Navy, the criteria was 28 days' service, but without the requirement for overseas service.

In the Royal Air Force, eligibility was extended to those who had seen combat whilst based in the UK, who had ferried aircraft to France, or who had served on ships carrying aircraft.

The recipient's name, rank, service number and unit are stamped on the bottom edge of the medal. Those awarded to Army officers, with the exception of the Royal Artillery, omit the name of the regiment or corps. Medals to the Merchant Navy have just the name.

All men of The King's Own Royal (Lancaster) Regiment who entered one of the theatres of War, including France and Flanders, Gallipoli, Salonika and Mesopotamia, qualified for the medal.

A few qualified as regular, mobilised personnel serving in India and other parts of the world who saw no fighting. Some serving in England probably also qualified.

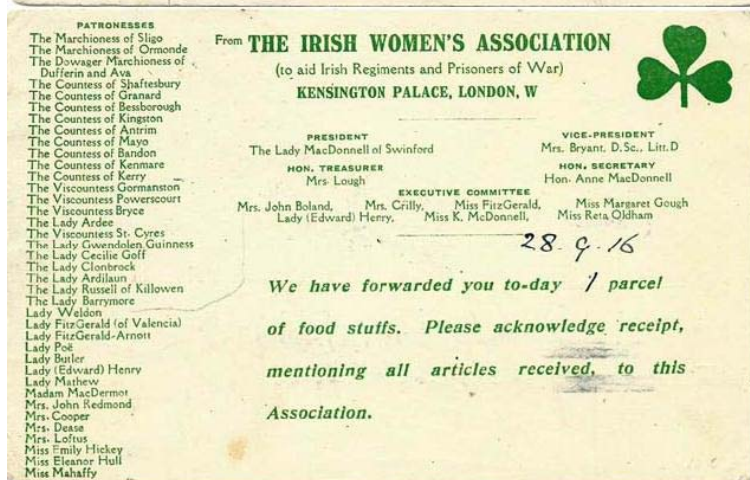
The style of naming for the regiment around the edge of the medal is "R. LANC. R."

Probably around 44,000 British War Medals were issued to men and officers of the Regiment.

**A FAVOURITE CARD:
Andrew Brooks**

Private Edward Moran No.2763 of the 1st Connaught Rangers was taken prisoner by the Turks in one of the attempts to relieve the town of Kut in Mesopotamia. Major General Charles Townshend had led a reconnaissance force of divisional strength (plus a small naval flotilla) up the River Tigris but they had to retreat to Kut where they were surrounded. After three attempts by relief forces had failed (with a total loss of 10,000 men) Lord Kitchener decided that a further effort would be a waste of life and resources and Kut surrendered on the 29/4/16.

Edward became a PoW as a result of being part of one of the relief forces and this postcard was sent to him by The Irish Woman's Association informing him that a parcel was on the way and that he should acknowledge its receipt and check the contents. The card was written on the 28/9/16 and addressed to the PoW Camp, Central Post Office in Constantinople. It was posted in Kensington, London (6/10/16) and has a Turkish military censor cachet, but no receiving date. Edward must have either been wounded or very ill as he was repatriated to England and discharged from the army by 27/1/17. His name is on the Silver War Badge list.



As a collector I find PoW material very interesting and this card is taken from one of my favourite topics rather than being selected as a favourite card. The card must have taken a few weeks to reach Edward in his PoW camp as ordinary mail to Egypt and Salonika took upwards of ten days. Once it was in Turkish hands it could have spent a week or so in the censor's office before being forwarded to the camp. If Edward was discharged in January 1917 he must have been almost at the stage of leaving for home by the time the card arrived.

ONLY GOODNIGHT BELOVED NOT
FAREWELL - Lieutenant Allan Bertram
Smith MBE Arg & Suth'd Highrs

WESTERN FRONT AND OTHER STRATEGIC EVENTS TIMELINE - JUNE TO 22nd NOVEMBER 1914 (largely based on www.greatwar.co.uk): TD

On several occasions recently I have had interest in the timing of various events in the run-in to war and shortly after. It occurred to me that in the centenary period Despatch readers might find a timeline of some events to the next Despatch useful.

Jun-14	
28	Archduke Franz Ferdinand assassinated in Sarajevo
Jul-14	
5	Germany assures Austria of full support in acting against Serbia
23	Austria issues ultimatum to Serbia
24	Britain proposes mediation by international conference
25	Serbia mobilises
28	Austria declares war on Serbia
29	Austrians bombard Belgrade
31	Russia mobilisation
Aug-14	
1	Germany and France mobilise Germany declares war on Russia
2	Germany invades Luxemburg
3	Germany declares war on France British mobilisation
4	Germany invades Belgium Britain declares war on Germany
6	Austria declares war on Russia Serbia declares war on Germany
7	BEF starts to land in France
8	French briefly occupy Mulhouse
16	Last fort of Liege surrenders
20	Germans occupy Brussels
22	Battle of Ardennes begins
23	Mons Japan declares war on Germany
25	Germans retake Mulhouse
26	Le Cateau
27	British Marines land at Ostend Germans occupy Lille
29	Battle of Guise
31	Germans occupy Amiens

Sep-14	
2	French Government moves to Bordeaux
5	Germans evacuate Lille
6	Battle of Marne begins
7	Mauberge capitulates
9	Germans retreat from Marne
13	Battle of Aisne begins French reoccupy Amiens
22	"Race to Sea" commences Indian troops start landing Marseilles
26	Siege of Antwerp begins
Oct-14	
3	German cavalry enter Ypres BEF commence move from Aisne Royal Naval Div arrive Antwerp
6	7th Div disembark Ostend
10	Fall of Antwerp Battle of La Bassee begins
12	Ostend evacuated by Belgians
13	Ypres reoccupied by British Germans occupy Ostend & Zeebrugge
15	
17	Armenteries recaptured by British
19	Battles of Ypres Begin
24	Battle of Langemarck ends
29	Turkey enters War against Russia Critical day at Ypres, Gheluvelt lost and recaptured
31	
Nov-14	
1	Messines taken by Germans Britain & France declare war on Turkey
5	
11	Battle of Nonneboschen
22	Battles of Ypres end

MAY ANGELS GUARD THIS SACRED
SPOT WHERE OUR ONLY CHILD LIES
SLEEPING - Pte E Barrow Machine Gun
Corps Inf

the Lancaster Pals. The service should be a good time for relatives of the soldiers and others to come together to remember the early days of the war.

More information can be found at www.kingsownmuseum.plus.com

MUSEUM REPORTS

King's Own Royal Regiment Museum, Lancaster: Peter Donnelly

Interest in the First World War, sparked by all the media coverage since the start of the year, has resulted in four times the usual number of enquiries now being answered each month. This is clearly putting serious pressure on the time available to deal with other matters, which the most pressing of which is the 2014 Summer Exhibition at Lancaster City Museum.

Opening on Saturday 21st June and running until mid-October the City Museum will host an exhibition called "War! 1914, Lancaster and the King's Own and the First World War". The exhibition will look at the outbreak of the war and the reaction in Lancaster and the impact on the King's Own, with the mobilisation of the 1st Battalion and its service with the BEF on the Western Front. Meanwhile there will be coverage of the new war time service battalions and the territorial battalions and the raising of the Lancaster Pals.

The exhibition will occupy both downstairs rooms at the City Museum, and admission is free with the museum open Monday to Saturday 10am to 5pm.

A number of events are being organised in Lancaster and surrounding district to mark the First World War, and these include a plan to re-enact the parade of the 5th King's Own from the Old Wagon Works to Lancaster Castle Railway Station on 14th August and a church service on Saturday 6th September at the Priory Church, which will take place a century on from the original service attend by

Liverpool Scottish Regimental Museum Trust, October 2013 to March 2014: Ian Riley

The number of queries to the Liverpool Scottish Museum Trust has increased sharply over the last six months and we receive several requests a month for help with exhibitions and displays from a wide range of organisations, many of which would not normally be associated with the First World War or the Liverpool Scottish. We have also become a sort of travel agency, advising potential visitors to the Western Front, with greater or lesser Liverpool Scottish interest, on suitable places to visit. There seems an unwillingness to donate a commission of the sort that might unknowingly be paid to Thomas Cook.

Some of our more demanding enquirers seem to want to know at exactly which spot great-grandfather was wounded: having got it down to perhaps 100 metres or so we rather feel that we have done our stuff but for some this degree of precision does not suffice. A recent enquiry asked about a family member thought to be a medal winner but with no idea of what, where or when. We identified the MM, the time period to within probably two weeks and the location to within a mile or so; we thought we had done quite well. The War Diary and the Regimental History were sadly both silent but five or six hours research in the 55th (West Lancashire) Division records (routine orders within the Administrative War Diary rather than the surviving medal citations in General Jeudwine's personal papers, which were also checked) yielded some snippets that allowed association with other, better documented awards. When our

correspondent told us that he did not think that we had got very far, we found it rather more satisfying to reply to than to receive his e-mail .

We have been asked to contribute (that seems, at the moment, to mean 'sole contributor') to the First World War series that will run in *Volunteer* magazine, the quarterly journal of the North West England Reserve Forces and Cadet Association (RFCA). The RFCA used to be known as the Territorial Association or TAVRA. Over the centenary period, we are hoping to cover events in real time that have a Territorial Force interest as well as trying to cover the RNR and RNVR and Territorials who joined the RFC. Suggestions are welcome, we want to give life to the whole Territorial interest of the North West not just the interests of kilted scousers.

We became aware of otherwise unknown (to us) ciné footage of the Liverpool Scottish participation in the funeral of Captain Fryatt at Antwerp in July 1919. Fryatt was a Merchant Navy Captain who had the temerity to try to ram a U-Boat that was intent on torpedoing him in the Channel. When he was later captured by the Germans, he was summarily tried and executed. It appears that part of the background was that Churchill had issued orders that German U Boat crews might be shot if that was more convenient than taking them prisoner. Fryatt's body was repatriated in the same way that Edith



Cavell's had been and later the Unknown Warrior. The Liverpool Scottish was the duty

battalion at the Antwerp Base for much of 1919 and performed several ceremonial functions. It was fascinating to see the Bearer Party (some with their 55th Division tactical flashes showing on the back of their collars), the Military Band and the Pipes and Drums, all Liverpool Scottish, in quite a long newsreel sequence. We did not see the hundred-strong Guard of Honour or the choir of 100 also provided by the battalion but the photo in the previous column from our archive shows the Guard of Honour. The Youtube link is below or Google *Captain Fryatt Film* and look for the link titled in French.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sb2FgIXuCJ8#t=175>

**Lancashire Infantry Museum - SMS
Königsberg Relics: Dominic Butler,
Assistant Curator**

The Lancashire Infantry Museum houses many interesting artefacts from the First World War, usually from the trenches of the Somme or Flanders or Gallipoli. But the collection also houses two unique items from the German Navy, taken from the cruiser SMS 'Königsberg'. One of those is a plaque of brass plates, from the cabin doors whilst



the other item is a shell case from its 10.5cm guns. Both of the items were taken from the ship by Lt. Col R. H. Logan, OBE, of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. Captain

(subsequently Major) Logan commanded a gunnery detachment from the 2nd Battalion Loyal North Lancashire from 1914-16 serving for a time in the Rufiji River area



SMS Königsberg was launched on 5th December 1905. In the early career of the Königsberg, she served as an escort ship to the Kaiser Wilhelm II. In 1914 the ship moved to German East Africa (Tanzania today). In April Fregattenkapitän Max Loeff took command of the ship.

On 20 September 1914, she surprised and sank the British protected cruiser HMS *Pegasus* in the Battle of Zanzibar. Three British cruisers were sent to find her; *Chatham*, the *Dartmouth* and the *Weymouth*.

Königsberg then retreated into the Rufiji River to repair her engines. Before the repairs could be completed, the cruisers located Königsberg, and, unable to steam into the river to destroy her, set up a blockade. After several attempts to sink the ship, the British sent two monitors, *Mersey* and *Severn*, to destroy the German cruiser. On 11 July 1915, the two monitors got close enough to severely damage Königsberg, forcing her crew to scuttle the ship. The surviving crew salvaged all ten of her main guns and joined Lieutenant Colonel Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck's guerrilla campaign.

The plaques and shell case will become part of the display of the newly redesigned Somme Room exhibition at the Lancashire

Infantry Museum, which open on 23rd August 2014. The Museum is also running education sessions based around recruitment during the First World War. These have been highly successful with more than 2,000 children attending since September 2013. If you would like more information about the education sessions, or would like to know more about the museum, please contact Jane Davies on 01772 260362 or enquiries@lancashireinfantrymuseum.org.uk.

WHILST WE REMEMBER THE
SACRIFICE IS NOT IN VAIN - Private
George William Jordan Gordon
Highlanders

Museum of Lancashire: Stephen Bull

The big news of the moment on my front is the exhibition we are mounting in association with National Army Museum.

Outbreak 1914!

Is a National Army Museum exhibition mounted in collaboration with the King's Royal Hussars Museum and Lancashire County Council Museums, at the Museum of Lancashire, on Stanley Street, Preston.

Opening on 5 July the display tells the story of the outbreak of war from the perspective of the British Army, and includes reference to various units including the 20th Hussars. The 20th, nicknamed 'Nobody's Own' due to the lack of a Royal or noble patron in the regimental title, actually played a significant part in the opening campaign on the Western Front. Mobilising on 4 August, the unit arrived in France on 18 August and took part in early patrol activity around Mons. The 20th was in action early on the morning of 22nd August and was therefore one of the first British Regiments to be engaged.

Other parts of the display will mention recruitment and training. Combined with the existing First World War gallery with its

section of trench, and the postal exhibition 'Somewhere in France' there will be much to see on the First World War theme.

A fascinating adjunct to Outbreak 1914 is that the education teams of Lancashire museums and National Army Museum will work together to provide dedicated sessions for schools. Normally charged, these sessions will be free for a special week in September 2014 to those who book in advance, on a first come, first served basis.

Manchester Regiment Collection (+S)

Since Despatch commenced in May 2008 each Issue had timely contributions concerning the Manchester Regiment from Larysa Bolton or one of her colleagues in Local Studies and Archives of Tameside Borough Council. For this Despatch I have received a booklet outlining an impressive programme of events and exhibitions in the Borough during 2014. A copy of the booklet is a supplement to this Despatch on our website.

WRITING THE GREAT WAR, SIR JAMES EDMONDS AND THE OFFICIAL HISTORIES 1915-1948 by Andrew Green: Terry Dean

For my presentations in this centenary year about the Lancashire Contemptibles I have amended the talk I gave to our Branch in May 2010 to cover the period to 30th November 1914 and included many photos from Major Lambert's album (November 2012 Despatch, Page 14 refers). I end by including a quotation from the Official History and on searching for a photo of Sir James Edmonds discovered Andrew Green's book published in 2003.



Andrew Green

Edmonds was born in 1861, attended King's College School studying science and geology and learned German, French, Italian and Russian from his father. In 1879 he was first place in the examinations to enter the Royal Military Academy and on passing out had the highest marks in his year. In 1881 he was lieutenant in the Royal Engineers and 15 years later at Staff College had the nickname "Archimedes" and gained significantly higher marks than all of his peers, two of whom became field marshals (Haig and Allenby) and 16 became generals.

One interesting aspect of Green's book is how Edmonds viewed major figures. He regarded Haig to be "terribly slow on the uptake" amongst other things. It was at Staff College that Edmonds took his first steps as a historian writing a history of the American Civil War. On graduation he soon held intelligence posts in the War Office and has been credited more than anyone else for establishing the modern British secret service. After Henry Wilson became Director of Military Operations and Intelligence in 1910 and Edmonds judging him to be "uneducated and lacking in military judgement" he accepted an offer from the Chief of the Imperial General Staff (CIGS) to become GSO1 with 4th Division. Edmonds admitted he could not have written the Official History of the war had he not experienced fighting at divisional level.

In practising retreat manoeuvres prior to WW1 General Snow and Edmonds prepared 4th Division well. However after the exhaustion and trauma experienced in the 14 days after the battle at le Cateau, the 54 year-old Edmonds felt unable to take any similar active role again. He served out the rest of the war in GHQ, being finally appointed Deputy Engineer in Chief in 1918. The "workers" at GHQ were, he believed, highly impressed by the great personages such as Haig, Allenby and Macdonough addressing him casually as "Archimedes".

After the war Swinton, the previous Director of the Historical Section, recommended Edmonds as his successor and with the support of Haig he was appointed to the post on 1st February 1919. He was to occupy the



Brig Gen J Edmonds

post for 29 years until he retired aged 87.

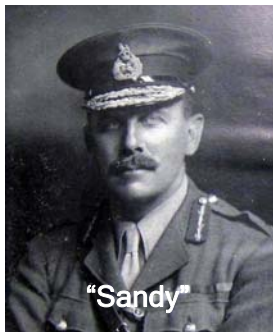
Edmonds' first volume of the Official History appeared in 1922 and was prefaced by the confident assurance that 'no deviation from the truth or

misrepresentation will be found in the official histories on which my name appeared'. Green points out that the key to understanding Edmonds' method of writing his Official History and his supervision of the work of the official historians is to acknowledge that he attempted to construct a complex narrative in which the lay person would have the facts merely placed in front of him without critical guidance, but from which the military experts could draw the right conclusions. He told Liddell Hart; he 'could not tell the truth frankly in an official history but hoped that it would be evident to those who could read between the lines'.

Also he took the view that historians should 'avoid all but implied criticism and should be wary of being "wise after the event"'. Discussions of enemy activities or forces should be restricted to small-type notes at the end of the chapter or a footnote because this knowledge created a 'wise after the event' impression which was implicitly critical of a commanding officer who did not have this knowledge at the time. A concluding chapter could be used for reflection or comment but 'not fault finding'.

Through the course of his writings Edmonds consulted and required his historians to consult, 'every possible sourcedown to the smallest unit war diaries which [were] often more accurate in detail than those of higher formations'. In addition first narrative drafts were submitted to 'as many survivors as possible (down to battalion commanders)' and all replies acknowledged and responded to where necessary. The Loos volume was circulated to 300 officers, the Somme to 1,000 and the March 1918 to 1,500.

In Chapters 4 to 8 Green looks in detail at the writing of the official histories relating to: the Battle of the Somme; Gallipoli, Part I; Gallipoli, Part II; the German Offensive of March 1918; and Messines/Passchendaele. Reading Green's account of the different comments that Edmonds and his historians had to consider was a revealing light on the historiography. I was particularly interested in what he wrote regarding Edmonds' criticism of Lieutenant General Congreve for retreating in March 1918. He chose the example of Congreve because the evidence which revealed his failure, and indeed his attempts to cover it up, came to Edmonds' attention from a more junior participant, Brig.-Gen. R Sandilands. Like Tim Travers in his "*The Killing Ground*" who referred to a Brig.-Gen H Sandilands for the same incident, Green does not attribute correctly the source of the information which led Edmonds to his criticism of Congreve.



It was Brig.-Gen. **James Walter Sandilands** who wrote to Edmonds in August 1923 with his account of the events on 26th March 1918. My presentation "*Monty's Mentor*"

tells the story of James Walter (“Sandy”) who used his pre-war experiences in fighting the Dervishes and Boers to quickly progress from Captain to Brigadier General on the Western Front. He also gave his young Brigade-Major (Captain Montgomery) lessons and experiences he would never forget. In telling Sandy’s story I describe the sequence of events in March 1918 and am disappointed he is not correctly acknowledged by Travis or Green.

Notwithstanding this criticism, Green’s book has considerably improved my knowledge of Edmonds, his working methods and the challenges he faced in putting together a keystone of our knowledge about WW1.

NOW HE HAS LAID HIS ARMOUR BY HE
DWELLS IN PEACE AT HOME WITH
GOD - Pte R J Stockwell Loyal North
Lancs. Regt.

BAILLEUL 1914-1918, BRITISH GARRISON TOWN: Gerard Lemaire

Between 1914 and 1918, a foreign presence left its mark three times on Bailleul: two German occupations, and a strong British military presence.



The rhythm of life in this quiet town of 13,000 inhabitants was marked by its festivals and the seasons.

On 3rd August 1914, the town woke up to the sound of the Marseillaise announcing the

departure of its young people. Two months later, German boots rang out in the town, spreading confusion and fear. The plunder that followed set the tone for the horrors of the war.



Staff of the 25th Division in Bailleul

On October 14th, another foreign presence replaced the first, as the British, arriving as rescuers, settled down in the town for four years. Life moved at a British pace: we drove on the left and opened tea-rooms. Being close to the front at Ypres, the inhabitants of Bailleul saw many contingents come and go, each more colourful than the last. Its proximity to the front turned the town into an immense hospital. Every public building was used, and it was not uncommon to see makeshift hospitals set up under tents.

In 1915, the use of poison gas against the town led to the manufacturing of protective masks. The children, their schooling leaving something to be desired, had fun with these and imitated the rhythmical pace of the New Zealand soldiers as they crossed the Grand’ Place. Local women received letters from a son or husband in unwholesome trenches, and the postman’s knock was always the source of deep concern. Moreover, these women were at work, as traders or as a labour force in the Bailleul factories, but also for the British military authorities, in particular as carpenters, washerwomen or again in the production of gas masks.

In April 1918, Bailleul was occupied again by the Germans which obliged the inhabitants to flee. On 30th August it was retaken by the British but the town had



suffered terrible bombardment leaving it a field of ruins.

The book has 232 pages (21 cm x 29.7 cm), colour and black and white, with many new illustrations from family descendants as well as from museums and libraries.

The book, in French, can be bought now whilst the book in English is available from 31st May 2014. In France the book can be bought from the Tourist Office and the library ("The Bailleuloise") in Bailleul, both located in the Grand Place opposite the Town Hall. In Belgium the book can be bought in Ypres at the library and the "In Flanders Field" museum, also at the Interpretation Centre at Ploegsteert.

WITHOUT A BACKWARD GLANCE HE
LOYALLY GAVE HIS GIFT OF LIFE
AWAY - Private G W Webster Scots
Guards

HUTTON WAR MEMORIAL: Terry Dean & Stewart McLoughlin

Last January an email from Berenice Baynham revealed my ignorance to the new granite war memorial, 6 miles south of my home, which was commemorated on 11th November 2013. Hutton's endeavours over 2 years to provide a memorial to remember the



14 local men killed in the two World Wars of last century is impressive. The Parish Council's Winter Newsletter which described the commemoration arrangements involving the relatives of the killed, representatives of local organisations, businesses, local clergy, standard bearers, people and children from local schools also provides a fitting record of the special occasion.

Stewart McLoughlin, a local amateur historian, is researching those remembered on the memorial one of whom is **Thurston Marmaduke HALLIWELL** who was born in Preston in 1899, the eleventh of twelve children to Henry and Mary Ellen Halliwell. The family lived at various addresses in the Preston area and was shown in the last available census of 1911 at 87 Lodge Street, off Marsh Lane opposite Bow Lane.



Some time after the census, **Marmaduke**, as he was known, was to live with his brother John and his family in Rose Bank Cottage. Hutton (alongside the village hall), whilst employed at Bridge's Corn Mill in Preston.

Marmaduke, joined the Navy on 17th July, 1917, aged 18 years, and was subsequently posted as a stoker to HMS Arbutus, variously

described as a destroyer/sloop/ "Q" ship specifically tasked with the hunting of submarines and raiders. (HMS President moored on the River Thames is a surviving example of the class)

Leaving the port of Milford Haven on 14th December, 1917, she was designated to patrol the area of St. George's Channel and at 3.30pm that day sighted a submarine on her port side.

Some thirty minutes later, HMS Arbutus was struck by a torpedo from UB.65 commanded by Kapitanleutnant Martin Schelle, abreast of the aft boiler room. A number of sailors including **Marmaduke** were killed whilst others were taken on board rescue ships. UB.65 was lost on a later date with all hands.

HMS Arbutus remained afloat and was admitted under tow by other vessels including a U.S.A. destroyer, but at 2.55am the following morning, after a reported second explosion, possibly another torpedo, she sank some fifteen miles south west of Milford Haven taking with her the commanding officer Charles Herbert Oxlade and the first lieutenant, both having remained on board during the attempted tow.

Marmaduke is remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial, his body and those of his colleagues never being recovered. During the war the family had a number of brothers all serving in various branches of the military, but **Marmaduke** was the only one not to survive.

Halliwell Crescent off Lindle Lane, Hutton, is named in Marmaduke's memory.

THE SALE OF HAL EGERTON'S BOOK COLLECTION (+S): Paul Conlon

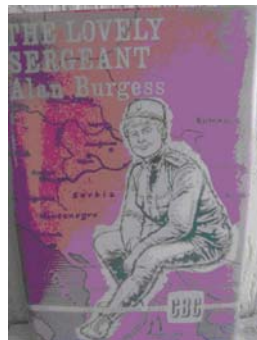
Hal's book collection which he donated to the Branch amounted to around 360 items with some items consisting of a number of volumes.

The sale of books from his collection is proceeding well. The collection was first offered to Branch members and they bought 70 books netting £310.76 for our funds. The next stage was to move onto offering on eBay and I now know more about eBay that I ever thought was necessary. We have now sold 88 items through eBay netting the Branch £528 after eBay and PayPal fees. I'm continuing to offer the rest through eBay and they continue to sell albeit at a slower pace.

There are still some interesting books in the collection for any members that wish to review the remaining ones.

The Lovely Sergeant

My attention was drawn to the unusual title of this book and colour of the cover - a nice feminine pink. Coincidentally it is the biography of Flora Sandes, whose story we heard a part of in last October's talk.



"Without the stiffening and buckram of his regimental pride, the cocksure male tended to blink uncertainly, to look around in astonishment, to bluster, and occasionally even to weep."

This is Flora's unconventional view of a soldier in battle.

The story of this extraordinary lady is still in the collection as awaiting upload to eBay.

Interesting Finds Contained within Books in the Collection:-

The Loneliest Men. Is the title of a programme on Radio 4 which told the story of the conscientious objectors in WW1 whilst the article appears to be from the Radio Times of that time i.e. the mid-1970s. The

article's title is *'Memoirs of Non-fighting Men'* by D. A. N. Jones and it covers the moral position of the conscientious objectors (COs), a subject that I know very little about.

George Dutch, a CO, interviewed for the article was certainly no shrinking violet and appears to have been an energetic man of action however his stance on the war was unequivocal "I was quite clear in my mind that...*"I could have no part in the war and must as far as possible work against it and for an early peace."*



He suffered imprisonment and rough treatment for his position however he still wanted to do something positive to improve things. He got his opportunity after he was released from prison and he spent the next two years working for the Friends War Victims Relief Committee helping in the cleaning up operations in France and Poland.

George believes the stand made by him and his friends helped change attitudes and led to the British Government adopting a much more lenient approach to the treatment COs in the Second World War.

Last Letter Home - Albert Troughton. Albert Troughton's last letter home, smuggled back from the Ypres sector, written as he was waiting to be shot at dawn the following morning. A very poignant and moving letter, expect it to raise a tear.



Copies of these finds/inserts which Hal chose to save within his books have been placed as supplements to this Despatch on our website.

The Great War - The Opening Moves 1914
Saturday & Sunday 2nd & 3rd August 2014
At Fraser Hall, Cowan Bridge, Cumbria

The two-day conference presented by North Lancs WFA, Cumbria WFA and the Bradford Mechanics Institute WW1 group will be devoted to the period July to December 1914

DAY 1: *Causes of the War; 13 Days to War; Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand; Schlieffen Plan-Mons-Le Cateau & Retreat to the Marne; Marne-Aisne & Race to Sea*

DAY 2: *The War at Sea; Raising a Kitchener Battalion; Home Front; Eastern Front; 1st Ypres and the Christmas Truce*

Cost £5/day/person inc. coffee, tea & biscuits.
Details of lunch arrangements nearer date

Payment To: Richard Preston (attends Lancs & Cumbria WFA) 2 Railway Cottages, Southwaite, Carlisle CA4 0LA.

Any Queries: Andrew Brooks, Box Tree Cottage, Overtown, Lancs LA6 2HT (Tel: 01524 272526)

CUMBRIA BRANCH PROGRAMME: Rick Preston

All meetings are held in the British Legion (Upstairs), Penrith except the meetings on 28th Sept and 7th Dec which are at Shap Wells Hotel, Shap.

May 22nd: *All over by Christmas* - Steve Williams.

June 26th: *Members Evening* - A chance for members to talk about their own subject for 20 minutes.

July 24th: *Messines* - Niall Cherry

September 28th (Shap Wells Hotel):
Cumbria's Contribution to the Great War - 4

Speakers including Peter Hart, Displays, Articles & Book Stalls. Includes Lunch

October 23rd: *Junior Officers in the British Army, 1914-1918* - David Thorn

December 23rd (Shap Wells Hotel): *AGM, Lunch, & Talk* (Alan Prime - *To be advised*)

Two extra meetings supported by the Cumbria Branch WFA to be held at Rheged Centre, Penrith and organised by Richard Preston. Entry £ 5.00. (50% for charity).

Thursday 16th October, 7.30pm: *Penrith at War 1914-1918*

Thursday 6th November, 7.30pm: *No Labour, No Food, No War.*

DEAR EDITOR

I am writing to let you know about the launch of a new website, <http://warletters.net> that I think members of the Western Front Association North Lancashire Branch will find of great interest.

Based on research for the forthcoming War Letters 1914-1918 series, the site has links to a vast range of free, primary and secondary historical sources about the First World War, all available online.

These include official histories, government reports and documents, service records, bibliographies, theses, legislation, memoirs, letters and diaries, films, maps, images and much more. I think most people will be truly surprised at how much material is available.

The site has separate sections for the Western Front, Gallipoli, Mesopotamia, the War at Sea and the War in the Air.

If you think any of your members might be interested, I would be very grateful if you could let them know.

With best regards,

Mark Tanner (Editor)

www.warletters.net

17 Regent Street

Lancaster

LA1 1SG

Extract from my reply:

I have had a quick look at your website and was impressed with its content. I will certainly draw it to WFA North Lancs member's attention by including your letter in May's Despatch with a recommendation to view. Thank you for drawing it to my attention.

NOW IN THY SPENDOUR GO BEFORE
US SPIRIT OF ENGLAND - Lieutenant R
R Crowther Royal Engineers

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ARMISTICE PRIZE 2014

When Despatch went to print no entries had yet been received for this year's competition. In line with normal practice I circulated all schools last December inviting entries for 2014 and sent out a reminder at the end of April so that it would, hopefully, not be lost in "clogged" inboxes as teachers returned after the Easter holidays.

I am very hopeful the "centenary effect" will result in more entries this year as will the education sessions that have been provided by the Lancashire Infantry Museum where over 2000 children have attended since September 2013.

The closing date for entries is 1st August and can readers of Despatch please do what you can to encourage entries. Details of the competition are on our website.

DESPATCH USE

Since commencing production of Despatch in 2008 I have sent by post a copy of each Issue to the Chairmen of the East Lancashire, Lancashire & Cheshire (L&C), and Merseyside branches. At very least this keeps them in touch with what we are doing and also the reports from the North West museums should be of interest to them (if nothing else).

Following circulation of last November's Despatch, Ralph Lomas, Editor of the WFA's "Bulletin" and member of the L&C Branch approached me for agreement to make all or parts of Despatch available to those attending their meetings in Stockport. This I readily agreed and he reprinted parts of our November 2013 for their March meeting. He also included the "Kentish Tales" article in the WFA's March "Bulletin"

Also I send a .pdf copy to David Henderson the WFA's webmanager. David has a section on the WFA's website which carries all the Branch Newsletters. Some Branch members may have noticed that David placed the article in last November's Despatch relating to Major General Arthur Solly Flood on the WFA's website.

MEETING REPORTS

Operation "ALBERICHT": The German retreat from the Somme to the Hindenburg Line, 1917 and the consequences for future warfare on the Western Front: November 2013 (30 attended)



After their losses at Verdun and on the Somme in 1916 **Rob Thompson** told how the Germans pulled back 30 miles on a 70 mile frontage between Arras

and Soissons in early 1917. The new line was 25 miles shorter than the old and combined with a new system of elastic defence with machine guns resulted in them creating a reserve of 13 divisions.

The orderly and phased retreat commenced on 9th February with the bulk of the retreat taking place in March and April. They implemented a "Scorched Earth" policy destroying roads, railways and water supplies and retreated in a manner which made it difficult for the British and French to comprehend their plans. Mines and booby traps further interfered with the British advance.

French civilians living in the devastated area were very badly affected and reporting of the German's ruthless actions in America set the scene for their entry into the war on 6th April 1917. For the British their advance was the first period of mobile warfare since 1914.

Rob pointed out that the price of destruction was that it was difficult for the British to build defences in 1918. Also in attacking there on 21st March 1918 the German's strategy was poor and they lost 80,000 troops in conquering a wasteland.

In their 1917 advance to the Hindenburg line the British learned lessons on logistics, the need for decentralised command, bridging, road construction, reconnaissance, pooling of vital equipment, which was put to good effect in their advance to victory in 1918. Operation "ALBERICHT" was one of the pivotal turning points of the war. (Terry Dean)

A.G.M: December 2013 (26 attended)

To encourage attendance at meetings Terry Dean agreed to produce small posters for local libraries and other places giving details of meetings and to provide the local press with a short report on each meeting.

Barrie Bertram's thoughts on Guidance Notes for members were welcome and would be pursued further in the light of national guidelines.

Chris Payne reported Branch funds were healthier than in 2012 and in maintaining the target for improving attendance his recommendation to allocate £250 for 'new projects' in 2013/14 was approved.

After the AGM, Terry Dean made a short presentations about the VAD nurse whose medals were reported in the November 2013 Despatch (see Page 8 of this Despatch). Berenice Baynham then showed photos of



her visit to the impressive US National World War 1 Museum at Liberty Memorial in Kansas.

How British Conscripts helped to win the War: January 2014 (22 attended)

The important role played by conscripts in the First World War was explored by **Chris Payne**.

After the initial rush of volunteers, the rate fell and by July 1915 the government started to look at other ways to recruit. 2.7 million men were identified as being suitable for military use. The Derby Scheme enabled men to declare they would serve if required to do so. Official conscription started on 27 January 1916 for single men. It was extended to married men by 25 May 1916 and by February 1918 the age for

conscription was lowered to 18 and the upper age limit was raised later to 50.

Conscripts were not able to choose their unit and a significant proportion were married men with children. This resulted in a reduced income for many families. By the time the conscripts arrived on the Western Front it was a devastated zone and an all arms based conflict.



Chris used the example of his own family to illustrate his talk. His Grandad Charlie was in the Derby Scheme but others were volunteers or conscripts. Most of Charlie's time was spent in training, travelling or on working parties, with only 8% spent in the trenches and 10% in battles. Charlie survived the war but died in February 1919 while still serving. (Gaynor Greenwood)

NO LOVED ONES NEAR TO HEAR HIM
CALL HE'S GONE TO DWELL WITH
JESUS - Pte W E Medhurst 30th Bn
Australian Inf

La Compagnie Americaine and other "Foreigners" in the Service of France: February 2014 (23 attended)

Dave O'Mara, a member of the Burnley WFA branch, displayed some excellent background research in describing the experiences of foreign volunteers who, in the early stages of the Great War, decided to join the French Foreign Legion (Légion Étrangère). Individuals from a very diverse

range of nations made the decision to join up, including those who were citizens of countries such as the USA and Italy which, during the early stages of the War, had initially chosen not to declare war against Germany and its allies. However, other foreign volunteers in the Legion included some German and Austro-Hungarian citizens whose beliefs and values were opposed to their governments' policies. In most cases, these individuals served in sectors, including the Middle East, where they were not in direct confrontation with their own countrymen.

Several Americans arrived early on the scene, volunteering only days after the declaration of War in August 1914. Some had been studying and living in Paris at locations including L'Academie des Beaux Arts, after previously attending American universities,

such as Harvard. Amongst these recruits was **Alan Seeger** (uncle of the American folk singer Pete Seeger), a poet who died near Belloy en Santerre on 4th July 1916 while fighting with La Compagnie Americaine in the French Army sector in the Battle of the



Somme. In his memory, Seeger's parents purchased new bells for the village church in Belloy after the War.

Earlier in the War, many USA volunteer casualties had occurred during the Second Battle of Champagne on 28 September 1915. However, some men were so committed to the cause that despite having been wounded they were determined to play a continuing part in the fighting. One such was David E. Wheeler (Medaille Militaire and Croix de Guerre) who after being invalided out of the Legion, joined the Canadian Army, and then transferred to the American Army when the

USA declared war on Germany in 1917. He was killed in action on 18 July 1918 during the Second Battle of the Marne.

Not all of the American volunteers came from well-off family circumstances. For example, Dave O'Mara gave an account of Eugene (James) Bullard, born in Columbus, Ohio to an Afro-American father and Native-American mother. Having decided to settle in Paris, Bullard joined the 1st Regiment of the Foreign Legion in October 1914 and was seriously wounded at Verdun in 1916. After recovering from his wounds he transferred to the Lafayette Flying Corps, within the French Air Service. When the USA entered the War, Bullard was not deployed to the US Air Service, as only white men were allowed to serve as pilots. After the War, with a distinguished list of medals, Bullard stayed in Paris where he ran a gymnasium for boxers, and later a nightclub during which he befriended several jazz stars including Josephine Baker and Louis Armstrong. He returned to America in 1940 shortly before the German occupation of France. Facing considerable racial discrimination, he remained an outspoken defender of black rights.

After touching on Italian volunteers (including the 'Garibaldians'), and groups of Czech and Polish citizens that joined the Legion, Dave O'Mara also mentioned some British citizens who chose to serve in the French Foreign Legion. Most notable amongst these was John Ford Elkington who had served in the British Army, reaching the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel by August 1914. Involved in the Retreat from Mons, Elkington was court-martialled on a charge of cowardice and conspiracy to surrender. Though acquitted of the cowardice charge, he was dishonorably discharged from the Army (unjustly as later became apparent). His reaction was to join the French Foreign Legion as an ordinary soldier and he was invalided out when seriously wounded in the

leg. During his recovery, in 1916, the earlier charges against him were reviewed and he was granted a pardon and reinstated to his original rank.

Overall the talk provided some excellent examples of the commitment to a cause, the bravery and sacrifice that was present amongst those men who chose to fight in the French Foreign Legion. (Chris Payne)

ALL GOD'S ANGELS WILL SAY
WELL DONE - Lieut T G Banks
Royal Engineers

"Shall I never dance again?": March 2014
(30 attended)

It is only too easy to find a book that combines the words of men in the trenches with the author's account of the Great War. Whether those men's words and thoughts were extracted from letters or diaries is irrelevant, but, what the books do is to render the words impersonal. Thankfully, as in the



talk given by **Richard Paczko**, personality can be restored.

We hear of Charles W Simmons' in his later years in the 1960s, being

described as being pedantic, curmudgeonly, cheerless and what have you, in fact, a downright miserable s*d! Cheerless Charlie was not thought of very fondly by his young great-nieces and nephews who varied in age between five and fifteen. All that changed some time following his death in 1968, when his Great War diaries (and not just those of his military service) were unearthed. Opening the diaries also opened the eyes of the members of the family who read them. For, here was the Great War in the raw, conveying the stench of trench works stuffed

with the remains of human bodies, the incessant artillery 'drumfire', standing ready to fend off the Hun, seemingly isolated for days without water, and only foetid rations to sustain body and mind.

Charles, who was born in Newbury in 1892, was a Private with the 14th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment, having managed, after about seven attempts in the preceding year, to join the Army in October, 1915, having somehow qualified as a marksman in the local Volunteer Corps. For a man who, we are informed, was a devout churchgoer, he resorted to that most devious of foul frauds. He surreptitiously learnt the sequence of letters on the eyesight chart! Training followed, and he soon endeared himself to his new friends in the barrack hut, by chiding them for their rough and somewhat coarse language! One can only imagine what the collective response might have been. It was certainly not 'You are absolutely right, Charlie old chap...!'

His Battalion headed off to France in early-1916 rather than to Egypt, thereby having to hand back his summer outfit, including the Topi, Ors, For the use of. A month after landing at Le Havre, the Battalion starts its share of trench duty at Festubert where conditions are noted as being poor, a frequent phrase oft repeated over the next few months. A trench raid sees the capture of a machine gun which is now on display at the Museum in Bristol. Casualties are regularly occurring and are noted, while the prompt action of an officer falling on a live grenade keeps the body count down. But, thanks to his steel waistcoat, our subaltern survives. The Somme eventually beckons, and this is where our Charles catches his blighty one in September. Nine months of treatment, his first operation is chloroform-free, and hospitals follow, and it is 'civvy street' once more for Charles.

It does seem that Charles had taken a shine to a lady by the name of Amy Dunlop,

and there are frequent references to a Miss A L Dunlop (very proper). We learned little of her because she disappears off the scene while Charles later marries another, albeit that the marriage is childless. But, I wonder if the 'L' stands for Layard, and if so, she may have been some 18 years older than he. Furthermore, there is a possibility of a wide social gulf, given that Charles had been a groom before enlistment. We may never know.

However, we return to his family who are now 'eyes wide-open', and clearly they would now see their 'dear Uncle Charles' in a new light, a world away from the downright miserable s*d. They, and we, are now aware that the man, for all his apparent grumpiness, was capable of producing an account that was full of humour, sadness, fear and humility. Regrettably, the double generation gap was too wide. Charles' diary reflected the manner and values of Edwardian times, not least a strong Christian faith, duty to his fellow men and patriotism. What else would justify going, 'A, IU, FKB, ...' with one's eyes closed for the seventh time? (Barrie Bertram)

German Tanks at Villers-Brettonneux: April 2014 (28 attended)

After describing German (& British) tanks in general **Chris John**, from the Birmingham WFA, later described the first British/German tank/tank battle in April 1918.

The forerunner of tanks in WW1 was "Little Willie" which followed from the Committee set up by Churchill to tackle the problems of trench warfare. From this evolved the rhomboid shaped British Mark 1 tank specifically designed as a trench clearing machine. The "male" version had 6-pounder field guns fitted in side mounted sponsons whilst the "female" carried machine guns. First used in September 1916 they were

unreliable, very slow and conditions inside were terrible for the crew.



"Little Willy" tank

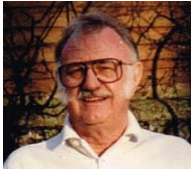
Since the German's had basically a defensive strategy on the Western Front and U-boats were their priority for steel production they were slow to develop tanks. However after battle of Cambrai in September 1917 they took more interest using the Holt (American) tractor chassis. The resulting A7Vs could travel at 5 mph, had a crew of 16 and 20-25 were produced in 1918.



A7V "Mephisto"

On 24th April 1918 at Villers-Brettonneux three A7V tanks met and engaged three British Mark IV tanks, two of which were "females". The two British female tanks were hit and forced to withdraw but Lieut Mitchell in the "male" tank shot and hit an A7V which caused the German tank to be abandoned by its crew. At Queensland museum in Australia an A7V tank named "Mephisto" captured by Australian troops during WW1 is on display. (TD)

On 19th February I got a short email from Col. Mike Glover at the Fusiliers Museum “*Guess What, Sir Gilbert’s medals have just turned up*”. The May 2012 Despatch reported my search in Australia for Arthur Marlow MBE had proved fruitless. He was the Executor and principal beneficiary from the Will of Nigel Watson, Sir G’s brother-in-law. He may have known the whereabouts of Sir G’s medals and other memorabilia. I thought then that “Project Mackereth might have reached the end of the line.



Arthur Marlow

However after visiting the Fusiliers Museum to take photographs of the medals I contacted Frank Norton who had found the medals in his late uncle’s possessions. I nearly fell out of my chair when he told me his uncle was Arthur Marlow (AM)!! He thought his uncle had worked with Sir G and been given the medals for safe keeping. I told him of the Nigel Watson connection. Frank told me of the considerable mystery surrounding AM’s activities: a military man, with 3 passports, a Buddhist with 2 wives and families amongst other things. I speculated he might have been Sir G’s “minder” and provided Frank with photos of Sir G to compare with any of his uncle’s old photos. I look forward to further discussion with Frank on “Project Mackereth/Marlow” knowing that Sir G and his medals are now returned to the regiment.

PROGRAMME OF FUTURE MEETINGS (ALL MEETINGS ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7.30 PM EXCEPT WHERE STATED OTHERWISE)

June 2nd: “*British Cavalry in the Great War - the myth and reality*” - Dr Graham Winton (Ludlow)

July 7th: “*WHY DID I DO IT? - answering my grandfather’s question*” - Graham Kemp (N Lincs W.F.A.)

Aug 2nd SATURDAY/ 3rd SUNDAY: “*The Great War- the Opening Moves*” Conference at Fraser Hall, Cowan Bridge, see page 25 for more details

Aug 4th: “*Your Remembrance*” - An invitation for members to speak on the subject

Sept 1st: “*The Pirate of Buccari - Gabriele d’Annunzio’s adventures on the Italian Front*” - Michael O.Brien (Stockport W.F.A.)

Oct 6th: “*Room 40*” - David Wright (Liverpool)

Nov 3rd: “*No Labour, No Food, No War*” - Richard Preston (Cumbria W.F.A.)

Dec 1st: *A.G.M. and Christmas Social* - An invitation to members to speak for ten minutes on any WW1 topic

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