



THE WESTERN FRONT
ASSOCIATION

Lancashire North Branch

Despatch

Issue 14: Nov 2014



On 14th August 1914 the 1/5th Battalion King's Own Royal Lancaster (KORL) Regiment (above) marched along Caton Road to Lancaster Castle Station. They were one of the 39 Lancashire battalions (page 13) which had entered war theatres by the end of May 1915 and suffered heavy losses in countering the German gas attacks in April 1915 (page 2). Also read inside about: the 2014 Armistice Prize winners; how the Germans suffered the smell of kippers; mobilisation of the Lancashire Fusilier reserves; the WW1 Victory Medal; major events in WW1 to May 1915 and more.

Editor's Musing

For the last Despatch I wrote of being overwhelmed with the interest being expressed in WW1 however when pondering this Issue my feelings have been more relaxed. Has the frenetic activity to be part of the 100th anniversary of WW1's commencement resulted in a degree of "battle fatigue" by the press, media, etc? Will the 100th anniversary of coming events and issues be remembered appropriately? Only time over the next 4 years will tell.

Last May's Despatch had a timeline to help remembering and in this Despatch I have added "Into the Fray" to indicate Britain's increasing commitment of manpower into the conflict. Behind the increasing manpower commitment are the recruitment issues for the New Armies and the societal and logistical factors. It will be interesting to see what coverage is given.

On page 13 I have shown a photograph of the 1/10th Battalion, Manchester Regiment (1/10 Mcrs) embarking at Southampton bound for Egypt. I wonder whether this is the first public showing of the photo. It is included, together with many more photos, in Captain Bleakley's account of his WW1 experiences. Bleakley's papers were loaned to me by Grant Smith some little time ago and I have pondered long on what use can be made of them. I plan to give them more exposure in the coming months to further remembering.

When near to completing Despatch, and notwithstanding my opening thoughts above, I was pleased to read of the Lancashire Fusiliers Museum locating the missing sixth VC gained before breakfast on "W" Beach Gallipoli. If it joins the other 5 a visit to Bury on 25th April next year beckons.

QUEEN ELIZABETH GRAMMAR SCHOOL, KIRKBY LONSDALE, ROLL OF HONOUR: c/o Oliver Wilkinson



Gerald KIRK, 2nd
Lieutenant, 1/5th Battalion
The King's Own Royal
Lancaster Regiment

Gerald Kirk was the first of the 'old boys' to lay down his life in the First World War. A popular figure in the area he had done much for the community, especially in terms of sport. He is also the most researched of all the men on the QES war memorial, yet no previous work has recognized him as a former pupil of Queen Elizabeth Grammar School. It is unquestionable, however, that he was a pupil and he deservedly takes his place on the school's memorial

By April 1915, Kirk's Battalion, the 1/5th King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment (KORL), had arrived at Ypres, where it was eventually billeted in the lunatic asylum. It remained here until the 20th April when there was a huge bombardment of the town, and the battalion was moved to St Jean. Consequently, on the 22nd April the battalion was in a prime position to witness the German's bombard an adjacent area with gas, and they subsequently observed the effects of the attack as surviving troops marched past them coughing and vomiting. This act marked the beginning of the Second Battle of Ypres, with the Germans breaking a taboo of civilized warfare and using poisoned gas for the first time. The act received widespread condemnation, with one officer noting that it would be recorded to the "everlasting shame of the German's."

Soon afterwards news was received that the enemy had broken through the line between St. Julien and Pilkem, and that the 5th KORL's would form part of an allied attempt to 'plug the gap'. Accordingly on the

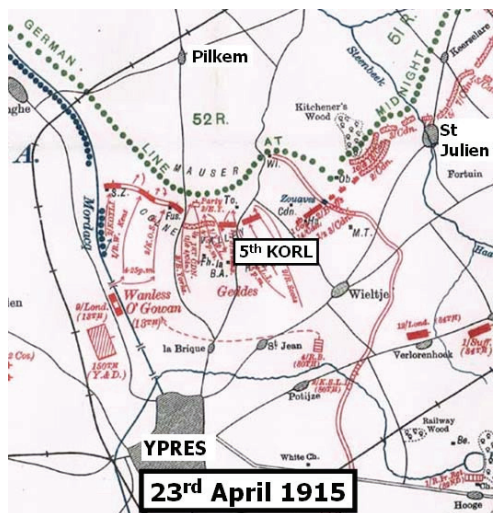
MORE INFORMATION FOR ARTICLES WHEN:

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

(+S) : supplementary information report

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

23rd an attack was launched to push the Germans back. The 5th KORL's were to act as a reserve force, supporting the main attack, made up predominantly of Canadian troops. At 3:45 pm the attack began, but the battalion was almost immediately hit with very heavy resistance.



On a bright spring afternoon the attack was fully visible to the enemy, and casualties were accordingly high. The Colonel of the 5th Battalion noted that the whole attack was poorly planned. It is most probable that Kirk was wounded during this initial foolhardy advance. Captain Gerald W. Sharpe described how Kirk, “leading his platoon across an absolute inferno of shot and shell, was wounded through the chest by a bullet.” After he had received this injury four of his platoon, including a fellow Ingletonian, Pte Roger Brown, carried Kirk away to a dressing station. The Colonel of the 5th Battalion, who had been at Head Quarters rejoined his men to be informed, “Kirk is seriously wounded.” Despite the prompt medical attention that Kirk received, he died the next day at No. 3 Casualty Clearing Station, Poperinghe. In addition to Kirk, one officer had been killed, 3 wounded, and one gassed, while 36 Other Ranks had been killed, 144 wounded and 1

missing. Included in these wounded was Lieutenant E.M. Lloyd-Evans, who coincidentally had attended Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, but has been omitted for the war memorial.

Unusually, Kirk’s family had been informed via a telephone message that he had been wounded, but the following day an official telegram was received indicating his death.

In life, Gerald Kirk was an extremely vibrant character, especially in sporting circles. He was born in Headingley, Leeds, on 14th July 1883. As a Yorkshire lad he was educated in Ilkley and then became a boarder at Pocklington Grammar School in 1895. He must have moved to Ingleton to be with his mother at the family home of Greenwood Leghe sometime around 1900, and spent his final years of education at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School.

Upon leaving school Kirk embarked on a football career of much promise. He began locally, captaining the Ingleton ‘Reds’ to unprecedented success, and also playing for the QES ‘old boys’ team. However, Kirk was



destined for greater things and progressed to play two seasons as centre-half for Bradford City, moving to Leeds City for a year in 1906. His style was described as hard but clean. Additionally his sporting ability in cricket, billiards, tennis and fox hunting were all revered, and it was said that in whatever branch of sport he chose he would excel.

Despite his career as an amateur footballer Kirk remained anchored in the local affairs of Ingleton. He was a founding member of Ingleton Conservative Club, a manager of Ingleton National School, the originator and first secretary of Ingleton's Farmer's Association, and at one time a sidesman at St Mary's Parish Church. Unsurprisingly when news of Kirks death reached Ingleton a gloom was cast over the village.

When war broke out Kirk joined up on 2nd September 1914 at Lancaster. He became a member of one the 'Pals' Companies of the 5th Battalion King's Own Royal Lancaster's. Tellingly on his Attestation Form, Kirk declared his trade as a 'Gentleman'. Although he had enlisted in the ranks, Kirk's gentlemanly conduct soon marked him out. He was promoted Lance Corporal on 31st October 1914, and before he had finished his training he was gazetted as a 2nd Lieutenant on the 3rd January 1915. He thus sailed to France on the 1st March 1915 as an officer, and gained his first front-line experience at Neuve Eglise. Then his battalion moved to Ypres, where Kirk was to become the first of the QES 'old boys' to fall.

Kirk was buried in Poperinghe Old Military Cemetery close to the Casualty Clearing Station to which he was taken. Colonel Lord Richard Cavendish wrote following Kirk's death, that the officer would be "deeply mourned and long remembered." Indeed today he is remembered on the Ingleton War Memorial, the Pocklington Grammar School War Memorial, and the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School War Memorial. As a more personal tribute Kirk's wife, Mrs Sarah Jane Kirk (nee Capstick), had a memorial tablet made in her husband's memory, which was unveiled in St Mary's Church, Ingleton, on 9th March 1916, and remains there to this day. The inscription reads:

"In loving memory of Gerald Kirk, 2nd Lieut., 5th Battn. King's Own Royal Lancaster Regt., son of Alfred S. and Isabella Kirk, of

Greenwood Leghe, Ingleton. Born July 14th, 1883; died at Poperinghe, Belgium, April 24th, 1915, of wounds received at St Julien the previous day. This tablet is erected by his wife."

Footnote: In the latest modification to their website, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) has provided access to their Grave Registration and Headstone records. Utilising the information now available it is possible to establish there is no inscription on Kirk's headstone. However searching the CWGC online records for the period 20th to 29th April 1915 indicates at least one 1/5th KORL soldier with an inscription on his headstone.

**PEACE PERFECT PEACE -
Private A Gradwell King's Own Royal
Lancaster Regt**

EXTRA RESERVE - Final Part: Barrie Bertram

We concluded the previous Part with men from the 4th Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment getting ready for a draft to the 1st or 2nd Battalions then in France. A close up of the 'Drums' can be seen below with the CO and Adjutant in attendance, flanked by Sergeant Major Irlam and Sergeant Drummer Slater in 1915.



Sport and Pastimes in the Army (the title of another Army Manual - they have a Manual for everything by the way!) are considered as essential ways of engendering fitness, team

spirit, morale and rivalry between the various units wherever they may be in the military hierarchy. Similarly, as with the idea behind Toc H, if properly handled, a man's rank can be of little importance on a football pitch. The next few photographs show the South Staffordshire men engaging themselves in various sports and games.



The picture of the team above is, however, one drawn from the unit's officers, but we do not know whether it is the Battalion's team or just the officer's team playing in an in-house competition. I suspect that it was the former and that they may have been playing a Jersey team. The social and sports historians amongst us may be able to advise whether in the 1900s the game of hockey had a mass appeal or whether it was purely confined to those from the professional and managerial classes. Amongst the team members there are three officers from Jersey, Newnham Winstanley who was killed later that year, Lewis Hassell and Horace Guiton.



One supposes that the photograph above, from the 1916 Regimental Sports Day held at St Peter's Barracks, might be subtitled 'Lessons in how to mop up an enemy', but, it

does appear to have been a robust and unforgiving event as the faces of the two men of 'C' Company on the left clearly show. Less brutal, but probably a much more punishing event, the photograph from 1916 below shows the starters lined up for a marathon.



This photograph is a particular favourite of mine, mainly because of the surrounds. For those not familiar with Jersey, to the right is Green Street where a hundred or so yards on the left, there were the married quarters. The building on the left with the wooden panels was, at one time, the site of Thomas Bisson's ship-building yard, later (in 1931) becoming the site of the Hotel de la Plage. Just beyond, there are some trees (long vanished) and behind them there is the road going up to Fort Regent, South Hill and Mount Bingham to the left, collectively one might say the nerve centre of Jersey's military defences given that HQ, Jersey District was located there.

But, the three storey private property fitted with a balcony is Bramerton House, and it is where for a brief period in 1893 that the 4 year old Lawrence of Arabia stayed, during his mother's confinement with the fourth of the five Lawrence boys, Frank Helier Lawrence who was killed in 1915. The Lawrences (Chapmans) frequently moved around. With the exception of Frank, each other brother was born in a separate home country, while Frank's birth in Jersey was honoured with the middle name of Helier.

It is too obvious to say, but a hundred years ago Jersey was far less developed than it is today (who said sadly?), and the

north of the island was open enough to allow for units to conduct manoeuvres. In the next set of photographs, from July, 1915, we see the two forces, one side wearing white bands around their caps, grabbing a well-earned bite to eat.



Clearly this photograph and the next two were taken at Greve de Lecq. One presumes that the meal on offer was a mix of bread and butter, cheese, bully beef and jam, all to be washed down with mugs of tea. Given that it was taken in July, it is curious to note the smoke from the chimney, was that building in Greve de Lecq Barracks (still there) a cookhouse?



From a similar vantage point, the photographer is looking northwards to the sea. Some men have neck shades (right centre) suggesting that it is indeed a warm day. However, one's curiosity regarding the man in the left foreground is aroused. Is he doing what I think he is?

Looking in the opposite direction, the officers shown in the photograph at the top of column on next page are most likely to have been observers or umpires from HQ, Jersey District, and were discussing the morning's events. Meanwhile centre left, the horse is enjoying its lunch also.



A further pause for a break, this time at Wolf's Caves, where the drinks' cabinet has been deployed for action on the clear understanding that any fool can rough it! The officers have not been identified by the Museum or the photographer, but the chap on the right is a full Colonel and may have been BJ Seckham, the 2ic's brother.

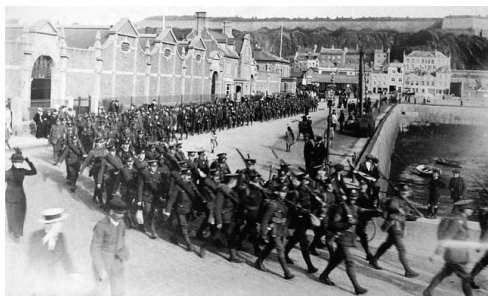


Four Lieutenants, Campbell, Brown who was also the Battalion's Quartermaster, Green and Wilmot are shown in the next page's photograph letting the train take the strain. As best as can be determined this was taken at Don Bridge Station and during 1916. If so, again, the adjacent area has since become heavily developed, but from

consulting NRP Bonsor's 'The Jersey Railway (1962)', other accounts of routine military travel to and from the west of the Island, and noting the twin track layout, it is hard to suggest any alternate location.



Then, on the evening of the 6th September, 1916, the 4th Battalion said farewell to Jersey, and headed off to Marske and then Redcar in Yorkshire.



The Battalion subsequently evolved from being an Extra Reserve Battalion into an active service Battalion where after a period of training at Canterbury between June and October, 1917, it landed at Le Havre to join the 25th Division. In June, 1918 it was transferred to the 50th Division but three weeks later was reduced to a training cadre before joining the 39th Division at Etaples on the 16th August, 1918. On the 6th November, 1918 it was disbanded. The background scenery in the photograph of their departure is only too familiar, but it could appear that, by this time, a bit of war-weariness had set in on the Island given that there were

comparatively few spectators to see the men off. But of course, it may have been tea time and there were far more to watch further along the Albert Pier. From this point forward, Jersey's Militia would become solely responsible for defending the Island until its disbandment prior to the Royal Jersey Garrison Battalion taking over in March, 1917.

Summarising this article, it has only been possible to produce it due to what is a marvellous collection of photographs which, as far as can be determined, has not been seen in public. The collection has enabled a comprehensive picture to be drawn from the Battalion's arrival to its departure, and although only a fraction of it has been used, we can see it at work and play during that two year period. Finally, one can only reiterate one's thanks to the team at the Staffordshire Regimental Museum for providing the material.

BRIGADIER GENERAL REGINALD JOHN KENTISH (RJK) & HIS 3rd TALE "MY FIRST LEAVE": Terry Dean



In last November's Despatch I told of my visit to the Imperial War Museum to view the papers of RJK and my discovery of stories (tales) he had drafted around 1940. They described amusing incidents he experienced in WW1 and this is the third tale.

MY FIRST LEAVE

SCENE: TIME: PLACE: Our trenches along the bank of the river Douve; a very dark and rainy night in December 1914; the German trenches on the opposite side of the river only 20-30 yards away.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE: Three soldiers; a Battalion 'runner'; and myself, Captain commanding 'A' Company – all belonging to the 1st Battalion (The Old 87th) Royal Irish Fusiliers.

My Battalion was in the line just south of the Messines ridge; on our immediate right were the 1st Royal Dublin Fusiliers, and on my left B Company of my own Battalion,

We had had and were having a very rough time of it, being shelled to hell by the 'Huns' all day and every day, our trenches being blown sky-high by their high explosive shells, of which we had none to give back in return; and in addition being machine gunned all through the night, and, to add to our misery, up to our hocks in mud and water, for with the Douve in a perpetual state of flood, there were buckets of both everywhere!



Ploegsteert Trenches Winter 1914 c/o Somerset Light Infantry Archives

This had been our daily life for just on three months and the men were just beginning to feel its effects, when, suddenly, just like a ray of sunshine breaking through the dark and murky clouds, word came up to the line that leave was to be started, and that, as circumstances permitted, officers and men would be granted seven days to England, those, who had come out first and had been

out the longest, being given the privilege of going home first.

On the night of my story, I was walking or rather failing, because it was a pitch-black night and every other step one either fell into a shell hole or some other kind of hole round my Company line! There was no shelling at the time, but a good deal of machine gunning and the customary 'Brocks' fireworks display from the 'Hun's' lines. I was wearing my double-breasted blue lambskin-lined Staff-reefer coat, which I had got when a Brigade Major in London, and which I had brought with me to France, and a very excellent friend too it had been to me all through the first part of that awful winter in the trenches; on my head I had my old scarlet bobsleigh cap, with a tassel to it, like the brewers' men wear and which I used to wear in Switzerland: this I found a very warm and certainly a very comfortable head-dress, and, moreover, it made the men laugh, which was an additional reason why I wore it, for anything, which could raise a laugh in those days was worth its weight in gold!! Round my legs and over my puttees, I had sandbag sacking tied with string to keep it in place and with a big shepherd's crook stick, I presented a strange and at the same time, I believe, an inspiring picture; and certainly no one, who was 'trying to find the Captain' had the slightest difficulty in finding me!!

As regards my scarlet head-dress, which I used to wear by day as well as by night, I had received several messages or, rather, I should say orders – from my Commanding Officer to discontinue wearing it by day, as he said "it was conspicuous and drew fire from the Hun's trenches"! But I somehow managed to get round the order and I continued to wear it both night and day and I was actually wearing it on this particular night.

To continue, I had got about half-way round my line, when I heard a voice from behind calling out:

"Has anyone of yer seen the Captain? I have a message for him! Has anyone of yer seen him?"

On this I stopped and very soon a Battalion 'runner' from Headquarters came up. Directly he saw me, he said:

"Ye've got to go on leave sor! Ye've got to go on leave sor, at once! There's a car waitin' for yer behind the Church in Plug Street with



three other officers from the Brigade. They're all waitin' for yer, sor! Quick sor!!"

I called out:

"What shall I bring you fellows back?"

"A gramophone sor," said one.

"A drum and a couple of flutes," said another, and

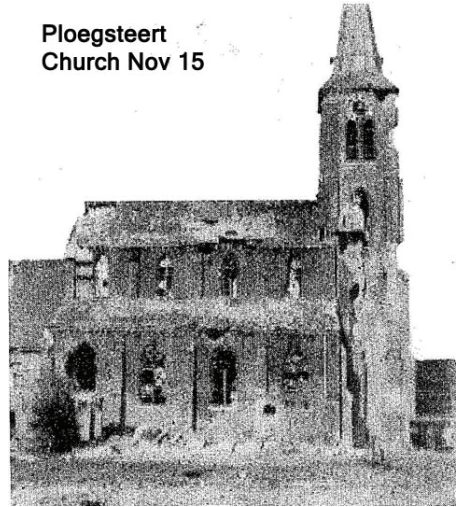
"Some kippers sor," said a third!!

"Right," said I, "I'll be back in seven days with a gramophone, a drum and some kippers!" and then saying "Look after the line and keep the Huns out whilst I'm away," I dashed off up the main Messines-Plug Street road taking cover in the ditch at the side, as each burst of machine-gun fire came from the Hun trenches. Finally I arrived at the Church at the cross roads in Plug Street, where I found the car with three other officers waiting for me. Directly I arrived, the driver started up the engine, and off we went as hard as we could go to Boulogne, where we embarked on the leave boat, and, in an hour or so, we left for England!

I had a perfectly marvellous seven days in London, my family and friends 'making much' of me and a week later I was back again with a gramophone, a couple of side drums and

six flutes - and a barrel containing a thousand kippers!!! and delighted the men were to see me back and even more delighted were they when they heard what I had brought back with me!!

**Ploegsteert
Church Nov 15**



That very night the gramophone was playing in full hearing of the Huns, and, the next morning, there was a great cooking of kippers, and what a magnificent smell came from our trenches, as they were cooked, and, what was best of all, the wind was blowing in the direction of the Hun trenches, so that they got the full benefit of the smell but not the kippers and much to the delight of my men, every one of whom had a kipper for his breakfast that morning!!

Thus did I fulfil my promise both faithfully and well!!

**HIS MEMORY IS SWEETNESS BEYOND
EXPRESSION HIS ABSENCE
UNSPEAKABLE SORROW - Pte A Kay
King's Own Royal Lancaster, Age 16**

**TO SEE DESPATCH WITH LARGER
TYPE AND PHOTOS IN COLOUR.
VIEW AT: www.wfanlancs.co.uk**

**WW1 MEDALS - THE VICTORY MEDAL:
Bill Myers**



Obverse

Reverse

The lacquered bronze Victory Medal, when encountered outside of a larger First World War group, was largely disregarded by medal collectors until the advent of rapid internet research tools. Fifteen years ago a single Victory medal would have been priced at £2 to £5, while today £12 to £18 is more normal - and at least £30 to a casualty. They are slightly rarer than the silver British War Medal - The Imperial War Museum quotes the issue number as 5,725,000, compared to more than six million for the British War Medal.

Eligibility for this medal was more restrictive and not everyone who received the British War Medal also received the Victory Medal.

The medal was designed by the Scottish artist William McMillan, who lived from 1887 to 1977. It shows a winged classical figure representing victory. The reverse of the medal contained the legend "The Great / War For / Civilization / 1914-1919" across four lines, surrounded by a wreath.

The official description of the colour of the ribbon is "Two rainbows with red in the centre".

The medal was awarded to all those who had served in the armed forces, as well as to

civilians contracted to the armed services, and to those who served in military hospitals on the various battlefronts during wartime.

Victory Medals continued to be awarded after the Armistice, for the British forces who saw action in North Russia (up to October 12, 1919) and Trans-Caspia (up to April 17, 1919). Men involved in North Sea mine clearance operations (between 11 November 1918 and 30 November 1919) were also eligible for the medal.

In Britain the Victory Medal was always awarded in with at least one other medal. No additional bar was available to accompany the Victory Medal, although men who were Mentioned-in-Despatches wore an oak-leaf emblem on the medal ribbon.

Details such as name, rank, regiment and regimental number can be found inscribed around the rim.

The basic design was adopted for what was termed the Inter-Allied Victory Medal by Belgium, Brazil, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, France, Greece, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Romania, Siam, Union of South Africa and



Greek Inter Allied

the USA. Poland had designs drawn up but only unofficial medals appear to have been issued.

Variations of the Greek winged victory emblem were chosen by each allied nation, except those in the Far East where it had no meaning.

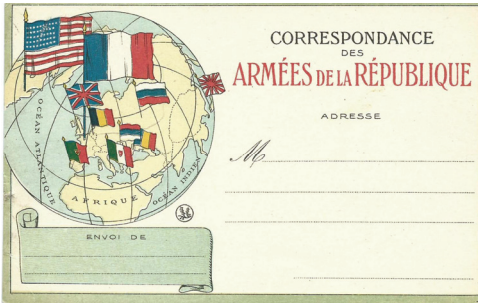
The idea for a universal award was said to have been first made by French marshal Ferdinand Foch who was supreme commander of the allied force during First World War.

Each medal in bronze has the same diameter (36mm) and ribbon (double rainbow) but with a national design representing a winged victory except for Japan and Siam where the concept of a winged victory was not culturally relevant.



USA Inter Allied

A FAVOURITE POSTCARD: Andrew Brooks



This colourful French semi-official postcard is just one design amongst hundreds in this genre and it is chosen as representative of a group that have always been a favourite topic in my WW1 collection.

The British equivalent is the drab Field Service Postcard which visually cannot compete with its French counterpart and furthermore did not allow any message to be conveyed, the soldier could only cross out certain words/phrases and sign the card. Although my opinion is biased, the card illustrated is from one of the few categories where the French WW1 postcards surpass the British in style and design.

The earliest French official cards had the flags of her allies, in colour, on the front of the card and as the war progresses the number of flags increased as further countries joined the allied side. There were similar official cards in black and white which became more prevalent as the effect of the war restricted the use of colour.

The semi-official types are even more picturesque whilst still following the format of the official cards. The example shown must have been published after the USA entered the war (note the similar size of the French and American flags) and other designs incorporate illustrations of political and military leaders, cockerels, shamrocks, soldiers etc., and these can be found on the front and reverse of the postcards. As a further incentive to collect the cards the French have produced fine catalogues illustrating all the types.

LIFE IS A MISSION DUTY ITS HIGHEST
LAW - Driver Thomas Wild RASC

WESTERN FRONT AND OTHER STRATEGIC EVENTS TIMELINE - 1ST DECEMBER 1914 TO 31ST MAY 1915 (largely based on www.greatwar.com): TD

Some of the centenary events to the next Despatch (May 2015) are as follows:-

Dec-14	
4	1st action in Mesopotamia begins
5	Serbs declare will never make peace without Allied consent
8	Germans lose Battle of Falklands
9	German FM von der Goltz takes control of Turkish Army
13	British subm. B11 sinks Turkish battleship in Dardanelles
16	German warships bombard Whitby, Scarborough & Hartlepool
18 - 22	Battle at Givenchy
21	First German air raid on England
23	Australian & NZ troops arr Cairo
24	British bomb German airsheds at Brussels
Jan-15	
1	German submarine sinks HMS Formidable in English Channel
8 - 14	Battle of Soissons
19	First air ship raid on England
24	Action of Dogger Bank, German cruiser Blucher sunk
25	Robertson appointed C of GS BEF in France
Feb-15	
4	Turks repulsed on Suez Canal
18	Germans begin submarine blockade of Great Britain
19	Allies commence naval attack on Dardanelles forts
20	Australian & NZ troops ordered to Dardanelles
24	First TA Divn (N Mids) to France
26	Germans use liquid fire in France

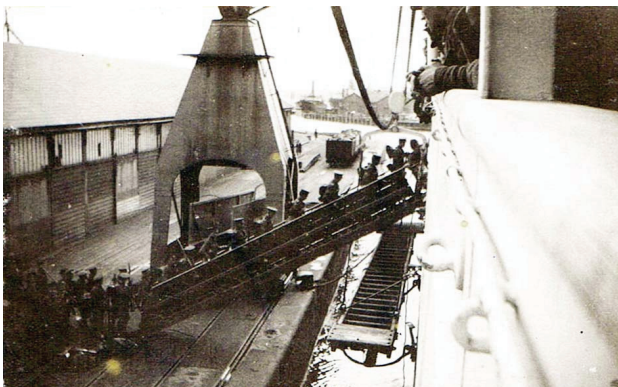
Mar-15	
1	GB & France to prevent trade by or with Germany
4	France to send Expeditionary Force to Dardanelles
10-13	Battle of Neuve Chapelle
14	Last German cruiser at sea (Dresden) sunk
18	Allied naval attack on Dardanelles forts repulsed
28	First passenger ship (British SS Falaba) sunk by German Sub.
Apr-15	
8	Deportations & massacres of Armenians ordered by Turks
14	Germans accuse French of using poison gas at Verdun
17	British take Hill 60 (Ypres)
22	2nd Battle of Ypres begins with German's surprise gas attack
24	Allied counterattack at St Julien (Ypres)
25	Allied forces (inc 1 st Battn Lancashire Fusiliers) land at Dardanelles
26	Italy secretly signs agreement in London with Allies
May-15	
1	German submarine attacks first US ship
7	SS Lusitania sunk by Germans
8	Battle of Frezenberg Ridge (Ypres) begins
9-10	Battle of Aubers Ridge (fails)
9	Second Battle of Artois begins
15-25	Battle of Festubert (successful)
23	Italy declares war on Austria
24	Battle of Bellewarde Ridge, Ypres
31	First airship raid on London

INTO THE FRAY: Terry Dean

In my presentation entitled “The Lancashire Contemptibles” and article in “STAND TO!” 100th Edition I reported on the regiments with affiliations to Lancashire that went to France with the BEF in August 1914, namely:

1st Bn. King’s Own Royal Lancaster Regt. (1 KORL),
 1st Bn. King’s Liverpool Regt. (1 KL),
 2nd Bn. Lancashire Fusiliers Regt. (2 LF),
 1st Bn. East Lancashire Regt. (1 EL),
 2nd Bn. South Lancashire Regt. (2 SL),
 1st Bn. Loyal North Lancashire Regt. (1 LNL),
 2nd Bn. Manchester Regt. (2 Mcrs) and
 20th Hussars.

Whilst these 8 units had a significant role in 1914, a total of some 120 “Lancashire” units had served overseas in war theatres by the time hostilities ceased. I felt it appropriate that Despatch could usefully record their deployment and the table (below) lists, in date order, the units that went “into



1/10 Mcrs embarking at Southampton on 10th Sept 1914

the fray” by 31st May 1915. It is my intention that next May’s Despatch will similarly cover the period to 30th November 1915.

With three exceptions the units are “Regular” (numbered or 1 or 2) or “Territorial” infantry (numbered fractionally e.g. 1/8 or 2/5). The exceptions are 4 KL which was an Extra Reserve Battalion and 11 KL which was the first of the Kitchener battalions. Also included is a squadron from a Yeomanry regiment (the mounted arm of the Territorial Forces), the 1/1 Duke of Lancaster’s Own Yeomanry (1/1 DLO).

Battalion/ Regiment	Theatre	Entry Date	Narrative
1/5, 1/6, 1/7, 1/8 LFs	Egypt	25 Sept 14	Alexandria. Embodied 4 Aug 14, Bury, Rochdale, Salford & Salford respectively. 125 Bgde, 42 Div. 5/6 May 15 landed Gallipoli & attack nr Gully Ravine.
1/4, 1/5 EL	Egypt	25 Sept 14	Alexandria. Assembled 5 Aug 14, Blackburn & Burnley respectively. 126 Bgde, 42 Div. 11-14 May 15 landed Gallipoli.
1/5, 1/6, 1/7, 1/8 Mcrs	Egypt	25 Sept 14	Alexandria. Raised 5 Aug 14, Wigan (1/5), Manchester (1/6, 1/7, 1/8). 127 Bgde, 42 Div. 6 May 15 landed Gallipoli.
1/9 & 1/10 Mcrs	Egypt	25 Sept 14	Alexandria. Raised 5 Aug 14, Ashton-under-Lyne & Oldham respectively. 126 Bgde, 42 Div. 10 May 15 landed Gallipoli.
1/1 DLO	Egypt	25 Sept 14	Alexandria. On completion of mobilisation “A” Squadron joined 42 Div
1 Mcrs	France	26 Sept 14	Marseilles. 29 Aug '4 left India as part of 8th (Jullunder) Bgde in 3rd (Lahore) Div. Battle of La Bassee, Oct 14

1/10 KL (Scottish)	France	2 Nov 14	le Havre. Mobilised 4 Aug 14 at Liverpool. Part of South Lancashire Bgde in West Lancashire Div. On arrival in France transferred to 9 Bgde, 3 Div. First Battle of Ypres
2 LNL	German East Africa	3 Nov 14	Tanga. 16 Oct 14 left India as part of Bangalore Bgde. After unsuccessful attack at Tanga, moved via Mombasa to Nairobi.
2 EL	France	6 Nov 14	le Havre. Aug 14 in S Africa. Joined 24 Bgde, 8 Div on return to England. 15 Nov 14 action at Neuve Chapelle
2 KORL	France	16 Jan 15	le Havre. Aug 14 in India and arrived England 22 Dec 14. Mobilised Winchester in 83 Inf Bgde, 28 Div. 17 Feb 15 bayonet charge at Zwartelen.
1/4 SL	France	13 Feb 15	le Havre. Mobilised at Warrington 4 Aug 14. Part of South Lancashire Bgde, West Lancashire Div. On arrival in France attached to 7 Bgde, 3 Div. Trenches at Messines.
1/5 SL	France	13 Feb 15	le Havre. Mobilised at St Helens on 4th Aug 14. Part of South Lancashire Bgde, West Lancashire Div. On arrival in France attached to 12 Bgde, 4 Div. Second Battle of Ypres.
1/5 LNL	France	13 Feb 15	le Havre. 4 Aug 14 mobilised Bolton part of North Lancashire Bgde of West Lancashire Div. On arrival France transferred to 16 Bgde, 6 Div. 22 Feb 15 trenches nr Armentieres
1/5 KORL	France	15 Feb 15	le Havre. Mobilised at Lancaster 4 Aug 14. Part of North Lancashire Bgde, West Lancashire Div. On arrival France attached to 14 Bgde, 5 Div. 3 Mar 15 transferred to 83 Bgde, 28 Div. Second Battle of Ypres.
1/5 KL	France	22 Feb 15	le Havre. Mobilised at Liverpool 4 Aug 14. Part of Liverpool Bgde, West Lancashire Div. On arrival France transferred to 6 Bgde, 2 Div. Battle of Festubert.
1/6 KL	France	25 Feb 15	le Havre. Mobilised at Liverpool 4 Aug 14. Part of Liverpool Bgde, West Lancashire Div. On arrival France transferred to 15 Bgde, 5 Div. Second Battle of Ypres.
4 KL	France	6 Mar 15	le Havre. Mobilised 4 Aug'14 at Liverpool. On arrival France transferred to Sirhind Bgde, Lahore Div. Battle of Neuve Chapelle.
1/7 KL	France	8 Mar 15	le Havre. Mobilised 4 Aug 14 at Bootle. Part of Liverpool Bgde, West Lancashire Div. On arrival France transferred to 6 Bgde, 2 Div. Battle of Festubert.
1/9 KL	France	13 Mar 15	le Havre. Mobilised 4 Aug 14 at Bootle. Part of South Lancashire Bgde in West Lancashire Divn. On arrival in France transferred to 2 Bgde, 1 Div. Battle of Aubers Ridge.
1 LF	Egypt	29 Mar 15	Oct 14 left India and returned to England arriving 2 Jan 15. Joined 86 Bgde, 29 Div. Sailed to Alexandria arriving 29 Mar 15. Landed "W" Beach (Lancashire Landing), Gallipoli 25 Apr 15.
1/4 KORL	France	1 May 15	Boulogne. Mobilised at Barrow 4 Aug 14. In 154 Bgde, 51 Div. Battle of Festubert, 15 June 15.

1/8 KL (Irish)	France	3 May 15	Boulogne. Mobilised Liverpool 4 Aug 15. Part of Liverpool Bgde, West Lancashire Div. Feb 15 transferred to North Lancashire Bgde which on 18 Apr 15 became 3rd Highland Bgde in Highland Div. After arrival France, Formation became 154 Bgde, 51 Div. Battle of Festubert.
2/5 LF	France	4 May 15	Boulogne. Formed 9 Sept 14 at Bury. 8 Feb 15 attached 197 Bgde, 66 Div. Transferred 17 Apr 15 to 3 Highland Bgde, Highland Div. Formation became 154 Bgde, 51 Div on 12 May '15. Battle of Festubert.
1/4 LNL	France	4 May 15	Boulogne. 4 Aug 14 mobilised Preston part of North Lancashire Bgde of West Lancashire Div. Apr 15 North Lancs Bgde transferred to Highland Div. Formation became 154 Bgde, 51 Div on 12 May 15. Battle of Festubert
11 KL	France	30 May 15	Boulogne. Formed Liverpool 23 Aug 14 (K1) attached as Army troops to 14 Div. 11 Jan 15 became Pioneer Battn. Action at Hooge.

Main Sources: British Regiments 1914-1918 by Brigadier E A James & Regimental Museums.

**O WINDS OF HEAVEN BLOW SOFTLY
O'ER THIS SWEET AND HALLOWED
SPOT - Pte R Taylor Tyneside Scottish**

MUSEUM REPORTS

**Liverpool Scottish Regimental Museum
Trust: Ian Riley**



Although operating only as an archive, we are busier than ever. In May we welcomed the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor Gary Millar, and the Lord Mayor's Consort, Mr Steve Macfarlane, to our small offices. So

near the Town Hall are we that the Lord Mayor walked round complete with the glittering chain of office (plus security). He has been responsible, on a personal basis and at his own expense, for rescuing the war memorial of Liverpool's Stanley Abattoir from eBay (see previous Despatch). Both proved knowledgeable and interested in what we are doing. After seeing a display of items from the archive (including the launch of our travelling mini-exhibition of mounted and captioned photographs) and visiting the offices, they joined us for lunch in the Artists Club.

We continue to entertain a small but steady flow of visitors by appointment. It proved difficult to keep up with the stream of enquiries that arrived by e-mail during July and August; indeed it was full-time work for three weeks to research and answer them on return from our reconnaissance to Ypres in mid-August. Our trip to Belgium will commemorate the centenary of the Liverpool Scottish action at the 'Battle of Hooge' (officially the First Action at Bellewaarde) on 16th June 1915. Apart from ceremonies at the

Liverpool Scottish Memorial we will be hosting a reception in one of the casemates (tunnels built into the city ramparts) that sheltered troops and HQs during WW1 and is now a café-bar. In fact it would have been Brigade HQ at some time to which the Territorial battalions of the King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment) and the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment of the 55th Division (as well as the Liverpool Scottish) would have reported.

I had planned an account of one of our more interesting soldiers for this edition but time precludes: I offer instead an account from the diary of Liverpool Scot, Lionel Ferguson (later commissioned into the Cheshire Regiment), as he watched his comrades depart from Tunbridge Wells by rail *en route* for Southampton to sail to

telegrams to send off for the men. ... All was a mighty rush and those who were unable to find their boys were nearly frantic. I remember a Mrs. Ferguson of Formby imploring me to find her boy, I did so but the poor lad refused to look out, he was crying on the seat of his carriage.” (Courtesy IWM)

**DEATH AND TIME SHALL NEVER
OBLITERATE HIS NOBLE MEMORY -
Pte L A Delauney 116th Bn Canadian Inf**

Fusilier Museum - Mobilization of the Lancashire Fusilier Reserve, August 1914: Mike Glover (Curator) and Regimental Secretary (Lancashire)

Introduction.

As part of Future Army 2020 much effort and resource is currently being expended in generating the Army Reserve out of what was the Territorial Army. With the 100th Anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War in mind, I thought that it would be interesting to look at the regimental records in the Fusilier Museum and consider what reserves were available to the Regular Army in 1914. The issue of the Territorial Force I will leave for another day. Clearly I intend to focus on the experience of the Lancashire Fusiliers and specifically the role of the Depot in Bury. It has to be said that what happened in Bury was not unique but was mirrored in the many other garrison towns throughout the country in August 1914.

Historical Background.

At this stage I will set the scene with a little historical background. Due to the industrial revolution and the impact on population throughout the 19th Century many regiments were forced to move recruiting areas. Thus in 1873 the 20th Foot, the East Devonshire Regiment, moved to the industrial north to set up their Depot at Wellington Barracks in



France aboard the SS *Maidan* on 1st November 1914.

“1st November 1914: The first half battalion “fell in” at 9:00 a.m. ... I just longed to be going with them. I saw “D” Coy depart with the beast of a lump in my throat but before long I was overcome and turned into a side street with few people to witness my sorrow ... I will ever remember that fine sight - 500 of Liverpool’s best nearly all 6ft high and not to be disputed the very best our City could produce. ... I stood at the salute while they passed but saw few as my eyes would keep filling with tears; most of the boys were singing, a few were crying - great big brave Scottish, crying like kids. It was a fine but very, very sad moment... The station was closed to the public but I managed to get through as an orderly. I then collected

Bury. This must have proved quite a shock for the gentlemen of Devon to move from the open country of Dartmoor and the ancient town of Exeter to the dark satanic mills of Lancashire! In 1881 then “East Devons” were re-titled the XX The Lancashire Fusiliers. With at least Lancashire in their title and the honour of being Fusiliers the regiment began to settle in to the community and found recruiting much easier. However, it was the War in South Africa, some 20 years later that cemented the unique relationship between Bury and the Fusiliers to create the “Fusilier Town.” that we know today.

Fusiliers in Bury.

Thus by the beginning of the 20th Century the Fusiliers were very much part of the local community and had a

considerable impact on life in Bury for not only did the town host the Depot of the Lancashire Fusiliers at Wellington Barracks (shown above), but also the Headquarters of the 5th Battalion (Territorial Force), at the Castle Armoury a mile down the road in the town centre. Bury would therefore see, in August 1914, not only the mobilisation of the Regular Reserve but also the Territorial Army as well.

Regimental Structure in 1914.

At the outbreak of the Great War the Lancashire Fusiliers consisted of two regular battalions, the 1st Battalion in Karachi in India and the 2nd Battalion at the Citadel Barracks in Dover. The 1st Battalion was to become part of the 29th Division and land at Gallipoli in April 1915 and as a consequence be awarded the famous “Six Victoria Crosses before Breakfast.” The 2nd Battalion was part

of the 12th Infantry Brigade alongside the 1st Battalion, The King’s Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment) in the 4th Division. The 3rd and 4th Battalions were Special Reserve units. The Territorial Force battalions included the 5th Battalion, with its headquarters in Bury, the 6th Battalion with headquarters in Rochdale and the 7th and 8th Battalions from Salford. Together these Territorial Force battalions formed the Lancashire Fusiliers Infantry Brigade, later the 125th Brigade of the 42nd East Lancashire Division which included battalions from the Manchester and East Lancashire Regiments.

The Depot in Bury was often thought of as



a backwater and not at all exciting but in August 1914 the Depot at Wellington Barracks and the many others

throughout the country were to play a critical part in the formation of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF). Without what turned out to be an extremely efficient depot based mobilization system the “Contemptible little army,” that was to ruin the German plans in fine style would not have been able to deploy. An estimated 60% of the strength of the battalions that composed the BEF was made up of reservists. It is often stated that the BEF that deployed in August 1914 was the best trained and equipped army ever to leave these shores. I would suggest that this is a reflection on the ability of the depots to equip and prepare the reservists many of whom had not served for many years.

Planning for Mobilisation.

Based on lesson learned as a consequence of the South African War at the turn of the 20th Century, considerable work

had gone into preparing for mobilisation. New arms and equipment were introduced throughout the British Army and the new mobilisation equipment for reservists was stock piled at the depots. The work of maintaining these stores of arms, clothing and equipment became the responsibility of the Depot Staff. They had to work hard maintaining the mobilisation stocks and it is worth noting that between 1st April 1909 and 31st March 1910 no less than 73 inspections had been carried out and 25 between 1st April 1913 and 31st March 1914. However, despite all the hard work inevitably problems did emerge, which were overcome by flexibility and common sense. I will now run through the diary as recorded in the regimental archive for the five days of mobilisation

Tuesday 4th August. Mobilization Announced.

The order to mobilize was received by the Depot at Wellington Barracks about 6pm on Tuesday 4th August. However, nothing goes according to plan and a party of reservists from Wigan had anticipated the order and had already turned up at the Depot that afternoon. The connection between Wigan and the Lancashire Fusiliers is an interesting one. Wigan is Manchester's territory, despite that on the Wigan War Memorial there are more "LF" than any other regiment. Two of the Regiment's Victoria Cross winners also came from Wigan. At look at the books on 4th August would show that the Regiment had 1,752 reservists of whom 44 were known to be living abroad. At this stage, how many would eventually turn up was a matter of guess work.

Wednesday 5th August. First Day of Mobilization.

Reporting for Duty

This was to be the critical day when an amazing 1,454 reservists reported for duty

and the process of issuing clothing and equipment began. It is recorded that attempts had been made to check clothing measurements and clothing sizes when reservist had turned up for their annual training. However those responsible had not paid appropriate attention to detail and the regimental history states,

"The work of checking their measurements had been entrusted to the inspecting camp adjutants, and it is feared that the importance of obtaining accurate measurements had not always been fully realised by these young officers."

Additional Stocks.

As a consequence, in many cases issued uniforms did not fit and boots tended to be on the small size. The situation was further aggravated by the fact that although full sets of clothing were held, the stores of arms and equipment were not complete. Part of the stocks required were kept at the Ordnance Depot at Burscough, only 1,500 rifles and bayonets and 1,000 sets of webbing were kept at Bury. The remaining 252 rifles and 752 sets of webbing had to be retrieved from Burscough and were therefore only available on Thursday 6th

Assembling Webbing.

The situation was further aggravated by the fact that the 08 Pattern Webbing equipment arrived in separate parts and had to be assembled at Bury. Many of the reservists had never used the new webbing and a party led by some of the Depot Officers including the drummers from the 3rd and 4th Battalions instructed them in assembling the new web equipment.

Feeding.

Upon mobilization feeding arrangements at the Depot passed to civilian Contractors, rather than the Army Service Corps. This

worked well and the Cookhouse was able to produce three meals a day for all concerned. However the problem was that the Cookhouse was too small and meals had to be eaten by men in the open. There was also a shortage of plates, which was overcome, by a system of double washings.

Accommodation.

The accommodation at the barracks, before the dispatch of the first drafts, proved insufficient. Additional accommodation had to be improvised, at St Stephen's School about 400yds from the barracks. The current St Stephen's School still maintain a close link with the Fusiliers and assist in maintaining the Fusilier Memorial garden on Bolton Road.

Medical Inspections.

Medical inspections started at 8am and by 6pm on Wednesday 5th 594 had been found medically fit.

First Draft Departs.

Consequently, by the evening of the First Day, the first draft of 320 marched out of the Depot and down Bolton Road to the Railway Station where they boarded a train which would take them to Dover where they would join the 2nd Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers.

Thursday 6th August. Second Day of Mobilisation.

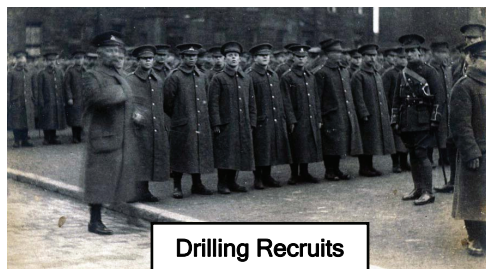
A further 648 men were found medically fit, clothed and equipped and a second draft of 240 left for Dover

Friday 7th August. Third day of Mobilisation.

On 7th August a further 465 were processed and the final batch of 88 required to complete the establishment of the 2nd Battalion was despatched. The remaining 800 reservists were posted to the 3rd Battalion which brought its strength up to 1,200

Saturday 8th August. Fourth Day of Mobilisation.

On the evening of 8th August the 3rd Battalion left for its war station at Hull and the



4th Battalion with a strength of 12 officers and 371 other ranks left Bury for Barrow in Furness. With the departure of the 3rd and 4th Battalions the work of the Depot was complete.

Conclusion

In my mind it is incredible that in the space of four days the Depot is able to process so many men in such a short space of time. On 1st September 1914 only 112 reservists had not reported for duty including many living abroad. Ultimately only 36 men out of 1,752 remained unaccounted for. The Depot effectively brought three battalions up to establishment and although the 3rd and 4th Battalions were to remain on home service duties, the 2nd Battalion later deployed to France and played a full part in the actions of the BEF. Finally, even more incredible is that all this was done by clerks with pen and paper, with no IT in sight. Many of the more cynical amongst you would say that with today's IT and current management systems it would be impossible to replicate this today!

Further Reading

To tell this story of those five days in August I rely heavily on Major General J C Latter's history of the Lancashire Fusiliers. Published in 1949 and now sadly out of print, there is no finer history of the Lancashire

Fusiliers in the Great War. I would also suggest reading Hell's Foundation by Geoffrey Moorhouse, who describes the atmosphere in Bury during this period with great clarity.

**BRIEF, BRAVE AND GLORIOUS WAS
HIS YOUNG CAREER -
2nd Lieut R D Bennett RFC**

Lancashire Infantry Museum (+S): Jane Davies, Curator

The first matter to report is the re-opening of the Somme Room after a major refurbishment costing £150,000. The



opening ceremony on 2nd September was performed by Bill Beaumont who has a personal link to the Regiment. His grandfather, Harry Beaumont, fought with the 6th Battalion of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment during the First World War and was awarded a Military Cross for his efforts securing the Diyala Crossing in Mesopotamia. A copy of the museum Newsletter giving more information about the re-opening is on our website

Secondly, the museum has purchased at auction Captain Davidson's metal trunk containing his WW1 artefacts. He served with the 9th Battalion South Lancashire Regiment in Salonika from October 1915 to the end of WW1 being awarded the Military Cross. The trunk contains an account of his experiences, photographs, maps etc and his medals.



Manchester Regiment Collection: Liam Hart, Local Studies and Archives Assistant

Since the last issue of Despatch the Manchester Regiment Archives, has been involved in the publication of the First World War diaries of **Captain Charles May** of the 22nd Battalion Manchester Regiment.



Edited by Gerry Harrison his Great Nephew, 'To Fight Alongside Friends' compiles Charlie's seven small pocket diaries into one book. The original diaries are held within the Regimental Archives and were rescued, alongside Charlie's body by his Batman Arthur Bunting, after his Captain was struck down minutes into the first day of the Battle of the Somme. As these diaries were kept secret from the Army Censor, they reveal a vivid picture of his life in the trenches leading up to the Battle of the Somme. A must read for anyone interested in Charlie, the 22nd or even the Battle of the Somme.

In addition, the Archive is also continuing a volunteer based digitisation project involving Manchester Regiment images. Although this is an ongoing project, images which have been digitised so far, can be searched on our website: <http://www.manchester-regiment.org.uk/>.

Further work by volunteers has enabled us to announce the near completion of the index to the Ashton Reporter from 1914-1918. This project, conducted over the last two years has sought to name every man mentioned in the newspaper throughout the First World War. This index, once complete will act as a fantastic resource for people wishing to research family members from the Ashton-Under-Lyne area who served in the war. Researchers can now locate pictures, articles, and obituaries of service personnel from the Ashton area during First World War.

Additional help from volunteers has aided us in providing a Military Help Desk to the public for free. The Help Desk is focussed on assisting people in basic Military History based genealogy. In the 30 minute sessions, our Military Historian helps people research their family members who served in the British Armed forces by using sources available online. This is held every 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month between 10am & 12pm. Since its inception last year, the Help Desk has been a resounding success and attracts large numbers of visitors. You can book a place on the Help Desk, please call 0161 342 4242.

Finally, a look towards the future; housed inside the Manchester Regiment Archives is the 9th Battalion Manchester Regiment War



Diary for the First World War. The “Ashton Terriers” are seen mobilising above. Their diary tells stories such as: Captain Forshaw and his VC winning action in Gallipoli, how the men adjusted to life in Egypt and how and where they fought along the Western Front. In commemoration of the diary and the 9th Battalion Manchester Regiment, from the 1st May 2015 Tameside Local Studies and Archives will be tweeting the progress of the battalion from selected entries taken from the diary itself. If you wish to follow the progress of the 9th, follow us at @tmbc_culture.

Museum of Lancashire - *OUTBREAK! 1914* and the 20th Hussars: Stephen Bull

With the centenary of the start of the war and the battle of Mons now behind us the first

flush of commemorative events and exhibitions is drawing to a close. In the case of the National Army Museum exhibition *Outbreak! 1914*, mounted in association with the King's Royal Hussars, at the Museum of Lancashire in Preston, this means there are just a couple more weeks to see this display before it draws to a close on 17 November 2014.

The content of this special exhibition is different from many of the commemorative efforts in that it combines the national picture of the British Army at the outbreak of the First World War with some interesting sidelights on the 20th Hussars; a regiment that has hitherto received relatively little attention. Nicknamed 'Nobody's Own', as it lacked the title of a monarch or aristocrat in its title, this light cavalry unit had more than one incarnation. Most recently a new 20th Light Dragoons was formed from the 2nd Bengal European Light Cavalry in 1861. This was then promptly designated as 'hussars' a few months later. Whilst the use of horsemen would quickly become difficult, if not impossible, in the later conditions of trench warfare, in the early weeks of the First World War cavalry were vital as scouts and skirmishers - and at the forefront of the action.

In 1914 the 20th were amongst the first to France, being mobilized on 4 August, and arriving at Le Havre on the evening of the 17th. As the regiment formed part of 5th Cavalry Brigade it was also amongst the first into action in the preamble to the battle of Mons. Indeed patrols of the 20th were active early on the morning of 22 August, and were thus amongst the first into action with the



enemy. The 'first shot' may be claimed by 4th Dragoon Guards, but the 20th was also in contact about the same time. An unnamed man in Lt Goodhart's patrol certainly opened fire without orders, and Goodhart himself attempted to shoot at the enemy, only to discover his revolver was not loaded. Three German horses were captured in the ensuing fight. Frustratingly however the War Diary of the regiment is inexplicit as to precise timings - and Goodhart, being chased by an enemy lancer, had other matters to worry about.

The exhibition includes not only Goodhart's sword, photographs, narrative, and an audio visual, but another even more important exhibit. This is the union pennant carried by Sergeant Clifford of the 20th Hussars when acting as escort to Sir John French. It is thus a piece that was at the epicentre of the British effort in August and September 1914, and effectively links together the regiment and the national story of the Army during that crucial campaign.

**THY WILL NOT OURS OH LORD -
Private A Hazeldine Royal Army Service Corps**

LINESMAN GOES TO EUROPE (+S): Terry Dean

Marne/Aisne

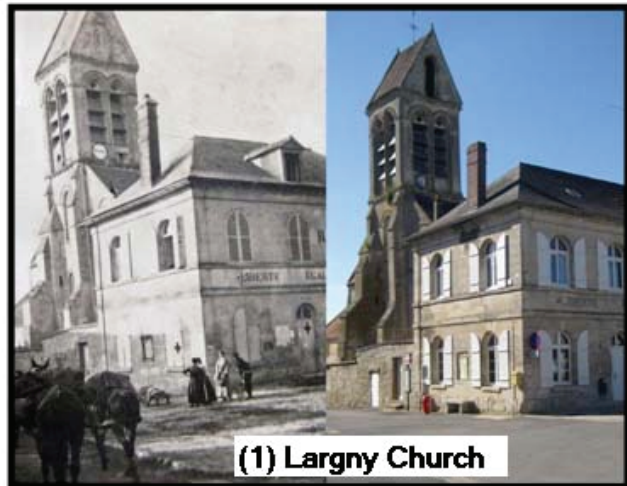
After last May's meeting we visited the scene of the BEF's exploits in September/October 1914 on the Marne and Aisne. One objective was to seek the locations where Major Lambert of the 1st Battalion East Lancashire Regiment took his photographs. The church at Lagny west of Villers Cotteret presented a perfect Then/Now (1), (see collage of photos on opposite page) but the location took some finding since Lambert's caption indicated it was at St Saveur south of Compiègne!

Similarly, through pressure of the 1914 campaign (?) he had wrongly captioned, the farm at Carriere l'Eveque (2) as Septmonts Chateau but staff at the Marie in Septmonts introduced us to the owner, Mr Hubert, and he showed us round his farm including the caves (Carrieres) which had provided shelter to troops. He also introduced us to Jean Luc Pamart who showed us the "Hampshire" cave above Bucy le Long with its excellent carvings (3). Luc's Association "Soissonnais 14-18" is responsible for the recording and preservation of WW1 sites.

In Bucy the shell damaged Bakery of 1914 had been converted into the current boutique (4) and on visiting the Caverne du Dragon we saw their excellent exhibition about Tommies on the Aisne. Through our visit we learned about the ceremony to take place at Cerny on 14th September to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the major battle which took place there (see later in article). (See Supplement for more Then/Now photos)



We also visited Jean Luc at his farm at Confrecour west of Soissons which was on the French sector of the front. He showed us his records and collection then took us to see the cave on his land with magnificent carvings inside, one was an altar at the side of which was an exit which led to the trenches. He also showed us the nearby memorial at Vingre to six French soldiers who were executed as an example to others to not leave their posts. A campaign has been mounted in respect of these and others and he hopes President Hollande will shortly



(1) Largny Church



(4) Bucy Bakery



**(3) Hampshire Cave,
Luc Pamart & Emmie**



(2) Carriere l'Eveque Farm



AISNE PHOTO COLLAGE

act. Through our pursuit of the Lambert photo locations good local contacts have been made which are invaluable.

Le Havre & Ste Adresse

In July we made a short visit to the Normandy coast line between Le Treport and Honfleur with no specific WW1 related objectives other than to visit Le Havre where the nearby Ste Adresse was staging post for many BEF units, including the East Lancs and King's Liverpool battalions when they disembarked in August 1914. Braving the poor weather to have coffee on a roof-top terrace at St Adresse we looked across the



beach towards the Le Havre port entrance and I imagined the BEF battalions being feted by the populace as they marched from the port along the road behind the beach to their rest camps on the high ground above Ste Adresse.

Looking from the terrace to the road which rises from the beach I saw French and Belgian flags and a statue which appeared to be King Albert (see back page). This caused me to descend the steep steps from the terrace and pose a few questions with the café owner. *"The Belgian Government and King moved here in WW1 to escape the Germans and the memorial was erected in their honour"* was the gist of his reply. With my French not good enough to interrogate him closely I decided to investigate further when home but before leaving St Adresse

took a photograph of the wording on the memorial, which translates as:

"This monument erected by national subscription was inaugurated by Mayor Rene Proux being in the presence of Mr. Merlot minister representing the Belgian government and the Minister Guy House representing the French government - 4 September 1938."

It was my belief that King Albert stayed in Belgium commanding his troops throughout WW1 and nothing contradicted this in my internet searches. King Albert's biography by Evelyn Graham published in 1929 confirms that: *"Throughout the whole of the war period, King Albert was constantly with his troops. The only occasion on which he left his country was in 1918, when he flew over to England for the Silver Wedding of King George and Queen Mary.The Belgian Government moved on to Havre and, for the first time in modern history, a Government had its headquarters outside its own country."*

On the part of the website www.normandythenandnow.com relating to Ste Adresse it indicates: *"Albert and the Belgian government are well remembered in this Seine-Maritime seaside resort. The best Boulevard is named 'Albert' and the Belgian flag has been stylishly incorporated into that of the town. When Albert fell off a mountain and died in 1934 Sainte-Adresse decided to erect a statue in his memory. It stands at the bottom of the hill on the road named for his wife, Rue Reine Elisabeth."*

It is perhaps no wonder some locals in Ste Adresse think King Albert spent time there in WW1!

Aisne Ceremony

On 14th September the 100th anniversary of the major battle which took place on the Chemin de Dames was commemorated. Last Post at Vendresse cemetery was followed by a procession/walk to Cerny where a Remembrance Ceremony and wreath laying took place at the French and British cemeteries and at the Loyal North Lancashire Memorial. The Loyals lost 500 killed, wounded and missing on 14th September 1914 and before learning about the ceremony a coach party from the Lancashire Infantry Museum had arranged to be on the Aisne to remember the battle. The photograph shows two Colonels, a Lieut.



Col., and 2 Majors who served with the Loyal North Lancashire Regt in front of their Memorial.

Vienna

I could not attend the Aisne ceremony due to a "rail study tour" I was undertaking with ex-work colleagues. Our tour took us from Kocise to Geneva and when in Vienna I had on my list to see the statue of Emperor Franz Joseph whose annexation of Bosnia Herzegovina in 1908 lit the tinder box for WW1. Mozart's statue in the Burg Garten was being refurbished but Franz Joseph's was forlorn. However in my Vienna wandering I found he figured in an



exhibition in the State Palace entitled "To My Peoples! The First World War 1914 - 1918."

The introductory panel to the exhibition tells how immediately after the outbreak of the war in 1914 the Austrian National Library's predecessor, the k.k. (Imperial Royal) Court Library were collecting testimonies of the war and by 1918 tens of thousands of photos, posters, notes and literary texts, as well as artistically designed field postcards, war diaries and other remarkable documents had been archived. They testify to the millions of deaths on the front and to the deprivations of life back home, and constitute a unique war collection that is being given its first comprehensive presentation in the exhibition.

An extract from the Vienna exhibition leaflet and more Marne/Aisne photos are in the Supplement to Despatch on our website.

**MY BOY IS SLEEPING HIS LAST LONG SLEEP
HIS GRAVE I MAY NEVER SEE -
Lance Cpl W J T Kelly MM 1st Bn Australian Inf**

STAINING WAR MEMORIAL: Peter Denby

For the Great War centenary commemorations, Staining Parish Council invested in a new War Memorial to honour all the men of Staining and Hardhorn-with-Newton who fought, and the seven of them who died, in the war.



The stone memorial itself was funded by Brent Stevenson Memorials of Blackburn

along with grants from Lancashire County and Staining Parish Councils. The project was researched and driven by Parish Councillor Malcolm Hyland.

So it was that on Sunday 27th April 2014 a service took place at St Luke's Church in Staining followed by a procession to the memorial in Jubilee Gardens, Chain Lane (in the village centre, next to The Plough public house).

Invited guests included Mark Menzies MP, the Mayor of Fylde Councillor Linda Nulty, the Veterans Association and The Royal British Legion. Mr Bob Wareham sounded the last post. The Mayor made the dedication overseen by the Reverend Peter Lillicrap. Councillor Hyland read out each name on the memorial and local children placed crosses.

On the night of Monday August 4th 2014 local residents again gathered for a candlelit vigil at the memorial to mark the declaration of war at 11pm one hundred years earlier.

To respect the memory of the seven men killed, the Union and Lest We Forget flags will henceforth be flown from the village flag poles on the days the soldiers died.

The memorial will now provide a focal point for Staining's annual Remembrance Sunday gathering.

LANCASHIRE AT WAR - MARKING THE CENTENARY OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR 1914-18: Paul Conlon

This is a Lancashire Evening Post (LEP) publication and is a tribute to the men who served, and the women and children back home, who sacrificed so much during The Great War and contributed



greatly to the war effort. In keeping with its aims it contains articles from the home front as well as the front line of the conflict.

The sources were Lancashire newspaper archives and the LEP, Wigan Observer, Lancaster Guardian, The Gazette and Burnley Express are all featured on the front cover. It is an attractive, glossy magazine with a good selection of photographs throughout. There is good coverage and advertisements for local museums and projects such as 'Preston Remembers 1914-18'. So for anyone whose interest is in The Great War is stirred they can see where to look for further study.

The magazine did not rely on the standard trench war clichés and there are some heart-warming stories from the home front in particular the two young girls who separately were heavily involved in fund raising. The past was linked to the present with a good story of rediscovered documents and medals. Harry Cartmel's was quite rightly given a page as he is integral to the Preston story.

I particularly enjoyed all the articles on the VC winners with William Young getting good coverage. There was the obligatory Pals story, which is understandable as it is still strong in the Public's memory of the Great War. However I thought that this short article lacked emotion or details.

Anyone with some knowledge of the events on the Western Front would spot a number of errors particularly with regard to the Preston Pals but this won't detract from the material for the average reader. Some of the material in the letters home concerned me in that in the current climate I don't think inclusion of accounts of what would now be considered war crimes was a good decision.

The final article on the ending of the war brought the whole publication to a conclusion on a happy note.

**TO HIM THE SACRIFICE TO US THE MEMORY -
Private P Benson Duke of Wellington's Regt**

Men died With Honour, Friend' (saluting sacrifice).

West and North Lancashire: Penny Beveridge (Lancaster Girls Grammar School) for her *'My Family Through The Great War'* which is an account of her family's service in WW1. Penny has gleaned much of her information from talks with her grandfather and reports of her visit to the grave of her Great Great Uncle who was killed in the Battle of Cambrai in 1917.

East Lancashire: Uzma Shaed (Haslingden High School) for her WW1 booklet.

A Press Release concerning the results of the 2014 competition accompanied by a photograph and entry of the winner was issued on 30th October 2014 so that the media could consider using the information in advance of Remembrance Sunday. Photos of all prize winners and their entries can be seen on the Armistice Prize pages of our website.

2014 ARMISTICE PRIZE AWARD: TD

This year seven schools submitted a total of over 90 entries. Some of the entries were in computer formats with the remainder being typed or written text, models or artwork. Entries were marked separately by Peter Denby, Paul Conlon and me and the scores collated.

The collated scores gave the winner as Samantha Brash of Our Lady's Catholic College, Lancaster (see back page). Her



winning entry comprised well presented poetry and artwork (two black and white sketches of iconic images of WW1), with a short biography of a fictional soldier.

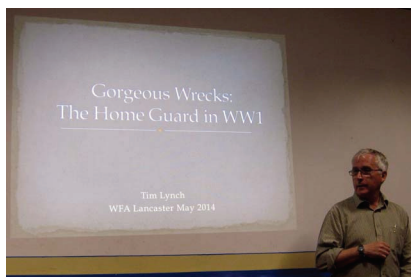
Samantha was presented with the trophy, a book (H.P. Willmott's "WORLD WAR 1) and a £100 cheque at a school assembly on 21st October 2014, before the half term break.

Three area prizes have been awarded in the form of Willmott's book and £25 cheque, as follows:

Central and South Lancashire: Alexander Liptrot (St Cecilia's RC High School, Longridge) for his three poems with related illustrations. *'Over The Top'* (describing the tense wait for the whistle to be blow), *'What Was It That Made Him Cry'* (an old man's reminiscences of the war), and *'Know These*

MEETING REPORTS

Gorgeous Wrecks-The Home Guard in the Great War: May 2014



Tim Lynch started off his excellent talk by reminding us all that we should listen for 'What is not being said'. He went on to say that the vast majority of books were written by people who had joined the army pre-conscription and as a further example quoted the fact that in WW2 everyone knows about the London blitz but few know about the

almost 95% damage suffered by Hull in the same war. He then proceeded to enlighten the members present with his talk on the Home Guard.

Commencing with the historical background to this 'Dads Army' force he gave a brief summary about the role of the Militia, Yeomanry and Rifle Clubs, especially during the time of the Industrial Revolution. I found it interesting that mill owners found it necessary to protect their property from the Luddites by having loopholes for rifles built into the walls of the mills!

Prior to the outbreak of WW1 the government had to deal with many internal security problems - suffragettes who were capable of throwing bombs and of course the very serious situation in Ireland. These problems caused so much concern that many men joined the Special Constables a body that the government put under the control of Lord Desborough (mainly so that they could keep an eye on their activities). These men were allowed to wear a brassard with the letters 'GR' on the sleeve. This is where the title of the talk originates from, equally disrespectful was another name given to their members 'God's Rejects'. The colour of the uniform was limited to either grey or green as they were not allowed to wear khaki. They received no funding from the government and even had to pay to go on courses. It is understandable in these circumstances that their ranks were filled by those who could afford to participate. There were 12,000 volunteers in West Yorkshire by 1915 but they only possessed 750 rifles.

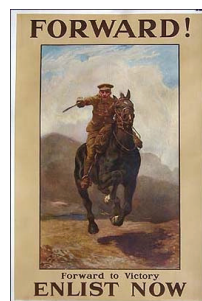
The turning point came for the force in 1916 after the Irish rebellion and following a big parade in London they were recognised as an official force. A section was titled the National Motor Volunteers and they mobilised civilian drivers to, for example, ferry troops between the stations in London. At one time there were 433 such vehicles operating in the capital.

In the final years of the war many of the men were called up as the medical grades for service in the army were downgraded. They were then used to guard PoWs and 13,000 men served for three months guarding the east coast in 1918. By December 1918 they were being released from their obligation but were not disbanded until 1920, however the Motor Vehicle section remained active for a time because of the fear of strikes.

This was yet another well received talk given by a WFA member and the questions from the members were also thoroughly dealt with. (Andrew Brooks).

Cavalry on the Western Front: June 2014

Dr Graham Winton discussed the myths about the cavalry on the Western Front, including that it wasted scarce wartime resources and that it was obsolete due to trench warfare and changes in technology. These myths continue in publications to date.



There was a role for the cavalry on the Western Front and in August 1914 British cavalry could fight mounted and on foot and could reconnoitre and skirmish. From 1902 to 1914 the cavalry had been subject to major reforms in tactics and training and was ahead of the rest of the continent.

The cavalry was 7.72% of the ration strength in 1914 and 9.28% of combat strength and these percentages shrank as the army expanded.

Dr Winton described selected actions during each of the war years to illustrate the abilities of the cavalry. When the cavalry failed it was usually because its objectives were not suitable. The contribution of cavalry was not great overall but it was not a useless arm. There was a value in mounted troops

acting in small detachments in close co-operation with other arms. (Gaynor Greenwood)

**ALL HONOUR GIVE TO THOSE WHO NOBLY
FELL THAT WE MIGHT LIVE -
Lieutenant J R Eagleton Royal Field Artillery**

“Why did I do it?” Answering my Grandfather’s Question: July 2014



Graham Kemp gave a thought-provoking and well-received talk about the origins of the First World War and the fateful international decisions made during June-August 1914. His extensive research on this topic was prompted by the questions that his grandfather continued to ask himself after serving in the War i.e. “Why did I do it?” and “Why did the War happen at all?”

Starting with the British decision to declare war after the German invasion of Belgium, Graham pointed out the significance that the territory that we now know as Belgium, had held for several centuries; with more battles being fought there than anywhere else in Europe. Historically seen as “the forward bastion of British defence” (e.g. during the Napoleonic wars) the international agreement to preserve Belgium’s neutrality benefited not only Britain but, somewhat ironically, had been strongly supported by Germany during the 1870 Franco-Prussian War.

With regard to Britain’s decision on 4 August 1914, Graham’s conclusion was that Britain ultimately went to war as a matter of ‘Honour’ with regard not only to Belgian neutrality but also because of the relatively recent alliances within the ‘Triple Entente’ that had been constructed during the early 1900s between France, Russia and Britain. This entente between 19th century enemies

was not seen by all politicians as the most logical of alliances to forge in the pre-war period. Indeed, Joseph Chamberlain had commented in 1904 that “the natural alliance is between ourselves and the Great German Alliance”. However, the support by Chamberlain and the British Government for a war against the Boers at the turn of the century had been frowned on by Germany, weakening relations between the two countries. Relationships were further weakened by the tensions created by the Anglo-German naval arms race which, in Graham’s view, had been driven particularly by Tirpitz who, as the German Navy’s Head of Construction, had a personal vested interest to encourage the building of more ships.

The talk then focused on the reactions of the main participants in the War to the events in Sarajevo on 28th June. The Austro-Hungarian reaction following the assassination of the presumptive heir of the Austro-Hungarian throne was predictable. What was not so predictable was the response of Germany as in 1912 the Kaiser had refused to support Austria in an attack on Serbia. However, in 1914 the Kaiser’s kneejerk response to regicide delivered a “blank cheque” of support to the Austrians, shortly before he and much of the German Government went on their summer holidays, making subsequent diplomatic discussions more difficult. Count von Berchtold, Imperial Foreign Minister of Austria-Hungary soon overcame the reticence of the Hungarian Prime Minister and the elderly Emperor before attacking Serbia.

Despite the Tsar informing his cousin the Kaiser that he wanted to avoid war between their countries, Russia’s military and logistical decision to mobilise in support of Serbia prompted Germany’s own mobilisation and declaration of War. In both countries the driving forces for War came from men in senior military positions including von Moltke

in Germany whose belief that “now is the right time for war” over-rode his more timid political leaders and diplomats. (Graham pointed out that, in 1962, the American president John F Kennedy, who had read about the causes of WW1, didn’t give the military their head during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, ultimately preventing nuclear war on that occasion.)

Highlighting that there was much ‘bungling’ and failed diplomacy prior to the onset of WW1, Graham asked what more could have been done to prevent the war occurring. In his view there was a greater degree of left-wing anti-militarism in France, Germany and Britain that could have been better-channelled against the War. In France this had been compromised by the assassination of the leading socialist Jean Jaurès on the 31st July. Ultimately, Graham concluded that too many citizens wanted the war, quoting attitudes such as that of Émile Zola: “War is life itself”. Thus, in response to his Grandfather’s questions, he summarised his analysis as follows: “Why did the young men die? - Because their father’s lied”. (Chris Payne)

“Your Remembrance”: 4th August

Whilst the populace watched the commemorative event at St Symphorien cemetery to mark the centenary of the outbreak of hostilities the Branch were remembering as normal. The difference compared to normal was that meeting’s purpose was to hear from some of those present about their individual thoughts on remembrance.

Chris Payne led the way by disclosing the contents of the letter written by his grandfather to his four young sons in the event he was to fall in the coming action. Poignancy personified ending with advice to them to be sailors rather than soldiers.

Amongst other remembrances, one contributor told of his grandmother’s premonition of death of her man; and another of finding her great-grandmother became a nurse in France after her husband was killed on the Somme.

It was an evening to be remembered alongside our normal remembering. (TD)

The Pirate of Buccari - Gabriele d’Annunzio’s adventures on the Italian Front: September 2014



A cross between the Toad of Toad Hall and John Wayne was how

Michael O’Brien started his description of Gabrielle d’Annunzio (G d’A). Born in 1863, son of the mayor of Pescara he followed in his father’s footsteps as a womaniser but at the same time gained fame as a writer and poet.

Italy pulled out of their 1881 Alliance with Germany and Austria when WW1 started in 1914 due to Austria occupying part of Italy and G d’A made public speeches in favour of Italy joining with Britain and France against Austria. After Italy’s declaration of war in May 1915 he joined an air attack squadron and shortly after crashed after attacking Trieste resulting in near loss of his sight. This caused him to consider suicide.

However after recovering his eyesight he was in the trenches near Timavo and in May 1917 was involved in a reckless attack against the Austrians which caused a mutiny in the Italian Army. After the disaster at Caporetto in late 1917 which led to the Austrians threatening to take Venice G d’A took part in a raid by torpedo boats in the harbour at Buccari hence the title of this talk. In August 1918 he famously took part in the flight over Vienna to drop propaganda leaflets.

In 1924 he was given the title Prince of Montenevoso and after his death in 1938 was given a state funeral by Mussolini and interred in a magnificent tomb. (TD)

Room 40: October 2014

By chance it is my turn to report again on a talk by **David Wright**. I enjoyed his previous talk (Fritz Harber - Despatch No.10) and I was not disappointed with this excellent account of 'Room 40'. David's delivery has the listener eagerly awaiting his next gem of information and his topics, so far, have been on WW1 subjects that members, as a whole, know little about.

This time he introduced us to the early days of naval intelligence and the opening illustrations quickly passed through GHQ and Bletchley Park to Room 40 in London.

Room 40 was formed in October 1914, shortly after the start of the war. Admiral Oliver, the Director of Naval Intelligence, gave intercepts from the German radio station in Berlin to the Director of Naval Education Alfred Ewing, who constructed ciphers as a hobby. Ewing recruited civilians such as William Montgomery, a translator and Nigel de Grey, a publisher.

Their work was helped by the capture of various German code books:

Signalbuch der Kaiserlichen Marine - this was seized by the Russians from the German cruiser *Magdeburg* and a copy passed to the British.

Handelsschiffsverkehrsbuch - captured by the Australian Navy from the German steamer *Hobart*. It contained all the codes for naval warships, merchantmen, zeppelins and U-boats.

Verkehrsbuch - code used to communicate with naval attaches and embassies.

In May 1917 Captain 'Blinker' Hall took control of Naval Intelligence from Admiral Oliver and Room 40 moved into other offices.

David went on to explain how the British went on to solve many of the problems of signal interception and direction finding before finishing with an account of the Zimmermann telegram. (Andrew Brooks)

2015 DRAFT PROGRAMME

(Due to uncertainties regarding the availability of our current meeting venue, next year's programme was in draft form (below) and not finalised when Despatch went to print. Details of the finalised programme will be publicised as soon as possible.)

Dec 1st: *A.G.M and Christmas Social* - An invitation to members to speak for 10 minutes on any WW1 topic.

Jan: *"Burnley Boys"* - Andrew Gill

Feb: *"Battle of Langemarck 1917"* - Denis McCarthy

Mar: *"Tsing Tao"* - John Chester

April: *"Prisoners of Conscience"* - Steve Erskine

May: *"Bene 'n 'ot - The Tommies' Tipple". Sub-titled "From Palais Benedictine to Plumbe Street Burnley"* - Denise North

June: *"Basil Zaharoff" - The man who ended the war in 1918: a study in political intrigue and manipulation* - Brian Ainsworth

July: *"Beyond Vimy Ridge: Canadian Corps Operations, 1918"* - Rob Thomson

Aug: *"How 10th Cruiser Squadron Won the War"* - Graham Kemp

Sept: *"A neutral view of the War"* - Michael O'Brien

Oct: *"British Red Cross VAD Nurse out in France 1917 - 1921"* - Liz Howard Thornton

Nov: *"Death Battalion"* - Lesley Wright

Dec: *A.G.M and Christmas Social* - An invitation to members to speak for 10 minutes on any WW1 topic.

KING ALBERT MEMORIAL, STE ADRESSE, FRANCE (see page 24)



Above is Samantha Brash this year's Armistice Prize winner (see page 26).

To the left is the excellent photo provided by Jeanette Lowe showing the Freckleton War Memorial which won the award for the 2014 Best Kept War Memorial.

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