



CHESTERFIELD WFA

Newsletter and Magazine issue 33

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Welcome to Issue 33 - the September 2018 Newsletter and Magazine of Chesterfield WFA.



Our next Branch Meeting is on Tuesday 4th September. Guest speaker will be regular Branch attendee, John Beech whose presentation is entitled “*The Great Escape*”. In September 1918 a group of POW German officers they were being held (now on the site of the University of Nottingham). Using his meticulous research, John will tell this story.

The Branch meets at the Labour Club, Unity House, Saltergate, Chesterfield S40 1NF on the first Tuesday of each month. There is plenty of parking available on site and in the adjacent road. Access to the car park is in Tennyson Road, however, which is one way and cannot be accessed directly from Saltergate.

Grant Cullen – Branch Secretary



Western Front Association Chesterfield Branch – Meetings 2018

Meetings start at 7.30pm and take place at the Labour Club, Unity House, Saltergate, Chesterfield S40 1NF

January	9th	Jan.9th Branch AGM followed by a talk by Tony Bolton (Branch Chairman) on the key events of the last year of the war 1918. Councillor Steve Brunt (a member of the WFA) will also be present to tell members about Chesterfield Borough Council's plans for a WW1 2018 Commemorations Group.
February	6th	Tim Lynch <i>'The Unknown Soldiers - the BEF of 1918'</i> By 1918 the BEF was mostly made up of conscripts as it launched the most successful campaign in its history. How did an army many regarded as "shirkers" fight so effectively? Tim Lynch is a freelance writer and battlefield guide. This talk is based on research into his own family's part in the Great War.
March	6th	David Humberston , Chairman of the Leicester Branch, will be making his first visit to WFA Chesterfield to talk about <i>'Women Spies in The Great War'</i>
April	3rd	Peter Hart making his annual pilgrimage to Chesterfield. His presentation will be <i>'Not Again' - the German offensive on the Aisne, May 1918.</i>
May	1st	Making his debut as a speaker to the Chesterfield Branch will be Jonathan Steer who will compare and contrast the <i>'BEF at Mons in 1914 with the BEF at Mons in 1918'</i>
June	5th	Rob Thompson – always a popular visitor to Chesterfield Branch. <i>"Running Out of Road. Supplying the BEF During the 100 Days Offensives. 1918"</i> . This is a new talk dealing with the logistical and supply problems the BEF had as the end of the war approached (BEF needed Armistice as much as Germans).
July	3rd	Dr. Graham Kemp. <i>"American Expeditionary Force" – the story and experiences of the AEF, 1917-18.</i> Talk covers the training of the new Army from the States to France. Taking in the experience, the hardship and humour. It looks at their first action at Belleville wood, and then turns to the success and tragedy of 'Argonne Wood.' It reveals the way the US Army contributed to the ending of the war and why afterwards US turned its back on Europe.
August	7TH	Peter Dennis is an artist who lives in Mansfield but he has made a name for himself as an illustrator for the Osprey series of monographs on The Great War (as well as other conflicts from ancient times to the present) Peter will explain how he carries out his researches for technical accuracy. He will also bring some of his original artworks for members to view.
September	4th	John Beech. <i>"The Great Escape"</i> . John needs no introduction to Chesterfield members as he rarely misses a meeting. In September 1917 a group of POW German officers escaped from where they were being held (now on the site of the University of Nottingham). Using his meticulous research, John will tell this story.
October	2nd	Making a welcome return to Chesterfield will be our former Chairman / Secretary, Peter Hodgkinson , who will explain the <i>Battle of Selle in October 1918.</i>
November	6th	Bryn Hammond. Another leading light in the field of historical research, study and publication on the Great War, Bryn will discuss <i>'The 500 piece jig-saw: Tank – Other Arms Cooperation in the First World War.</i>
December	4th	Rounding the year off in style will be Dr Phylomena Badsey on <i>"Auxiliary Hospitals and the role of Voluntary Aid Detachment Nurses during the First World War"</i>

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- 32-33 The Great War was neither futile nor glorious but a grim necessity by Prof. Gary Sheffield

A Personal note from The Chair (26)

I am not sure it counts as writers block exactly but as I stare at the blank page wondering what my personal note will be it certainly feels like it.



Our last meeting was something of a gamble but the feedback the Committee received following Peter Dennis's visit was quite supportive of this unusual departure from our speaker format, Tuesday however sees a return to the more typical meeting with our own John Beech talking about the great escape from Nottingham POW camp. It is always very encouraging when members present their researches and it demonstrates the depth of knowledge within the Branch.

Those of you who are interested in attending seminars are rather spoilt for choice at the moment as *Bulletin* and *Trench Lines* are full of adverts for various events celebrating or perhaps that should be commemorating the Armistice. As you know the Committee has suggested we lay on a minibus to the Lincoln Branch Seminar on 29 September where the headline speaker is Peter Barton of TV Somme fame. Still time to contact Grant if you want to come along.

On a personal note and this at least is supposed to be a personal note blog, I was recently asked if service records were available yet for the Second World War. I have to admit I couldn't answer the question so I am hoping someone who knows can let me know either by email or at a meeting. This lady wanted to trace a relative who served in the Polish Airforce and the RAF.

Considering I didn't have a clue as to what I was going to write I can send this off to Grant with a sigh of relief until he next sends me an email 'requesting' some 'wise words'. Not sure if this counts as very wise though.

Tony Bolton

Branch Chair

Any opinions expressed in this Newsletter /Magazine are not necessarily those of the Western Front Association, Chesterfield Branch, in particular, or the Western Front Association in general

The Western Front Association's 2019 Calendar

is now available !



The Calendar includes high quality, modern images of scenes from the Western Front. The images are specially selected from the work of a number of committed and talented Western Front photographers.

A4 size when folded, opens out to A3 when hung on your wall. £10 (Inc p&p)

This price has been held since the 2015 Calendar.

Order by post or online or by phone on 020 7118 1914

Link to buy on the Eshop is <https://www.westernfrontassociation.com/shop/wfa-branded-items/wfa-calendar-2019/>

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The Calendar itself If you click on this link it will show you a low-resolution version of the calendar
[file:///H:/WFA/\(2\)%20Branded%20Goods/\(12\)%20Calendar%202019/WFA%20calendar%202019%20proof%206.pdf](file:///H:/WFA/(2)%20Branded%20Goods/(12)%20Calendar%202019/WFA%20calendar%202019%20proof%206.pdf)

There will also be a limited number available at Branch meetings until the end of the year

Calendars will be sent out in September.

Secretary's Scribbles



Welcome to the September 2018 edition of our Branch Newsletter and Magazine. Tuesday evening (4th September) sees our monthly Branch Meeting with one of our own `regulars`, John Beech making a presentation on "*The Great Escape*". John needs no introduction to Chesterfield members as he rarely misses a meeting. In September 1917 a group of POW German officers escaped from where they were being held (now on the site of the University of Nottingham). Using his meticulous research, John will tell this story.

Members will recently have received their copies of the `Bulletin` magazine - good to see our Branch`s activities getting coverage in this journal - just a pity the magazine was delayed a bit so the article regarding the book club is a bit dated. Speaking of the book club, the next meeting will be on **Tuesday 16th October** - more about this and the book in focus elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Don`t forget there is time - just - to book a place on the trip to the Lincoln Branch seminar - again more about this elsewhere in the newsletter. As a bonus we will be visiting the Museum of Lincolnshire Life before the seminar to view the Great War Mar IV tank on display there.



We will be met there by Richard Pullen who will give us a brief talk on this tank before we make our way to the seminar.

Tuesday evening will probably be your last chance to acquire one of the limited edition slate coasters (only 100 produced) commemorating the 100 Days Offensive of 1918 - see advert elsewhere. Branch Vice chair and WFA Branded Goods Trustee, Mark Macartney will have these - only £7 each and Mark tells me he has literally only a handful left, such has been the success of this item. This very much a `one off` - once they are gone, they are gone.

I am well into planning our programme of speakers for 2019, indeed, with some good fortune, I should be in a position to unveil the list in the October newsletter. We will have a blend of `Big Names` ...`New Faces`and well known ones, a programme which I hope will satisfy the wide of interests our members have in The Great War

Grant Cullen - Branch Secretary

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FIRST WORLD WAR SEMINAR
A SERIES OF 1918-THEMED PRESENTATIONS
29 SEPTEMBER 2018
12.30 - 5.00 PM

KEY SPEAKER
PETER BARTON
WITH
ROB THOMPSON
RICHARD PULLEN

£20 P.P.
THE LEAP AUDITORIUM
THE COLLECTION MUSEUM
DANES TERRACE, LINCOLN

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW AT
WWW.LINCOLNBRANCHWFA.COM

The Collection
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire

We would like to draw members' attention to the above seminar being held in Lincoln, organised by the Lincoln Branch, on September 29th. The keynote speaker will be Peter Barton whom members may have seen on TV from time to time, mostly recently presenting a programme about the Battle of the Somme, which unlike so many TV programmes on The Great War, stuck to the facts rather than going on about 'Bunglers and Butchers'. As has been explained the Lincoln Branch has paid out a lot of money and are very keen to get a good turnout. As our Branch has a surplus on funds at the moment, we intend to run, by way of thanking members for their support, a 'free' for a bus to take members to this seminar. Members would be responsible for paying for their entrance ticket although the Branch can organise obtaining these. I have arranged for our party to meet at 10.30 am with Richard Pullen (one of the seminar's speakers) at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life. In the museum there is a Lincoln built, World War One Mark IV (female) tank. Richard is chair of the 'Friends of the Lincoln Tank' and has said he will come and give a short talk on this tank to our members. This is your last chance to participate in this outing as I will 'close the book' at Tuesday's meeting - anyone still wanting to participate please let me know ASAP on grantcullen@hotmail.com or 07824628638) Thanks

Still Available

BACKS TO THE WALL

'To commemorate the 1918 Spring Offensives, the Western Front Association commissioned a Limited Edition bone china mug featuring part of Sir Douglas Haig's 'Backs to the Wall' Order of 11th April 1918. '

Available from the eShop on the WFA website

(While Stocks Last)

Price: £14 (+£3 p&p)



Most Recent Special Edition Item (Launched 1st August)

(Slate Coasters)



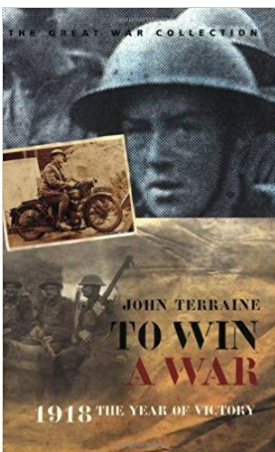
To commemorate the Hundred Days Offensive of 1918, the Western Front Association has commissioned a Limited Edition of slate coasters, (100 coasters for 100 Days) of 8th August 1918. The coasters are “4” diameter round Bespoke hand crafted slate coasters” Individually polished and screen printed by hand, backed by a baize to avoid damage to surface

Available from the eShop on the WFA website

Price £7 (+ £1.50 Postage)

Book Group

WFA Chesterfield’s Book Group will hold their second meeting on **Tuesday 16th October** in our usual venue at Chesterfield Labour Club’s Function room 7 - 9pm. The book selected for discussion by those who attended the first meeting is ‘To Win a War: 1918, the Year of Victory’ by John Terraine.



The book is available from the usual outlets - I got mine for ONE PENNY plus £2.85 postage in reasonable used condition off Amazon.

Hopefully we can build on the successful start that we had at our first meeting in July.

I will mail out a reminder nearer the date.

August Meeting

In a slight alteration to our published agenda we first gave the floor to member Peter Harris, who, whilst on a visit to Australia last January had been given the rare opportunity to view the last surviving German tank - the A7V `Mephisto` - which had seen combat in The Great War. There are several reconstructions but this one, which Peter saw in close up Workshops Rail Museum, Ipswich, Queensland, is the only survivor out of the twenty which were produced. The A7V was 7.34 metres (24.1 ft) long, 3 metres (9.8 ft) wide, and the maximum height was 3.3 metres (11 ft). The tank had 20 mm of steel plate at the sides, 30 mm at the front and 10 mm for the roof. 17 to 25 crew it was armed with six 7.92 mm MG08 machine guns and a 5.7 cm Maxim-Nordenfellt cannon.

All of the A7Vs had names and numbers and Peter put up a slide showing a few of these



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First used in combat on 21 March 1918. Five tanks of *Abteilung I* under the command of Hauptmann Greiff were deployed north of the St. Quentin Canal. Three broke down.

24th April 1918 at Villers-Brettoneaux, three *Abteilung* each of 5 tanks were deployed. One broke down, *Nixe* was destroyed by Frank Mitchell's MkIV, *Elfreide* rolled over and *Mephisto* bogged in a shell crater.

The 26th Battalion of the 7th Brigade mostly from Queensland, hatched a plan to capture it. In July 1918, under the cover of an artillery barrage, Australian infantry and two British vehicles (either Gun Carriers or Mark IV tanks) moved forward and dragged it back to their lines under fire from the Germans who were still within sight of the tank. The working party involved in the recovery of *Mephisto*

on 22 July 1918 probably consisted of H Williams, J Byford, J Pickles, A

Mc Farlane, H Dutton, T Hughes, Members of the Tank Corps. How do we know this? they scratched their names on the hull of the tank.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

EO 2876



Following its capture, *Mephisto* was transported to the 5th Tank Brigade demonstration ground at Vaux-en-Amiénois near Amiens. During its stay there it was decorated with 'soldier art' paintings of a British lion with its paw on an A7V, many soldiers' names, details of its capture and recovery, the colour patch of the 26th Battalion and the rising sun badge of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) The words "TANK BOYS" and the names of 13 soldiers (mainly from other Australian units) were engraved on the front, left side, and rear armour. From Vaux-en-Amiénois, *Mephisto* was shipped by rail to the Tank Corps Gunnery School at Merlimont and then shipped from Dunkirk to London. Proposals for it to be displayed as a war trophy in Australia were raised, and on 2 April 1919 it was loaded on the SS *Armagh* at Tilbury. The ship was to deliver it to Sydney, with plans for it to go to the war memorial in Canberra's display, but it was diverted to Brisbane, arriving on 6 June 1919 at the Norman Wharf (now a popular restaurant and bar area) on the Brisbane River. Picture below shows it being unloaded from the SS *Armagh*



On 22 August 1919 two steamrollers from the Brisbane Municipal Council pulled *Mephisto* (travelling on its own caterpillar treads) from the wharf to the Queensland Museum), a journey of less than 2 miles taking 11 hours.



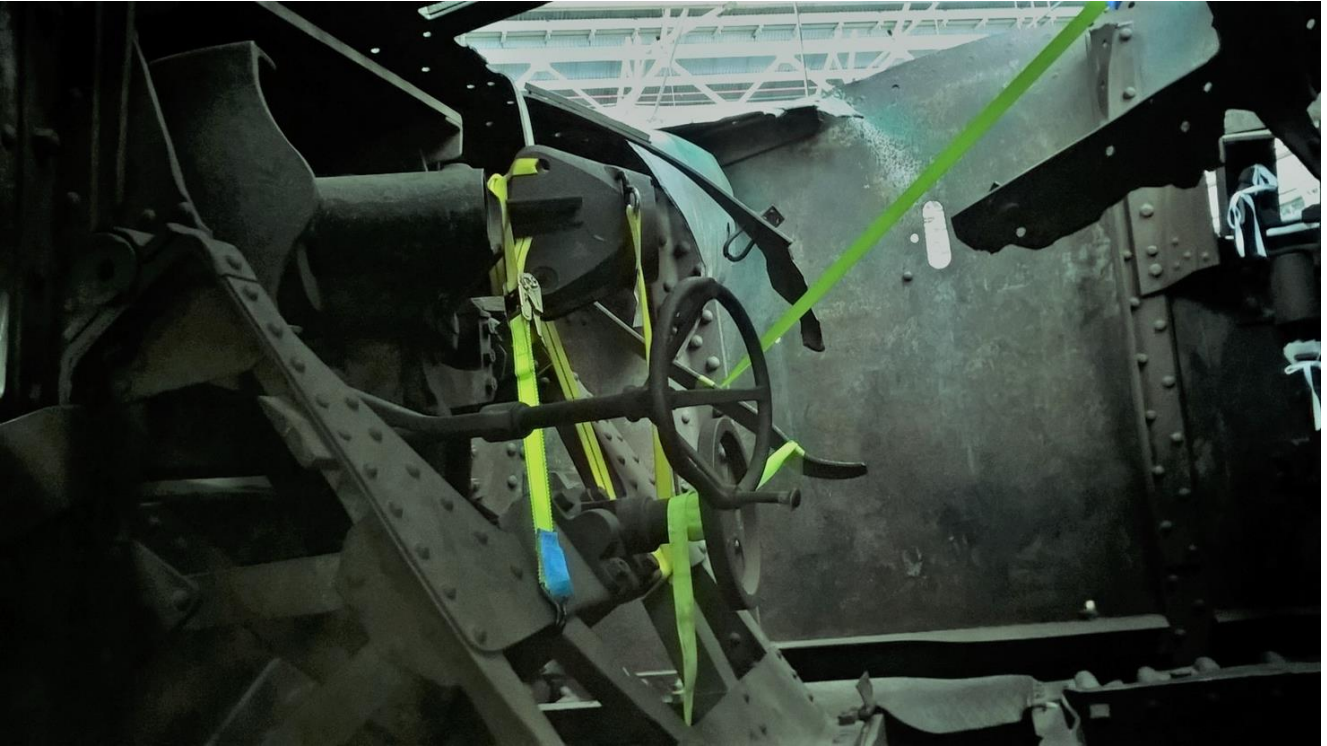
State Library of Queensland
John Oxley Library

From 1924 until 1986 the tank languished in the open, slowly deteriorating and subject to theft of parts and vandalism until in that year it was moved inside the Queensland Museum painted with a corrosion inhibiting compound and put in a glass case with a degree of climate control to prevent further deterioration. Then in 2011, a catastrophic flood unfolded in the Lockyer Valley in southeast Queensland. The floodwaters spread on January 11 2011 across the Brisbane River floodplains, inundating the Brisbane Central Business District and inner suburbs, and flooding the museum up to *Mephisto's* tracks. After a short stay at the Australian National Army Memorial in Canberra *Mephisto* was moved to the Workshops Rail Museum in Ipswich.



It was here that Peter got the opportunity to view `Mephisto` in close up - good timing too, as can be seen from Peter`s pictures the tank was already mounted upon a flatbed ready to be moved back to Brisbane.





An interior view showing the breech and traverse gear arrangement on the Maxim-Nordenfellt 5.7cm cannon. The `open` roof is battlefield damage sustained prior to recovery.



Another interior view, this time looking to the rear and showing the two Daimler 100hp engines.



And finally..... `Mephisto` and me....Peter Harris and the rarest tank in the world. Since February 2018 it has been back in the Queensland Museum, where it will go on permanent display in a new Anzac Legacy Gallery due to open in November 2018. Peter got a well-deserved vote of thanks for sharing this unique, never to be repeated visit.

After that excellent intro, it was on to the main talk of the evening, a presentation by artist and illustrator, Peter Dennis.

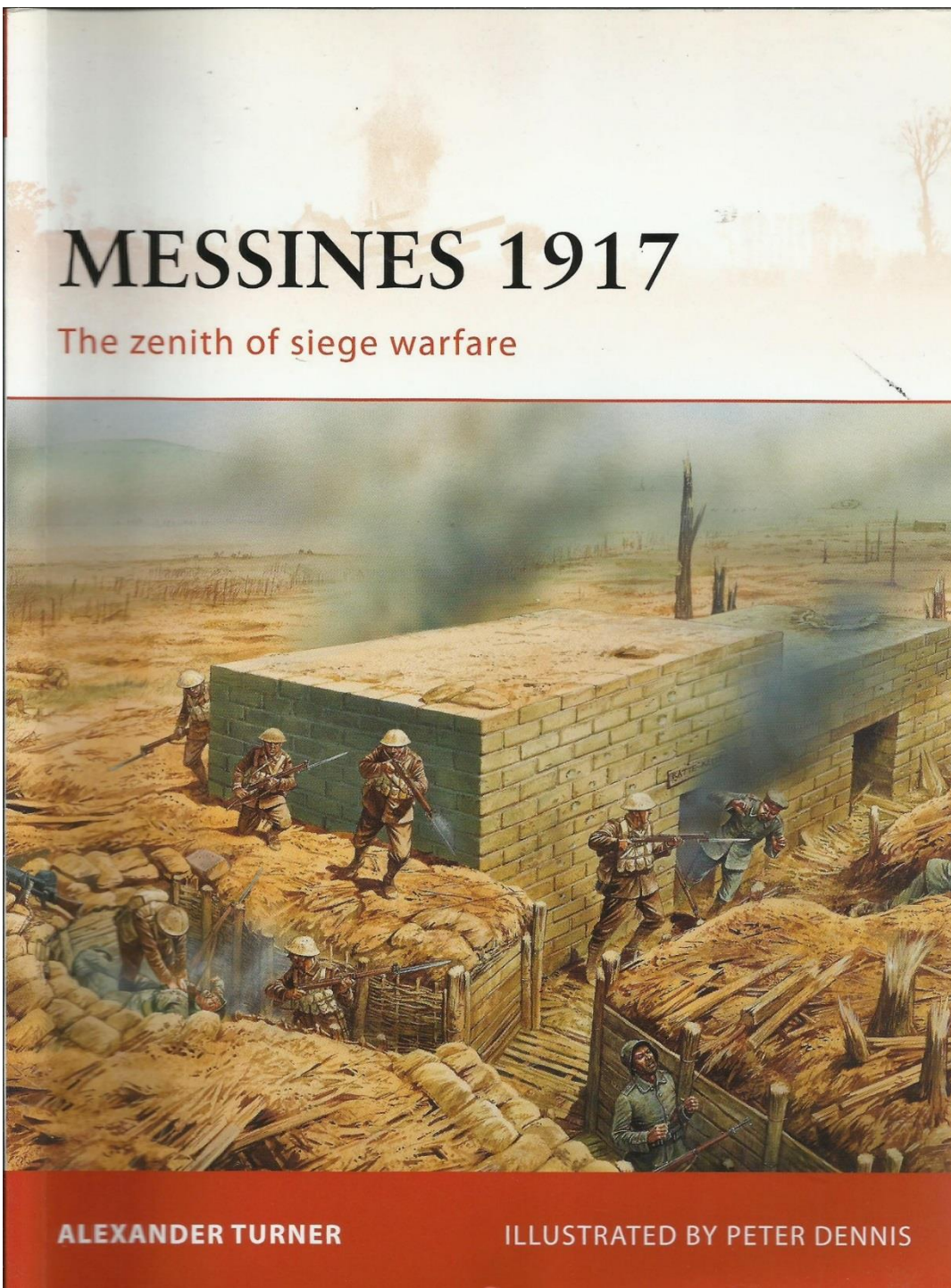


Peter, who lives in Mansfield was born in 1950. Inspired by contemporary journals like `Look and Learn`, he studied illustration at Liverpool Art College. He has since contributed to hundreds of books, predominantly on historical subjects. He is also a keen war gamer and model maker. This was perhaps an appropriate time for Peter to talk about painting Great War battle scenes for the Osprey Campaign titles as he is retiring from the series next year so that he can pursue other areas of artistic activity. He talked about briefs and authors, how the image is put together, the editorial process and how the paintings are made. He brought an armful of originals to hand around and the evening became a general conversation about the pieces which allowed him to answer questions members had about the business of battle-painting.

In addition to the Osprey series, much of his work is also devoted to war gaming and production of the artwork for the models for the table-top battles, particularly through the publisher Helion who have

done so much to make publications on Great War subjects affordable for the general interest reader, rather than as is often the case, the academics.

Peter then stepped up and whilst he was talking he circulated amongst the members something like 20 to 30 of his original artworks, all of which were First World War subjects for all to have a look. These have appeared in the Osprey series of books, a publisher who covers a vast range (including WW1) of military history subjects. To some laughter from the audience, Peter said that his interest in military history had evolved when he first saw, as a child, an episode on TV of *Wagon Train* which had shown some of the principal character's involvement with the American Civil War. Peter went on to say the business of illustration is a curious one, and explained getting through Art School, working on pictures for childrens' books, before finding his way to Osprey where many of those whose illustrations he had admired as child reading *'Look and Learn'* magazine, were now working. Osprey, Peter said, don't pay particularly well - but you are kept busy - a blessing when you are freelance!



The illustrators job, when you are working for Osprey, is to convert a wad of paper into an illustration and these pictures are painted 50% bigger (at least) than the final printed copy. You have to work closer with the author of the book...who perhaps writes something like...."*the cavalry charged over the hill..*" and this then faced with the artist who says '*Hill....what was the hill like ?*' or '*Cavalry...what cavalry ...?.....How were they armed....How big were the horses ?...what colour were the horses ?*'. This forces the authors into a grinding world where they sort all of this stuff out and the illustrator finds himself, occasionally, with all sorts of problems. To explain this he showed several pictures which he had done for a board game being produced by the Imperial War Museum. Having read the brief, you start off with a simple pencil drawing of what it should look like which then goes to the editorial people who say....yes, yes...hmm no, no....in effect you go through a process of negotiation until you come up with something you think is suitable - then you paint it.....but those commissioning it say '*...hmm..there is too much war in it !*'. Anyway, at the end of the day it was accepted!

Peter went on to say he comes across authors who have '*Aphantasia*' ...something he said he had never heard of - but which he subsequently found out is the '*inability to create an image in your head from a written description*' and he used as an example of a an author wanting an illustration of a Lewis gun mounted on the upper wing of a WW1 biplane, plenty of blue sky with tracer bullets shooting off....and a clear view of the pilot`s face....! But, as Peter pointed out....if you wanted the gun, wing, sky, bullets etc...the view would need to have been shown in a perspective from *behind* the pilot - so it would not be possible to show the pilot`s face.

All the while Peter was talking, very much in a relaxed mode, his pictures were making their rounds.



This picture, a centrefold in one of the Osprey books shows British and German troops clashing in a trench.



Peter admitted he was not an expert on the First World War, he had had to become very much an expert on *appearance* and how as a child he had been captivated by the detailed figures of the soldier and child on Alfreton War memorial.

He then suggested that it would be best to take questions during the presentation, rather than wait until the end. Member Andrew Kenning asked what artists medium he used to create the pictures, to which Peter answered acrylic ink made by Daler Rowney, delivered by an airbrush. Andrew followed up by asking if Peter used a formula to be able to create the same colour, perhaps at a later stage in the painting. No, was the simple answer and when Andrew asked again about how long it took to produce a painting such as was being circulated, Peter replied, on average 30 hours.

In response to a question about copyright, Peter answered that the copyright belongs to Osprey although, he, the artist can hold the original and dispose of it as he sees fit, but on the clear understanding it cannot be

reproduced or copied in any other publications.

Peter went on to say that one advantage of working for Osprey was it gave you the opportunity to work with some wonderful people - the authors of the various books - including Alex Turner, who is now a Colonel in The Irish guards - an expert on mining, in particular that around Vimy Ridge. Won the DSO in Afghanistan.

Peter then related a tale about Albert Ball VC. He started by saying he got into WW1 aviation on the back of Biggles books, especially the early ones. Now, Peter said his grandad - a WW1 veteran - had been a milkman and had gone to France with the Yeomanry cavalry. Upon arrival in France they paraded, with their horses on a football pitch, when on marched a company of Sikhs, complete with lances, who proceeded to mount the Yeomanry horses and ride off - leaving the English soldiers to spend the rest of their war as infantry. Peter`s grandad took ill whilst in France and was invalided out. In later years Peter was talking to his grandad about Albert Ball and how he had been a Nottingham lad and had in fact been the son of the Lord Mayor of the city, his grandad said - `oh, I know - I used to deliver their milk`. So, Peter said, you are looking at the man whose grandad delivered milk to Albert ball VC! - cue much laughter !

And so the evening continued with Peter regaling us with numerous tales and anecdotes.

Peter, then moved on to his war gaming subjects - particularly paper soldiers - of which he had brought a few and laid them out in sections on a table.

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 PETER DENNIS with easy rules by Andy Callan

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 PETER DENNIS with easy rules by Andy Callan

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 PETER DENNIS with easy rules by Andy Callan

WARGAME THE JACOBITE '45

WARGAME THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR 1805
 EVERY SHIP IN BOTH FLEETS IN PROFILE
 FLORIAN RICHTER and Peter Dennis

WARGAME THE CASTLE ASSAULT
 SIEGES AND BATTLES EDWARD I TO BANNOCKBURN
 PETER DENNIS with easy rules by Andy Callan

WARGAME THE ROMAN INVASION AD 43
 PETER DENNIS with easy rules by Andy Callan

WARGAME THE SPANISH ARMADA 1588
 PETER DENNIS with easy rules by Andy Callan

WARGAME 1066 SAXONS • VIKINGS NORMANS
 PETER DENNIS with easy rules by Andy Callan

Much of his recent work has been for the publisher Helion and Peter passed out a few of the recent books to let members see his artwork and how the `paper` - actually thin card - soldiers go together. To most folks surprise the little figures, particularly when in ranks look very much `3D`



So, how does he create these pieces, and this Peter explained.

Firstly he draws the strips at 200% size onto pre-printed 'cells' (an animation term he has adopted), on tracing paper. 56mm to eye-level gives him a 28mm final figure. Pencil first. He's going for a Celtic charge pose for the unit. Pictured above are some of the Britons for the Roman invasion book. Then he completes the pencil followed by drawing with a Staedtler pen. The drawing line can't be too fine as the reduction is large. Then he scores and folds the cell, making sure that it lines up. He uses a .3 pen to trace the outline, then starts to work on the back view in pencil. When happy with that the drawing is completed in pen. Then the cells are reduced to 100% and glued down onto the page artwork sheet. He likes to use the 19th century method of working out of respect for my imagerie D' Epinal forbears. That, and he emphasized he does not use any fancy computer software not having any fancy software...The artwork sheets are then painted at printed size. On an illustration, he would work at 150% of the printed size. However, he wants these to look like well-painted 28mm flats and by doing it this way, he is in better control of the final look.

Once again, an excellent evening what with Peter Harris and 'Mephisto' and then the very different - and very interesting - presentation by Peter Dennis. I am sure all our attendees went away thinking that they had seen and heard something quite different at WFA Chesterfield - thanks to both Peters !!

Commemorations in the Media

In the last Newsletter, in his `From the Chair` notes, Tony Bolton, mentioned Commemorations and included the following statement ".... the real section of society forgotten or at least largely overlooked by the media has been the contribution of the ordinary British soldier, sailor or airman of whom as we know literally millions served."

Now there may be some whose views on this are at variation with Tony, but not all...as the undernoted letter from Mr Robert Ilett, WFA member and former (until he retired) Legal Trustee for the national WFA, to his local newspaper (Worksop Guardian), draws similar conclusions. But first the articles in the paper upon which Robert has passed comment.

If anyone has comments to make on this - indeed on any subject, whether a follow up to anything in this Newsletter or otherwise, please get in touch. Thanks

Nearly 100 years ago the guns fell silent on the world's first truly global war. Friday, August 3, marks 100 days to go until we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armistice. The Royal British Legion believes it is time to think about all of those who lived through this tragic and remarkable time - and who put Britain on the path to becoming what it is today. The Royal British Legion says it's time to say a lasting 'Thank You'. Neil Pickford reports.

ARMISTICE

100
1918 2018

What they gave us

Pioneers in the First World War were driven to innovate and find new solutions. In medicine, doctors and nurses vastly increased our understanding and use of x-rays, blood transfusions, and reconstructive surgery. And if you've ever used a tea-bag or worn a wristwatch, you can thank the necessity during the war for making them commonplace items.

There are many products that we use on a daily basis and don't even think about where they originated and how they came to be a part of everyday life. The First World War was a time of great innovation - and not just in military terms. Products that owe their development to the

war include items such as tea bags, wristwatches, zips and tissues.

We use many colloquial phrases in Britain today, but have you ever wondered where they come from?

The phrase shell shock is a good example, understood in general terms to describe a state of severe disbelief or surprise. It's one of many phrases that dates back to the First World War.

Arts and Culture were impacted by the experiences of a generation poets, artists and composers who experienced the First World War.

Today we still enjoy the works of Wilfred Owen, Gustav Holst, Robert Graves, J R R Tolkien, Edward Elgar and many more.



War poet Rupert Brooke and munitions workers in Sheffield



“On Remembrance Sunday, November 11th 2018 it will be exactly 100 years since the end of the First World War. It was a war like no other, before or since. And it was a war that shaped the future of our nation and the rest of the world.

Of course many people`s lives were directly affected by the loss of a husband, wife, son or daughter, brother or sister. But even those who did not lose a loved one saw their lives changed irreversibly by the four years of war. And that same war set in motion events that have shaped how we lead our lives 100 years later. This year the Royal British Legion wants to say thank you to all those who played their part in the war effort, including the millions back home, hundreds of miles from the front line. The organisation also wants to recognise the huge changes that the war sparked.

By the end of the conflict more than one million British and Empire forces were amongst the dead and a further 1.25 million were injured, a fifth of these being disabled for life. Four million soldiers returned home to find a shortage of housing and jobs, and a struggling economy. Despite this, the Royal British Legion says they brought the same resolve to peace that they had shown in war, helping to rebuild Britain.

But those who had been left at home played a huge role in the First World War, particularly women, which in turn, helped to change the role of women in Britain forever. They served as nurses in field hospitals and at home in munitions factories. Their vital role in supporting the war effort meant being an integral part of the workforce in the UK, however, before the First World War this was not the case, although progress was slow, the First World War changed women`s place in society and demonstrated that they were the physical and intellectual equal of men. Edwardian women were expected to be mothers, carers and homemakers. But with the men leaving to fight in the war, women had to take on the jobs of those who were serving. From 1914 millions took on jobs traditionally held by men, such as factory work. More than 1.5 million women flooded into these industries and others to replace men away at the front. In 1914 just over two million worked in factories, by the end of the war it was three million. For the first time large numbers of women worked in the civil service, businesses, banks, shops, transport and farming. Many women who had been in solitary occupations prior to the war, such as domestic service, revelled in the `sisterhood` of larger groups. Although many were forced to quit their industrial jobs to make way for men returning from the war, their role in the war had fundamentally changed how society regarded them and in 1918 around 8.5 million women got the vote.

The First World War also affected the lives of the youngest of civilians. Children across Britain contributed by working in war factories, turning their school fields into allotments to help produce food or as boy scouts and girl guides taking extra responsibilities working as coast guards or helping MI5. Girls were entrusted to carry confidential messages for MI5, after boy scouts were considered too talkative and excitable. Today, at over 100 years old Girl Guiding is still going strong, existing to inspire community spirit among young women and girls. And it should be remembered that during the First World War, the legal age for military service was 18 and for armed service overseas it was 19. However, 250,000 young men end up volunteering to fight in the war.”

Article based on information published by the Royal British Legion at <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/remembrance/ww1-centenary/>

David died 'for gallant cause'

Soldier shot through the head

DAVID HERCULES GREEN

David was born in Eastwood in 1896, the first child of George William and Kate Green, née Buttery.

They later moved to Carlton, where they had three more children – Elsie, George William and Charles Frederick – before moving again, to Devonshire Street, Worksop. David was working as a brass moulder at a grate manufacturer prior to enlisting on November 4, 1912.

He joined C Squadron, 1st Battalion, Nottinghamshire Yeomanry (Sherwood Rangers) and saw action in Dardanelles, Egypt, Salonika and latterly in Palestine.

In July 1916, en route from Salonika to Egypt, the ship he was sailing on was torpedoed and he lost all his belongings.

ARMISTICE

100
1918 2018

A new Nottinghamshire Great War Memorial is being developed as the centrepiece to commemorations marking 100 years since the end of the First World War.

It will feature the names of all 14,000 Notts soldiers, sailors, airmen and civilians from who lost their lives in the First World War on the same monument for the first time.

In the run-up to the centenary of the Armistice we are telling the stories behind some of the names from this area who will appear on the new memorial.

Roll of honour

Local authorities across Nottinghamshire and Nottingham, including Nottinghamshire County Council and Bassetlaw District Council, have pledged a total of £270,000 for the project. It is hoped the remaining £50,000 needed will be made up of donations from local people and businesses. To donate, visit nost.org.uk/roll-of-honour

After landing, he had to track across part of the Great Desert, a journey which took 19 days.

He was killed in action near Jerusalem on November 28, 1917, aged 22.

In a letter to his parents, on February 8, 1918 Brigadier Lang wrote: "His loss to the squadron is a severe one.

"He was a fine lad, straight and courageous, and it seems hard that fate should select such a fine example of an Englishman to pay the severest penalty.

"He was killed in a gallant cause and, but for him and the Brigade to which he belonged, things would have gone hard with another Brigade we were supporting.

"He was buried on the heights a few miles south west of Jerusalem, death being immediate, as he was shot through the head. "I shall always picture him as I saw him the day before. He was wearing an Australian hat and standing watching the evening in the distance. He was at an advanced point that day and when I rode up to him he was taking stock of the enemy as to their strength etc.

"He was always cool and very resourceful and the confidence he gave me was extraordinary."



David Hercules Green.

Dear Sir,

Your report of the death of the Sherwood Rangers' Trooper David Green in Palestine on the eve of the capture of Jerusalem from the Ottoman Turks 100 years ago carried all the solemnity and dignity which his sacrifice justified. It was not only David who lost his belongings when on 24 June 1917 H.M.T. Cestrian, on route from Salonika to Egypt, was sunk in the Aegean Sea as the same happened to the 27 officers and 529 other ranks of the regiment. All the men and two dogs were saved but 610 horses went down with the ship. This tragic loss left its mark on many of the Rangers for the rest of their lives.

Therefore, it is a pity that in the same issue you carry a 'Feature' by Neil Pickford which contains a major inaccuracy as to the date for the end of the war and which appears to me to over emphasize peripheral points. It leaves an impression that the war was significant because of the activities of former Public School boy poets and the works of composers whose music would have been entirely unknown to the men who served in the trenches. The young women featured, who did such marvellous work in the war, were not even given the vote in 1918 without any objection from the Suffragette movement. These girls were deemed to be too young to have the judgement to vote. After all the Suffragette campaign had been to give only 'posh' women with the property qualification the vote.

The real issue for most Britons was to defeat the German Imperial Army in the field so that at the very least our troops could come home and the people of Belgium and North Eastern France, who had been treated so cruelly by the Germans over the last four years, could have their lands restored to them. The major instruments for forcing victory in 1918 were the British Armies with their citizens in uniform who could fairly be described as Lions led by the Jaguar young officers who had learned their craft so well during the course of the war.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Ilett

The Munitions Crisis - part 15

The significance of this testimony was this - and the Minister then quoted from the report of the investigators `....the trade unionist witness regretted having to acknowledge that the workmen in several departments restricted the output in order to achieve the prices obtained before the war and this was continued up until the present time`. Lloyd George then asked his audience if that behaviour was not carrying out the unions` side of the bargain. It was recorded that the crowded assembly of trade union representatives listened to this plain speaking, not only without resentment but with increasing appreciation.



A week later there was a conference of trade union executives to discuss dilution, and a series of resolutions favourable to the plan was adopted. Following from this expression of approval a Central Munitions Labour Supply Committee was set up, containing representatives of the Ministry, the Employers and the Employed, presided over by Arthur Henderson (left) which proceeded to cooperate with the Ministry in organising labour dilution and dealing with the multitudinous problems of wage rates and local conditions of employment, transfer of labour etc., which arose in this connection.

By the end of 1915 labour troubles were interfering seriously in some areas with the output of munitions. It was suspected that in some cases the failure of a company to deliver up to schedule was due to a certain degree of slackness and inefficiency on the part of the management, but in a great many cases it was traceable to the men inside the works who deliberately fostered discontent. The trouble did not come from the trade unions or their officials, they honourably adhered to their agreement with the state, but from a `shop steward` movement which arose in the biggest of munitions works. These `stewards` in a given factory were chosen by the workers to present grievances to the management. They felt they must justify their existence by searching out wrongs which had escaped the notice of the local trade union secretary. It gradually became a formidable element of disturbance in the largest munitions areas. Glasgow was one of the worst districts and the agitation seriously interfered with the output, especially with the delivery of big naval guns from the Parkhead Forge works of the William Beardmore company. The Minister decided to visit the works to see for himself what the problem was and to put before the men and their leaders the exact facts with regards to the military situation and the peril in which their fellow workmen, fighting at the front were placed by the absence of heavy artillery the absence of which was making it difficult for them to contend with their foes on equal terms.

Accompanied by Arthur Henderson, Lloyd George arrived in Glasgow on Christmas Eve and both went directly to Beardmore`s plant where the delivery of heavy guns, both naval and artillery was being seriously retarded by labour difficulties. The shop stewards were brought together and the Minister told them his reasons for coming and appealed for their assistance in stimulating greater activity in production. One man, who appeared to be their leader, came to the front and started to harangue Lloyd George and Henderson regarding the servitude of labour in private establishments. His appearance was that of a strong man, with a fine, open face, the natural pleasantness of which was overlaid by a theatrical frown which he had succeeded in

implanting upon a kindly countenance. He struck with an attitude, and in a loud, challenging voice declared `I am as much a slave of Sir William Beardmore as if I had the letter `B` branded upon my forehead. This was Lloyd George`s first encounter with David Kirkwood.



Kirkwood, born in 1872, was educated at Parkhead Public School and his earliest political involvement was through his trade union, the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, and the Socialist Labour Party, which he left in 1914 to join the Independent Labour Party (ILP). He was elected to the House of Commons in 1922, where he remained until retiring in 1951. Lloyd George found that Kirkwood was fundamentally a reasonable man to deal with and he promised that if Henderson put the Government`s case before a free assembly of workers, he would endeavour to ensure that Henderson got a fair hearing. There was another spokesman who appeared to both the Minister and Henderson to be a natural savage and he came right up to Lloyd George in a threatening manner, talking in an ill-tempered and angry voice but it has to be said most of his comrades were less than happy with his behaviour.



Later on Lloyd George and Henderson were introduced to William Gallagher (left), a communist whose manners were quite perfect and whose tones were soft but he left no doubt in the minds of Lloyd George and Henderson that his was the most sinister influence. Gallacher was opposed to British involvement in the war. He was Chairman of the Clyde Workers Committee, an organisation that was formed to organise Clydeside workers and, in particular, to campaign against the Munitions of War Act 1915, which forbade engineers to leave the works in which they were employed. In 1916 the Clyde Workers' Committee journal, *The Worker*, was prosecuted under the Defence of the Realm Act for an article criticising the war. Gallacher and the editor John Muir were both found guilty and sent to prison, Gallacher for six months and Muir for a year.

On Christmas morning Lloyd George and Arthur Henderson addressed a great gathering of workmen at the St. Andrew`s Hall in Glasgow, Henderson chairing the meeting. Four fifths of the men were anxious to hear all that was being said but a significant minority were determined to disturb the proceedings and deprive the Minister and Henderson of a hearing, particularly the latter who was given a hard time. Lloyd George was heard quite well with only a few surmountable interruptions. Kirkwood played the game and stood up in the middle of the most turbulent elements and pleaded for a fair hearing. The visit, for a time at least had a quieting effect and a quickening effect upon production. However, some weeks later there was further trouble at Beardmores and strong action had to be taken with Gallacher amongst others being prosecuted.

The government were far from having reached a state of victory, there was still some entrenched obstructions and restrictions to be overcome, and it would take time and much effort to overcome the well-grounded suspicions of the Trade Unions and the workers they represented. In this case the roots of these suspicions were so deep that they had resisted the shattering bombardment of a year of unmitigated horror. Throughout the autumn of 1915 discussion and disagreement continued as to the application of the principle of dilution and in December Lloyd George brought forward the Munitions of War (Amendment) Bill in order to give statutory force to the various points upon which agreement had been reached. Even at this

stage the Amalgamated Society of Engineers was still holding out and when the Bill had reached its committee stage they sent a deputation to wait on the Prime Minister, Asquith and the Minister of Munitions, Lloyd George, armed with a resolution, declaring that series of amendments which they proposed.....

“....are essential as an element of justice in the administration of the Munitions of War Act, 1915, and should be incorporated in the amended Act if we are to maintain influence with our members in securing the high standard of production required. Further, that a Committee representative of the conference be instructed to wait upon the Prime Minister and the Minister of Munitions and intimate the decision of this conference as the basis of our continued cooperation”

The veiled threat in the last line of this resolution stirred Asquith to anger. When challenged the deputation protested that they had not meant it that way and that all they wanted was to secure the various provisions of the protection of wage levels and conditions of employment that had been set out in two circulars issued by the Ministry. Lloyd George challenged them to produce evidence of a single instance where an unskilled man, in a controlled establishment had been refused these rates. Brownlie, secretary of the Engineers Union admitted that they could not. Lloyd George then said he would be willing to incorporate the provisions of the two circulars into the Bill, if, on the Union`s side they would henceforward guarantee that they really would cooperate with the dilution scheme and not merely fall back upon some new demand as a pretext for doing nothing.

To be continued

Scottish sailor's remains found in France identified 100 years on

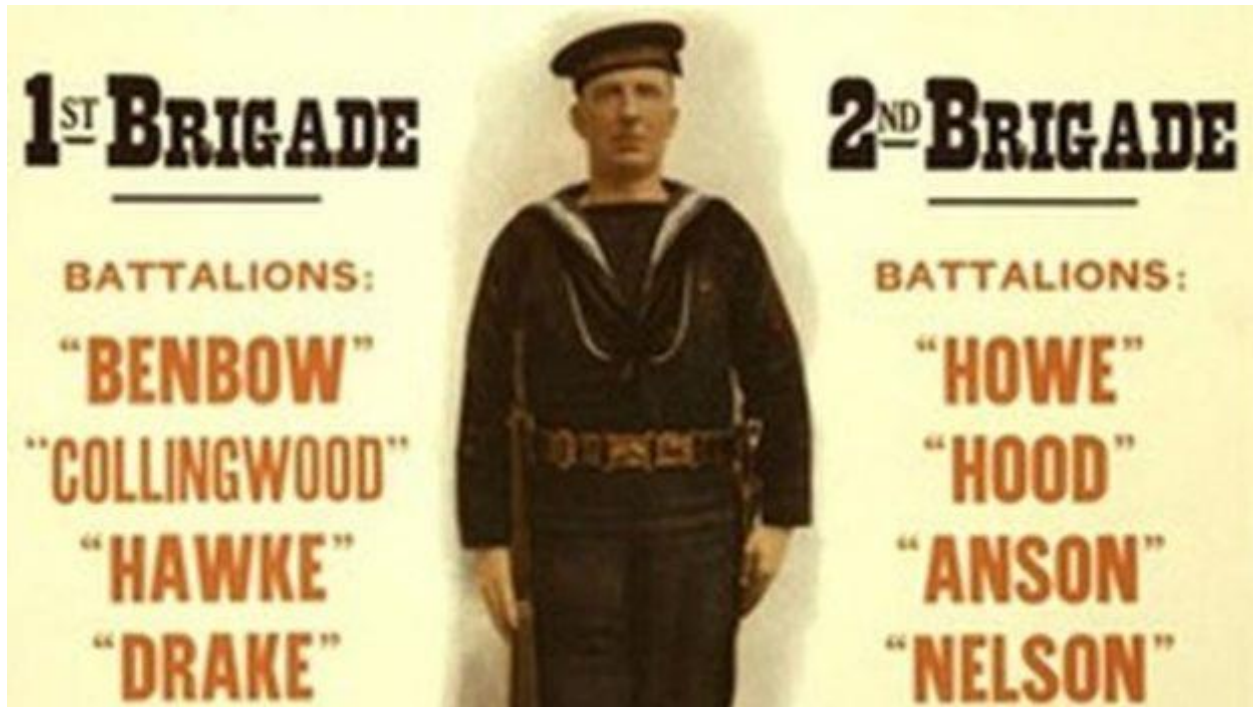
25 April 2018



A Scottish sailor whose remains were found near a World War One battlefield has been identified after 100 years.

The MoD previously said it was hoping to trace relatives of two men killed during the Battle of Gavrelle to undergo a DNA test. But a match was confirmed after an amateur genealogist who read a **BBC Scotland story on the appeal** traced a nephew of James Cameron Robertson.

The able seamen from the Royal Naval Division were buried on 11 July. Mr Robertson and Andrew Turner Irvine, from the same regiment, both died on 28 April 1917. The sailors are commemorated on the Arras Memorial in France. But a set of human remains, found in 2016 while a pipe was being laid, has now provided answers for one family.



Relatives of Mr Robertson attended a full military burial service in July. Researchers at the JCCC narrowed down the list of missing sailors to two men, who were both 5ft 2in, after the remains were discovered outside Arras in northern France.

The division, which was created by Winston Churchill at the beginning of conflict, consisted of two brigades along infantry lines and ended up fighting in almost all the major battles during the war.



Mr Robertson was born in Aberdeen in 1891 to John Mckay Robertson and Helen Cameron. He joined the Royal Naval Division at the beginning of the war and served with the Hood Battalion, fighting in Gallipoli and Northern France. After recovering from a combat-related injury, Mr Robertson was drafted to the Anson Battalion in January 1917. According to his service record, his last known address was 27 Raeburn Place, Aberdeen.



CHESTERFIELD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Be part of the Chesterfield community poppy cascade

We need thousands of poppies to create a cascade on either side of Chesterfield Town Hall to commemorate 100 years since the end the First World War.

You can help by:

- Knitting or crocheting poppies
- Donating wool or felt.

You can pick up a free pattern and also drop off your poppies at the Town Hall.

The last date for collection is
Friday 2 November 2018

Contact Rob Nash on 01246 550 516
or email:
mayors.office@chesterfield.gov.uk
for more information or collections.



Be a part of the Chesterfield Community poppy cascade



Community poppy cascade

This year Chesterfield will come together to commemorate 100 years since the end of the First World War. Why not get together to knit or crochet poppies (pattern and instructions provided) which will be hung either side of the Town Hall steps during the commemorative period to create a stunning cascade.

Get involved

You can start anytime and your poppies can be taken to a number of outlets in Chesterfield, see the website for information. The last date for collection is Friday 2nd November 2018.

Tell us how you are getting on

Keep us informed of your fundraising events and how many poppies you've made by contacting: jenny.flood@chesterfield.gov.uk or mayors.office@chesterfield.gov.uk or calling 01246 345 239.

I can't knit

Don't worry, we have trainers who can help you and videos you can learn from.

Can I crochet a poppy?

Yes, the pattern can also be used for crochet.

If you can't knit or crochet you could make a poppy out of red felt.

Funding

We are seeking various funding streams but are asking local charities to donate the needles and crochet hooks and businesses to supply money or wool to help us.

Can I do it at home?

Of course, and we can help to get you started and support you.

How can I help?

Spread the word, hold fundraising events to buy the wool, needles and hooks.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE REMEMBERS THE GREAT WAR

11 November 2018 marks **100 years** since the end of World War 1. The County Council is hosting a series of events, including an open air film screening of *War Horse* and a Heritage Day at Rufford Abbey Country Park, to commemorate the centenary of the end of the war and the sacrifice of men and women from across Nottinghamshire.

A lasting legacy to our Great War heroes

The culmination of the First World War commemorations will see the creation of a new memorial, located at the Victoria Embankment in Nottingham, which will feature the names of all 14,000 Nottinghamshire and Nottingham fallen during the Great War. Names of both forces personnel and civilians will be included on the memorial.

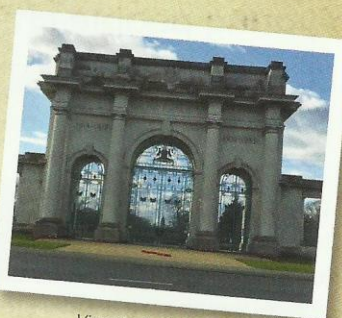
The memorial project is being led jointly by the County and City Councils, in partnership with other local authorities, businesses and military associations. It is hoped that a proportion of funding for the project can be raised through public donations.

Since 2013, volunteers have been carrying out the painstaking task of compiling the Nottinghamshire Great War Roll of Honour – an online database of all the county's Great War fallen, including their place of birth, family history, military information, where they are buried and the location of any memorials bearing their name. This was part of the wider Trent to Trenches project, a countywide programme of events and activities to commemorate 100 years since the start of the Great War.

The names of people listed in the Roll of Honour will be used in the creation of the new memorial.

You can view the Roll of Honour and/or submit further information at nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rollofhonour

Find out more about the events and projects commemorating the end of The Great War
nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nottsremembers



Victoria Embankment Memorial



WW1 hero honoured 100 years after daring submarine raid



Lieutenant Richard Sandford died 12 days after the armistice was signed on 11 November 1918

A man awarded the Victoria Cross (VC) for leading a daring naval raid during World War One has been commemorated on the centenary of the event. Lt Richard Sandford, from Exmouth, Devon, blew up his submarine at the entrance to Zeebrugge port in 1918, in order to block German U-boats. After the raid, he and his crew escaped in a rowing boat before being rescued. The flagstone honouring his heroics has been laid in his hometown during a dedication service.



Members of Lt Sandford's family attended the dedication service, led by United States Navy Chaplain the Rev Mike Beasley, in Exmouth

Lt Sandford's operation was part of the Zeebrugge Raid on 22 and 23 April 1918, which was an attempt by the Royal Navy to block off the Belgian port to German vessels and therefore keep them out of the English Channel.

Zeebrugge Raid 1918



A battery gun at the entrance to the pier at Zeebrugge

- Zeebrugge was an outlet for German U-boats and destroyers into the English Channel
- The British plan involved sinking three old cruisers in the canal channel to block it
- The three boats would have to pass the harbour mole (pier) with a battery at the end, before being scuttled
- The mole was stormed but the battery remained in place
- Two of the ships were sunk in place, but the Germans soon managed to make a new channel around them
- Eleven men were awarded the Victoria Cross for their role in the raid

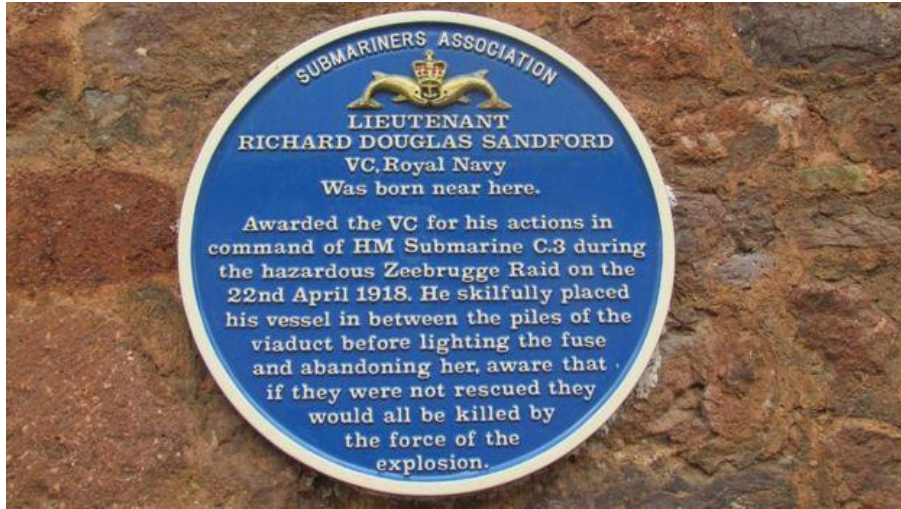


Lt Sandford sailed to Belgium with a volunteer crew of four

Aged 26, he was a lieutenant commanding an HM Submarine C3 - one of two old submarines filled with explosives were to be used to blow up the viaduct connecting the mole - a large solid structure serving as a pier - to the shore.

As part of the same operation, about 200 Royal Marines were to be landed in an attempt to destroy German gun positions.

However, the first submarine did not make it to Belgium in time and the marines suffered heavy casualties after coming under fire.



A blue plaque hangs on the wall of the house in Exmouth where Lt Sandford's mother lived

Lt Sandford's VC citation revealed he managed to place his submarine beneath the viaduct which connected the mole with the shore, before laying his fuse and abandoning ship.

The Victoria Cross dedication service is part of the World War One centenary commemoration campaign to honour recipients of the bravery award.

The citation read:

On 22/23 April 1918 at Zeebrugge, Lieutenant Sandford commanding HM Submarine C.3, skilfully placed the vessel between the piles of the viaduct which connected the Mole with the shore, before laying his fuse and abandoning her. He disdained to use the gyro steering which would have enabled him and his crew to abandon the submarine at a safe distance, but preferred to make sure that his mission would be successful.

Sandford died of typhoid fever at Eston Hospital, 12 days after the signing of the Armistice, and the day after his last command, HMS G11, had been wrecked on rocks off Howick, Northumberland.

His VC, which is displayed at the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, was one of 628 handed out during and after World War One.

GARY SHEFFIELD

August 13 2018, 12:01am, The Times

The Great War was neither futile nor glorious but a grim necessity

Gary Sheffield

We must remember that the majority of Britons thought the First World War was worth fighting



August 8, 1918 marked the beginning of the end of the First World War. At 4.20am Australian, British, Canadian and French infantry, supported by artillery of awesome power, and by tanks, aircraft and cavalry, attacked German defences near the French city of Amiens. By nightfall the Allies had advanced eight miles. By the standards of trench warfare, with gains measured in yards, this advance was remarkable. Erich Ludendorff, de facto German commander-in-chief, later called August 8, 1918 “the black day of the German army in the history of the war”.

Three weeks earlier, a powerful French-led counteroffensive (the Second Battle of the Marne) had halted a major German attack. Having decisively seized the initiative, at Amiens the Allies exercised it to devastating effect. The German army never recovered from the blow it received on August 8. From then until November 11, 1918 Germany was faced with a perfect storm. Relentless Allied attacks on the battlefields of France and Flanders inflicted defeat after defeat on the German army and drove it backwards. In the process German military morale was badly damaged, from Ludendorff’s down to the lowliest infantryman. Away from the Western Front, Germany’s allies surrendered or simply disintegrated. The German home front progressively collapsed in the face of the British naval blockade, which was starving the population, and the ineptitude of German authorities in distributing what food was available. By the second week of November German soldiers were surrendering in droves and revolution had broken out in German cities. Berlin decided to capitulate before things deteriorated any further.

The Battle of Amiens was a crucial stepping stone to victory. On the day after the Armistice was signed, a Canadian soldier wrote: “How much has happened since on the morning of August 8th

we were awakened out of our doze . . . [by] the big guns . . . How little we thought that in less than four months the victory would be won’.

Last Wednesday I was fortunate to attend the centenary commemoration at Amiens Cathedral. The ceremony, attended by Prince William and Theresa May, as well as representatives from Australia, Canada, France, Germany and the US, was impressive and moving, a triumph for all concerned. Very different but in its own way equally impressive was an event in which an international group of students on a battlefield tour run by UCL’s Institute of Education presented their research on the battle. In one crucial respect these events were different from the Somme and Passchendaele commemorations in 2016 and 2017. Those tapped deep into the British national psyche. By contrast, most of the British public had probably never heard of the Battle of Amiens until last week.

This ignorance is rooted in the popular view of the First World War as a futile, senseless disaster. Crudely put, Sassoon’s poems and *Blackadder* have had more influence than any history book. This was reflected in 2012, when David Cameron announced the list of major events to be commemorated. This omitted Amiens, or any of the Allied victories of 1918. A number of military historians and organisations, such as the Western Front Association, lobbied to put this right. To his great credit, the PM’s representative for the First World War commemorations, Andrew Murrison MP, listened to us and changed his mind.

To my mind, the greatest weakness of the commemorations has been the failure to portray the war as contemporaries saw it. Coming from a very different society, we struggle to grasp why British men and women of 100 years ago were prepared to endure sacrifice on a such a vast scale. Yet the historical record is clear. In Britain, the vast majority of people thought the war was worth fighting, to defend their homes and the Empire against a dangerous enemy. The country in 1914 was a democracy, albeit an incomplete one, governed on liberal principles. For such a state to wage a total war, involving not just the armed forces but the whole of society, the consent of the masses was essential. By-and-large, in First World War Britain that consent was given.

Today it is easy to say that our ancestors were wrong, that the vast loss of life was simply not worth the issues at stake. This is to use hindsight. Belgian refugees reaching Britain with terrible stories of the behaviour of the Germans in their homeland reinforced determination to fight on. German shelling of English coastal towns, initiation of chemical warfare, Zeppelin raids on London – all these stoked hatred and fear of a ruthless enemy. In 1918, the harsh peace terms imposed by Germany on the Russian Bolshevik regime left little doubt as to the fate of Britain should it be defeated. After Amiens, British soldiers were greeted by French and Belgian civilians as liberators from four years of harsh occupation – a fact largely forgotten by modern Britons.

The Amiens ceremony reflected something of these wartime attitudes, perhaps for the first time since the commemorations began in 2014. It testified to the achievement of the Allied armies and nations in 1918. The appalling cost in human life was not downplayed, but unlike earlier events it was not blanketed in an aura of “futility”. Nor was there even a hint of triumphalism. The ceremony struck exactly the right note. Let’s hope that the same will be true of the commemoration of the Armistice on November 11.

Gary Sheffield is professor of war studies at the University of Wolverhampton