



CHESTERFIELD WFA

Newsletter and Magazine issue 37

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**Welcome to Issue 37 - the January 2019
Newsletter and Magazine of Chesterfield
WFA.**



**The next meeting of the Branch will be on Tuesday
January 8th at 7.30pm. Following the Branch AGM,
Branch Chair, Tony Bolton, will present a review of
1919, the first year after the November 1918
Armistice.**

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 2019

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

January	8th	Jan.8th Branch AGM followed by a talk by Tony Bolton (Branch Chairman) on the key events of the first year after the Armistice.
February	5th	Making a welcome return to Chesterfield after a gap of several years is Dr Simon People who will discuss the `Versailles Conference of 1919`
March	5th	A first time visitor and speaker at Chesterfield Branch will be Stephen Barker whose topic will be the `Armistice 1918 and After`
April	2nd	No stranger to the Branch Peter Hart will be making his annual pilgrimage to Chesterfield. His presentation will be “Aces Falling: War Over the Trenches 1918”
May	7th	John Beckett Professor of English Regional History, Faculty of Arts at the University of Nottingham - `The Chilwell Explosion Revisited`
June	4th	Rob Thompson - always a popular visitor to Chesterfield Branch. We all tend to think of recycling as a `modern` phenomenon but in Wombles of the Western Front- Salvage on the Western Front` Rob examines the work of salvage from its small beginnings at Battalion level to the creation of the giant corporation controlled by GHQ.
July	2nd	In Dr John Bourne we have one of the top historians of The Great War and he is going to talk about `JRR Tolkein and the 11th Lancashire Fusiliers on the Somme`
August	6th	Carol Henderson is an emerging historian making her first visit to Chesterfield, she will talk about the `Manpower Crisis 1917-1918`
September	3rd	Back with us for a second successive year is Dr Graham Kemp who will discuss `The Impact of the economic blockade of Germany AFTER the armistice and how it led to WW2`
October	1st	Another debutant at the Chesterfield Branch but he comes highly recommended is Rod Arnold who will give a naval presentation on the `Battle of Dogger Bank - Clash of the Battlecruisers`
November	5th	Chairman of the Lincoln Branch of the WFA, Jonathan D`Hooghe , will present on the “7th Sherwood Foresters - The Robin Hood Rifles”
December	3rd	Our final meeting of 2019 will be in the hands of our own Tim Lynch with his presentation on “One Hundred Years of Battlefield Tourism”

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A Personal Note from the Chair (30)

As this is the first newsletter of 2019 may I take the opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy and successful new year, particularly those of you who are completing your MA dissertations this year and those who are expecting to graduate. You can be sure that Grant and I will be hoping you will share your researches with the branch by giving a talk in 2020.

Mentioning families reminded me that just before Christmas I was embarked on my annual Christmas shopping trip, one of the few I can't delegate to 'Mrs Bolton'. I was waiting for my return train in Nottingham station when I noticed that the East Midlands London train drawn up at the opposite platform boasted an unusual livery. Now I have a number of hobbies but trainspotting isn't normally one of them but in the best traditions of anoraks everywhere I took this photograph. As you should be able to see the train's name plate read *Sheffield City Battalion 1914-1918*. I am not sure if this is the only East Midlands Train to carry the title of a Kitchener's battalion but I thought it was a nice gesture to the centenary albeit that I hadn't actually seen it until after the Centenary ended.



On a sadder note I have to record that on 11 December the Memorial Service for our late colleague Charles Beresford was held at his local Parish Church in Matlock Bath, it was attended by a number of branch members and I was extremely honoured to be asked by his family to say a few words.

Unfortunately the shenanigans at the WFA over the Butte de Warlencourt continues to rumble on, as far as I can tell some members of the Executive Committee are prepared to stand for re-election which is a testimony to their commitment to this organisation in the face of what has been a pretty unpleasant social media campaign by what increasingly appears to be a minority of people. I have seen a number of emails from branches which generally follow the same format – yes members were unhappy about the way the issue of the sale was presented but a general agreement that the right course of action was taken. As you may know the WFA National AGM will take place at RAF Cosford which is near Telford in April. It is likely to be an interesting meeting and I would urge branch members to try to attend. Votes will be taken at that meeting which could shape the future of the WFA. Nearer home I would also encourage you to attend the Branch AGM to either raise concerns or support your Committee, I look forward to seeing you then.

Tony Bolton Branch Chair

The Western Front Association's 2019 Calendar

is still 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.

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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](#)

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

Secretary's Scribbles



Welcome to issue 37 of the WFA Chesterfield Branch Newsletter and Magazine. May I take this opportunity of extending Best Wishes to all recipients of this Newsletter for 2019.

As is our practice, the January meeting (Tuesday 8th) will be in two parts - firstly the Branch AGM when we receive reports from the Chairman and Treasurer, followed by the election of office - bearers for the forthcoming year. 2018 saw the Branch have two 'firsts' - the commencement of the Book Discussion Group and a Branch outing to Lincoln to visit the Museum of Lincolnshire Life and later that day to attend the Lincoln Branch Great War

Seminar. These activities have in my opinion enriched the life of the Branch and I am now seeking suggestions from members as to what other activities we should have - another Branch Day Out perhaps, during this New Year.

As Tony Bolton has mentioned in his Chair notes, the 'heat' seems to have gone out of the unfortunate 'Butte' issue with folks having had time to reflect upon the issues and perhaps wiser counsel prevail. The WFA is not out of the woods with this situation yet, but hopefully it will be resolved to the overall satisfaction of the membership when the Annual General Meeting is held at Cosford in April.

Grant Cullen - Branch Secretary

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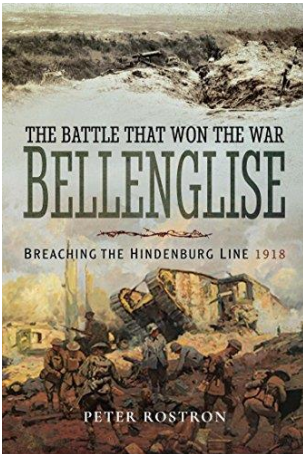
Book Group

We met for the third session of our book group on the 11 December. The book chosen was *The Journey's End Battalion: The 9th East Surrey in the Great War* by Michael Lucas published by Pen & Sword in 2012.

R.C. Sherriff, author of *Journey's End*, the most famous play of the Great War, saw all his frontline service with the 9th Battalion East Surrey Regiment. This intense experience profoundly affected his writing and, through his play, it continues to have a powerful influence on our understanding of the conflict. Yet the story of his battalion - known as 'The Gallants' after the bravery it displayed during the Battle of Loos - has never been told in full until now. In *The Journey's End Battalion*, Michael Lucas gives a vivid account of its history. Using official and unofficial sources, diaries, letters, and British and German wartime records, he describes the individuals who served in it and the operations they took part in. He identifies the inspiration for *Journey's End* and considers how Sherriff delved into his experiences and those of his fellow soldiers in order to create his drama. The narrative covers the battalion's bloody initiation at Loos, its role in the fighting on the Somme at Guillemont and Delville Wood and during the Third Battle of Ypres, then the part it played in the desperate defence against the German 1918 offensives and its contribution to the Allied advance to victory. Despite the presence of Sherriff and other notable individuals, the 9th East Surrey was in many ways typical of the southern Kitchener battalions, and Michael Lucas's account of its service provides a fascinating contrast with the northern Pals battalions whose story has been more often told. So not only does the book shed new light on the wartime experience

of R.C. Sherriff, but it is a valuable record of the operation of a British battalion on the Western Front during the Great War.

The group had all enjoyed the book. It was a contrast to the more academic books by Travers and Terraine we had read previously and being a battalion history with a literary connection it had more general interest and appeal. It led to quite a lot of discussion about command (at the battle of Loos in particular). Overall we liked the style and readability of the book and some of us had also watched the film of 'Journey's End' on YouTube. The author's son had contributed by translating parts of the war diaries of the German units that the 9th battalion had fought against and this added an interesting component to the book seeing the same events from the opposition's point of view.



The next meeting of the book group will be on Tuesday 19th February and the book chosen is *The Battle That Won the War - Bellenglise: Breaching the Hindenburg Line 1918* by Peter Rostron and published by Pen & Sword in 2018. Available from Amazon for £11.69, with the Kindle edition at £3.83

All welcome - whether or not you have read the book - come and join us for a great natter about all things WW1 - don't forget it's a 7pm start.

December Meeting

Branch Chair, Tony Bolton opened the meeting by welcoming all present before asking Committee member, Jon-Paul Harding to recite the immortal words of Binyon's 'Exhortation'. Tony then asked members to remain standing for a few moments to remember branch founder member, Charles Beresford, who passed away recently after a short illness. He also reminded members that there was to be a Service to celebrate Charles's life on December 11th at 11 am at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Matlock Bath. Branch Secretary, Grant Cullen then reminded members that the Book Group would be meeting in a week's time (11th) at 7pm in the downstairs bar. The book under discussion will be Michael Lucas's book 'The Journey's End Battalion - the 9th East Surrey in the Great War'. With regular branch business out of the way, Tony Bolton then introduced our speaker for the evening, Dr Phylomena Badsey.



Dr. Phylomena Badsey MA was awarded her PhD from Kingston University in 2005, its topic "The Political Thought of Vera Brittain" was the pinnacle of many years research into women and the Great War. In December 2010 she was awarded MA Second War Studies (with Merit). Dr Badsey is a frequent speaker for the Western Front Association, and Co-ordinator for the WFA Open Public Lecture Series (2014-2018) and is the WFA Universities Officer; she is regular speaker for the Women's Institute. St. John's Ambulance Brigade and the Rotary and Inner Wheel. Also is a Lecturer at the University of Wolverhampton on the BA (Hons) War Studies and MA Conflict Studies and the new MA in Second World War Studies: Conflict, Societies, Holocaust, she was the Project Manager for the First World War, Research Group, Faculty of Social Sciences Study Days 2013-2015.

Her most recent publication is a Chapter “Vera Brittain: War Reporter 1939-1945” in War, Journalism and History (Peter Lang 2012). She gave a paper in September 2013 in Tokyo at the National Institute for Defence Studies - part of the Japanese Ministry of Defence on the German occupation of the Channel Islands in the Second World War, which has been published in both English and Japanese.

In 2014 she gave a conference paper on ‘The British Red Cross at the start of the First World War’ at Birmingham Art Gallery. Also in 2014 she gave a paper on - The Anglo-Boer War - the training ground for British Nurses in the First World War. She gave a talk at The Grand Theatre Wolverhampton entitled “**Regeneration: Fact and Fiction**”

Following the outbreak of the First World War on 4 August 1914, the British Red Cross formed the Joint War Committee with the Order of St John. They worked together and pooled their fundraising activities and resources. The committee supplied services and machinery in Britain and in the conflict areas abroad. The organisation of auxiliary hospitals was an important aspect of the Joint War Committee activities during the war. Voluntary nurses - better known as Voluntary Aid Detachments (VADs) - were people who willingly gave their time to care for wounded patients. It was upon these subjects that Dr. Badsey was to make her presentation. Dr. Badsey opened by saying that this presentation was to be her last for 2018 and, indeed, for some time to come as she intended to take a break having been so busy over the past four anniversary years. Now was the time to go back to what we - the WFA - are very good at - organising branch activities and events. She said that we - all of us - had been very successful in educating and informing our local populations about the First World War.

A hidden aspect of medical provisions during the First World War was the role of Auxiliary Hospitals, which were vital and often the last link in the chain of evacuation for many wounded soldiers. From March 1915 onwards, Auxiliary Hospitals spread across Britain, 3000 of them, administered by Red Cross County Directors. The Auxiliary Hospitals ranged in size from those of a dozen beds to those of over 200 beds and were located in suitable, donated, private homes or former schools and colleges. The donors were often prominent in the local area and major employers or political leaders. The Auxiliary Hospitals were attached to Central Military Hospitals in their districts, the patients remaining under military control and discipline. The principal role of Auxiliary Hospitals was the care of convalescing patients, but the term ‘convalescent’ must be understood in the military context. These patients were still serving soldiers - the expectation of the hospitals and the civilian staff serving in them was that these men would be returned to active service as soon as they were fit enough again, this being the key role of all military hospitals, something which was clearly understood by the RAMC and the nurses of the Queen Alexandra’s Royal Nursing Service (QARNS) and other services who staffed these hospitals. No chronic cases were admitted to an Auxiliary Hospital nor anyone who was recuperating from long term rehabilitation, for example soldiers who had lost a limb. Treatment of such cases between the role of the Queen Mary’s Hospital at Roehampton House which was opened on the 28th June 1915. Patients stayed some 6 to 10 weeks (later this was reduced to 3 weeks). During Christmas 1915 the London Voluntary Aid Detachment took over the duties of the male staff, enabling them to take several days leave. Originally intended to have only 200 beds, the Hospital was forced to expand rapidly because of increasing military casualties. By 1917 some 11,000 officers and men had been treated since it had opened in 1915, and new patients were arriving at the rate of 100 a week. By the end of WW1 in 1918 it had 900 beds and a waiting list of over 4,000 patients. Of 42,000 limbless soldiers, some 26,000 had received prosthetic limbs at the Hospital, which had gained an international reputation as a leading limb-fitting and rehabilitation centre. The significance of what Roehampton House did 100 years ago is still very evident in the local community.

Other specialist hospitals were dotted all around the country treating, a range of conditions from cardiac, neurological, mental health, orthopaedic and venereal diseases. The largest venereal disease hospital was in Manchester.

Dr Badsey then described the chain of evacuation, which on the Western Front started at the Regimental Aid Post, then the Advanced Dressing station, the most vital role was to treat



It had over 1000 beds and very soon after the war started the Red Cross built an extension comprising of wooden huts which added a further 2500 beds.

A string of auxiliary military hospitals sprung up along the coast including, Sholdon Lodge at Deal in Kent, a nice, pretty, middle class home which was handed over and converted. This property belonged to the Mayor, James Edgar...do you think any of his five daughters had any choice in being trained as Voluntary Aid Detachments? Again, Dr Badsey said, she wanted us to understand that these were local initiatives involving local people, getting involved, right from the start.

In London Military Hospitals were set up in existing general hospitals and other large medical institutions. The Lewisham Hospital in south London was originally a public work-house and, as most of us know, the work-houses had a rather horrendous reputation, hence this place was not an ideal choice for local people to be involved in, but it was large building, had adequate facilities and the occupants were moved out, the military moving in. Dr Badsey then quoted from a local newspaper of the time ..." the daily needs for the comforts at Lewisham Military Hospital we would remind our readers, playing cards, board games, walking sticks and comfortable slippers would be particularly welcome. New laid eggs are always wanted, as are magazines and gramophone records...and...a pianoforte! "



Once this appeared in the local press people were shipping in all sorts of `comforts` for the recuperating servicemen and Dr. Badsey said that she grew up in the area near this establishment and heard stories of this hospital and of Fairlawn Military Hospital on Forest Hills. This was a large mansion house with spacious grounds and fine trees and was lent by Mr. FC Yates for use as an Auxiliary Military Hospital. It was opened in November 1915 with 35 beds, increasing later to 65 and was for enlisted servicemen. It was staffed by the London 216 and 35 Voluntary Aid Detachments. The nursing staff consisted of 8

trained nurses, 14 full time and 32 part time VADs - which, incidentally, could also include men. In 1916 the hospital expanded when an additional house - Border Lodge - and again in 1917 when Manor Mount were added. The hospital closed in 1919 and of the 2724 admissions during the war period, there was no recorded deaths, but 30 patients and 5 VADs were killed during the war, these being recorded on a plaque in a local church. *Fairlawn* was destroyed by a V1 flying bomb during WW2. The site was cleared during the 1950s and Fairlawn Primary School built on the site. An annexe to the school occupies the site of St Paul's Church in Waldenshaw Road. Dr Badsey said she hoped this information would `ring a bell` with attendees, with local stories or connections, buildings etc., whatever



Manor Mount House, part of the Fairlawn Auxiliary Hospital

Hospital trains, road convoys and medical barges transported sick and wounded to the Midlands Area of Southern Command, which included Wolverhampton. Dr. Badsey then asked if anyone knew about the Royal hospital, Wolverhampton, most of the original buildings of which has been converted in bijou flats. There had been an agreement to reconstruct a room as it would have been - complete with suitable equipment - during WW1 - but the contractors pulled out of the deal and subsequently the collection of fittings and apparatus was passed into the care of the University of Wolverhampton.

During WW1, the ground floor was used as an Auxiliary Hospital, and the good people of Wolverhampton used to turn up with gifts of fruit, cigarettes etc., and throw them through the open windows to the patients inside - until the authorities decided that this was not on and moved the patients up to the first floor! Irrespective local people are very proud of the auxiliary hospital facilities at `The Royal` and the part the then local community played. Dr. Badsey then

put up some photos of nursing staff who had dressed up for pantomimes and such like. She said she had received these - and many other pictures and bits and pieces related to World War One thanks to a former employee of the hospital, Roy Stanyard, who had retrieved them from a skip before going to be dumped! When the Royal was closed as an NHS hospital, no one went through all the old files and boxes in the basement - they just sent folks in to throw the lot out. Roy, who by this time had retired slipped through the security fence and used his prior knowledge to save as much as possible for posterity. Roy got accosted by the site security guards but, when he explained what he was doing - the guards helped him! Word got out and it was soon found that many other folks who had worked at the Royal before it closed had taken stuff to save it going to the tip. They just felt that some of the history of the place should be preserved - just like what we, as the Western Front Association do - preserve and educate for the future generations.

Wolverhampton had its own auxiliary hospital at the Old Manor House, thanks to the efforts of Miss Florence Thorneycroft who was the Commandant of the local VAD. The same pattern of the Auxiliary Hospital being connected to the Military Hospital set up by the `great and the good` was followed in every major town and city in the country. Convalescent patients were encouraged to relax, read, listen to music and socialise, quite a different regime to that of a military hospital. Many hospitals were established at universities, for example, the University of Birmingham - where Dr. Badsey received her MA degree.

Auxiliary Hospitals were created in the donated homes of respected members of the local community and in Birmingham many of these were provided by the Cadbury family - they of the manufacturers of chocolate - indeed today many care homes, parts of the NHS can trace back their history to those private homes transferred, you could say transferred into the public sector and never subsequently returned into private use.

The best organised non-governmental organisation on August 4th 1914 was the British Red Cross, they had contingency plans in place. They and St. John`s Ambulance - both wonderful organisations - combined together.....indeed when we think of `The Red Cross` we should also be thinking `St John`s Ambulance`



Colonel Trimble and Matron Todd of St John Ambulance with a group of VADs from St John`s Ambulance Brigade Hospital at Etaples.

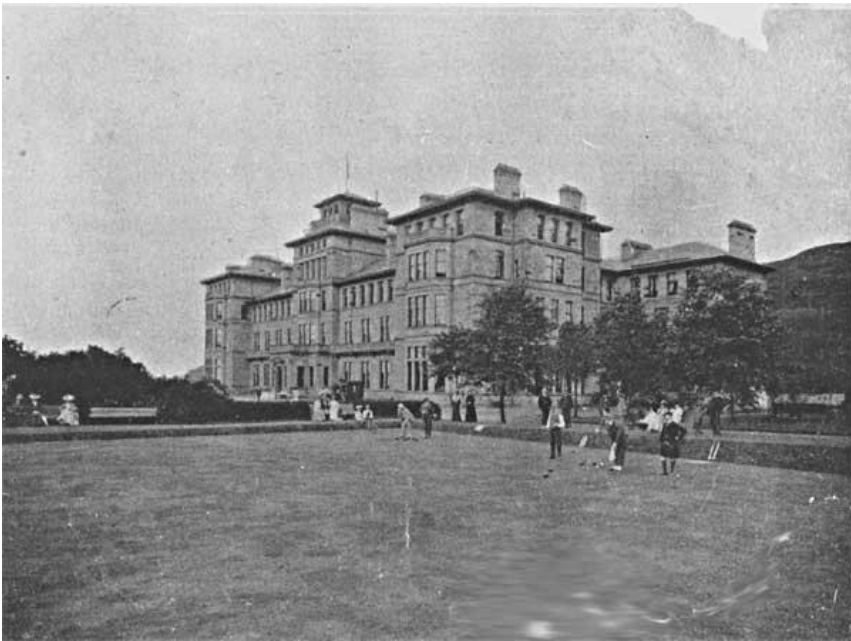
Auxiliary Hospitals were often in large, luxurious Victorian villas surrounded by extensive grounds, often with well-tended attractive gardens. Pre-war there would have been large indoor and outdoor staffs to maintain the house and its grounds. Many convalescent soldiers were encouraged to garden as a positive part of their treatment and rehabilitation. Auxiliary Hospitals were divided by rank which reflected the system in the military hospitals with different wards for officers, NCOs and private soldiers. The servicemen preferred the auxiliary hospitals to the military hospitals as they were not so strict - but they were still under army regulations, and they were still required to wear the blue uniforms. The surroundings in the auxiliary hospitals were less crowded and were more like home - better than home for many of the NCO and private soldier patients, of course. Local GPs provided off site medical supervision but the facility was run by Commandant and a trained nursing leader but most of the day to day care was provided by Red Cross trained VADs, or as Dr Badsey had just said, St. John's Ambulance. Nursing of convalescent patients required a very different skill set from acute medical or intensive nursing. Exercise, relaxation, diet, rest and sleep being requisite in the auxiliary hospital.

The Quartermaster undertook the administration of the auxiliary hospitals, in particular fund raising and ensuring that necessary supplies were always available and this is where anecdotal papers are invaluable in learning about these activities, for example 'Whist Drive in Support of the Red Cross Fund'.... 'Marrow Competitions'. These hospitals had to be equipped and supplied and all this came out of the generosity of the local population. Another area where the local population could help was working as part time cooks, ward maids, orderlies and cleaners, in effect acting as the pre-war staff...they were contributing to the running of *their* auxiliary hospital, indeed this is how these places entered *public* memory. For example this was what your 'Aunt Sadie' was doing as her 'bit' in World War One...recollections which are very important not to be lost.

Dr Badsey went on to say that while Scotland would provide the Case Study for her talk there were of course many doctors, surgeons and nurses from Scotland who served with great distinction in the War.

The Scottish medical schools also pioneered any medical and surgical techniques - including the one that saved the most lives - 'Eusol' 'Edinburgh University Solution of Lime'...a very powerful disinfectant...remembering what was available in 1914...no antibiotics. The problem of using it was it also strips the skin from the hands if gloves are not used - which in most cases were not - no rubber gloves in those days. Dr. Badsey said that if anyone had seen or read 'The Roses of No Mans' Land' there was a series of interviews with nurses, all of whom would have been in their 90s by this time, they always mentioned their hands, and you saw the scarring. But despite this it was a very, very effective disinfectant.

Pioneering work on the use of Eusol in badly infected wounds was undertaken by Alexander Murray Drennan of Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and by 1916 Eusol was an established means for treating septic wounds, and even today hypochlorous acid forms a backbone to attempts to accelerate wound healing. After being discharged from service, Murray was finally able to take up his place in New Zealand, with his wife and children joining him shortly after. They remained there until 1929 when Professor Drennan took up the Chair of Pathology at Queen's University in Belfast, and in 1932 he returned to his alma mater to take up the Chair at the University of Edinburgh, where he remained until his retirement in 1954. Professor Drennan died in 1984, a few weeks after his 100th birthday.



Craiglockhart Hospital (1916 to 1919) was well known for the pioneering treatment of shell-shocked officers and has entered the popular culture and memory.

Of course there was the family of Elizabeth Bowes-Lyons - a teenager at the time of WW1 - used part of their home, Glamis Castle, as an auxiliary hospital for officers. Elizabeth Bowes-Lyons, was later Queen Elizabeth, mother to our present Queen. She was not old enough to become a VAD but there are accounts of her reading to some of the patients. So, from the

highest to the lowest, people got involved with their local auxiliary hospitals

There was, of course, other less well known hospitals, the history, knowledge and memory of which are in danger of being lost.

Dr Badsey then went on to say that she had permission to quote from the researches by a gentleman called Alan Provan of the Elie and District Local History Society, in Fife in Scotland, and to use some of it in this talk.



So...and using member Arthur Lacey as her `model` she went on... `Sir...you have been wounded...you have come through London...you have come up to Birmingham...you are still on a train...you are going to end up in Fife...in the middle of nowhere at this house.`

In April 1915, Mrs. Mary Caroline Outhwaite fitted up her residence at Craigforth, Elie, as a convalescent home for wounded soldiers. Eighteen men, transferred from Craighleith Hospital at Edinburgh, were initially settled there. The hospital was under the medical care of Dr Pentland Smith of Elie. The Red Cross commandant was Miss Edith Scott Moncrieff, and the sister in charge was Nurse Wills. The local Red Cross contingent were on duty in the wards.



Mrs. Outhwaite's services were recognised by the Secretary of War in 1918.

Craigforth House, a splendid Victorian villa, was built in 1884 sitting on the headland between Elie and Earlsferry beaches. Surrounded by lawns, it enjoyed spectacular views over the river Forth to Edinburgh, the Bass Rock and the East Lothian coast. Weekly donations of eggs, jam, scones, rhubarb, and fowls were made by people in the area. In August 1915, Mrs. Outhwaite arranged to provide a recreation room at Craigforth for the benefit of the convalescents, and to enable her to do so promptly, a petition and plans of the building were submitted to the Town Council. The plans were approved, and warrant to proceed with the erection was granted. This new facility was greatly appreciated by the patients, more especially during the long

winter evenings. At Christmas 1916, the interior of the building was decorated with evergreens, holly, and miniature flags, and in the centre of the dining-table was a large iced cake extending Best Wishes to all and decorated with flags. After a tea the company adjourned to the recreation room, where in the centre was a large and heavily laden Christmas tree, lit with coloured candles. No effort had been spared to make this feature a memorable one for those who participated. To the matron, commandant, sister, nurses, cook and kitchen staff of the hospital, Mrs. Erskine, dismantling the tree, presented gifts gloves, trinkets and handkerchiefs, writing cases, hair tidy work bags, while the soldiers received fountain pens, tobacco pouches, match cases, pocket books, shaving minors, purses, cigarette cases, drinking cups, etc. In addition to these, oranges, nuts, sweets, and cigarettes were distributed. The singing of "Auld Lang Syne" closed an entertainment which remained in the memories of all. Mrs. Outhwaite died in 1932



Some of the inmates and staff of Craigforth House

One of the reasons Mrs Outhwaite donated her home to be used as an Auxiliary Hospital was that her nephew was serving as a Lieutenant in the RNVR but sadly he was killed on April 4th 1918. Again, we see an example of someone who has family serving and who want to be seen as `doing your bit` and what better way than letting you family home be used for convalescent servicemen.

During its time of use as an auxiliary hospital, Craigforth House had 754 admissions, all of whom recovered and returned to active service.

Dr Badsey then quoted from the newspaper `East Fife Observer` 17th January 1919

“Craigforth Hospital has now closed, the need for its continuation has now ceased, the hospital has provided a great national service and many a Tommy will have been grateful of the kindness and attention received in the institution. The management acknowledge the support of the staff, the public and the kindness and generous gifts”

Again here we see the coverage in the local press.

Edith Scott Moncrieff received a present of a solid silver sugar shaker...just the sort of thing that would come out on a Sunday when you were serving tea for a visiting aunt! It reflected, however, the appreciation of the community on what had been done.

For any Red Cross Hospital like this, funds had been raised, the hospital kitted out and at the end of the war, with closure of the hospital, these fixtures and fittings had to be sold to raise funds to go back into the Red Cross for its future activities. This went on all over the country in 1919, the same thing happening, to a lesser extent, at the main Military hospitals.

All this information about Craigforth open to analysis, interpretation and speculation but it is also a lot more information than we have about most Auxiliary Hospitals or indeed the large temporary Military Hospitals for which few records exist, not the least because as soon as the war was over many authorities wanted their buildings returned....back to Lewisham hospital...originally a workhouse...then an auxiliary hospital...as soon as the war was over the local authority wrote a `charming` letter saying `we want it back`within a month of the end of the war! They were told very politely in reply that they could have it back after three months, as indeed it was, becoming a....hospital, which it remains as to this day. In 1919 a memorial consisting of an ornamented stone column on a Cornish granite slab and brickwork base and surmounted by a decorative cross was set up opposite the main gate of the Lewisham Military Hospital. It was between 12 and 15 feet in height. When rededicated in 1998 a stone bearing an inscription and a granite tablet with names inscribed were placed within a small garden in front of the old Public Library and adjacent to the University Hospital, Lewisham.



Inscriptions:

On the Stone

Dedicated to the Brave Men who Died in This

Hospital and Laid Down their lives for the British Empire, 1914-1918

And to Dorothy Goodman and Helen Knibb, who died at their post of duty nursing the sick and wounded.

(Erected by the Medical and Nursing Staff Lewisham Military Hospital)

Thanksgiving Service for The Life of Charles Beresford



Thanksgiving Service for
Charles James Beresford
1st August 1944 to 16th November 2018

Holy Trinity Church, Matlock Bath
 Tuesday 11th December 11.00am

On December 11th, family and friends gathered for the Thanksgiving Service in Holy Trinity Church, Matlock Bath, for member Charles Beresford who passed away recently. The Reverend Nick Grayshon led the service in the well-filled church. Brigadier Edward Wilkinson of the Sherwood Foresters Regimental Association read the first lesson (Matthew 8: 5-13) from the Trench Bible which belonged to Lt. Col Rev. Bernard Vann VC. Charles, of course had written the highly acclaimed biography of Vann, `The Christian Soldier`. One of Bernard Vann`s grandsons was present at the service. Tributes were paid to Charles by members of his family, former business associates, and by our Branch Chair, Tony Bolton.

The service was interspersed by well-known hymns and bible readings. Before the service, as the congregation filed in, there was a slide show on a big screen showing Charles as a child, teenager, young husband and father and latterly in the company of his grandchildren. This service in the presence of so many of Charles`s friends must have been of great comfort to his widow Margaret and his family.

The Munitions Crisis - part 19

Having decided for the time being to abandon the attempt to purchase the whole of the liquor trade, Lloyd George prepared a measure to secure its more effective control - a measure which further enabled the experiment to be made of State purchase and management of the liquor trade on a small scale in particular areas. With this programme in view he laid before the House of Commons, on April 29th 1915, a further instalment of D.O.R.A. - the Defence of the Realm (Amendment) (No3) Bill - designed to deal with the perceived evil of alcohol in those munition making areas where it was proving equally disastrous to the nation, and at the same time he outlined other plans for a nationwide limitation of this peril.

In commending this Bill to the House, Lloyd George drew attention to the very alarming evidence of the effects of excessive drinking, a selection of which was published several days later as a Government White Paper. This gave statistics of time lost in the shipyards and engineering shops of the Clyde and Tyne, and reports by officers of the Admiralty and the Home Office. These reports were almost unanimous in making the same assertions as to lost time and energy due to the overindulgence in alcohol. Statistics compiled from 15 companies in the Clyde district showed that of the ironworkers, 27.6 per cent were working more than 53 hours per week, 39.4 per cent between 40 and 53 hours while 33 per cent were working less than their contracted 40 hours per week. It was this minority that slacked, but it was a minority large and important enough to be disastrous to the national output.

The measure proposed was to the effect that any area of importance for the production and transport of war materials might be placed under special control as regards the sale and supply of alcohol. The areas were to be defined by Orders in Council and regulations applied to them which might empower the government to close down the private liquor industry in the area and become itself the sole supplier of intoxicants; to acquire, either temporarily or permanently, all licensed premises or businesses; to open without licence, places of refreshment in which liquor could be sold; and generally to control the licensing and sale of intoxicants within the area. The Bill was duly carried, and a Central Control Board was set up to deal with the Liquor Traffic. This board issued on the 12th June 1915 a set of regulations by which it took power, in any area under its control, to close any licensed premises or clubs, to regulate their hours of opening, to prohibit the sale or supply of any specified class of intoxicant, to impose conditions and restrictions upon licensed premises or take them under its supervision and to regulate the amount of liquor that could be brought into an area or transported within it. It further took power to prohibit in an area all sale of liquor except by the Board of Control, to prohibit treating etc.

In July, a series of Orders of Council was issued defining the chief munition areas in the country and placing them under the Board of Liquor Control. During the following months the Board began to make effective use of its powers, issuing the `No Treating` order in October 1915 and drastically reducing the hours of sale of intoxicants. For the London area the hours of opening were in November narrowed down to what had previously been the `Sunday` hours.

Total prohibition was avoided, despite many urging this policy upon the Minister, as indeed a number of years later when tried in the US it demonstrated that it is futile to legislate far in advance of public opinion or conscience. Restriction and limitation the country would accept, and a considerable degree of reform could be achieved under state control, where the element of private profit and exploitation was eliminated.

Even so, the scheme which many found not unreasonable still attracted bitter opposition and any further proposals would have been met with parliamentary defeat. Lloyd George, in a speech on April 29th said that he intended to implement in a Budget a graded surtax on the heavier beers, to quadruple the tax on wines, double tax on spirits and to raise the maximum permissible dilution of spirits from 25% to 36% under proof. These proposals generated considerable opposition both in and out of the Commons. The Irish politicians were particularly angry in view of the big brewing and distilling interests in that country and one by one Lloyd George was compelled to abandon, at least for the time being, these proposed taxes and ultimately only retain one insignificant but quite useful restriction in the shape of a prohibition on the sale of spirits less than three years old, the object being to prohibit the newer and more fiery, potent liquor. Even on this a fierce controversy arose between rival distilling interests - the `Pot` versus `Patent` fight - for manufacturers of pot-still whisky made a practice of keeping their product several years to mature, whereas the output of the patent still was marketed straight away.

Despite the government losing this opening round they succeeded in subsequent years in carrying through the policy of high taxation of alcoholic beverages, dilution of spirits and the encouragement of lighter beers. In this campaign the government could utilise the Food Controller under whose care the supplies of grain required for brewing and distilling had been placed. Not only was the total amount brewed and distilled restricted, but the release of such grain as was allowed was made conditional upon a proportion of the beer being of a light character and the spirits being considerably diluted. The compulsory dilution of spirits and the elimination of the heavier beers had an especially beneficial effect, for they reduced the quantity of alcohol content of the beverages imbibed by a high percentage. The weekly average of convictions for drunkenness in England and Wales which in 1913 were 3482 had by early 1917 fallen to 929.

The undernoted are the figures for the total consumption of absolute alcohol in Great Britain during the War years.

1914	89 million gallons
1915	81 million gallons
1916	73 million gallons
1917	45 million gallons
1918	37 million gallons

These figures represent the amount of alcohol estimated to have been consumed in all forms of alcoholic beverages - spirits, wines and beers - and the rapid decline in the last two years is only partly due to the fact that millions of men had left these shores. It is mainly attributable to the effectiveness of the drink restriction policy which was instituted and enforced.

While by means of progressive measures of taxation, dilution and limitation of the intoxicating beverages in the country, we were able to reduce very considerably the effective supplies of them obtained by the people, especially the quantity of proof spirit and alcohol consumed, the government was pressing forward in the industrial areas devoted to munition production, the limitation of hours and drinking facilities. The Liquor Control Board had been given powers to take over the whole business of liquor supply within an area, and in four of the areas it experimentally adopted these powers, the first area being so treated was Gretna Green from which was developed the Carlisle experiment in state management of the liquor trade which

last until the 1970s. The State Management Scheme was the nationalisation of the brewing, distribution and sale of liquor in three districts of the United Kingdom from 1916 until 1973.^[1] The main focus of the scheme, now commonly known as the Carlisle Experiment, was Carlisle and the surrounding district close to the armament factories at Gretna which were founded in 1916 to manufacture munitions. There were three schemes in total: Carlisle and Gretna, Cromarty Firth, and Enfield. In 1921 Carlisle and Gretna was split into two separate areas. Carlisle was the larger part and supplied some beer to Gretna. In 1922 the Enfield scheme ended and its public houses were sold back to private enterprise.

The scheme was privatised by the Heath government in 1971 and its assets were sold at auction in six lots, mostly to established brewing interests.

The positive policy of the Control Board was shown in another important direction, that of finding a satisfactory substitute in the scheduled areas for the drinking establishments whose opportunity of catering for the leisure time of the workers was being curtailed. This led to the appointment of a Canteens Committee.

In its first report, dated October 12th 1915, the Control Board stated,

“.....the Board incline to the view that excessive drinking may often be traced to the want of adequate facilities for food, refreshment and recreation, particularly in conjunction with long hours and overtime. The improvement of public houses and the provision of canteens may therefore do much to render less necessary the imposition of purely restrictive measures....”

The Board pointed out that drink was often resorted to when food was inadequate or improper; and that it was important;

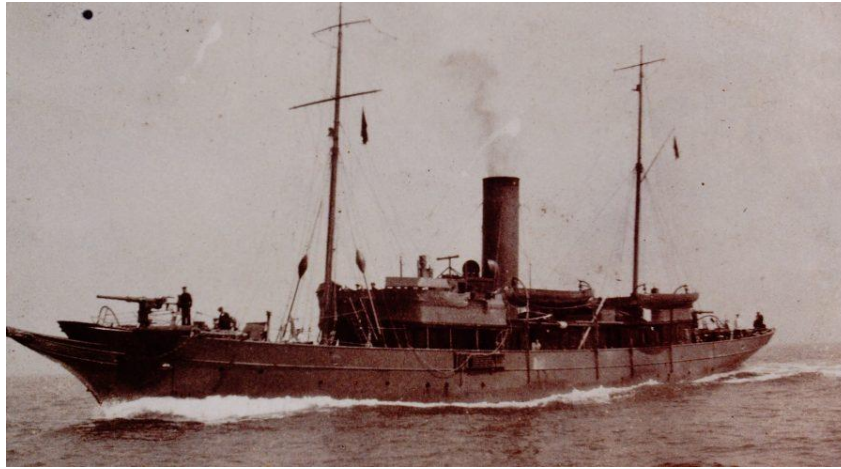
“...to supply for large numbers of people at specified times a suitable dietary....at a reasonable cost. In endeavouring to meet this requirement, the Board have proceeded on two collateral lines of action:-

(a) the increase of facilities for obtaining suitable meals at public houses

(b) the establishment wherever necessary of industrial canteens or within easy access of the works, supplying both substantial meals and light refreshment at reasonable prices”

To be continued

Remembering the Iolaire disaster: a triumphant return after the Armistice turned into a New Year's Day tragedy



Having survived the First World War, the hundreds of soldiers and sailors on board drowned just one mile from home

It was less than two months after the Armistice, and many of the 283 British soldiers on board the HM Yoloire were determined to get on with their lives after the brutal four-year slog of the First World War. The men were travelling home to the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides when, in the early hours of New Year's Day 1919, tragedy struck. The ship hit the 'Beasts of Holm' rocks, just one mile away from Stornoway Harbour. It sunk, killing 205 - 181 of whom were from the island - in one of Britain's worst maritime disasters of the century.

Each November, television crews train their attention onto the Cenotaph as we remember the one million Commonwealth soldiers killed in the First World War. This year's Centenary saw special commemoration services across the country, with politicians, royals, and school children lining up to pay their respects.

But since 1919, the Iolaire victims have often been forgotten. For many years, devastated residents of Lewis - the northern part of Lewis and Harris, the Western Isles' largest island - were unsure whether to even include the dead in their official war commemorations; they had lost their lives because of the war, certainly, but their deaths fell outside the neat '1914 to 1918' time frame etched on village war memorials across Britain.

Indeed 100 years to the day since the Iolaire crashed, the tragedy is barely remembered outside the area it directly affected, according to historian Dr Iain Robertson from the University of the Highlands and the Islands, who has just finished a new study looking at how the Lewis community coped with the Iolaire's aftermath. Robertson spoke at length to 30 people across the island, looking at how memory of the tragedy was passed down across generations. He was helped by his colleague Dr Iain Donald at Abertay University, who created an app visualising untold stories from the disaster.

It's difficult to exaggerate the extent of the devastation inflicted on Lewis a century ago. With a disproportionately high enlistment rate (19 per cent of the male population), the island had already been ravaged by the First World War. The small township of North Tolsta, in which only 100 homes contained able-bodied men, lost 41 of its residents.



Dr Iain Robertson, pictured at his home in Cheltenham, travelled to Lewis to speak to grandchildren of those killed in the Iolaire disaster

It was an added cruelty, then, that the Iolaire victims died on what was supposed to be their triumphant journey home: they were the survivors, or should have been. The sailors would even have been able to see the lights of Stornoway Harbour as they plunged into the icy North Sea waters. The death toll would have been higher still if one sailor, John Macleod, had not swam ashore with a rope, allowing dozens of men to tug themselves to safety.

But the islanders struggled to discuss the tragedy for decades afterwards, according to Robertson, who traipsed across the windswept island this year, speaking mostly to the grandchildren of those killed. Survivors buried their traumatic memories deep within them, and children learnt not to ask about their dead fathers. “People by and large mourned deeply, but attempted to carry on with their daily lives and not talk about it, because the general consensus among the island folk was that it was too traumatic and too wounding,” he says.

He thinks many survivors suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), but their symptoms went ignored. Robertson found himself particularly moved by the story of one man whose father was killed on the Iolaire, who waited until the end of his life before telling his son and daughter of their grandfather’s fate.

There were some public displays of grief, of course, but they were rare. Before an official memorial was built in 1958, for example, islanders began to form a stone pile near the sight of the disaster. Many of the widows left behind also received financial help from their neighbours, in-keeping with the island’s “widow’s share” tradition.

There were also hints of rebellion against the enforced silence. Widows were expected to wear black for the rest of their lives but rarely allowed to talk about their grief, Robertson says. Aggrieved by the double standard, one group of women eventually flouted the rule, returning to the island one summer dressed in colour after working in Dundee. “They were the younger folk wanting to appear more modern. Dundee was at that time really vibrant, with lots of exciting things to experience, and they would undoubtedly have been influenced by all that. That would have hastened their decision to move out of the black.”



Descendants of the lolaire tragedy remember the dead at a memorial in Stornoway last month. Pictured left to right: Iain Maciver, Anne Frater, and Norman A Macdonald

But for most islanders, the silence remained in force until at least the 1960s, when, tentatively, the children of the dead began to reflect on the disaster. Traditionally, New Year was the island's biggest celebration, but many mothers and grandmothers refused to celebrate the day after 1919: the pain of remembering the lolaire, which sank on New Year's Day, was too great.

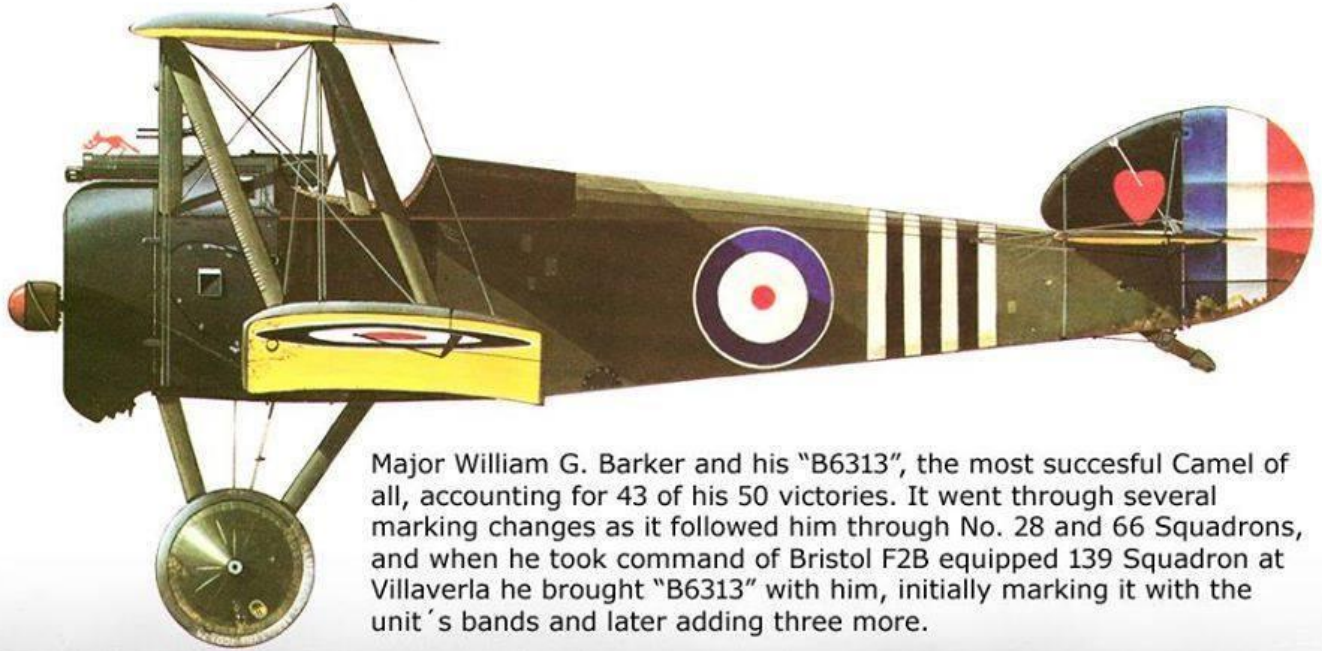
The only expressions of grief that were allowed generally came through poetry, he says, which is unsurprising given the "highly developed poetic tradition" in Gaelic culture. Of all the stories he collected, Robertson was most touched by many of the verses written in tribute to the lolaire, and one in particular written by a former soldier who had returned from war, and learned of the deaths of his friends in the disaster.

It's easy to see the island's 'Keep Calm and Carry On'-style approach as a product of its age. Lewis's stoic refusal to dwell on their emotions is a far cry from the mood of 2018, when we are urged constantly to discuss our feelings and share every experience on social media. But Robertson thinks the phenomenon might also be explained by the no-nonsense, 'Let's Just Get On With It' approach found in rural communities; he thinks cities generally react differently to tragedies, pointing to the inferno at Grenfell Tower, which swiftly triggered an impressive action campaign from the local community.

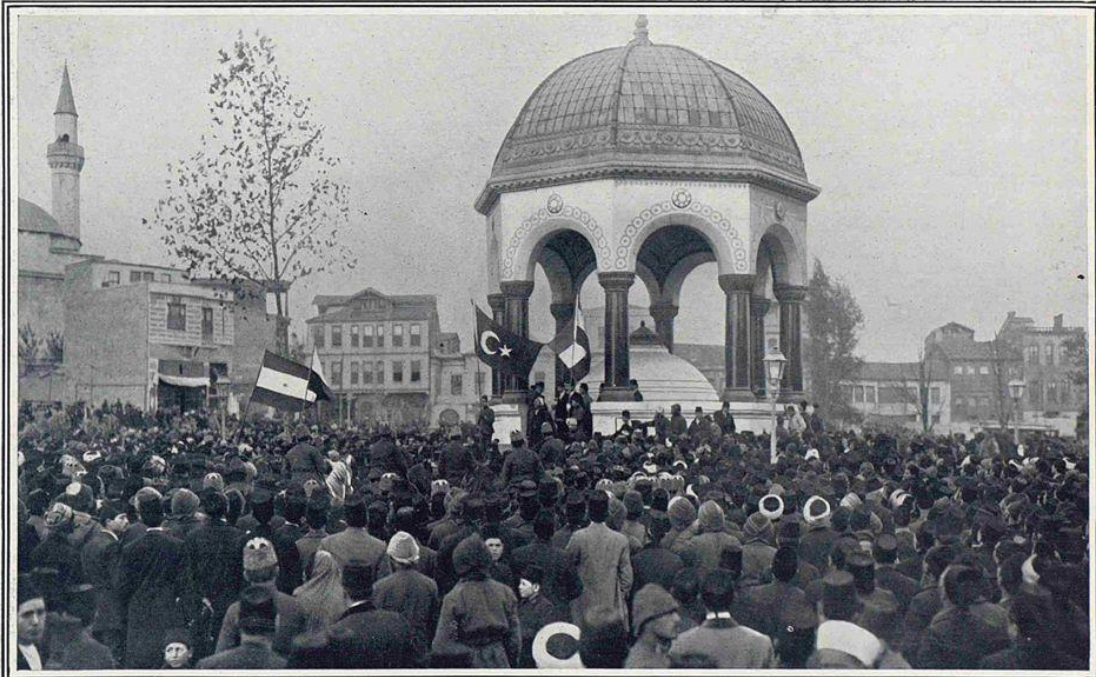
The lessons of lolaire and its aftermath are just as relevant now as they were in 1919, Robertson thinks. "Regretfully, it isn't as if society is short of collective disasters like this to think of," he says, with 2017's terrorist atrocities in Manchester and London coming to mind, as well as the disastrous fire at Grenfell, which claimed 72 lives.

There are many ways a community can cope with a tragedy like the lolaire or Grenfell, but burying its memory in a mist of silence is probably not the best approach. "I'm not convinced that silence worked in this instance," says Robertson. "It was definitely destructive, as well as constructive... but the community didn't really know how else to deal with it. I think what we have nowadays is actually an improvement."

Sopwith Camel



TURKEY : A War Meeting Held by the Turks in Constantinople.



A WAR MASS MEETING HELD BY THE TURKS IN CONSTANTINOPLE

Special SERVICE picture

The monument shown in the above illustration is a street fountain which was presented to the Turks by the German Emperor in 1898. The fountain is situated in At Meidan, a tree-planted square in Constantinople. The Turkish orators are speaking from the steps of this fountain to the Turks assembled in the square. Just in front of the steps may be seen a number of Turkish horsemen. Since the outbreak of war with Turkey many war demonstrations have been held in Constantinople.



The same location in Istanbul (formerly Constantinople) today



A commemorative stone to mark the fact that more than 120000 of these were transported on the Cromford and High Peak Railway from Hopton Quarry, destined as grave markers for Imperial War Graves Cemeteries.