CHESTERFIELD WFA

Newsletter and Magazine issue 40

Patron –Sir Hew Strachan FRSE FRHistS

President - Professor Peter Simkins MBE FRHistS

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Welcome to Issue 40 - the April 2019 Newsletter and Magazine of Chesterfield WFA.

The next Branch Meeting is Tuesday 2nd April with Peter Hart (seen above with WFA President Peter Simkins) making his annual visit. Peter will present our aviation topic `Aces Falling - War Over the Trenches in 1918`

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 Peaple** 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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Eighth President`s Conference 2019

"Reflections on the Great War"

This was held at the Tally Ho Conference Suite, Birmingham on Saturday 30th March.

Chesterfield Branch was very well represented amongst the 120 attendees.

WFA Chairman, Colin Wagstaff, welcomed everyone before introducing WFA President, Peter Simkins, who will shortly be standing down from his post.

Peter thanked Colin for his kind words and said what an honour it had been to have been WFA President during the period of the Great War Anniversaries.

Tribute was paid to the Charles Messenger who had passed away recently and details were announced regarding his funeral on April 3rd.

The first speaker of the day was Dr. Spencer Jones who proceeded to make a presentation entitled *"Far from Contemptible: Memoirs of the BEF`s 1914 Campaigns"*. Spencer was followed by an excellent paper by Prof. John Bourne (scheduled to visit Chesterfield Branch later this year) entitled *" The BEF`s Commanders on the Cusp of Victory, September 1918"*.
Next up was Prof. Martin Alexander - first time I have heard this gentleman speak – hope it is not the last – *" France`s Pyrrhic Victory: Military Lessons and Strategic Political Legacies of 1918/1919"*.

Following the lunch break – always a good opportunity to meet up with – and have a chat with old friends – Peter Hodgkinson being one – we restarted with a thought provoking presentation by Prof. Gary Sheffield on *" Not Quite More of the Same: British Officers in Two World Wars"*

WFA President Peter Simkins wound up the day`s proceedings by chairing a Panel Discussion, with the four speakers taking and answering questions from the floor of the Conference.

Secretary`s Scribbles

Welcome to issue 40 of the WFA Chesterfield Branch Newsletter and Magazine.

Our meeting on Tuesday evening sees the welcome return to Chesterfield of `Old Campaigner`, Peter Hart, who will present our Great War aviation topic for 2019. `Aces Falling – the Air War Over the Trenches in 1918` .

Last Saturday in Birmingham saw Peter Simkin`s last WFA President`s Conference as he will be standing down at the next WFA AGM. It was an excellent gathering of around 120 Great War afficiandos, including an excellent turn out from regular attendees at Chesterfield Branch. Four excellent speakers including Prof. Gary Sheffield who is President –elect, confirmation of this will be at the forthcoming WFA AGM

Those of you who receive the WFA`s Bulletin Magazine may have noted that our Branch Chair, Tony Bolton is Education Officer elect for the WFA Executive Committee. Tony has made quite a name for himself mentoring MA students – indeed some of those taken `under his wing` have subsequently presented at our Branch meetings and indeed there are more in the pipeline. Mark Macartney, our Branch Vice Chair has been re-elected as EC Member for Branded Goods. More good news for Mark is that in early April he and partner Jean Walker are getting married – I am sure you will all join with me in wishing Mark and Jean a long and happy life together.

As most of you will be aware, we had an excellent outing to Lincoln last September and such was the success of this Branch day out, we are planning another – this time to the Great War training and cemetery sites on Cannock Chase. This will be sometime in April 2020. As with the Lincoln trip, the Branch will cover the cost of the transport to and from Cannock. All on our correspondence list will be notified of the date when it`s all finalised. While on the topic of outings members will recall the visit last September to the Museum of Lincolnshire Life. We have been advised there is a bit of a shake up going on with Lincolnshire Heritage Services and museums. Some are set to be downgraded, offloaded or closed and the future of this museum, home to the Great War MkIV tank is far from secure. If you would like to have your say, here is the link to the consultation page. It only takes a few minutes and you don't have to leave your name. If you don't speak up now, you can't complain later.

https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/local-democracy/your-comments-and-feedback/future-of-the-heritage-service-consultation/future-of-the-heritage-service-consultation/133340.article?fbclid=IwAR3sHJPbJ_9d77PK051iwwVGdMuZD0PDwfdbwS__V1n2nzC4ecXqB2Rs1VQ

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Tuesday night – all welcome

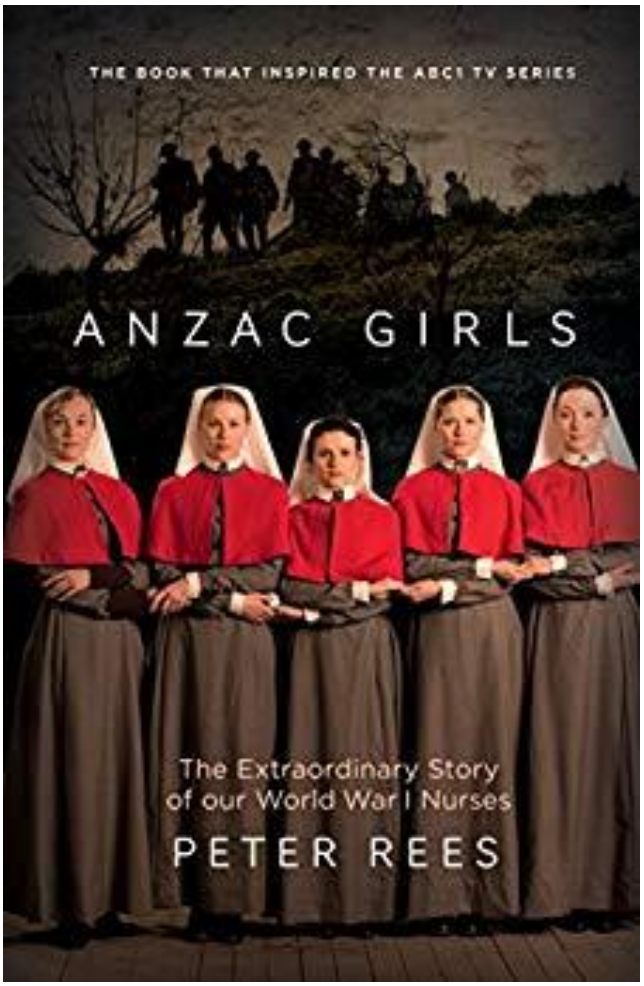
Grant Cullen – Branch Secretary

07824628638 grantcullen@hotmail.com

Chesterfield WFA Branch – Book Discussion Group

The next meeting is on Tuesday April 16th and the book decided upon at our last meeting is by Peter Rees, '*Anzac Girls, An Extraordinary Story of World War 1 Nurses*.' (London, Allen & Unwin: 2008).

By the end of the Great War, forty-five Australian and New Zealand nurses had died on overseas service and over two hundred had been decorated. These were the women who left for war looking for adventure and romance but were soon confronted with challenges for which their civilian lives could never have prepared them. Their strength and dignity were remarkable.



Using diaries and letters, Peter Rees takes us into the hospital camps and the wards, and the tent surgeries on the edge of some of the most horrific battlefronts of human history. But he also allows the friendships and loves of these courageous and compassionate women to shine through and enrich our experience.

Profoundly moving, *Anzac Girls* is a story of extraordinary courage and humanity shown by a group of women whose contribution to the Anzac legend has barely been recognised in our history. Peter Rees has changed that understanding forever.

It is a fairly long book at 315 pages but from the way it is laid out it is the sort of book you might just read a few chapters if you hadn't the time to read it all. It has also been made into a TV series which is very true to the book and is well worth watching on DVD.

All welcome – even if you haven`t read the book - these meetings are always a good natter about the book and all things WW1 – don`t forget we start at 7pm (usual venue) finishing about 9pm

First World War Research Group Study Day Saturday 23 February 2019

Andy Rawson and I went to the Study Day at the University of Wolverhampton which was very well attended. The cost was £20 for the day and included tea/coffee and biscuits (but not lunch). The event was hosted by Professor Stephen Badsey who some of you may have met when his wife Phylomena gave her talk at Chesterfield last year.

The theme of the day was 'Elite Units on the Western Front 1914-1918'

There were four talks and the first was '"Arrogant and dashing throwbacks": German elite and non-elite troops, 1914-1918' by Dr Tony Cowan (Independent Scholar) in which he looked at the ways elite units were denoted in the German army by class or experience.

The second was 'The US Army 94th Hat in the Ring Squadron 1917-1918' by Patrick Gregory (Writer and Journalist). This talk gave the background to the creation of the American squadron via the earlier Lafayette squadron of American pilots in the French Air force and then followed the careers of the aces such as Rickenbacker in the 94th.

This was followed by a talk by Matthew White who had graduated from the University of Wolverhampton last year and was based on his thesis and the research he is doing for his MA on "Winston's Little Army:" The Royal Naval Division 1914-1918'. This was the first time he had given a talk and he handled it very well.

The final session was by Dr Tim Gale (British Commission for Military History) on 'Elite Units of the French Army on the Western Front 1914-1918'. This was quite unusual in that he described both the elite Chasseurs Alpine and the elite Artillerie Special (French Tank Corps) through the career of one exceptional soldier Marcel Rime-Bruneau who served in the tanks after being seriously wounded in the Chasseurs.

Altogether a very good set of talks on four quite different topics.

Peter Harris

CHESTERFIELD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

15 March, 2019

Dear Head Teacher,

Thanksgiving event marking the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Versailles

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to bring pupils from your Year 6 form/s to take part in a special event celebrating the centenary of the signing of the Treaty of Versailles which officially ended the First World War.

In the run up to November 2018, the Council worked in collaboration with ex-services organisations and community groups to create a fitting series of commemorations marking the centenary of the end of WWI. Many schools were involved in making poppies to attach to our poppy cascades which created a poignant visual display across the town. We have also themed our local democracy activities this year around the centenary, with schools visiting the town hall to explore how the borough and society as a whole has changed over the past 100 years.

Friday 28th June 2019 marks 100 years since the treaty was signed, officially ending the conflict and returning Chesterfield to a time of peace. Scenes of thanksgiving were witnessed around the country including in our own Queen's Park where over 20,000 people joined together to celebrate the war finally being over. This year, the WWI Commemorations Working Group aim to recreate that atmosphere and involve local school children in a thanksgiving event.

The event will start with a **multi-faith Drumhead service at the Town Hall War Memorial at 11am**. This type of service traditionally takes place at the end of operations where the drums are piled up and used as makeshift altar. Following this, the pupils will have **a short march to Queen's Park** where there can have their picnics and enjoy taking part in activities and exhibitions on life in 1918 and what the war meant for the people of Chesterfield borough. **The event will finish at 2:30pm.**

Local history and community groups as well as representatives from the ex-services organisations will be hosting stalls with hands-on, interactive activities.

Some light refreshments will be available however we request that the pupils bring a packed lunch to eat in the park.

Further information will follow however please could I ask you to return the enclosed form in the pre-paid envelope to indicate if you will be attending. Please contact me on (01246) 345277 or rachel.appleyard@chesterfield.gov.uk if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

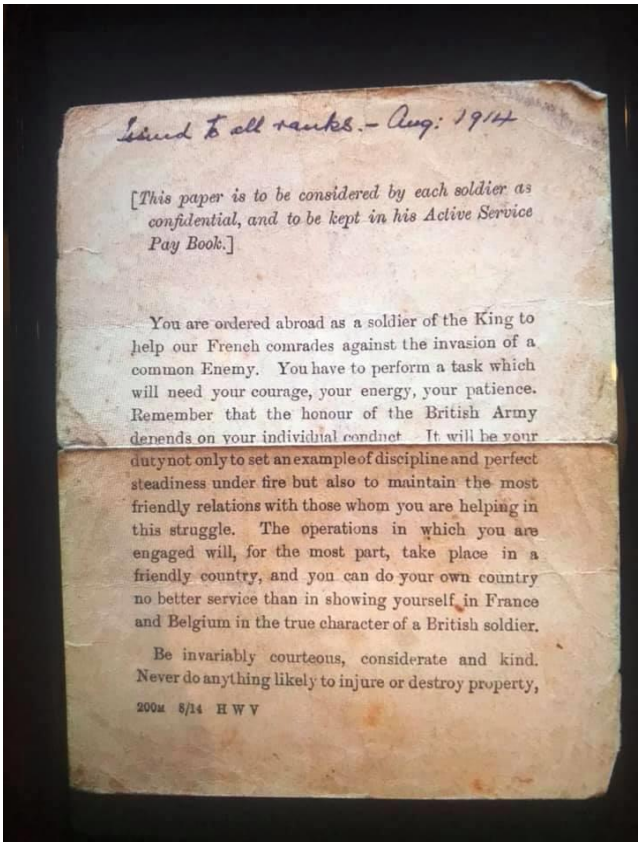
Rachel Appleyard

On behalf of Councillor Steve Brunt, Chair of the World War 1 Commemorations Working Group

Chesterfield Borough Council, Town Hall, Rose Hill, Chesterfield S40 1LP
Telephone: 01246 345 345, Text: 07960 910 264, Email: info@chesterfield.gov.uk
www.chesterfield.gov.uk

At the March Branch Meeting, Branch Chair Tony Bolton advised members of the Chesterfield Borough Council`s plans to Commemorate the Signing of the Treaty of Versailles. Councillor Steve Brunt (a WFA Member), Chair of the WW1 Commemorations Working Group , has sent the above letter to all local schools inviting them to attend / participate in the event on July 28th .

Kitchener`s Message. Each British member of the of the original BEF that went to France in 1914 was handed a document bearing the advice of the Minister of War, Lord Kitchener and was to be kept in the active soldiers pay book.



Issued to all ranks.- Aug: 1914

[*This paper is to be considered by each soldier as confidential, and to be kept in his Active Service Pay Book.*]

You are ordered abroad as a soldier of the King to help our French comrades against the invasion of a common Enemy. You have to perform a task which will need your courage, your energy, your patience. Remember that the honour of the British Army depends on your individual conduct. It will be your duty not only to set an example of discipline and perfect steadiness under fire but also to maintain the most friendly relations with those whom you are helping in this struggle. The operations in which you are engaged will, for the most part, take place in a friendly country, and you can do your own country no better service than in showing yourself in France and Belgium in the true character of a British soldier.

Be invariably courteous, considerate and kind. Never do anything likely to injure or destroy property,

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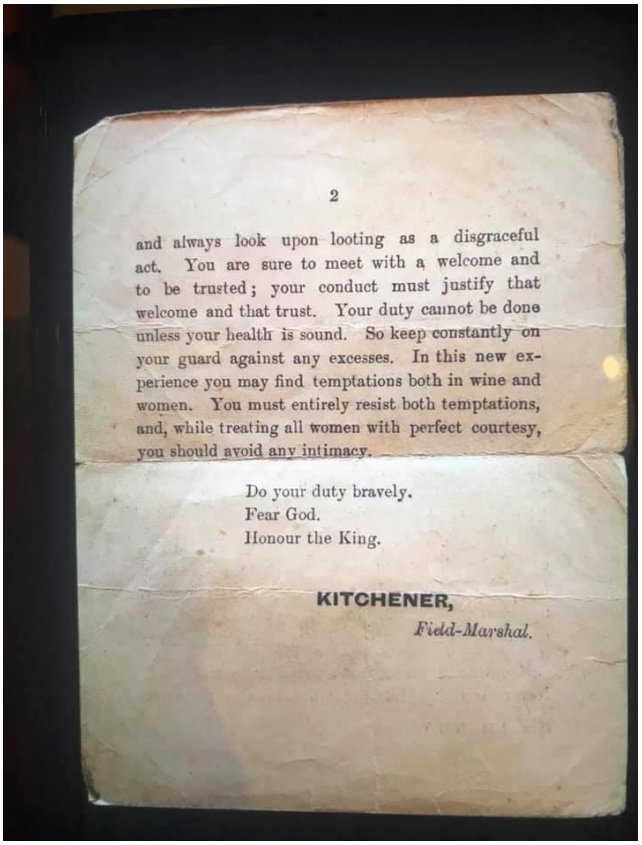

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and always look upon looting as a disgraceful act. You are sure to meet with a welcome and to be trusted; your conduct must justify that welcome and that trust. Your duty cannot be done unless your health is sound. So keep constantly on your guard against any excesses. In this new experience you may find temptations both in wine and women. You must entirely resist both temptations, and, while treating all women with perfect courtesy, you should avoid any intimacy.

Do your duty bravely.
Fear God.
Honour the King.

KITCHENER,
Field-Marshal.

March Meeting

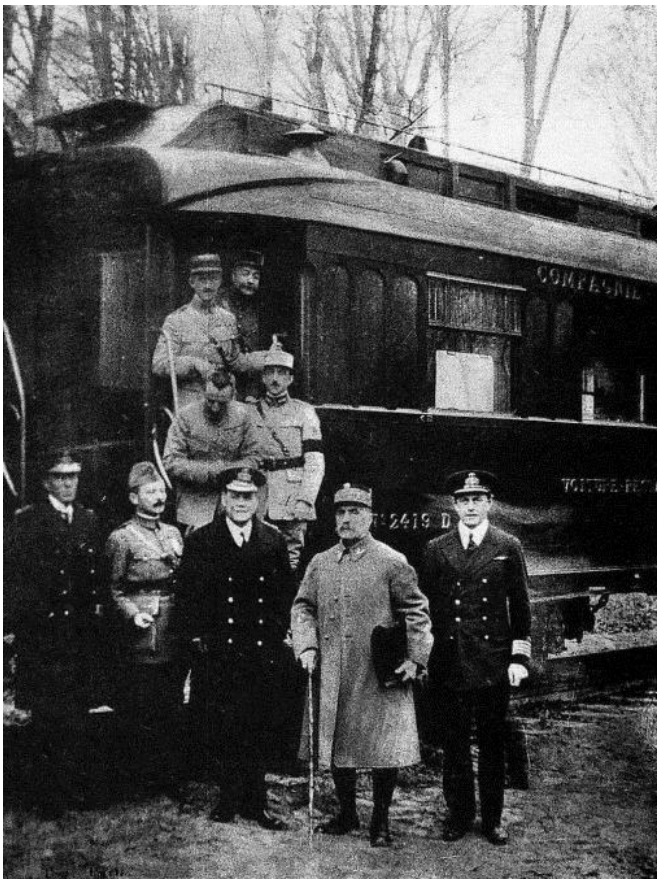
Branch Chair, Tony Bolton, opened the meeting in front of healthy attendance of members and friends. Before passing the meeting over to our speaker for the evening, Stephen Barker, Tony drew members` attention to the Commemoration of the Signing of the Peace Treaty at Versailles in 1919, which is being organised by Chesterfield Borough Council, for Friday June 28th. Further details will be given to members once we get closer to the date.

Before Stephen got underway with his presentation, he introduced himself by way of a few words about his background.

He is an independent Heritage Advisor who works with a number of museums, universities, charities and other heritage organisations to design exhibitions and make funding applications on their behalf. He is currently working with the History Faculty, University of Oxford and the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum. Stephen specialises in military history, particularly the First World War and British Civil Wars. He is a Trustee of the Bucks Military Museum Trust, a Museum Mentor and has worked at The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Banbury Museum and for Oxfordshire Museum Services. Stephen is the author of 'Lancashire's Forgotten Heroes' - a history of the 8th East Lancs in the Great War.'

Stephen opened asking what would be the purpose of this talk for Chesterfield WFA, and what could the branch expect to get out of it? It would summarise the Armistice and look at its legacy and, hopefully, would intrigue members and have them seek out information about this local area. He would look at connections – connections which resonate to this day

The talk, ***"Armistice 1918 and After: Some Local Perspectives"*****,** would look at the impact of the First World War Armistice and the legacy of the war in local communities. It would look at how the Armistice was celebrated, what happened when soldier returned home and how families managed in the immediate aftermath. Emphasis would be placed on individual soldiers' and families' stories and would feature oral testimony, diaries, letters, newspapers and unseen photographs from the time.



Photograph taken after reaching agreement for the armistice that ended World War I. This is Ferdinand Foch's own railway carriage and the location is the Forest of Compiegne. Foch is second from the right. Left of Foch in the photo (on Foch's own right) is the senior British representative, Sir First Sea Lord of the Admiralty, Roslyn Wemyss. On the right is Admiral George Hope. This ended the fighting between the Allies and Germany. A previous Armistice had eliminated Bulgaria, the Ottoman Empire and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Came into force, of course at 11am (Paris time), signaled victory for the Allies and complete defeat for Germany, although it was not, of course a surrender, it was a cease-fire. That cease-fire was prolonged three times until the treaty was signed on June 28th 1919, but what we often forget is that it did not in fact become effective until January 10th 1920.

Stephen then told a short anecdote about Roslyn Wemyss (in picture above = front row middle) – he had replaced Jellicoe in December 1917. The British Prime Minister, David Lloyd George, had instructed Wemyss that the Armistice must not, under any circumstances become effective at 11am – but at 2.30pm when he, DLG, planned to announce that the Armistice , in triumph, in Parliament. Of course, Wemyss, with the backing of King George the Fifth and others in high places, went against that instruction, and it became the 11am armistice. Wemyss paid for this `disobedience`, the £100,000 that was given to the other Service chiefs, was denied to Wemyss by DLG and he only received a Baronetcy, whilst the others received Earldoms. DLG did not forget. As one of our members pointed out during the discussion session after Stephen finished – had DLG got his way, how many soldiers, Allied and German would have died or been maimed all because of Lloyd George`s ego ?.

The first armistice, with Austria Hungary was signed on November 4th and 48th South Midland Division, which included the 1st/4th Ox and Bucks, on the Agiago Plateau, included the Liebermann brothers. Their great grandfather, as their surname indicates was German, in fact he was a boat builder on the Rhine, and he came to Britain to escape Napoleon in 1814. To cut a long story short, their grandfather, Cornelius married an Englishwoman, and their family eventually arrived at Oxford. The brothers father, Charlie joined up as a drummer boy in 1868, and, in a sort of `rags to riches` story, becomes bandmaster of the Ox and Bucks regiment in the 1890s. He was musician and so were all his sons. Of course as bandsmen, they were all stretcher bearers and all went into action, two winning medals on the Somme in July 1916. They were also, like their father, Charlie, postmen. Now you might well ask…`what has all this to do with the Armistice? `. When the armistice was signed initially, the brothers, who by this time were serving on the Italian Front and they came across a piece of Italian music, which, as musicians, they really liked, and they asked for it to be translated into English so that they could turn it into some sort of Regimental March. The only problem was…the words were absolutely filthy…! With the passage of time those original words have been lost.

Company Quartermaster Sergeant Major Bill Liebermann of the 1/4 Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. As Bandmaster, he composed the 'Italian Marching Song' which is still used to this day.

Left - The Band of the 1/4 Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in Italy in early 1919

All five brothers survived the war and they were photographed sitting together at a Regimental reunion in 1956. There is, however, a sad footnote to this story - `flu is a recurrent theme running through this presentation –two months after they returned home from the war, their only sister, Florence died in the `flu epidemic. Shortly after that, their mum died – a mum who had worried all the way through the war about her five sons. The family are very proud of their heritage.

Stephen then showed a picture taken in the town of Erquelinnes, south East of Mons, on Armistice Day 1918. The Oxford Yeomanry took over the town from the departed Germans and stayed there for a week, and during that week, very strong bonds were established between the townspeople and the regiment…only a week but amazing what bonds can be made…so much so, in the years that followed in the immediate aftermath of the First World War, Regimental members went back every year and that has continued up until the present time, and on the last (2018) Armistice Day, 49 current and former members of the latest iteration of the Oxford Yeomanry, The Rifles, went to Erquelinnes, including five chaps whose fathers had been in the Yeomanry. Those relationships had been ongoing since 1918, with children and grandchildren of those men who were there at the time.

Col. Tim May is seen in this picture, holding the Regimental HQ sign from Banbury which they took to war with them in 1914 and remained with them for the duration of the war and for many years that sign accompanied members of the Yeomanry to Erquelinnes – a transitional object that represents the relationship with the town.

Off course, not all soldiers were serving abroad at the Armistice and Stephen read out a letter from Charles Derrycole, from Luton, to his mother. Charles had been wounded in 1917 and was at that time at Felixstowe when the Armistice was announced.

"Dear mama, can you believe that the war is over, it seems impossible to me to realise it and yet unless, by the remotest chance, there is trouble with a section of the German navy, or a disagreement over the peace table, there will be no further fighting. When peace is really signed, I suppose that`s the secret hearts bleeding and memories of lost ones will pass away - a seven day wonder. And although the effects will, in most instances, have improved conditions of life, the world will settle down to the routine of life as it did to the routine of war "

And then he ends…

"… cinemas are still open here and yet at Bedford I hear that the `flu has wrought fearful havoc and every place of amusement is closed to the military ".

For those at home there was often an agonising wait to hear that, right at the end, something terrible had not befallen to a loved one.

This lady, Kate Parry-Frye, an Edwardian actress and suffragette. She met John Robert Collins and they started a long engagement. By 1915 her fiancé was no longer an actor but a soldier. Moreover he was now a captain in the Royal Garrison Artillery and he could afford to have a wife. They married on 9 January 1915. Kate kept a wonderful diary which has now been turned into a memoir.

This is the entry in that diary for November 11th 1918, from the heart of rural Buckinghamshire

"I am thinking, wondering, every inch of the morning, and could not settle to anything, I kept cleaning shoes, over and over again, until about 11.30 in my room. The window was open, I sat up and listened…boom, boom..then a hooter, I thought it time to bestir myself and went to Agnes" (her sister)*…then downstairs to Kathleen* (the maid) *and then out to listen to the various sounds that proclaimed that the Armistice had been signed and thank God for many and great mercies. Mother was down the hill and had called at the Manor House. The news was all over The Green and soon was here and the remarks of the Hill were marvelous to listen to. As soon as I could settle to anything, I sat me down and wrote to John and wondered if he was safe. Was he really, really, coming home to me? I hardly dared believe it"*

Then she goes and buys a copy of the Daily Telegraph…….

"Yes! the glorious news…the surrender of Germany…abdication of the Kaiser and the Crown Prince and their flight to Holland..the armistice signed at 5 am..cease fire at 11am…the whole of Germany is seething with revolution, it seems it will become a second Russia "

Fortunately John did come home and they lived happily into the 1950s, John died in 1956 and she decided that the last entry in her diary would be this….on Armistice Day 1956

"To the Cenotaph at Woodburn, I sat and wept and tried to pull myself out of the tears. So sad without John here, all I could remember was the eleven o`clocks that we had shared together"

So how else was the Armistice greeted? Stephen put up some pictures from Northampton, but these were replicated in towns all over the country.

The `Northampton Independent` newspaper described the scenes…..

"The news of the ceasefire flashed through the homes and factories as though by magic, people rushed excitedly through the streets shouting `its over`, windows were flung open, schools and factories closed down and flags of all sorts, sizes and colours sprang up in a mystifying abundance, it was noticeable though, that it was chiefly the young who demonstrated their joy with waving flags and songs of victory. The middle aged, the old, seemed to have greater perspective, could not let go the agonies of the last five years of war, the most terrible war in history. They were subdued and by no means inclined for festivities. Relief and a great thankfulness were in their hearts, and nothing more"

For some people there was an `edge` to the end of the war, with a sense of seeking revenge and effigies of the Kaiser and the Crown Prince – `Little Willie` appeared in a number of Armistice Day commemorations. This was the scene in Brackley in Northamptonshire

In Oxford, a crowd of around 9000 people appeared on Armistice day and shortly after 11am, the singing of the National Anthem was heard at the Post Office where the news had been received by telegraph and Charlie Liebermann, whom Stephen had mentioned earlier, was one of the managers at the Post Office and because he was the bandmaster of the O and Bucks Regiment, he had turned the Post Office into a hotbed of musical activity, orchestras, bands, choirs and when the announcement came through, the choir stood on the steps outside the Post Office and belted out the National Anthem. An effigy of the Kaiser appeared and was borne to a local park where a bonfire was constructed over two or three hours, and the effigy burned. At 6pm, the Mayor stood, at the centre of Oxford, and read the terms of the Armistice and the gathered crowd received each clause of the terms, with a tumultuous cheer.

Demobilisation

Stephen then went on to talk briefly about demobilisation. The original demobilisation scheme was devised as early as 1917 by the Secretary of State for War, Lord Derby and he proposed that the first men to be released from service be those who held jobs in key branches of industry, but of course these were, invariably, those who had been called-up in the latter stages of the war. There was only one result of that, the men with the longest service records were going to be the last to be demobilised. This resulted in small scale mutinies, Calais, Folkestone and a particularly vociferous one involving around 3000 soldiers in London.

In amongst them was a member of the Womens` Army Auxiliary Corps, Emily Rumbold, in a group of 32000 men at Calais waiting to try and get back across the channel. This is her diary entry….

"This one man started to go around the troops and say..`look here we have got to do something about it, either strike or something`. Anyway, I don`t know much about it but he was preaching sedition which, had the war still been on, he would have been shot. He was eventually arrested and taken to Boulogne and the rumour was that he was to be shot and that started off all the rest because, I think, there was 32000 of us in the area. The men were roused, they wouldn`t do anything their officers told them to do, I suppose really, you could call it a strike"

Peace at Last

The formal state of war of course existed until the signing of the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28th 1919 when Germany was forced to give up land, colonies and restricted its military. Eminent historians like Jonathon Boff and Gary Sheffield estimate that reparations worth £284 billion (in today`s money) was exacted. To mark the formal end to the war `Peace Day` celebrations were held on July 19th, across the country.

Pictures of these celebrations held in archives are often mis-catalogued as being take on Armistice Day 1918. Of course you can tell from the pictures that this is not the case from the preparations which had been undertaken, flags, banners, processions etc. Also leaves on the trees indicate the month of July, rather than November. In Coventry they assembled 20,000 children on the Pool meadow, whilst the `important people ` packed into the cathedral (that which was bombed in WW2) and in the National Kitchen on Vaughan Street, widows, orphans and disabled soldiers were treated to a slap-up meal. Being Coventry, at the heart of the celebrations, was the Godiva Procession when 150 historical characters led by `Lady Godiva' on a white horse – played by Gladys Mann – and all seemed to be going well until about mid-afternoon – when, according to the local papers, there was two levels of complaint about the events of that day…potential research for Chesterfield folks ?....first of all they were banal, some people complaining that this procession was too short and that it passed too quickly, people couldn`t tell who the historical characters were, but the biggest criticism of the omission of soldiers and factory workers, particularly munition workers, from these events. As the day went on – and there was some drinking involved –tempers flared and that night, in Coventry, on the day of the Peace Celebrations, it started three days of rioting.

In the city centre, shop windows were smashed, there was looting and more than 100 people were injured. At its height, it was estimated that at least 7000 people were involved and baton armed police were called in from other forces around the area, to try and restore order. What was it ball about…factory workers who could not afford to pay their rent and others, like ex-servicemen who were struggling to find work and who, through their associations, had been very critical of money being wasted on these sorts of festivities. It was seen to be a `people who had been at home` type of event, not those who had been away fighting or directly contributing to the war effort. This was a common theme in many places across the country.

Re-Adjustment and the Thoughts of a Future

Stephen then put up a picture of Willie Stone from Pennington in Oxfordshire joined up in April 1915, aged 16, he survived the war and at the end of the war, now aged 19 he went to Germany as part of the occupying force. Stephen said that he was using Willie Stone as an example as he was one of those soldiers, part of a family, who was beginning to think about what they will do after the war. Both Willie, and his father, who was in his early forties, were in the Warwickshire Regiment and both were overseas. During that time there was correspondence between both men and Willie`s mum, Kathleen. The war has transformed the way that they have seen their own future.

Stephen then went on to read some of that correspondence, first of all from Kathleen to her son, Willie…written October 1918 when folks were beginning to think about a post war future

"I do long to see the end of this war to have you and your dad home again, I had a letter from him this afternoon and I have to tell you that if you don`t feel fit go back to the Battalion M.O. and go sick. Don`t be afraid to tell them what is the matter. He says we need to think of a plan of what we are all going to do when this war is over. He says he won`t go back again, no matter what happens. I think we need to go in for livestock, some land and grow a bit of things. A small holding would be nice wouldn`t it ?.....I wish I knew some nice girls who would write to you…Florrie might know of someone , but it is difficult to know the really nice girls, the war has spoiled them all"

Willie then enters Germany, crossing the border at Malmedy and his letter, about what he`s going to do when demobbed – remember he had been a wood machinist….this what he said…

"My dear mother, sorry I have not written to you before now, but we have been on the march, I haven`t had time but I shall be writing a lot more from now on. I want you to send me a book on poultry farming, I mean to take it up, please send at once. I remain your loving son, Willie"

He does take this up and for the rest of his life he becomes a poultry farmer…something that he had decided to become whilst on the March in 1919.

Fighting for Pensions

Jack Coopland, 5th Battalion Ox and Bucks, who joined up in 1914 aged 17, survived the war, never married, had no children and three years before the end of his life started to write his memoirs and look at the war from the perspective of the 1980s . He fought in every campaign, wounded three times and was invalided out in 1918, a veteran aged 21. In the 100Days he was hit in the humerus, shattering that bone in his left arm, and whilst in a French hospital a photographer turned a picture of the wounded arm into a post-card. He writes on one of these post cards and sends it back to his mother! The most interesting thing about Jack Coopland`s archive is his correspondence with the Ministry of Pensions which tells us how soldiers were

managing after the war. For that wound on his arm he was given a one-off lump sum payment of £35. This was Jack`s view 60 years later….

" Demobbed 31st January 1919, received this pittance 20th July 1920 for severe wound in the left arm, still partially disabled and will always be so, three years fighting Jerry…seventeen months fighting the Ministry of Pensions "

Spanish Flu

Stephen said he had mentioned the `flu a few times, a worldwide pandemic, which killed between 50 and 100 million people during 1918 and 1919. Why was it called the `Spanish Flu`…it was so called because the King of Spain was one of the early victims although its origins are more likely to have been in the United States.

The sheer impact of the Spanish `Flu could be summed up in the Northampton Independent newspaper of October 1918…

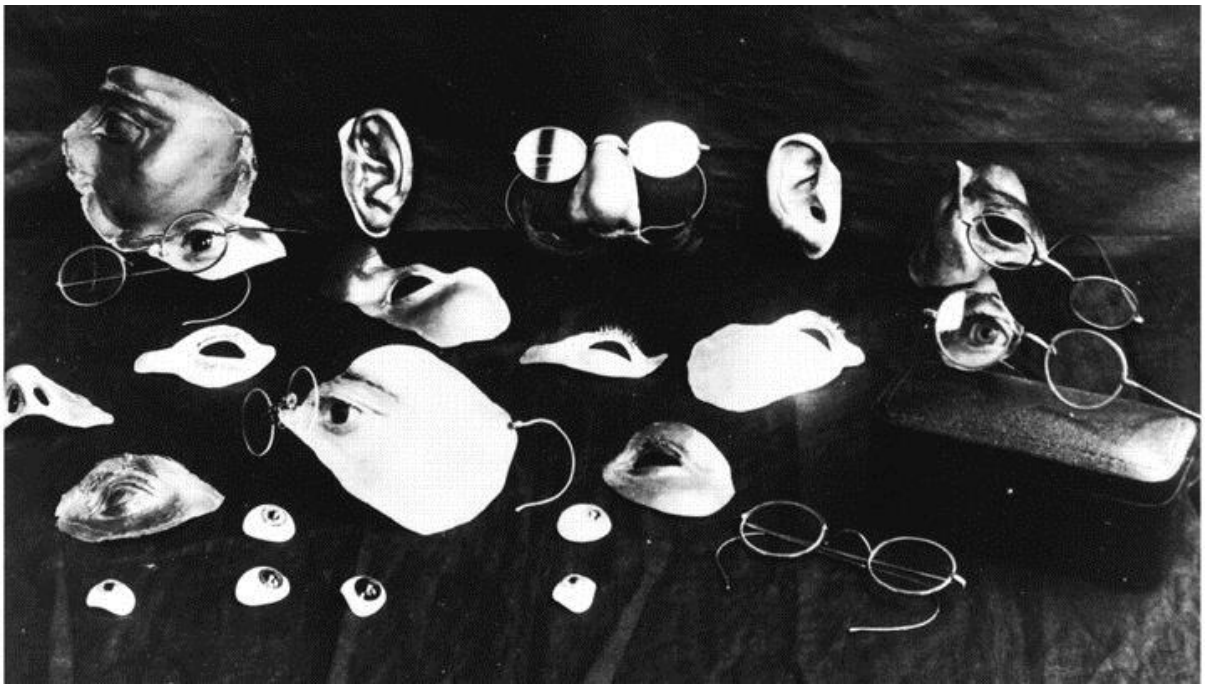
"Now that nearly every household in the town is afflicted by the influenza, the Education Authority has closed all schools for a fortnight. The epidemic is worse than that in the (18)80s, there must be thousands of cases, whole families are down with it and many factories and branches of the public services are completely disorganised. The police are so badly hit the Specials are helping with day duties whilst the tramway workers have fallen ill in such numbers it has been difficult to maintain the service. I hear of one shoe factory where 37 missing from one department alone."

Women

Women, of course, were expected once the war was over and the men had come back, to return to domestic work. Eighteen months after 1918 75% of women who had been employed directly in war related work, had left their jobs. Of course things had been changed forever by the war – the Representation of the People Act gave women over 30 the vote whilst the Eligibility Act brought women MPS into Parliament for the first time and in 1919 the Sex Disqualification Act made it illegal to exclude women from jobs on account of their gender, for the first time. Now we see post war, many jobs and professions, previously closed to women now being opened up, particularly education where there is a flood of women into teaching.

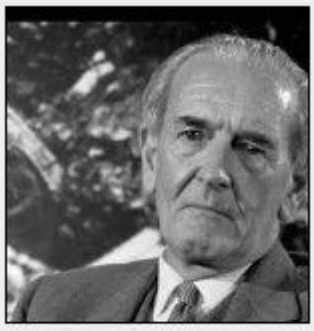
Jonathon Boff of Birmingham University has done some interesting work – one of the biggest improvements for women was in health and in the latter half of the war and into the 1920s having fewer children and indeed, losing fewer of those they did have in the early years of their life. In fact infant mortality fell by two thirds which Boff explained by better living standards, nutrition, smaller households and, for most of the time, by earnings rising faster than food prices which meant that there was more food to go around. There is evidence that housewives were shopping more carefully and government policies, such as rationing and restrictions on sale of alcohol, may also have helped.

Coping With Disfigurement



Many museums – including the Imperial War Museum (above) have collections of prosthetics created to mask the terrible facial injuries sustained by many soldiers of the Great War and enabled these men to face the world again. Stephen said in the quiet of these archives, you can examine these emotive objects, now of course abandoned by their former owners. They are a powerful reminder of men struggling with disabilities throughout their lives and the impact upon their families.

Veterans and Commemorations after the War



Charles Carrington

Commemorations in the 1920s was rather different than it is today, Charles Carrington of the Warwickshire Regiment (he wrote the celebrated memoir `A Subaltern`s War) and many others in his battalion had "no end of a party" on every Armistice day to celebrate their missing friends and Carrington freely admits that those get-togethers on Armistice Day were often `riotous, accepted events punctuated with large amounts of drunkenness. By the late 1920s and into the 1930s that celebration of national and personal victory had lost ground and became a more solemn occasion. Carrington believed really strongly that the 100Days was the strongest and most successful campaign that any British army had ever put in, something to be proud of and added to the edge of the Armistice celebrations. There was criticism of this behaviour as it was felt that it was disrespectful to former soldiers who had been reduced to poverty and destitution during the economic slumps of the 1920s and also, of course, to the bereaved. Campaigns were started up by two newspapers, the Daily Express making the point that veterans should celebrate as they wished whilst the Daily Mail took up the pro-bereaved stance. Of course, the type of commemorations we have today tells us which of those two views prevailed. Carrington disputed that, his brother had been killed on the Somme in 1916 and after the war he said *" …to march at the cenotaph was too much like attending ones` own funeral"* and he felt that the *"…the whole occasion, the solemnisation of the commemorations had been captured by do-gooders…"*

Stephen said he had been pottering around on the internet recently and had seen an article about a plaque on a bench in the village of Writtle in Essex and it said…." *Ox and Bucks, Presented to the Parish of Writtle in Essex by 1 / 4 Ox and Bucks Light Infantry Old Comrades Association in appreciation of the hospitality shown by the people of Writtle to the battalion who were billeted there from August 1914 to March 1915 "*

A picture of the plaque is shown left.

The battalion went to Writtle for training and a bit like the relationship which Stephen described previously with Erquelinnes, after the war, it was not to the Western Front that the 4th Battalion had their reunions, it was not in Oxford – they went to Writtle in Essex where they had honed their skills and had been shown a great deal of hospitality. There is a large file of correspondence between Writtle and the regiment from the First World War until the 1960s, including relationships and marriages which were started. On the day of the unveiling of that plaque on that bench by a bus stop, 150 men of the battalion turned up. So much did it mean to them.

Veterans groups got together after the war but so too did widows. Stephen showed a picture of Clara Gibbard and that of her son Thomas killed at the Battle of Ctesiphon on November 18th 1915 and who was buried close by the river Tigris during the retreat to Kut. His grave was washed away by the regular inundations by that rivers and he is commemorated on the Basra Memorial. She lost a second son, George during the Somme campaign and Stephen said that he had been in touch with the family for the last fifteen years and what we know is that in 1919, Clara Gibbard, a very resourceful woman, a member of the Church Army, and she was the first woman to go with Banbury church Army to go and see the grave of her son George. Perhaps she was driven to go when she did as she knew she would never be able to see Thomas`s grave in Iraq. She continued to go regularly until the mid-1930s and this in an era when it was difficult for women to travel alone. She organised groups of women to travel to the Western Front under the auspices of the Church Army

Here she is, with her daughter (also Clara) at George`s grave during one of her visits in the 1920s.

Battlefield tourism developed simultaneously with these pilgrimages and guides and tour companies – Thomas Cook, for one, sprung up.

It did give rise to some tensions between pilgrims visiting the sites and graves of loved ones and those who were just tourists, indeed some of the travel companies had to continually remind their clients to show respect at the sites they were visiting

Miss Violet Grant of Lichborough Hall, near Towcester undertook a tour of the battlefields in the early 1920's. No idea why as I cannot as there is no evidence of any close relatives being killed so she may have just been curious. No matter, she went, she took some photographs and here are some of them.

No matter what is in the background, she has a smile on her face, obviously enjoying her visit and it has slightly different feeling to what has been the usual photographs from visitors to the battlefield in the 1920s who were generally paying their respects at the graves of loved ones – like those of Clara Gibbard.

The most obvious legacy of the war was memorialisation, the sheer scale – 14000 villages in Britain, each making a decision about how to commemorate the war apart, of course, from the 43` Thankful villages`. Choices had to be made by any community whether to erect a memorial or something which could benefit the community like a hall or a hospital.

One village in Buckinghamshire had formed a committee to decide as to the form the memorial should take and it was a very staunchly Methodist village and the village voted in favour of an obelisk but the Anglican vicar, who was chairing the committee, thought that it should be a cross, similar to those being erected on the battlefields across France and Flanders and finding himself out of line with the decision of the committee, he, and two other members of the committee resigned and they decided not to attended the unveiling of the memorial.

Stephen then read his letter of resignation,

5th May, 1921…, *"Dear Lord Orkney, …as Chairman, for the sake of `unity` in this parish, I have done my best to work with the memorial committee and I am therefore very sorry to inform you that I find myself entirely out of sympathy with the decisions as to the form of the memorial as was passed at the last meeting and that the only honest and open course to me is to resign. I must therefore, with your respect, as you to accept this resignation, as a member of the above committee"*. Then he writes as a sub note…*"I shall not be attending the unveiling"*. This illustrates the tensions in a small community.

Stephen concluded by saying that he can`t quite get over the fact that the First World War Centenaries have come and gone as of November 11th, 1918, and we have spent 100 years thinking about those soldiers who fell, including three of his own family. He felt that one of the things that he had learned that the ending at the armistice has been a century of opportunity to remember those soldiers who returned and the impact of the war, not just on those soldiers who returned and their families, at a time when there was minimal Welfare State compared with today and his researches had shown him a greater respect and indeed, Stephen said he was in awe of families, including his own, who coped with men who returned from the war with all sorts of wounds and problems, with very little support from the state.

Stephen finished by reading an account of the Armistice in 1918 written by a fourteen year old girl, Phyllis Ransome, in a small market town. She was a smart girl and had started to write a diary when she was ten and at school – a school at which she was head teacher later on, a post she held for 40 years.

This what she wrote on the 11th November 1918

"An impromptu band of children marched to the square playing cones and banging dustbin lids as they went. Surely something must be happening somewhere. There isn`t anything, just a lot of people on the streets walking about, talking, some of them are crying…."

There was then our normal Q & A / Discussion session before Tony Bolton rang down the curtain on another successful meeting by offering a vote of thanks to Stephen for his efforts – to which the attendees responded appropriately.

In the discussion at the conclusion of Stephen Barker`s presentation, one of our `regulars` Rob Nash mentioned the mutiny of Canadian soldiers at Kinmel Park in North Wales. Rob has kindly passed on further details,

On 4 and 5 March 1919, **Kinmel Park** in Bodelwyddan, near Abergele, north Wales, experienced two days of **riots** in the Canadian sector of the military complex. The riots were believed to have been caused by delays in repatriation. Also, the Canadian soldier's resentful of being used by their British Officers, as forced labour for the England they fought for, when all they wanted to do was return home after years of service and sacrifice. The 15,000 Canadian troops had been stationed in Kinmel Camp for a period after the First World War, and were kept in undesirable conditions while their officers received pay and were free to leave the camp. In effect, the Canadians who had served so bravely, were now prisoners of a slave labour camp in England!

Officially, 5 Canadians were shot and killed in the incident although survivors of the incident reported the number of those killed were higher. Also not recorded is if those Canadian's were killed during rioting or executed in the aftermath. Because there was an epidemic of flu also causing death in the camp at that time, the actual numbers of those shot to death or the circumstance of those deaths, may never be known. The British Government ordered all records of the incident sealed.

The mutineers were our own men, stuck in the mud of North Wales, waiting impatiently to get back to Canada – four months after the end of the war. The 15,000 Canadian troops that concentrated at Kinmel didn't know about the strikes that held up the fuelling ships and which had caused food shortages. The men were on half rations, there was no coal for the stove in the cold grey huts, and they hadn't been paid for over a month. Forty-two had slept in a hut meant for thirty, so they each took turns sleeping on the floor, with one blanket each.

Colonel GWL Nicholson, in the *Official History Of The Canadian Army In The First World War*, briefly describes the Kinmel mutiny as part of a larger series of events that occurred during the post war re-deployment of Canadian troops:

In all, between November 1918 and June 1919, there were thirteen instances or disturbances involving Canadian troops in England (sic). The most serious of these occurred in Kinmel Park on 4th and 5th March 1919, when dissatisfication over delays in sailing resulted in five men being killed and 23 being wounded. Seventy eight men were arrested, of whom 25 were convicted of mutiny and given sentences varying from 90 days' detention to ten years' penal servitude.

Note. Rob, who an ex serviceman, also supplied these details of the camp,

Kinmel Camp was an Army training ground in what was once the grounds of Kinmel Hall, near Abergele, in Conwy County Borough, Wales. The Kinmel Camp Railway served the camp from 1915 and was later used for a nearby quarry, finally closing in 1964. First World War training trenches can be seen nearby in the grounds of Bodelwyddan Castle .

Four of the five Canadian troops killed during the riot were buried in the graveyard of Bodelwyddan Church among other CWGC memorials. Most of the war graves are casualties of the Spanish Flu pandemic.

BARNSLEY PALS COLOURS PROJECT

By Jane Ainsworth

I first became aware of the two King's Colours for the Barnsley Pals (13th and 14th Battalions of the York and Lancaster Regiment or 13YLR and 14YLR) when I started researching War Memorials in 2013 to create a Barnsley First World War Roll of Honour. This was soon after my husband Paul and I relocated from the village of Over, near Cambridge, to Barnsley town centre and I was surprised to find that one did not exist already.

Towards the end of June 2016, my arrangements were completed for holding a Somme Centenary Commemoration at Silverwood Scout Camp (originally Newhall Camp where the Barnsley Pals trained). I visited St Mary's Church to pay my respects to the Colours, which had been moved at least 30 years previously into a cupboard near the font along with other Standards, as well as other War Memorials in the dedicated Chapel.

Two stained glass windows with plaques in the War Memorial Chapel are especially significant for me because of researching the individuals they commemorate. Jack Normansell features in my book *Great Sacrifice: the Old Boys of Barnsley Holgate Grammar School in the First World War* (Helion & Company 2016). Jack qualified as a Mining Engineer and was the grandson of John Normansell, the first Secretary of the Yorkshire Miners Association. Jack became a Captain in 13YLR; he was badly wounded on the Somme but returned to the Front, where he died of wounds on 10 March 1917, aged 27. I had written an article in 2016 about Dorothy Fox, who fascinated me because of her family connections: her father Thomas was a Wine Merchant and her mother was a McLintock while her uncle Charles Fox was Lieutenant Colonel of the 5th (Territorial) Battalion of the YLR. Dorothy was engaged as a Nurse in the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) on 1 July 1916; she served in several hospitals in England but died of pneumonia (probably caused by the influenza pandemic) on 3 November 1918, aged 24. Dorothy is the only woman I know about on any War Memorials in Barnsley area unless anyone reading this is aware of anyone else – if you are I would be very interested to have details.

After my visit, I contacted the Reverend Canon Stephen Race to ask if we could clean the glass frontage of the cupboard so that the Colours could be seen more clearly in time for the Centenary of 1 July 1916, known as the 'First' Day of the Battle of the Somme, although action had actually commenced much earlier and many men had been killed before this date. Father Stephen granted permission and explained that he would like the Colours to be moved into the Chapel with its impressive central painted First World War Memorial Pillar containing 200 names. I agreed to find out about any regulations or protocol but, after contacting a number of organizations (such as the Royal British Legion and Imperial War Museum) without receiving any clear guidance, we had to assume that the Colours belonged to the Parochial Church Council of St Mary with St Paul (PCC).

Initially we hoped to conserve the Colours as an important part of Barnsley's heritage and I consulted local people via *Barnsley Chronicle*. I sourced an accredited textile Conservator at the People's History Museum in Manchester and she provided a quotation to carry out an inspection of their condition with a detailed report including costed options. I applied to the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership (DVLP) for a grant and they were extremely supportive. The inspection took place in November 2016 and I publicised their findings on paper and the internet, which provoked a response from Major (Retired) Andrew Greenwood, responsible for the Monarch's Colours etc at the Ministry of Defence. He informed me that they are consecrated, belong to the State and are subject to the Queen's Regulations, which specify that they must not be removed from where they have been laid up and they have to 'return to dust' like the men who served under them.

We exchanged a number of emails as I took advantage of Andrew's expertise to find out more about their significance, which meant understanding the perspective of the Army (very different from that of a Historian), and to clarify precisely what we would be permitted to do with them. He confirmed that we could frame them to preserve (not conserve) them provided that the work was carried out in the church and we could relocate them to the Chapel. He told me that we could have replicas made but they could not be consecrated, saluted or treated as Colours.

Throughout 2017 I focussed on researching the history of the Colours of the 13YLR and 14YLR, which had been presented after the Armistice by King George V. The New Army Battalions were not awarded King's Colours initially as were the Regular Army and Territorials but the King felt that they should be recognised for their loyal service during the war. I found a lot of useful information and photographs in old *Barnsley Chronicles* and in Rotherham Archives. I continued to consult and apprise Sir Nicholas Hewitt because of his connection via his grandfather Sir Joseph Hewitt, the first Lieutenant Colonel of 13YLR. He was very enthusiastic about the project and generously offered for Pen and Sword to design and print my booklet about the history of the Colours to help with fundraising.

Father Stephen was preoccupied in addition to his usual duties with working with the Church Architect to draw up plans for renovating the whole building and improving security for a Heritage Lottery bid. Unfortunately, this was rejected in the Autumn – just before Remembrance and Christmas. Father Stephen took a well-deserved three month sabbatical at the beginning of 2018, disappointed that he would need to reduce the scope of the work, concentrating on the Chapel, and start the grant application process from scratch on his return. In the meantime, I sourced a Conservator for the painted Pillar and obtained information about applying for funding from the War Memorials Trust.

By April 2018, it felt late to be planning an event for Remembrance but I was determined that St Mary's should do something special for the Centenary of the Armistice. Father Stephen

approved my proposal to commission replicas of the Colours, which could be Blessed in a service on Sunday 11 November. I favoured using Yorkshire companies and Flying Colours of Knaresborough were able to meet this timescale, using the Conservator's inspection report and photos, as were Platinum HPL of Harrogate for the display banner. DVLP awarded their maximum grant of £2,000 towards the cost and I invited donations from groups and individuals.

I applied successfully to the Armed Forces Covenant for two There But Not There Soldier Silhouettes and I acquired a metal mannekin from Emmaus in Sheffield onto which red, white and blue ribbons could be tied with the names of anyone involved in the First World War written onto them. Father Stephen felt that the female shape was appropriate to acknowledge the role of women, who supported the men and were the main grievers as mothers, wives, daughters and sisters.

I was delighted with the excellent production of my history by Paul Wilkinson using all the photographs I suggested and more while Jon Wilkinson did me proud with the stunning cover and skilful colourizing of some of the old images. (The 50 page booklet costs £5 and all proceeds will be used towards the next phase of the project). Everything was delivered in October – replica flags, banner, silhouettes, booklets, mannekin and jelly babies as 'Peace Babies' as they were designated when the war ended – but, most unfortunately, I became too ill with depression to be able to complete all arrangements planned or to attend the service.

Father Stephen organized the Blessing Service and produced a service sheet, he invited attendees to sign the Visitors Book, arranged for volunteers to provide refreshments and he booked bellringers to participate as part of the national Ringing Remembers. Sir Nicholas and Mayor Steve Green ensured that key people were invited and that the event was promoted while Mike Cotton ensured there was good coverage in *Barnsley Chronicle*. I wish I could have been there to enjoy the 'fruits of my labours' but I am extremely grateful to my husband Paul for getting involved and for taking our camera to St Mary's on 11 November.

I am now working hard co-ordinating phase 3 of the project to frame the two Colours. The Conservator has estimated that it will cost £8,500 to create two bespoke frames which she and a colleague will bring to Barnsley, staying here while they work in St Mary's to carefully lay out the delicate fragments onto backing material to be held in place with netting. Further fundraising is underway and donations are most welcome.

The timescale is dependent on raising sufficient money from various sources, but it would be wonderful if the Barnsley Pals Colours could be framed and displayed in the War Memorial Chapel with its conserved painted Pillar by Remembrance 2019.

As far as I am concerned, this year is another important one for commemorating the First World War with the centenaries of laying up the 13YLR Colours, signing the Treaty of Versailles on 28 June and the declaration of 19 July as a Bank Holiday to celebrate Peace. We will be holding a special event at St Mary's in the afternoon of Sunday 2 June and we hope to obtain permission from the Council for a procession to recreate that of 29 May 1919. Details have not been confirmed at the deadline for my writing this article but they will be publicised in *Barnsley Chronicle* and elsewhere. I hope that many readers will be able to participate and support this important heritage project.

Jane Ainsworth

Ed`s Note. Jane`s really keen to hear from anyone related to any of the Barnsley Pals and for them to be involved on 2 June. She can be contacted on - janemaa@hotmail.co.uk

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Fifty Sons

The night of May 16, 1916, Lieutenant Ewart Alan Mackintosh's actions earned him the Military Cross for "conspicuous gallantry." As he led his Seaforth Highlanders in a raid on German trenches near Arras, sixteen of his men were wounded, two seriously. Mackintosh carried one of the wounded, Private David Sutherland,* over one-hundred yards through German trenches, with German troops in close pursuit. Nineteen-year-old David Sutherland "died of his wounds as he was hoisted out of the trench and had to be left at the enemy front line" (Powell, *A Deep Cry*). His body was never recovered, and Sutherland has no known grave. He is just one of the nearly 35,000 men commemorated on the Arras Memorial to the Missing at Faubourg d'Amiens military cemetery.
Shortly after that night, Mackintosh wrote and dedicated the following poem to Private David Sutherland and other men under his command who had died in the war.

In Memoriam
Private D. Sutherland Killed in Action in the German Trench,
May 16, 1916, and the Others Who Died

So you were David's father,
And he was your only son,
And the new-cut peats are rotting

And the work is left undone,

Because of an old man weeping,
Just an old man in pain,
For David, his only son David,
That will not come again.

Oh, the letters he wrote you,
And I can see them still,
Not a word of the fighting,
But just the sheep on the hill
And how you should get the crops in
Ere the year get stormier,
And the Bosches have got his body,
And I was his officer.

You were only David's father,

But I had fifty sons
When we went up in the evening
Under the arch of the guns,
And we came back at twilight -
O God! I heard them call
To me for help and pity
That could not help at all.

Oh never will I forget you,
My men that trusted me,
More my sons than your fathers',
For they could only see
The little helpless babies
And the young men in their pride.
They could not see you dying,
And hold you while you died.

Happy and young and gallant,

They saw their first-born go,
But not the strong limbs broken
And the beautiful men brought low,
The piteous writhing bodies,
They screamed "Don't leave me, sir",
For they were only your fathers
But I was your officer.
-- by EA Mackintosh

The poem opens with "So you were David's father" – putting us right in the moment at which the officer sits down to write an official letter of condolence. Rather than an official letter, however, what Lieutenant Ewart Mackintosh writes is a poem that tries to make meaning out of the senseless death of a young man he had desperately tried to save.

As an officer, Mackintosh would have had to read his men's letters home, censoring all correspondence to ensure that no operational information was shared that could fall into enemy hands. No letter could be mailed without first having been reviewed by an officer, and so Mackintosh would have known about his men's homes and their families. He recalls David's reticence in sharing the hardships and dangers of battle with his family; instead, Private Sutherland was worried about his father alone on the farm, attempting to care for both sheep and crops without his son by his side.

The officer tries to focus on the father's sorrow – "just an old man in pain" – but his own grief overwhelms him and interrupts thoughts of Scottish crops and Highlands storms with the wrenching lines,
And the Bosches have got his body,
And I was his officer.

Like a father with fifty sons under his command, Mackintosh vows, "never will I forget you, my men that trusted me." Unlike their fathers, however, Mackintosh's last view of the young men who were like sons to him wasn't as they appeared "in their pride" leaving to join the war, "happy and young and gallant." Instead, he witnessed and bore responsibility for "the beautiful men brought low," the "strong limbs broken." It was Mackintosh who heard their screams, "Don't leave me, sir," and held their "piteous writhing bodies" as they died.

This is a poem that Mackintosh never intended to send to David Sutherland's father. The officer knew how much the young private had shielded his father from the horrors of war, and he would have seen it as his duty to save David's father from learning of his son's last minutes of agony.

Who, then, is the audience for the poem? While the opening stanza begins by addressing David's father, the last two verses of the poem shift, this time directly addressing the dead men of the Seaforth Highlanders. In these stanzas, Mackintosh voices his personal grief, and the poem's last line speaks directly to David Sutherland and the others who died: "I was your officer." It is a haunting conclusion, communicating Mackintosh's love and grief tinged with his guilt at being powerless to save them. By the spring of 1916, powerlessness was the central emotion that was shared by nearly everyone whose lives were touched by the Great War.

**David Sutherland enlisted in the town of Reay (Caithness), and his family's farm was in Achreamie, a village in the far north of Scotland.*

Ewart McIntosh was himself unfortunately killed at Cambrai in November 1917 - but he was no doubt one of the good guys and a fine caring officer

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Members may remember that back in September 2014, Steve Warburton gave a talk on Brigadier General CHT Lucas. At the end of his talk, Steve mentioned briefly his capture by and subsequent escape from the IRA in Ireland. Recently his Granddaughter, Ruth Wheeler pieced together the story of his capture, captivity and escape from letters he had sent to his wife, Ruth`s grandmother.

The army general who charmed his IRA kidnappers

Brig Gen Cuthbert Lucas is pictured sitting down in this "proof of capture" photograph

Brig Gen Cuthbert Lucas was fishing on the River Blackwater near Fermoy on 26 June 1920 when he was captured by the IRA, becoming the highest ranking soldier to suffer such a fate.

This came at what was a bloody time for Ireland: about 1,400 people were killed during the Irish War of Independence, among them 261 British soldiers, 361 British police, some 550 IRA volunteers and 200 civilians. Between 1919 and 1921, atrocities took place on both sides. In one notorious episode, British police fired indiscriminately into a Gaelic football crowd, killing twelve people. The IRA targeted soldiers and police, killing British officer Maj Geoffrey Compton-Smith, while also kidnapping and killing 60-year-old civilian Maria Lindsay, who was seen as an informer.

It was during this period that Lucas, from Hertfordshire, was sent to Ireland to take control of an unruly British regiment.

The Boer War and World War One veteran must surely have feared the worst when he was captured.

Poppy Lucas was able to write to her husband during his captivity

But as it transpired - and as the letters shown by his granddaughter Ruth Wheeler to the BBC's Antiques Roadshow help to demonstrate - Lucas would strike up a rapport with his captors, supping whiskey with them and playing endless games of cards.In one letter to his wife in England, Lucas describes how he is being "well looked after and well treated, but very bored".

Perhaps to alleviate the boredom, he demanded - and received - an officer's prisoner-of-war allowance of a bottle of whiskey a day. And despite the fact that he was being hidden by the IRA from British forces, he was given permission to indulge in various outdoor activities.

"There were croquet matches, tennis lessons, salmon poaching and, on my grandfather's request, he went out in the fields and 'helped save the hay'," said Mrs Wheeler.

"He hated to sit around and do nothing and needed his 'healthy exercise'."

She said: "The rapport between the IRA men and my grandfather, whilst each side keep to their roles, is amazing.

"They played cards into the early hours, which my grandfather tried to conceal from my grandmother in his letters, as she wouldn't approve."

Lucas's wife Joan - also known as Poppy or Pip - was pregnant at the time of his capture, and family members tried to hide the news from her.

Mrs Wheeler said: "She was staying with her in-laws and, when they got news that her husband had been kidnapped, they sent her to London.

"One morning she was feeling sick, so she called for the nurse who came with a bowl, and underneath the bowl was a newspaper with the headline 'General Lucas kidnapped'.

"She went into premature labour and a baby was born."

Lucas sent about 20 letters to his wife during his captivity

She managed to get news of the birth to Lucas by sending a letter to him addressed simply "to the IRA" - it's likely that postal workers sympathetic to the cause helped to ensure it reached the captive soldier.

Olive Carey, who conducted interviews with relatives of Lucas's captors for the Shannon Social History Project, said: "There was a genuine feeling that he was well-liked by all of the guards.

"He was a very affable sort of man who was easy to get on with. They played cards with him.

"He was particularly good at poker. He also played bridge and they taught him to play forty-fives (a trump card game). He also liked his whiskey and had plenty of help drinking it."

Jack Hogan, the son of one of the IRA guards, Thomas Hogan, told Ms Carey: "The trouble was that they couldn't keep him.

"He used to drink a bottle of whiskey every day and he used to beat them at poker. He cleaned them out at poker."

It seems that his facility at cards and his capacity for alcohol might even have played a part in the IRA's decision to let him go unharmed.

KIDNAPPED GENERAL ESCAPES FROM SINN FEINERS.

DAILY SKETCH.

No. 3,561. Telephones: {London—Holborn 6912. Manchester—City 6501. LONDON, SATURDAY, JULY 31, 1920. (Registered as a Newspaper.) ONE PENNY.

GENERAL'S THRILLING ESCAPE FROM SINN FEIN PRISON.

Brig.-General Lucas, who yesterday made such a thrilling escape from his Sinn Fein captors, with his wife. Their son and heir has been born during the time the General has been held prisoner.

A studio picture of Gen. Lucas. The military party who found him were ambushed, and two soldiers killed and three injured. A second military lorry drove off

Mr. Frank Brooke, an Irish Privy Councillor, who was shot dead by masked men in Dublin. He was a close personal friend of Lord French, and a director of the Dublin and South-Eastern Railway.

Brigadier General Lucas was the highest ranking soldier to be kidnapped by the IRA

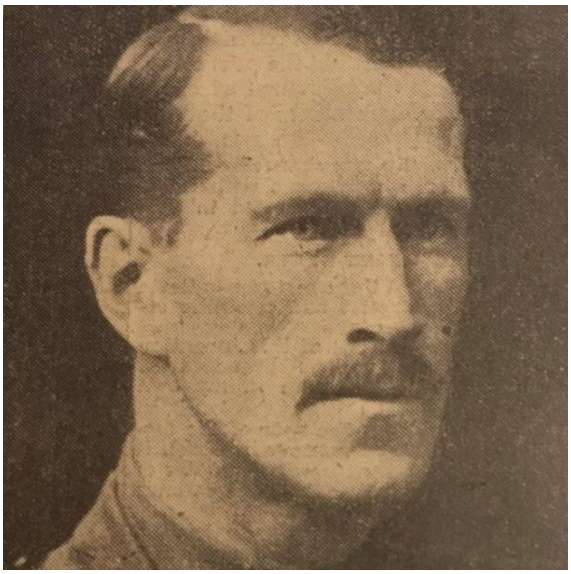
Historian Tim Pat Coogan, whose books include The IRA and Ireland in the 20th Century, said: "They facilitated his escape because he was a good man for the whiskey.

"The IRA got him in Cork and transferred him to Clare and looked after him. The only problem was the whiskey. The commander got browned off by the bottle each day."

He said the unit also wanted to be rid of him because holding Lucas was tying down a lot of men.

"They'd already had the publicity from the kidnapping, and during the kidnapping very little else [in the way of IRA operations] could go on in the area," Mr Coogan said.

On 30 July 1920, following more than a month of captivity, Lucas "escaped" after his IRA guards relaxed the security around him.



Cuthbert Lucas

Born in Hitchin, Hertfordshire, in March 1879, Educated at Marlborough College and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst.Commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant into the Royal Berkshire Regiment in 1898, he served in the Boer War from January 1900, A captain by the time the World War One broke out, he took part in the battles of Somme, Ypres and the Gallipoli campaign.Married Joan "Poppy" Holdsworth in October 1917.

Took charge of the Fermoy Barracks in County Cork in October 1919.Retired from the British army in 1932 and went to live in Stevenage, where he took up embroidery. He died in 1958

Thomas Toomey, author of The War of Independence in Limerick, 1912-1921, said he believed there could have been some sort of deal between Lucas and the IRA because he does not seem to have revealed any of the 12 or so homes in which he was held.

"The odd thing about it is that General Lucas knew every house he stayed in, but none of the homes were ever raided. I believe there was a pact. They got to like him.

"Over my 20 years researching him, I never heard one bad word said against him."

For Mr Toomey, it's an example of a rare positive tale at a very troubled time.

"If you didn't know it was true, you wouldn't believe it."

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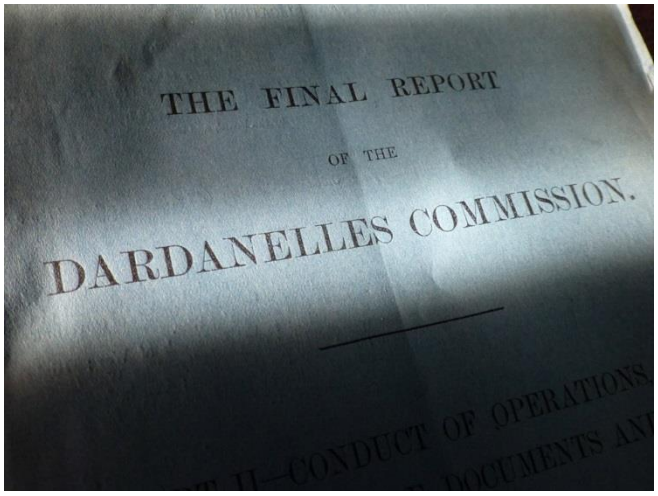
From the 'Nottingham Evening Post,' 8th March 1917.



The findings of the Dardanelles Commission were published on 8th March 1917. A summary of the report concluded that though there had been some benefit from the campaign, whether "those advantages were worth the loss of life and treasure involved must always remain a matter of opinion."

"BLUNDERS OF GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN.

"KITCHENER, FISHER, ASQUITH, AND WAR COUNCIL CRITICISED.

"TRAGEDY OF DELAY.

"THE LATE WAR MINISTER'S ERRORS OF JUDGMENT.

"IMPORTANT POLITICAL ADVANTAGES" GAINED.

"The first report of the Dardanelles Commission was issued this morning [8th March 1917]. It is a document of 60 pages. The general conclusions arrived at are as follows:

"(A) The question of attacking the Dardanelles (here there is an excision) was on the initiation of Mr. Churchill, brought under consideration of the War Council on November 26th, 1914, as ideal "the ideal method" for defending Egypt.

"(B) It may reasonably be assumed that inasmuch as all the authorities concerned were prima facie in favour of a joint naval and military rather than a purely naval attack, such attack if undertaken at all would have been of the former rather than of the latter character had not other circumstances led to a modification of the programme.

"The communication from the Russian Government on January 2nd introduced a fresh element into the case. The British Government considered that something must be done in response to it, and in this connection the question of attacking Dardanelles was again raised.

"The Secretary of State for War declared that there were no troops immediately available for operations in the East. This statement was accepted by the War Council, who took no steps to satisfy themselves by reports or estimates as to what troops were available then or in the near future. Had this been done we think that it would have been ascertained that sufficient troops would have been available for a joint naval and military operation at an earlier date than was supposed.

"But this matter was not adequately investigated by the War Council.

"Thus question before the War Council on January 23rd was whether no action of any kind should for the time being be undertaken, or whether action should be taken by the fleet alone, the navy being held to be the only force available.

"(D) The political arguments which were adduced to the War Council in favour of prompt and effective action, if such were practicable, were valid and of the highest importance, but the practicability of whatever action was proposed was of equal importance.

"HALF-HEARTED OPINION.

"Mr. Churchill appears to have advocated the attack by ships alone before the War Council on a certain amount of half-hearted and hesitating expert opinion which favoured a tentative or progressive scheme beginning with an attack upon the outer forts. This attack if successful was to be followed by further operations against the main defences of the Narrows.

“There does not appear to have been direct support or direct opposition from the responsible naval and military advisers — Lord Fisher and Sir James Murray — as to the practicability of carrying on the operation as approved by the War Council, viz. “to bombard and take the Gallipoii Peninsula with Constantinople as its objective.”

“(F) The First Sea Lord and Sir Arthur Wilson, who was the only other naval adviser present at the War Council, expressed no dissent.

“Lord Kitchener, who occupied a commanding position at the time the decision was taken, was in favour of the project. Both Lord Fisher and Sir Arthur Wilson would have preferred a joint naval and militart attack, but they did not express to the War Council, and were not asked to express, any opinion on the subject, and offered no objection to the naval operations, as they considered them experimental, and such as could be discontinued if the first results obtained were not satisfactory.

“Moreover such objections as they entertained were mainly based on their preference for the adoption of other plans in other theatres of war.

“(G) We think that there was an obligation, first on the First Lord, secondly on the Prime Minister, and, thirdly, on the other members of the War Council to see that the views of the naval advisers were clearly put before the Council.

“We also think that the naval advisers should have expressed their views to the Council, whether asked or not, if they considered that the project which the Council was about to adopt was impracticable from a naval point of view.

“MISTAKEN AND ILL-ADVISED.

“(H) Looking at the position which existed on January 13th, we do not think the War Council were justified in coming to a decision without much fuller investigation of the proposition which had been suggested to them that “the Admiralty or should prepare for a naval expedition in February to bombard and take the Gallipoli Peninsula with Constantinople as its objective.”

“We do not consider that the urgency was such as to preclude a short adjournment to enable the naval and military advisors of the Government to make a thorough examination of the question.

“We hold that the possibility of making a surprise amphibious attack on the Gallipoli Peninsula offered such great and political advantages that it was mistaken and ill-advised to sacrifice this possibility by hastily deciding to undertake a purely naval attack, which from its nature could not attain completely the object set out in the terms of the decision.

“(I) We are led to the conclusion that the decision taken on February 16th to amass troops in the neighbourhood of the Dardanelles marked a very critical stage of the whole operation. It ought to have been clear at that time that when this once done, although the troops might not have actually landed, it would become apparent to all the world that a really serious attack was intended, and that withdrawal could no longer be effected without running a serious loss of prestige.

“We consider that at that moment, inasmuch as time was all important, no compromise was possible between making an immediate and vigorous effort ensure success in the Dardanelles by a joint naval and military occupation, or falling on the original intention of desisting from the naval attack if the experiences gained during the bombardment were not satisfactory.

“GRAVE DELAY.

“(J) On the 20th February Lord Kitchener decided that the 29th Division — part the of troops which, by the decision of February 16th, were to have been sent to the East — should not be sent at that time, and Colonel FitzGerald, by his order, instructed the Director of Naval Transports that the transports for that division and the rest of the Expeditionary Force would not be required.

“This was done without informing the First Lord, and the despatch of the troops was thus delayed for three weeks.

“This delay gravely compromised the probability of success of the original attack made by the land forces, and materially increased the difficulties encountered in the final attack some months later.

“(K) We consider that in view of the opinions expressed by the naval and military authorities on the spot, the decision to abandon the naval attack after the bombardment of March 18th was inevitable.

“(L) There was no meeting of the War Council between March 19th and May 14th. Meanwhile important land operations were undertaken. We think that before such operations were commenced the War Council should have carefully reconsidered the whole position.

“In our opinion the Prime Minister ought to have summoned a meeting of the War Council for that purpose, and, if not summoned the other members of the War Council, should have pressed for such a meeting.

“We think this was a serious omission.

“(M) We consider that the responsibility of those members of the Cabinet who did not attend meetings of the War Council was limited to the fact that they delegated their authority to their colleagues who attended those meetings.

“(N) We are of opinion that Lord Kitchener did not sufficiently avail himself of the services of his General Staff, with the result that more work was undertaken by him than was possible for one man do, and confusion and want and efficiency resulted.

“(0) We are unable concur in the view set by Lord Fisher, that it was his duty if he differed from the chief of his department to maintain silence at the council or resign. We think that the adoption of any such principle generally would impair the efficiency of the public service.

“We think that although the main object was not attained, certain important political advantages, upon the nature of which we have already dwelt, were secured by the Dardanelles Expedition. Whether those advantages were worth the loss of life and treasure involved must always remain a matter of opinion.”

The origin of the tank

VERY early in the 1914-18 war defence became too strong for offence owing to the power of machine-guns, assisted by barbed wire, and the increase in artillery. After the First Battle of Ypres this factor resulted in a stalemate on the British front which lasted for three years.

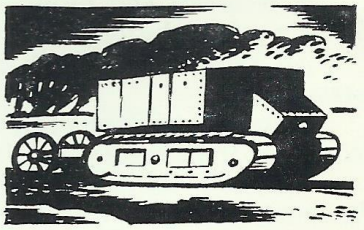
Both sides increased their artillery enormously in an attempt to break the deadlock. The Germans tried gas. Neither development was really successful, and the First Battle of the Somme, with its appalling casualties, made it apparent that a new method of crossing the deadly fire-swept zone of 'No Man's Land' must be found.

At Cambrai, where tanks were used correctly for the first time, the real solution was found. Tanks proved capable of destroying machine-guns and crushing down the wire, thus enabling a successful assault to be delivered against the strongest defence.

These are the circumstances in which the tank originated. But it did not owe its birth entirely to the tactical needs of 1914-18. As long ago as 1482 Leonardo da Vinci was writing of covered chariots mounting guns. The idea recurs constantly throughout military history.

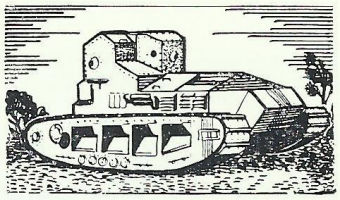
All these early efforts failed in one particular. They had insufficient power. Even the steam engine could not produce the high power-to-weight ratio that was necessary to provide the three essentials of the tank—armour plating, guns and obstacle-crossing ability. Indeed, until the invention of the petrol engine the tank was impracticable.

It was just prior to the 1914-18 war that the petrol engine became a sufficiently reliable and efficient machine to make its use in a tank possible. The idea must have occurred to many mechanically minded people at the time. The earliest record preserved in the Museum is a copy of the drawing for a machine submitted to the War Office by a Mr. de Mole, an Australian, in 1912. Although it was not used, this design bears a good deal of resemblance to the first tanks actually produced. The drawing is reproduced inside the back cover of this Booklet.



Most of the credit for the rapid evolution of the tank as a practical fighting machine must, however, be given to a very small band of enthusiasts. Amongst them they combined a complete knowledge of tactical requirements gained first-hand in the field with a thorough knowledge of the capabilities of the petrol engine and the caterpillar track, and they had the ability

and enthusiasm to exploit their knowledge and develop the tank despite many and varied difficulties.



During the autumn of 1914 armoured cars had been employed in North Belgium and North West France and their limitations quickly became evident under active service conditions. By October, 1914, Lieut.-Col. Swinton[1] was suggesting that the armoured car should be fitted with caterpillar tracks to enable it to cross trenches and flatten barbed wire entanglements. The idea received little encouragement from the authorities, despite an urgent plea which Mr. Churchill[6] made to Mr. Asquith, the Prime Minister at the time.

It was not until June, 1915, that Lieut.-Col. Swinton was able to secure the support of the Commander of the British Expeditionary Force in France, Sir John French, who agreed to give official backing to the idea of the tank. Meanwhile, in the spring of 1915, the Admiralty had become interested in the idea of a landship and had formed a Committee to investigate the matter under Mr. D'Eyncourt.[2] This Committee took as the basic requirement for their design the specification suggested by Lieut.-Col. Swinton. Two of the experts connected with this Committee were to play a major part in the subsequent development of tank design. They were Lieut. W. G. Wilson, R.N.A.S.,[3] and Mr. William Tritton[4], of Messrs. William Foster & Co., a firm which was already making tracked vehicles under the trade name of 'Centipede'.

The War Office and the Admiralty combined their efforts in the Summer of 1915 and the first prototypes, 'Little Willie' and 'Big Willie' were ready for trials by September, 1915, and February, 1916, when Sir Douglas Haig, then commanding in France, sent Major H. J. Elles[5] home to report on them. The choice was a fortunate one, for Major Elles was to play a decisive part in the rapid formation and development of the Royal Tank Corps.

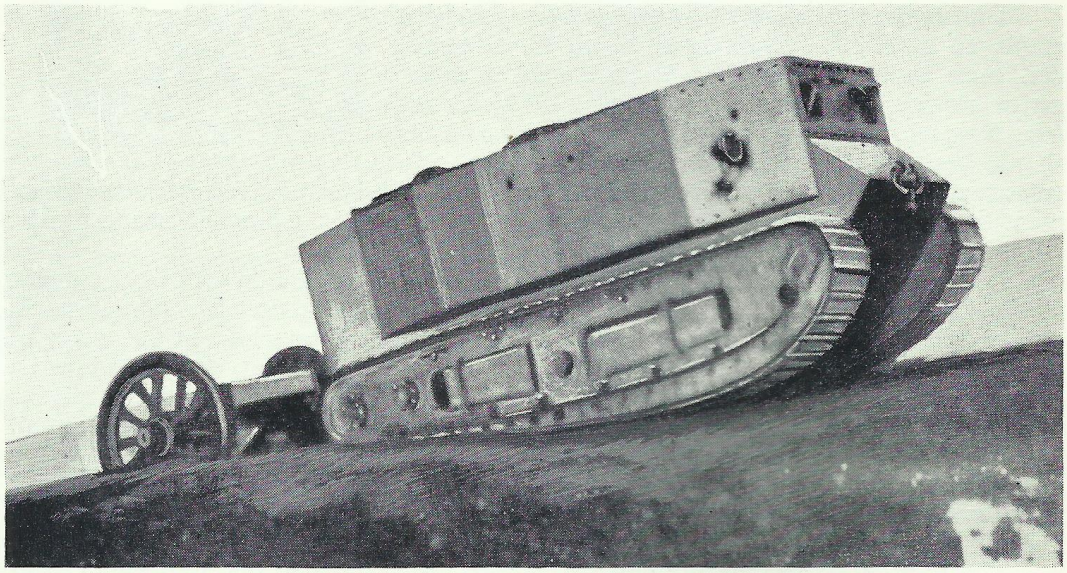
The scope of this Booklet is, however, limited to the development of the tank as a machine. The story of the men who fought them is told in their Regimental histories, some of which are on sale in the museum.

To those who were connected with tanks in the 1914-18 war, the steady, Mark-by-Mark progress which this Handbook implies will seem misleading. It is, however, true to say that design did develop in this way. But the demand for tanks was always too urgent to allow for delays in production which would have been necessary if production models were to incorporate the latest designs in all cases.

Many of the improvements which subsequently became the main feature of the new Marks, were first introduced in earlier Marks. As a result many 'Hybrid' tanks were built, having the characteristics of more than one Mark as described in this Handbook.

[1] Later Major-General Sir E. D. Swinton, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O.
[2] Later Sir Eustace H. W. Tennyson D'Eyncourt, K.C.B.
[3] Later Major W. G. Wilson, C.M.G.
[4] Later Sir William A. Tritton.
[5] Later General Sir Hugh Elles, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., D.S.O.
[6] Later Sir Winston S. Churchill, K.G., O.M., C.H.

LITTLE WILLIE



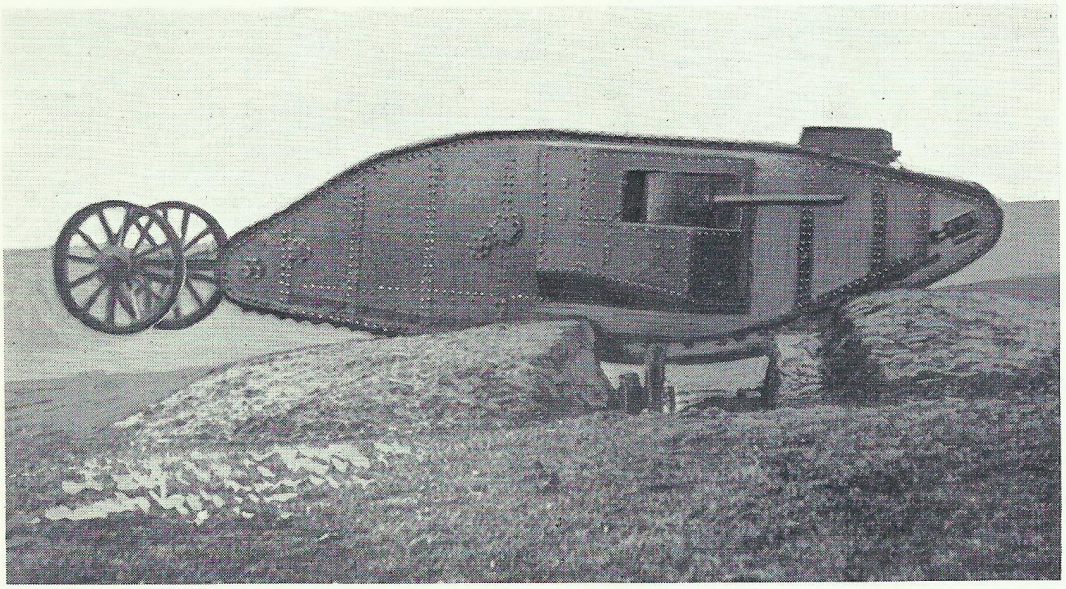
'Little Willie' was built in September, 1915, and its first trials were witnessed by His Majesty King George V on Thetford Heath, Norfolk, in the same month. It was designed by Sir William Tritton and built by Messrs William Foster & Co. Produced under the auspices of the Naval Committee, the engine, gearbox and differential of the pre-war Foster Daimler tractor were adopted.

As a first attempt, it was strikingly successful, but its balance proved rather defective and it lacked the obstacle-crossing capacity of 'Big Willie', the next prototype. The design was therefore abandoned, but 'Little Willie' was put to good use as a training tank at Hatfield, where it went in June, 1916. It is now preserved in the Museum, but unfortunately its steering tail has been removed and cannot be traced.

The vehicle was powered by a 105 h.p. 6-cylinder sleeve-valve engine, weighed 28 tons, was 26½ ft. long and had a speed of 3½ m.p.h. It was completely enclosed, with a door in the rear of the hull.

A steering tail was trailed behind the tank, consisting of a pair of wheels 4 ft. 6 ins. in diameter, which were kept in contact with the ground by springs. For a slight turn the wheels were turned by means of wire ropes operated by hand by the driver. For sharper turns the steering tail was lifted hydraulically, and the tank was steered on its secondary gearboxes as described in 'Early Tank Steering' overleaf.

MOTHER



'Big Willie' was very similar mechanically to 'Little Willie', but its high nose gave it a much greater obstacle-crossing capacity. It was therefore adopted as the prototype for a series of tanks which ran eventually to nine marks totalling over 2,300 machines, and bore the brunt of the tank fighting of the 1914-18 war. It is not surprising that 'Big Willie', known also as the 'Wilson' and 'H.M.L.S. Centipede' during its early days, soon became universally known as 'Mother'.

Built by Messrs. William Foster & Co. in 1915 to the design of Major Wilson and Sir William Tritton, it ran its trials on Poppleton's Fields, Lincoln, in January, 1916.

After several successful demonstrations one hundred of these machines were ordered. Their specification, which follows 'Mother's' closely, is given overleaf.

A special Unit of the Machine Gun Corps under Lieut.-Col. Swinton was formed to operate these machines. The evolution of the tank was proceeding under conditions of great secrecy, and the continued use of obviously descriptive names such as 'Landships' was undesirable. A new name was evolved jointly by Lieut.-Cols. Swinton and Dally Jones whilst Assistant Secretaries to the War Office Committee. They included it in a printed report on a Conference on December 24, 1915, and the word became officially and commonly used soon after that date. The Committee formed to organise the production of the first machines was therefore termed the Tank Supply Committee.

Amazingly, Little Willie, survived post war and the subsequent accumulations of scrap metal for re-use in WW2 and can be seen today at the Tank Museum at Bovington, near Wool in Dorset.

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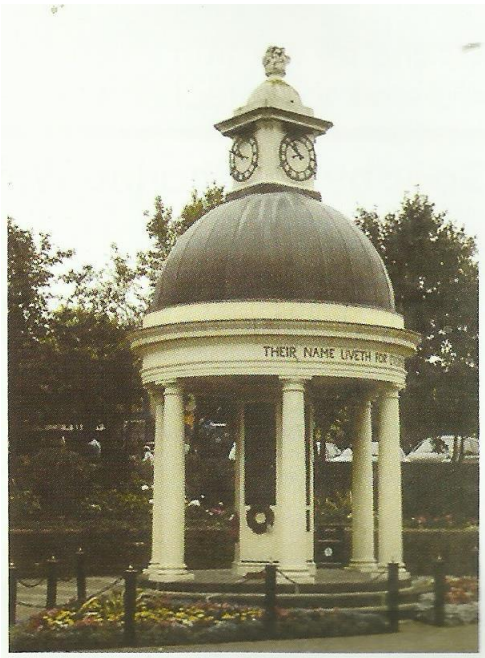
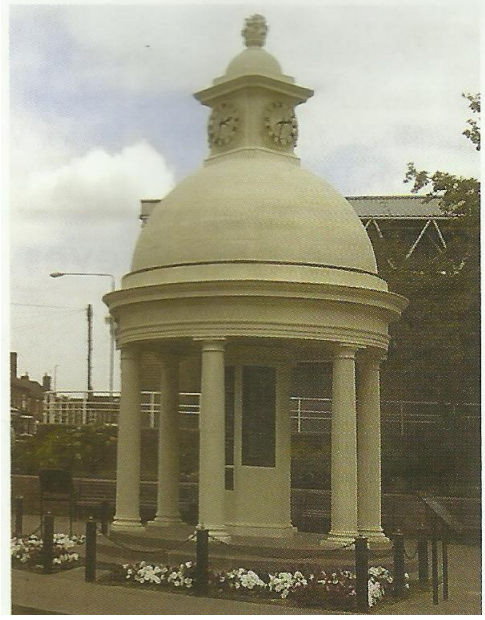
Kimberley War Memorial. Kimberley, Nottinghamshire

Kimberley War Memorial is situated on Main Street/Greens Lane in Kimberley, Nottinghamshire. It was unveiled in 1921 by sir Henry Dennis Readett Bayley, chairman of the Giltbrook Leather Works and Managing Director of the Digby Colliery Company. It was dedicated by the Rev. Frederic Hart whose son 2Lt Charles Hart had been killed in The Great War in Africa. It is believed the memorial cost around £1500 when erected. As the photographs demonstrate, the setting has changed considerably over the years as buildings have been erected around it. It is constructed of reconstituted stone in the form of a domed butter cross on a round plinth. Six columns support the inscribed cornice band and dome which is topped with a square lantern with four clock faces and a flame finial. There are three inscribed bronze tablets to the fallen of both World Wars. It is a Grade II listed structure.

The dome was covered with copper sheet in 2008 thus altering the original design somewhat. In 2015 a grant of £825 was awarded through the War memorials Trust Grants Scheme – Professional Advice Grant towards a structural report to assess the condition and make recommendations on the repair. Due to the scale and complexity of the project the charity felt that phased approach would assist in understanding the extent of works required. With the detailed Specification of Works prepared a further application was made. This led to a second grant of £50000 in 2017 again through the **War Memorials Trust Grants Scheme** supported by the **First World War Memorial Programme** funded by the Department of Digital, Culture, media and Sport and was one of the largest grants awarded during the centenary through this scheme.

The project involved a comprehensive programme of repair and conservation in line with best conservation practice I which is guided by publications such as Historic England`s `*The Conservation, Repair and Management of War Memorials*` As with all grant aided projects with a cost greater than £10000 a conservation accredited professional advisor was required to oversee the works. And, as a listed structure, Listed Building Consent was obtained to allow the works to be undertaken.





The project included cleaning of both stone and metalwork, replacement of fiings which had corroded, repairs to the dome and rainwater goods, structural works, re-painting of lettering and an application of SmartWater, as part of the **In Memoriam 2014** initiative, to deter theft of the metal elements. Works to the dome returned the design to the original stone finish in keeping with what was chosen by those who erected the memorial following the end of WW1. The project was completed in 2018 and a site visit by a War Memorials Trust Conservation Officer undertaken to discuss the project before the grant was made.

The memorial remains important to the community who had to raise considerable funds as the grant from the War Memorials Trust accounted for around two thirds of the total project cost.

The concrete blocks that once protected Britain

More than 100 years ago acoustic mirrors along the coast of England were used to detect the sound of approaching German zeppelins. A forerunner of radar, acoustic mirrors were built on the south and northeast coasts of England between about 1916 and the 1930s. The 'listening ears' were intended to provide early warning of incoming enemy aeroplanes and airships about to attack coastal towns. With the development of faster aircraft the sound mirrors became less useful, as an aircraft would be within sight by the time it had been located, and radar finally rendered the mirrors obsolete.

The concave concrete structures were designed to pick up sound waves from enemy aircraft, making it possible to predict their flight trajectory, giving enough time for ground forces to be alerted to defend the towns and cities of Britain.

Joe Pettet-Smith set out to photograph all the remaining structures following a conversation with his father, who told him about these large concrete structures dotted along the coastline between Brighton and Dover.

The sound mirror at Abbot's Cliff, between Folkestone and Dover. "When I originally arrived at the cliff's edge, the sun was creating a harsh shadow down the face of the concave which wouldn't have done the structure any justice'" says Pettet-Smith. "I knew it was going to pass at some point so I just got my book out and waited. Around three or four hours passed and eventually the sunlight started making the eclipse in the concave that makes the picture what it is."

Invented by Dr. William Sansome Tucke and known as sound mirrors, their development continued until the mid-1930s, when radar made them obsolete.

"From what I can gather from old Ordnance Survey aerial photos, this sound mirror at Warden Point on the Isle of Sheppey used to be mounted on the neighbouring cliff, but has since fallen into the sea due to coastal erosion. When the tide is up it is nearly entirely submerged so I had to work out when the tide was going to be fully out to be able to photograph it. It was then a case of finding an angle that accentuated the curve of the surviving section of concave," says Pettet-Smith.

"When I was a child my father told me stories about my grandfather and his involvement in radar," says Pettet-Smith. "One of his recurring jokes has always gone along the lines of: 'It's not rocket science, I should know, my Dad was a rocket scientist.'" Initially Pettet-Smith was drawn to the family connection, but after researching early aircraft defence experiments, he became fascinated by the story of the sound mirrors.

"When this structure was constructed in Redcar in about 1916 the surrounding area would have been marshland. It was built away from the population to avoid any intruding sound pollution," says Pettet-Smith. "Today it stands on the edge of a housing estate. So there I was, tripod half on the pavement half off, jacket over my head framing up the picture when I notice a few bystanders have started to stop and stare. One lad said he passed by it every day but didn't know what it was, let alone that it was one of many up and down the country."

"I began to think more and more about the relationship between art, science and the creative process. Experimentation and ultimately failure are an intrinsic commonality of all three. "The sound mirror experiment, this idea of having a chain of concrete structures facing the Channel using sound to detect the flight trajectory of enemy aircraft, was just that - an experiment. They tried many different sizes and designs before the project was scrapped when radar was introduced.

"The science was solid, but aircraft kept getting faster and quieter, which made them obsolete."

"This is in a farmer's field in Yorkshire," says Pettet-Smith. "On Google Maps a landline number pops up for a caravan site next door. After speaking to them, I got the number for the chap who owns the field and he kindly said it was okay for me to cut across and photograph the structure. So my thanks go to Peter for this one. Luckily his sheep were in the next field along. Interestingly the Kilnsea mirror is one of the only structures to still have the remnants of the metal microphone pole that would have originally been used."

Pettet-Smith used an old wooden large format plate camera to record the structures, partly because he wanted to use technology that was around at the time, and secondly as it allowed him to correct the perspective of the structure in-camera without resorting to manipulation at a later date. "Some of the structures were removed by local councils; many more were planned but never built. This series is a celebration and a cataloguing of all the remaining examples." "The design of the Selsey mirror in East Sussex matches structures on the Northern coast in Boulby, Redcar and Sunderland, but the opposite side has been bricked up," says Pettet-Smith. "The letter box had a mobile number on it and so I left a voicemail. That evening Darren, the owner, called me back and we spoke at length about the sound mirrors and the peculiar history of the Selsey mirror. Unlike the other remaining mirrors, the Selsey mirror is a Grade II listed building and was converted into a domestic residence shortly after the end of World War Two."

Boulby sound mirror on the Yorkshire coast

The sound mirror at Namey Hill in Fulwell, near Sunderland

The sound mirror at Fan Bay, Dover, has a diameter of 15ft.

A larger 30ft mirror can be found nearby.

There are three sound mirrors on the coast at Denge near Dungeness. The first is 20ft.

Nearby sits this one, which is 30ft.

The largest of them is a 200ft sound mirror.

The sound mirror at Hythe was built in 1923.

A forerunner of radar, acoustic mirrors were built on the south and northeast coasts of England between about 1916 and the 1930s. The ‘listening ears’ were intended to provide early warning of incoming enemy aeroplanes and airships about to attack coastal towns. With the development of faster aircraft the sound mirrors became less useful, as an aircraft would be within sight by the time it had been located, and radar finally rendered the mirrors obsolete.

The sound mirrors at Denge in Kent have become quite famous, but it is less well known that a number of other mirrors existed, built to a range of different designs. These webpages bring together photographs of the surviving mirrors, and some details of where they are if you are interested in visiting them.

During World War I sound mirrors were built along the northeast coast, at

- Kilnsea, East Yorkshire
- Boulby, North Yorkshire
- Redcar
- Hartlepool(?) (demolished)
- Seaham (demolished)
- Sunderland

Mirrors were also built on the south coast at various times and locations

- Abbot's Cliff, east of Folkestone, Kent
- Denge, Dungeness, Kent
- Hythe, Kent
- East of Dover, Kent
- Joss Gap, Kent
- Selsey, West Sussex
- Warden Point, Isle of Sheppey, Kent.

One mirror was built overseas, at

- Maghtab, Malta.

A different style of aeroplane detection system was tried on Romney Marsh

- Snave, horizontal disc