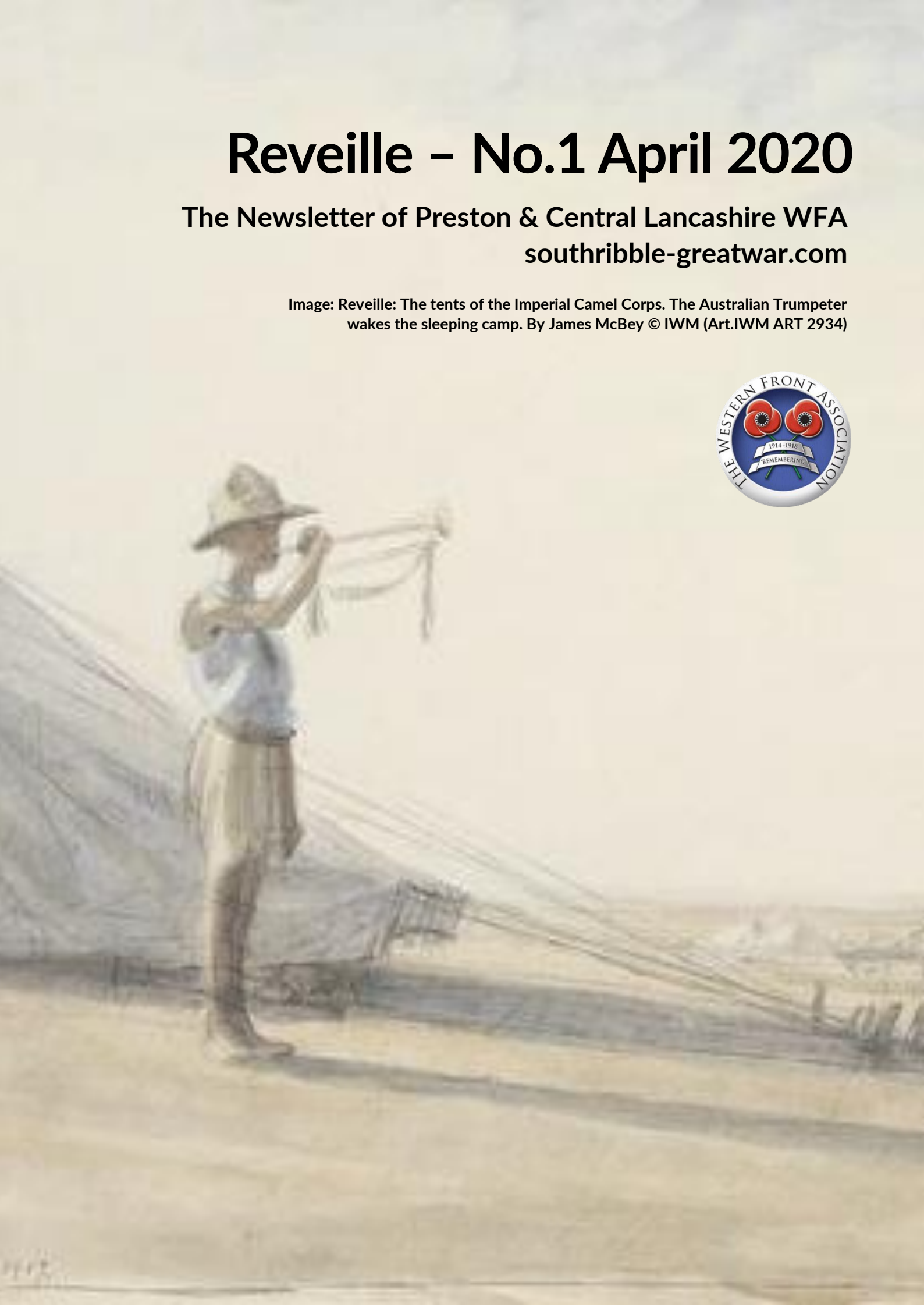
Reveille – No.1 April 2020

The Newsletter of Preston & Central Lancashire WFA
southribble-greatwar.com

Image: Reveille: The tents of the Imperial Camel Corps. The Australian Trumpeter wakes the sleeping camp. By James McBey © IWM (Art.IWM ART 2934)



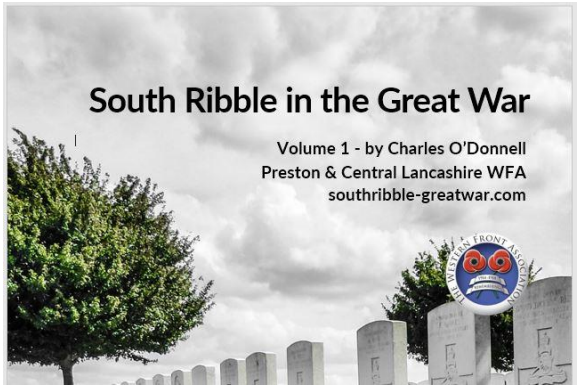
Editor's Note

Hello WFA members and non-members alike. Welcome to the first edition of our Newsletter "Reveille." We have been thinking about putting together a newsletter for a while. Our inspirations are Gerry White's excellent "Distant Thunder", and "Despatch", the newsletter of Lancashire North branch. We have an exclusive from Peter Hart and articles from officers, members and friends. We have also included links to some publications we have made available via our branch page on the Western Front Association website and also links to podcasts and youtube channels we hope you might enjoy. We sincerely hope that you are all well and are staying safe. Please stay in touch with us at preston.lancs.wfa@gmail.com including your critiques of this work, your articles, and suggestions of how we can improve.

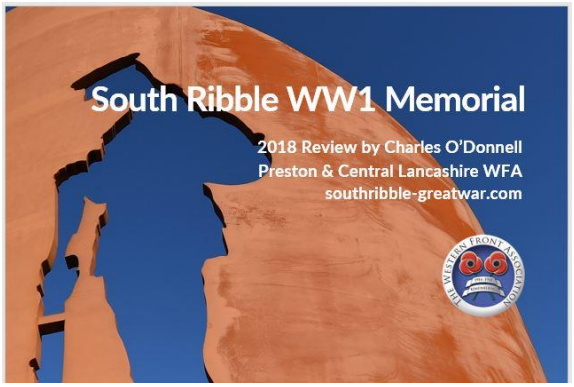
Best wishes - **Charlie O'Donnell, Chair and editor.**

Preston & Central Lancashire WFA
Our Publications

We have made a number of publications available through our branch page on the Western Front Association website. They are all in PDF format. We hope you enjoy them.



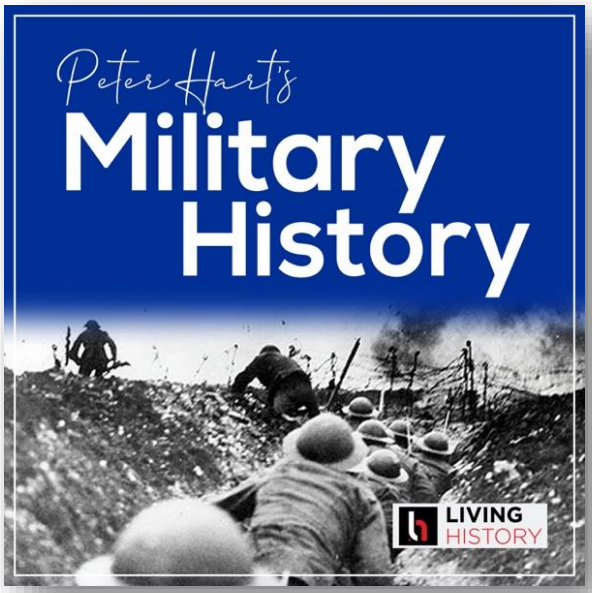
South Ribble in The Great War Volume 1. The stories of 36 people from the South Ribble area during The Great War. 82 pages and packed with 56 illustrations from our own collection and IWM



South Ribble WW1 Memorial. The story of how the memorial was built and the 2018 review undertaken by Preston and Central Lancashire WFA. Includes full Roll of Honour.

A Comparison of the British Army's Experience on the Western and Italian Fronts: A Case Study of the 8th and 9th Battalions of The Yorkshire Regiment (Green Howards) in the Great War. MA dissertation by our Secretary Stan Grosvenor MA FCA,

Peter Hart's Military History Podcast



For more than 40 years historian Peter Hart has interviewed thousands of veterans about their experience of war. Join him and his chum Gary Bain as they explore all aspects of military history. Follow the links to listen:

APPLE PODCASTS

SPOTIFY

STITCHER

PODTAIL

PODPARADISE

Montague Cleeve
By Peter Hart

Montague Cleeve was born in Southsea on 20 October 1894. He was the son of an officer in the Royal Engineers and there was never much doubt as to his career.

It became the custom in the family for all fit males to go either into the Army, or the Navy, as a tradition. My brother's eyes weren't quite good enough for that, so he couldn't go - and I went automatically, no question about my future from the day I was born.

Nevertheless, his mother, a skilful pianist was an equal influence on his life, and he studied both the piano and violin. He was educated at the Rokeby Preparatory school, before being sent off as a boarder to Dean Close School in Cheltenham.

I learned to mix with other people, made a lot of very good friends, nearly all of whom were killed in World War One.

Cleeve was a member of the Officers' Training Corps where he rose to the dizzy heights of lance-corporal and managed to pass his Certificate 'A', which qualified him for consideration for a commission. He left school in 1912 and was supposed to go on to the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, but had terrible difficulty in passing the entrance exams.

History was one of the subjects and I was absolutely abominable at history. So much so that the most I ever got at an exam in history was 5/100! My parents were in despair because I twice took the entrance to Woolwich and failed because of my history! Then my mother hit on a brainwave - she knew that all Cleeves have a terrific sense of humour so she presented me with Heath Robinson's 'Monarchs of Merry England' which is a history in rhyme of English history and illustrated most amusingly! I learned that by heart and at my final entry exam - because I was getting beyond the age limit - I passed with 15/100 and got into 'The Shop' in the autumn of 1913.

Luckily, he was better at the more scientific subjects and progressed well when he finally started at Woolwich in January 1914. He was still not academically eligible for the Royal Engineers and, after discussion with his father, he selected service with the Royal Garrison Artillery – because he lacked private means and would have to live on his army salary.

When the war broke out in August 1914, Cleeve was still a cadet, but members of his intake were commissioned as second lieutenants after only two terms on 16 November 1914. He was first sent to No Man's Land Fort in the Solent – one of 'Palmerstone's Follies' built to defend Portsmouth in the 1860s. Thick solid granite walls with a railway line in the main gallery going all round in a circle to serve about a dozen 12-inch breech-loading rifled guns pointing out of the portholes. Cleeve was often the officer of the watch, responsible for shooting the guns. Here is a tape recording of him courtesy of the IWM.

We had a gun manned all the time, that was called the examination gun, and that had to be prepared to fire if a ship came in which didn't respond to the pass signal. We were very

naughty, because we had control of the searchlights. Normally they were doused and nobody could see anything – then at surprise moments we had a lever we had to switch, open the covers - and then suddenly the whole of the sea was lit up with searchlights - we'd see a 'periscope' - fire the gun straight off at this periscope. It was only a bit of flotsam or something like that - it was absolutely wicked, but it was great fun. On one occasion, I was

on duty and a small vessel came in and didn't respond to the pass signal! It was given two chances - and didn't respond. I gave the order to fire just in front of the vessel. It stopped immediately and later on I was rung up - they were furious, because they said one of my shell's splinters had landed on the ship. I didn't care two hoots, I was doing my duty!

Officer Cadets loading a 8 inch Mark I howitzer at No. 1 RGA Officer Cadet School at Trowbridge, November 1917. © IWM (Q 54254)

In March 1915, Cleeve was posted to the newly formed 36th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery at Taunton. They were the first 4-gun heavy battery to be equipped

with the 8-inch Mark 1 Howitzers and when they went to France in late-September of 1915, these guns attracted considerable interest from the military authorities.

They were very improvised howitzers because they were old 6" guns cut in half, the front half was thrown away, and the rest of it was bored out to 8" inches with rifling - and they were given modem breech mechanisms. They were mounted on enormous commercial tractors; wheels like the steam rollers used to repair roads - monstrous things and extremely heavy. But the machinery of the guns was very simple and that's why they did so extremely well and didn't give nearly as much trouble as some of the more complicated guns that gradually came to appear later-on. One of them was the very first one to be made - it was marked '8" Howitzer No. 1 Mark I' - so we called that gun, 'The Original'.

They proved to be monstrous beasts.

They were unnecessarily heavy for their size and you couldn't turn the gun round in a road, you really wanted the length of a tennis court to describe a circle in it. They had to have a wooden platform put down over the rather soft earth to strengthen the surface from which they had to fire. Then they had huge wooden chocks which we put to jam the wheels, hoping that they wouldn't move, but they always did, of course, because they took half the recoil - half the recoil was taken by the buffer and half by the movement of the gun. The wheels used to ride right up to the top of the chocks, and then the curvature of the chocks made them go back, forwards again, by gravity. If the chocks weren't put in quite the right position, the gun went back and got completely off the line and was slewed round. One of our skills which we developed, was purely due to the men which were a splendid lot of Durham miners - they used to get so good at placing the chocks that we could fire quite rapidly, knowing that the gun would recoil back only a fraction of a degree off the line to the target.

Each gun had a crew of ten; the Sergeant No. 1, gun layer, breech operators and the ammunition numbers – who had a tough time with the heavy shells.

They were put into various gun position moving up and down the line in the Somme area, which then was fairly quiet, before moving to Beaumetz as part of the build-up to the opening of the battle on 1 July 1916.

The guns were dug into an enormously deep bank about 10 feet deep by the side of a field. We had an awful job to manoeuvre the guns into it because the caterpillars were useless, they could get them into the neighbourhood, but then we had to manhandle these enormous monsters - push them into their positions. We camouflaged it extremely well by putting wire netting over it threaded with real grass, they were so well concealed that a French farmer with his cow walked straight into the net and both fell in - we had a most appalling job getting this beastly cow out of the gun position. It was one of those delightful moments when you all burst out laughing!

At least some of them had comfortable billets.

We officers were living in a marvellous chateau which was filled with furniture and I remember my delight at finding a newish violin, which I was able to play. That was a great joy to me because I hadn't touched a violin for so long. We were absolutely in the lap of luxury - and this was only a few hundred yards from the gun position.

Later, the battery moved to positions in the open fields at Engbelmer, where they were surrounded by other batteries of guns and howitzers.

The bombardment, which took place for a whole week beforehand, with every gun on both sides firing tooth and nail! It was a terrible din going on - you could hardly hear yourself talk! And dangerous, during the bombardment, there was a gigantic explosion because the 15-inch howitzer only 100-yards in front of the battery had blown up. All the splinters and the earth came showering down on us and for some miraculous reason we escaped - but they had some men killed and several maimed.

Late in the battle they were occupying gun pits in Albert. While going forward to the observation post, Cleeve had a terrible experience.

We literally couldn't walk along the trenches without unfortunately, treading on dead bodies - German and British - and the stench on those hot summer days, and the flies, was simply appalling. That was one of the most miserable memories that I have of the Somme. It was pathetic really. Eventually one just got over it and thought nothing of it! There were dead bodies all around all over the place - we couldn't help it - we were alive and that's

what mattered. And being alive, we jolly well had to get on with it and that's exactly what we did!

On 20 October, 36th Siege Artillery Battery suffered their first casualty.

It was a very nice young chap called Gunner Japp. We were being shelled and we were going on firing away. We didn't notice it but he was lying on the ground. And we thought he'd fallen asleep or something. And we went to him, there was not a sign of anything wrong, and then we opened his tunic and found a tiny little splinter had gone right through his heart. And that was our one and only casualty in the whole of the Somme.

Gunner Alexander Japp from Kelty in Fife is buried at Albert Communal Cemetery Extension. Cleeve grew to have a high regard his gunners.

They were marvellous! I don't honestly think we could have had a better group of men than those Durham miners. We think of miners now striking and wanting more pay and that sort of thing. There was no suggestion of it with them! They were all volunteers - every one of them - they weren't called up! The battery really consisted mostly of regular soldiers, most of whom became NCOs, and these wonderful Durham miners. They just sprang to it whenever they knew there was a job to be done. They were such a pleasant lot to work with. I think that helped us enormously to be such a good battery. We couldn't have been a good battery with men who were only half hearted or wore their hearts on their sleeves. But these were wholeheartedly good chaps! It was such a pleasure to work with them.

Cleeve was an acting captain by the time the battery was moved to Beaurains in preparation for the Battle of Arras, that would commence on 9 April 1917. Suddenly, they came under heavy shelling from the Germans and a convoy of ammunition lorries began to explode, detonating an ammunition dump.

Somebody told us there was a good cellar in the town hall. We ran like hares across the square and dived down into the cellar to find it already occupied by about forty infantry. It only had a tiny little vent hole, about a foot square, facing south and that was all the air that we could get. The town hall had been hit over our heads and was blazing - I knew that if we stayed there we would probably be suffocated. I climbed the staircase, and the whole place in ruins already, blazing around me. I was just going across what remained of the hall

and I got hit in my left eye and another in my thigh, I crawled down to the basement. I yelled out to the men "For God's sake, run for your lives - If you don't you'll get suffocated!" And they took my advice and they all scampered out.

Cleeve himself was carried out by a fellow officer across the blazing inferno of the village square, although he received another shell splinter wound in his right arm. At last he was evacuated by ambulance to the dressing station and then in stages back to England.

King George V inspecting the breech of a 14-inch railway gun of the 471st Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery. It had been trained on the railway station at Douai, some 19 miles away. The gun has painted on it "HMG Boche-Buster". Bray-sur-Somme, 8 August 1918. © IWM (Q 11463)

It was not until December 1917 that Cleeve recovered, whereupon he was promoted to acting major and sent to attend a battery commander's course at Lark Hill. It was then he was given a very special posting - to command a railway carriage mounting carrying the 14" gun as part of 471st Siege Battery. The guns were taken from a partially-completed Chilean dreadnought, Almirante Cochrane, which was under conversion to be an aircraft carrier. The gun weighed 270 tons and could fire a three-quarter ton shell some 20 miles. This beast was soon named Bosche Buster and, with her twin, Scene Shifter, arrived in France in late-May 1918. Cleeve was attached to the First Army area near Arras, while Scene Shifter went to Fifth Army near Bethune.

We got to Savy, a charming little village. We put Bosche Buster, the fighting train as we called it: locomotive, gun, the magazine wagon behind it with sixteen bins carrying eight shells in each bin, the cartridge wagon, the command post wagon, the artifficers' wagon, then a guard's van behind that.

Cleeve was keen to use the mobility of his railway gun to maximum effect, firing from different positions on specially build curved spurs - then moving away to avoid the inevitable German return fire. Their main targets were railway junctions and stations, attempting to disrupt German troop movements during the Allied 'Hundred Days' offensives.

We went to France on our own range tables, which were largely speculative, because we assumed that the loss of muzzle velocity between each round would be. After each round, we had to make a mini-adjustment for that loss of range for the next round to be fired. When we had orders to proceed into action, we had a several minutes in the command post wagon of knowing what the target was going to be - and what the spur line was going to be. And the officers could get down to all the calculations so that we were ready to open fire the moment we arrived in action.

On 8 August, Cleeve was told to expect a VIP visitor and that he was to shoot from the Marœuil Spur at 14.30. They got everything ready, expecting a visit from an army commander or some such military dignitary.

A whole cloud of dust arrived as a motorcade arrived and out of the first car stepped His Majesty King George V. I took him over to the gun - a very tense young officer! He was

extraordinarily interested in the gun, he walked all over the mounting with me, asking all sorts of questions. Then he asked if he could see the gun loaded. Of course, we said, "Yes!" It had to be loaded by twelve men, six either side of the rammer and they had to squash up together at the far end of the platform. A little railway carriage carried the shell, an enormous thing weighing 2,500 pounds into the breech. It was terribly important to ram it home, otherwise it would have slipped back at high elevation. On the word "Go!" from the sergeant, these twelve over 6-foot men pushed with all their might and rammed the shell into the bore! The King was very thrilled with that. Then they put the cartridge in. Lieutenant Tickner, who was in charge on that occasion, watched the gun being elevated to check the layer was absolutely correct. Gradually the gun got to very nearly extreme elevation - somewhere about 40 degrees. Tickner suddenly turned round to salute me to say, "Gun laid, Sir" - and as he did so he nearly knocked His Majesty off the mounting! His Majesty was intensely amused at this and turned round to the other officers following behind, "Apparently I'm in the way!" That caused everybody to smile! I said, "I'm awfully sorry, Sir!" to the King, "but I'm afraid nobody's allowed to stand on the platform while the gun is fired!" Very reluctantly the king accepted it. When all was ready, I saluted to the King, "Gun ready, Sir" and His Majesty, the King said, "Fire the gun, please!" I immediately ordered fire, and off went the gun - taking many of his surrounding staff by such surprise that they all cupped their heads and turned away frightened of the shock. His Majesty stood as still as a statue. The gun fired with a tremendous roar and a gigantic flash.

Cleeve believed that this was the only time a monarch had given a direct order for a gun to fire in battle. The King then suggested a night shoot on Douai station. In view of the threat of German flash spotters immediately locating their firing position this was an extremely risky proposition. Still a suggestion from the King was an order and they duly carried out nightly harassing fire, resulting - according to the locals - in a direct hit on a German troop train.

After the war Cleeve lost touch with Bosche Buster and Scene Shifter. He pursued a career as a professional soldier, taking on various postings and was promoted over time to the rank of lieutenant colonel. In the Second World War he was recalled to Dover to try and reassemble Bosche Buster and Scene Shifter using an 18" gun on the old mountings. They proved not to have the range of the 14" gun and the idea to carry out

cross-channel shoots was abandoned. Throughout his long life, Cleeve maintained his enthusiasm for music and after his retirement from the army in 1946, he became a noted music teacher at several prominent public schools. He was credited with pioneering the revival of the viola d'amore an instrument neglected since the 18th Century. Montagu Cleeve died on 5 January 1993.

I am grateful to Lyn Smith of the Imperial War Museum Sound Archive who carried out the interview which is quoted in this article. It can be heard to on the IWM website:

http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/80007113

Peter Hart

Podcasts – Quality Listening

The Western Front Association's podcasts are an eclectic mix of themed interviews with experts in their particular fields which shine a light into areas of the first world war which are sometimes overlooked

Hear the men and women whose lives were shaped by the First World War tell their stories of the conflict in our podcast series, Voices of the First World War.

The Home Front - Lighting Up and Lighting Down
by Stan Grosvenor MA FCA

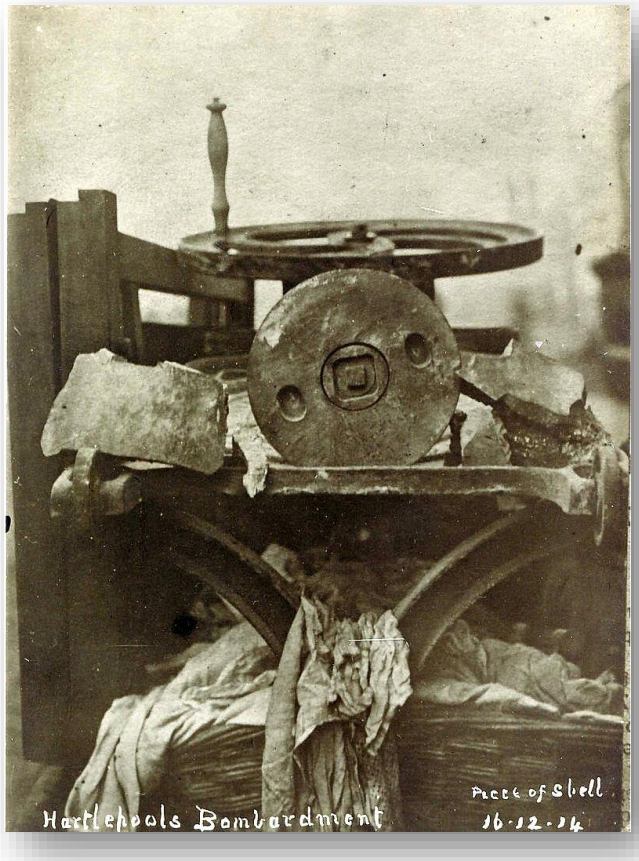


Image. A piece of shell from the bombardment of Hartlepool 16 December 1914. Image in the Public Domain

1914 - Blackout

In 1914 street lights had merely been screened against the sky but this method resulted in throwing pools of light onto the roads. London could never be disguised because of the reflections of the Thames and the Lea Valley reservoir. The same applied to other rivers such as the Ribble and Mersey and to lakes and the sea.

Throughout the war there were stories about car headlamps being used by enemy agents to direct the raiding airships over England. Only one case was brought to the point of prosecution but this was eventually dropped. As a result of this, drastic orders for the reduction of motorcar lamps were enforced. Speeding trains gave off light from their funnels and from the railway carriages. As a result, trains slowed down and in some cases services ceased. Even intermittent flashes of light from trams caused a problem at night, reducing night services. On air raid nights some electric train and tram drivers refused to work so measures had to be introduced to ensure continuance – especially to get crowds away from any seemingly threatened area.

1915 – Air Raid Precautions

Early in 1915, the Garrison Commander, Tees and Hartlepool Garrison, met the Ironmasters of the district at Middlesbrough, upon the invitation of the Chief Constable, to discuss the most effective means of obscuring all lights (and more especially the glare from blast furnaces) in the event of hostile aircraft visiting this immediate district. As a result of this Conference, arrangements were agreed and carried out by the Ironmasters. 0n 11th May 1915, the Garrison Commander issued an Order under Regulation 12 of the Defence of the Realm Act, for the obscuration of all lights within the area of the Garrison. The Code Words were as follows:

First – To indicate that hostile aircraft had been reported in the vicinity and that preparations should be made to extinguish lights on receipt of the second code word.

Secondly - All lights to be immediately extinguished.

Thirdly – Ordinary lighting to be resumed.

The Chief Constable also made arrangements with the officer in charge of the Air Station at Redcar, who on receipt of the order 'Take Air Raid Action' invariably sent up an aeroplane who reported whether any lights could be observed.

At first, the general public did not take kindly to the enforcement of these orders so far as house and shop lights were concerned. Before long everyone was in favour of them!

Air Raid Warning – some central lighting instructions

Public street lamps and all other external lights will be extinguished. The use of lanterns, electric torches, flash lights and bicycle lamps is not permitted. The striking of matches in the streets is not permitted. Some men were prosecuted for this offence.

Lights on all vehicles must be extinguished and to prevent accidents, drivers should proceed with caution on the left or nearside of the road. The public are particularly requested to keep to the footpaths; if necessary, to use the roadway, walk on the right-hand side of the road.

When the Country is reported clear of Hostile Aircraft the street lighting will be resumed; if after the hour of 10.30pm the lamps at present in use will only be lighted for a period of 15 minutes.

1915 - Middlesbrough Civil Guard

A volunteer Motor Cyclists Section was formed in Middlesbrough, commencing on 10th May 1915. They were sworn in as Special Constables. When called out they were posted to Outpost Duty to detect and report sounds of aircraft, dropping of bombs etc. This was a hazardous duty as all travelling was done without lights and in darkened streets. Other duties included seeing that all lights were speedily obscured in case of zeppelin raids.

Image. Pram c. 1914

1916 – Pram Lights

Owing to the darkness of the streets the order had gone forth, based on the regulations of the Central Authority, that even the humble perambulator must carry a light wherever it went after dark. To many of the poorest who could not leave home without taking their children with them, this was a great hardship, more particularly as lamps were not easily obtainable. A prosecution in Middlesbrough brought the matter before the public and an appeal was made to the Home Secretary, then Mr Herbert Samuel, member for the Cleveland Division, who gave the

sensible decision, made applicable of course to the whole country, that prams on the footpaths or crossing the street, need not be lighted.

1917 Dark Cinemas

The National Council of Public Morals believed indecency was taking place in cinemas. The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, following a survey of 248 cinemas early in 1917, concluded that cinemas were genuinely too dark. A cinema manager, in a report to the Home Office in 1918, suggested little had changed since the survey.

The Learning Curve

Much has rightly been made by historians of the importance of the learning curve on the Western and other fronts. This was especially true of the Italian theatre in 1918 where there is clear evidence that lessons learned in France and Belgium were put to good effect by the Italian Expeditionary Force in 1918. It can also be seen that they were put to good use in WW2 and later. An example is the Instructions for Platoon in Attack which were still promulgated in the mid-1950s.

The same was true of experiences on the home front; this can be seen through a comparison of air raid precautions in 1914 with those that came later. As in the Great War, mobile smoke wagons were used in WW2 to obscure manufacturing areas such as the steel industry, from the air.

youtube – Some channels of interest

The youtube channel of The Western Front Association. Featuring talks by Dr John Bourne, Gary Sheffield, Peter Hodgkinson, Rob Thompson.and Dr Aimee Fox. Over one hundred videos including talks, interviews and media pieces. Lots of subjects covered and it should keep you going for a while!

The Great War covers the First World War from 1914 to 1923 – in real time. Every other week, Jesse Alexander cover the important events that influenced the world 100 years ago. Form 2014 - 2018, Indiana Neidell followed the main events of what is classically considered as World War 1 on a weekly basis.

William Ambrose Worthington – The story of an underage soldier
By Stephen Roberts

Private 2622 William Ambrose Worthington of the 1/5 Battalion Loyal North Lancashire Regiment 1898-1915. During December 2019, as a newcomer to Bolton, I decided to familiarise myself with the area by walking through Leverhulme Park and Tonge Cemetery. In the Roman Catholic Section of the latter, my eye was drawn to a striking memorial (pictured left) with its crossed Lee Enfield Rifles, surmounted by a

cap bearing the badge of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, it clearly commemorates a soldier of the Great War. The inscription reads as follows:

In The / Holy Name / of Jesus / Pray for the Repose of the Soul / of / William Ambrose / Worthington 1/5 Batt. L.N. / Lancashire Regiment / The Beloved Son of / William and Annie Worthington / Who was Killed in Action at / Zonnebeke, Belgium, / June 20th 1915, Aged 17 Years / Also of the Above William Worthington / Who died Oct 30 / 1945 Aged 76 Years / And Annie his Beloved Wife who Died May 3rd 1952 aged 83 Years. / Re-united.

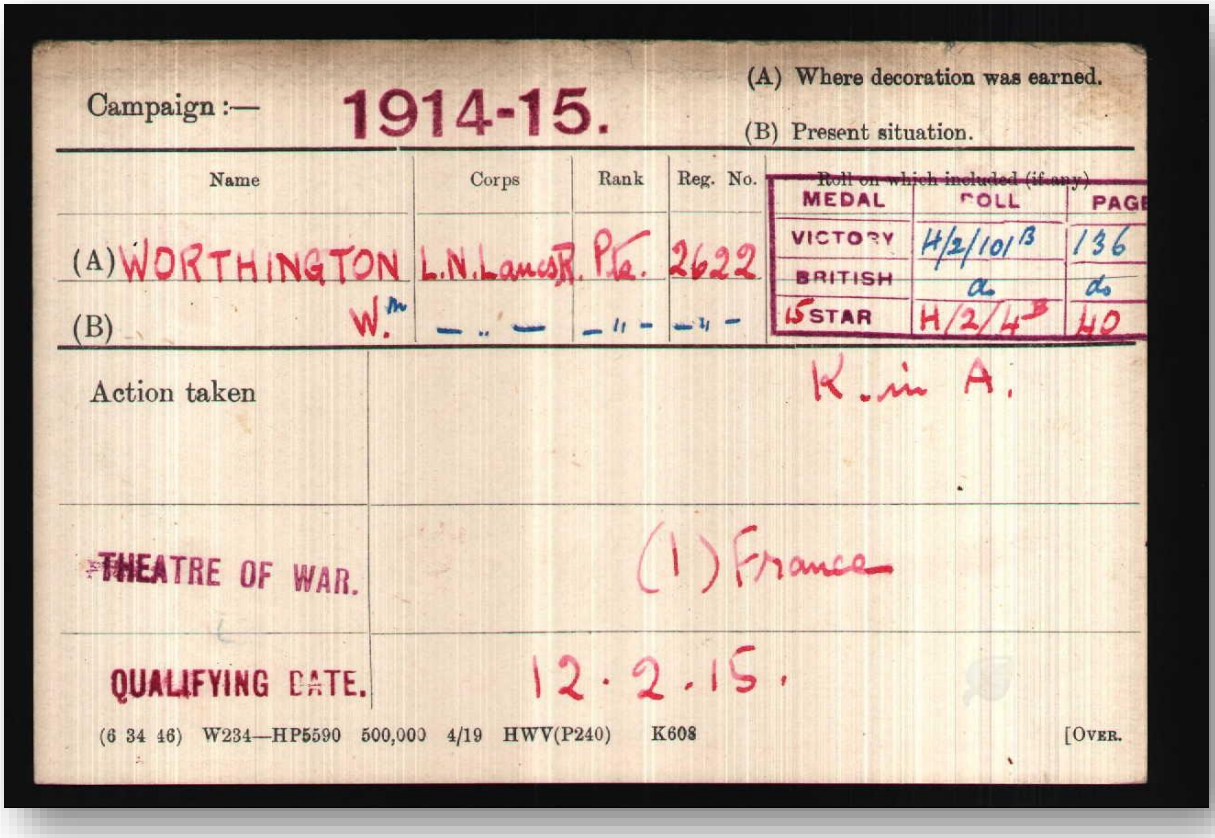
My discovery motivated the genealogical and military research which led to the writing of the following biography, which it is hoped will help us to respect the memory of this underage soldier and humble working-class son of Bolton, whose family, judging by the effort and expense which they invested in his memorial, were deeply affected by his premature and violent death.

The Worthingtons were a typical Bolton family of the day. William's father, William Senior (1869-1945), just like his father, Ambrose, before him (born in 1842), worked in the textile industry. By 1911 the family was living in a four-roomed house at 5 Mortfield Street, Bolton. William Senior was a Power Loom Operator; his daughter, Mary Ellen was a 'Card Room Jack Tenter' in a cotton spinning factory, while our future soldier, William Junior, was a 'Power Loom Tenter' in a weaving mill. William Senior

appears to have been one of the more skilled and better paid textile workers as, by 1939, when he was living at 22 Pleasant Street in Bolton, he was described as a 'Retired Power Loom Overlooker'. Without the relative prosperity associated with William's higher rank within the textile mill, the family probably would not have been able to pay for such a large memorial.

A great many of the graves in the Roman Catholic section of the cemetery belong to families with Irish roots. Worthington is a Lancashire and not an Irish name. The family's Roman Catholicism, therefore, must have come from our soldier's mother, Annie (née Kearns, 1869-1952), whose father, John, was born in Ireland in 1844.

Private Worthington's service papers were among the majority which did not survive the London Blitz of 1940. We are, therefore, required to reconstruct his military career with the aid of several less detailed and/or generic sources. Firstly his medal card, which appears below, confirms his rank and number and states that he was eligible for the 1914/15 Star, British War and Allied Victory Medals and that he arrived in France on 12th February 1915.



Campaign :— 1914-15.

(A) Where decoration was earned.

(B) Present situation.

Name	Corps	Rank	Reg. No.	Roll on which included (if any) MEDAL	ROLL	PAGE
(A) WORTHINGTON	L.N.Lancs.R.	Pte.	2622	VICTORY	4/2/101 B	136
(B) W.m	— " —	— " —	— " —	BRITISH	do	do
				15 STAR	H/2/4 B	40

Action taken — K. in A.

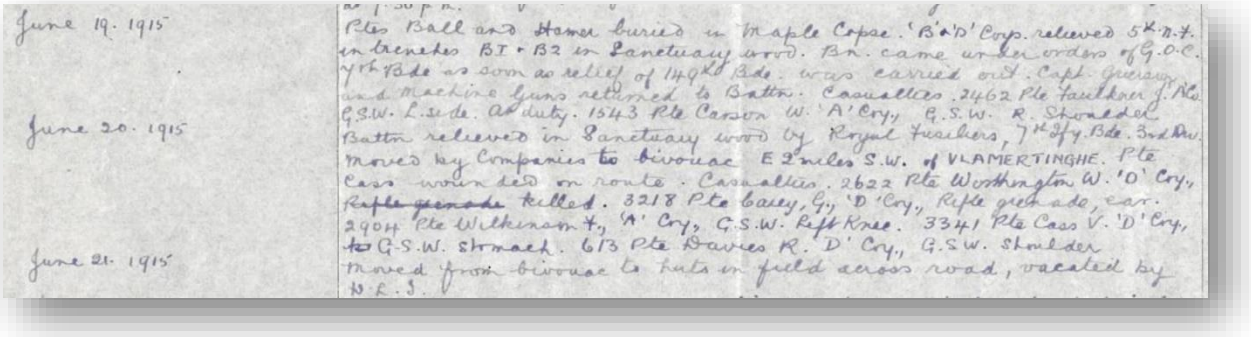
THEATRE OF WAR. — (1) France

QUALIFYING DATE. — 12.2.15.

(6 34 46) W234—HP5590 500,000 4/19 HWV(P240) K608 [OVER.

The latter date corresponds with details from the Regimental History, which informs us that the 1/5 Loyal North Lancashires arrived in Le Havre on that date, having crossed the Channel in the SS Tintoretto. At that point, they numbered twenty-six officers and 1058 other ranks and became part of 16th Brigade, 6th Division. On 13th March, the battalion experienced its first fatalities when an unnamed private and Captain A.V. Makant were killed. On 8th April, privates Holt and Parkinson captured a German flag which had been provocatively placed in No Man's Land.

On 10th June, the Battalion paraded before Major-General Ingouville-Williams before they left to join 151 Brigade, 50th (Northumbrian) Division and moved to Vlamertinghe in the Ypres Sector in Belgium. During this period, the battalion, based as it was in one of the worst sectors of the Western Front, began to experience the full horrors of trench warfare and suffered heavy losses. It was held in reserve to 3rd Division during a major attack and, on 17th June, moved to Hooge and then Sanctuary Wood on the Menin Road. The battalion war diary is unusually detailed and, quite exceptionally, records the names of private soldiers killed on each day. Most diaries, at best, list only officers' names and even then, only as part of monthly casualty summaries. The entry for 22nd June 1915, when William Ambrose Worthington died appears below:


June 19. 1915
Ptes Ball and Hamer buried in Maple Copse. 'B & D' Coys. relieved 5th N.F. in trenches B1 & B2 in Sanctuary wood. Bn. came under orders of G.O.C. 4th Bde as soon as relief of 149th Bde. was carried out. Capt. Greaves and Machine Guns returned to Batln. Casualties. 2462 Pte Faulkner J. Rfs. G.S.W. L. side. At duty. 1543 Pte Carson W. 'A' Coy, G.S.W. R. Shoulder. Batln relieved in Sanctuary wood by Royal Fusiliers, 7th Bde. 3rd Div. moved by Companies to bivouac E 2 miles S.W. of VLAMERTINGHE. Pte Cass wounded on route. Casualties. 2622 Pte Worthington W. 'D' Coy, Rifle grenade killed. 3218 Pte Carey, G., 'D' Coy, Rifle grenade, ear. 2904 Pte Wilkinson T., 'A' Coy, G.S.W. Left Knee. 3341 Pte Cass V. 'D' Coy, G.S.W. stomach. 613 Pte Davies R. 'D' Coy, G.S.W. Shoulder
June 20. 1915
June 21. 1915
moved from bivouac to huts in field across road, vacated by B.E.F.

The War diary shows that Private Worthington belonged to "D" Company. Shortly after his death, private Worthington was probably buried nearby. It is not known whether the site became Maple Copse Cemetery, where he currently lies or whether his remains were placed there after the war. William is the only casualty in the cemetery to have been killed on 20th June, but Privates Hamer and Ball, also of the 1/5 Loyal North Lancashires (who died on 17th and 18th June respectively) are also commemorated therein.

At some point, William's parents must have received notification of his death and letters of condolence might have been written by platoon or company commanders or by the Padre or by non-commissioned officers. A small package containing Williams possessions must also have been posted home and, by the 1920s, his medals, commemorative scroll and plaque sent to his grieving parents in Bolton. We will never fully appreciate the emotional pain the Worthington family experienced during the subsequent years, but perhaps their religious faith and the beautiful memorial they had erected in Tonge Cemetery managed, to some degree, to assuage their agonies.

Western Front Association: Project Alias
A major scheme to locate men who served using a 'different' name

Many Western Front Association members may be having to 'self-isolate' at the moment, and this must be a real strain.

To give yourself an interest, members may wish to become involved with Project ALIAS, the full details of which are available here on the WFA web site: Project ALIAS: what is it and how is it going?

An example of just one of the men who are being examined by this project is detailed below.

Hugh William Ching was born in Brixton on 25 January 1887 to Richard (a grocer's assistant) and Ann. In 1906-07 as an apprentice with British Westinghouse, Trafford Park, he enrolled on Electrical Engineering courses at the Manchester Municipal School of Technology.

Because there is an entry for him in De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour, we know Hugh joined the Queen's Victoria Rifles in 1912 and volunteered for foreign service in August 1914.

It is likely that he used an alias because of his Chinese surname (there is no clue about his ethnicity that can be found, his father was born in Devon in 1843). The army recorded his name as Hugh William Power, and that is how he served, and ultimately died.

Hugh was killed on 26 March 1915. Writing to Hugh's wife his Captain commented: 'All who knew your husband appreciated him very much, he was in every way a good soldier, no higher praise can be given to a man". 2nd Lieutenant K. Lloyd wrote recalled him to be one of the staunch ones and said: "Ever since that first night when he took out a listening patrol, he has been a great rock of comfort to me. It is just the men like him that give such a feeling of confidence to us when we feel a touch of downheartedness. I am glad to say I was able to go back to him for a moment after he had been hit and the last I heard of him he was calling "Good Luck" to his friends as they filed past him along the path.

If you would like to help us with Project ALIAS, please get in touch. Further details are here: Project ALIAS: A major scheme to locate men who served using a 'different' name

Chorley's World War One Garden of Reflection by Stuart A. Clewlow, FRHistS - Local Historian, Chorley

Chorley's Garden of Reflection, which was funded by the Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant Scheme, was commissioned to provide a lasting memorial to the men and women of Chorley Borough who served during World War One and an acknowledgment to the centenary of the end of the conflict. The war memorials that already exist across the Borough come in all sorts of shapes and sizes, with none being the same as another and there is certainly no set rule as to what could be regarded as a superior or more suitable form of memorial than the next.

The Garden of Reflection early in the morning prior to the unveiling, 2018.

Created by multi-award winning Garden Designer John Everiss, the garden has been sympathetically designed in such a way as to make a positive impact within the Walled Garden area of Astley Park, whilst not detracting from the heritage of the site. The area centres around a performance stage and with the beauty of Astley Hall as a backdrop, the scene is set for people to sit and contemplate, reflect, learn or be entertained. Far from simply seeing the Garden of Reflection, it is very much a case of experiencing it.

Life in the trenches has come to epitomise our perception of World War One and so it has heavily influenced the design of the garden. However, as with most communities across the country, the Borough of Chorley did in fact have representatives serving in the Royal Navy, Army, Royal Flying Corps/Royal Air Force and in countless other supporting roles. And so, far from glorifying or celebrating conflict, the Garden of Reflection commemorates the lives of all those from Chorley Borough who were a part of it.

This living memorial is engaging on all sorts of levels, for all ages and abilities and can be enjoyed by everybody. It can be a place to sit quietly and contemplate what

sacrifices our ancestors made during the war and at times when the performance stage is in use, it becomes a place where you can be entertained and enjoy the surroundings.

The men behind the project (L-R): Stuart Clewlow, 'The Messenger', Thompson Dagnall, John Everiss and Keith Craig.

John explained that, “The flooring is constructed from millboard similar to the duck boards found in the trenches. The dry-stone walls are constructed from local sandstone, to replicate many of the local mills where the men and women who joined up would have made a living. The performance building with its giant timbers and steel roof covered by grasses evoke life in the trenches and dugouts. Also, if you look closely you will find small pieces of flint and brick, sourced from the Somme where our local Soldiers fought and died. In addition, as a tangible, touchable link to the conflict actual battlefield relics from the Somme and Festubert are embedded in to the wall.”

Everyone visiting is encouraged to take the opportunity to sit next to the stone sculpture, ‘The Messenger’, by acclaimed sculptor Thompson Dagnall. Hand carved from a large single piece of sandstone, his presence within the garden is to generate thought and contemplation; is he enjoying a performance in the garden, dwelling on the thought of sounding the bugle to signal a charge from the trenches, or has he just finished playing ‘The Last Post’ in honour of fallen comrades? The interpretation of the sculpture and the garden overall is very much an individual and personal analysis. Sit next to him, take a ‘selfie’, share it on social media for example and be a messenger of today- telling the world that Chorley borough has not forgotten the sacrifice made by thousands of its men and women during World War One.

Carved in the large quarried blocks of stone, is the words of a little-known poem “A Letter to Daddy”, which was written by a child Mill Worker from Chorley during the war. It is from a postcard within my local military collection and struck a chord with John during the gardens development stage as it provides a local link to the past. Although the poem is not famous by the standards of the time, all we know is that it was written by a little girl with the initials M.L. to her Father serving in action. It allows us to reflect upon the feelings of those whose loved ones served in the war and, in the setting of the garden, we can explore the thought of whether or not the Father in the poem is ‘The Messenger’ or became one of those our messenger was mourning.

It was apparent from the start that the project had great educational potential which would enrich the message delivered by the garden itself. As a result, the Garden of Reflection has been enhanced by the production of a video documentary which

explores the design process, field research across the battlefields and cemeteries in France, provides a social history aspect and of course, includes the development and construction of the garden. A major premise of the documentary was to set the Garden aside from the generic history of World War One and highlight some of the local stories, influences, and artefacts with a local provenance.

To assist with developing this, I was honoured to be invited onto the project by John. It was an absolute privilege to travel the battlefields and cemeteries of Festubert, Serre, Bethune, Amiens and the grand Thiepval Memorial to the Missing with Thompson and film maker Keith Craig. Battlefield relics, flint and other stone was collected for inclusion in the garden and throughout, we filmed in locations which were all relevant

to the service personnel from the Borough. Wreaths were lay on behalf of the people from Chorley Borough and one very special wreath was lay on behalf of local lady 105 year old (in April 2020) Mrs Lily Hope, whose father was killed in action in 1915. It was also a great opportunity to take a dozen or so medals from my collection to the memorials and cemeteries, to reunite them with the Chorley borough men who did not live to receive them.

Stuart Clewlow with Mrs Hope, who signed a card to go with a wreath, which he laid to honour her Father on her behalf.

I had the privilege to write the interpretation board that stands in front of the garden and was honoured to be invited to join Sir Lindsay Hoyle, MP and the Mayor of Chorley to unveil it. With the supporting online documentary, you will be left in little doubt that the Garden of Reflection is a most fitting and poignant addition to Astley Hall & Park; after all, the estate itself was gifted to the people of Chorley and District as a War Memorial, and officially opened to the public in 1924.

You can find the documentary on Vimeo:

https://vimeo.com/284197128/eeddfe0572

I am currently working on commemorations to acknowledge the 75th Anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day. If anyone would like to follow progress of this project (which has sadly suffered due to the Coronavirus issue), please feel free to join the Facebook page: "Chorley & District in World War Two."

Best wishes to all and stay safe.@StuartAClewlow

A "New" War Memorial
by Charlie O'Donnell

The IWM War Memorials Register currently holds records for more than 80,000 memorials in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The Register includes memorials to members of the armed forces, civilians and animals from all wars and those who died in service.

I recently volunteered to help with the register and have started to update the database. Over the last eight years I have amassed a great deal of information on war memorials in the South Ribble area. This was a research task I set myself as part of the South Ribble WW1 memorial project which resulted in the steel monument in Lostock

Hall. Some of this information is not on the IWM site and where it does exist some of the information is incorrect particularly location.

My recent research has uncovered a "new" memorial that I did not know existed. It takes the form of a Memorial Hall at St. Saviour's in Bamber Bridge. I always thought that the hall was an integral part of St. Saviour's school (now Bridgeway School) and did not know it was originally separate from the school until I came across a photograph and article dated 13 February 1933 in The Lancashire Daily Post.

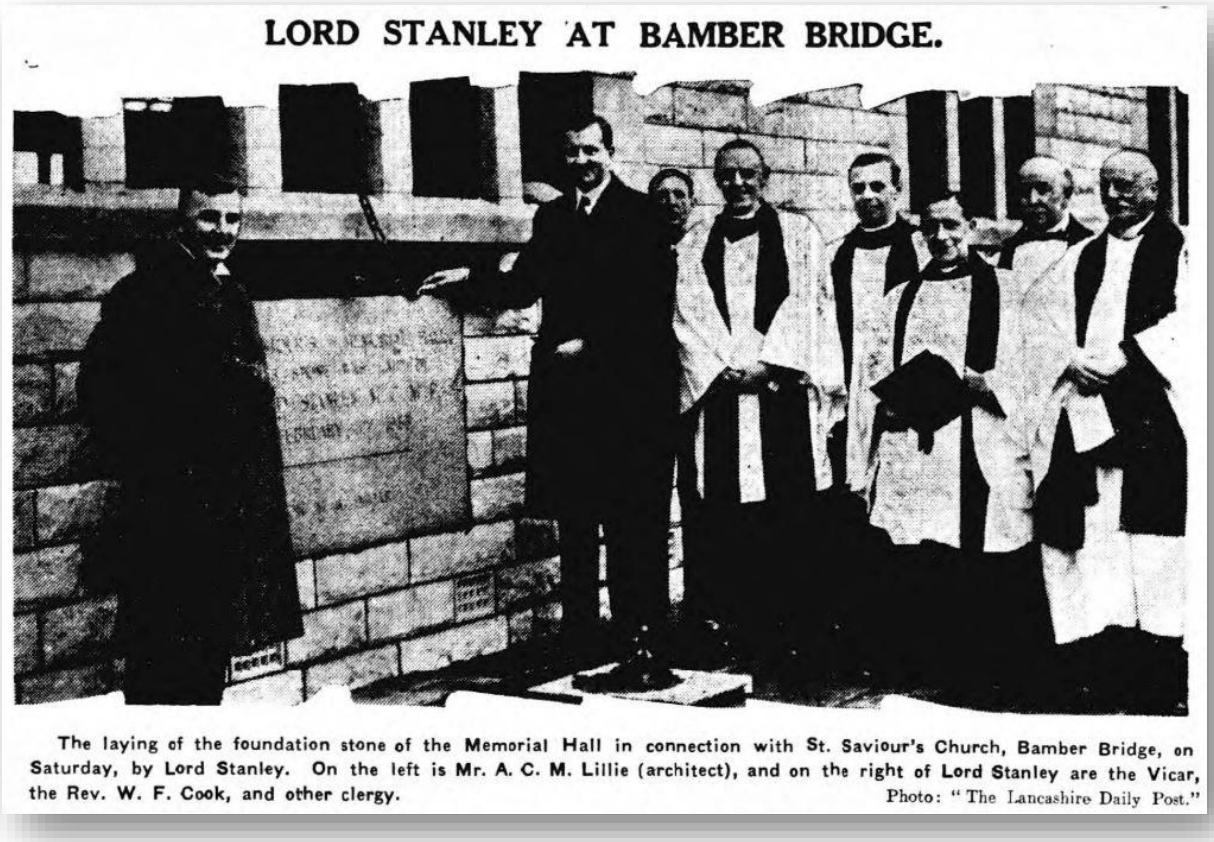
As you can see from the article below, the memorial stone was unveiled by Lord Stanley (Edward George Villiers Stanley, 17th Earl of Derby) who was Secretary of State for War from 10 December 1916 to 18 April 1918 and architect of the Derby Scheme. Another notable person who attended was Charles Joseph Trimble who was commandant of the St. John's Ambulance Hospital at Etaples during the Great War. Charles had his home at Louth House in Bamber Bridge (now Dean Court) and he practiced as a GP there and later in Penwortham. A few years ago South Ribble council asked for names of famous (or sometimes infamous) natives of Bamber Bridge (Briggers) to go on name plaques on the new McNamara Gardens. I requested that Charles' name should go on the memorial together with the names of V.A.D. volunteers from Bamber Bridge who had also served.

Because of lockdown restrictions I cannot visit the memorial in person, but I hope to do so later this year and to update the IWM register accordingly.

"REMOVE THE CAUSE OF WAR FIRST." Lord Stanley's Address.

GIRL GUIDES, Brownies, Boy Scouts and Cubs formed a guard of honour for Lord Stanley on Saturday, when he visited Bamber Bridge to lay the foundation stone of the memorial hall built to the memory of the men of St. Saviour's Church who lost their lives in the war. The service was conducted by the vicar of St. Saviour's, the Rev. W. F. Cook, who was supported by the Rev. P. K. Challoner, Rev. A. A. Dallman, Rev. W. H. Cooper, Rev. C. J. Crabtree, Rev. F. E. Cheney, and Mr. F. Wild.

Among those present were Messrs. R. S. Brindle (chairman), J. V. Kelly, J. G. Bell, C. W. Eccles, T. Hardman, T. Eddleston, J. Ingham, W. Marsden, and G. Rigby, (Urban Councillors), Maor A. B. Mattinson, Colonel C. J. Trimble (Medical Officer of Health for



LORD STANLEY AT BAMBER BRIDGE.

The laying of the foundation stone of the Memorial Hall in connection with St. Saviour's Church, Bamber Bridge, on Saturday, by Lord Stanley. On the left is Mr. A. C. M. Lillie (architect), and on the right of Lord Stanley are the Vicar, the Rev. W. F. Cook, and other clergy. Photo: "The Lancashire Daily Post."

the district) and Messrs. A. C. M. Lillie and J. Turner (architect and builder respectively of the new hall).

"THE OTHER POINT OF VIEW."

Lord Stanley said they must have the determination to make further such ceremonies unnecessary, for there should be no more war.

"The reduction of armaments," he said, "is not enough - one of the greatest of all wars, the American Civil War, was fought almost without arms. You must remove the cause of the war before the war is started, and try and understand the other fellow's point of view."

Lord Stanley was later shown round the skeleton building by the architect, Mr. A. C. M. Lillie, and expressed great admiration for the place. The hall, which it is hoped will be

completed within three months, is situated on the east side of the playground, and forms a courtyard to it. The entrance is a pillared portico, and on each side of the entrance hall are cloak rooms. The main hall is 48 feet by 28 feet, and the secondary hall 41 feet by 21 feet.

ROOM FOR TENNIS COURTS.

The main stage is 28 feet by 16 feet, with chair stores and dressing-rooms underneath. There is also a green room and a committee room. The two halls are divided by rolling shutters, so that they can be made into one if necessary.

The site comprises half an acre, leaving ample room for tennis courts or a bowling green.

All the materials used in the building of the hall are of British origin, and the artificial stone finishing is the work of Messrs. Hopwood Bros., of Bamber Bridge.

The stone pillars at the entrance to the hall are the gift of Mrs. Hopwood.

Before he left, Lord Stanley was presented by Mr. Lillie with a silver and ivory trowel.

THE LANCASHIRE DAILY POST, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1933.

Retrieved from the BRITISH NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE.

Help save Talbot House

The wonderful and iconic Talbot House, a living memorial to the men who lived and served on the Western Front out of Ypres, needs your help.

Recent investments in the permanent exhibition hall due to open for the new season starting in April leaves this non-profit charity in need of donations.

A home for home for soldiers during the First World War, it is now the temporary residence of many pilgrims to the Ypres Salient and Poperinge each year. The Covid-

19 lockdown is the first forced closure of Talbot House since the liberation of 1944. Staff are now out of employment and volunteers told to go home. There are still costs to cover, including ongoing renovations.

Talbot House has a purpose today, as it did during the Great War. Today schools locally and coming from England make it a regular stop-over. Please help Talbot House survive the next few weeks or months and be ready for the next busy season. Rewards to donors include overnight stays, specials breakfasts and memberships. Please pledge what you can. €100,000 is urgently needed.

#StandwithTalbotHouse Gofundme.com/f/save-talbot-house

Become a Western Front Association Member

The Western Front Association was formed in 1980 to maintain interest in the period 1914-1918, to perpetuate the memory, courage and comradeship of those on all sides who served their countries in France and Flanders and their own countries during the Great War. It does not seek to glorify war and is non-political.

For a modest annual subscription, our members receive a wide range of benefits. In particular, belonging to The Western Front Association provides you with the opportunity of meeting like-minded people to learn, share, explore and exchange information and knowledge in a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. You will also receive our regular, high-quality publications in total six times a year.

Stand To! & Bulletin from the WFA

Stand To! the WFA's prestige journal, is posted to all members three times a year. Its editorial policy increases our knowledge and understanding of the Great War. Articles include:

- previously unpublished accounts of the Great War
- original research and previously unpublished photographs
- regular features include book reviews and a correspondence column.
- Bulletin is also published three times a year. It carries reports on the Association's activities and future events. It gives details of meetings at national and local level.

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Pension Records

Pension Records free to access on Ancestry's Fold3 via WFA Member Login. The WFA has been instrumental in saving a number of important records. The Medal Index Cards were saved from destruction some years ago, but more recently approximately six million sets of pension records were saved. Had the WFA not stepped in, this valuable resource would have been lost forever. These records are available for WFA members to view as part of their membership package via the WFA web site.

Remembrance

11 November 2019 The Cenotaph, Whitehall. To remember those who died in the Great War, the Association:

- meets in Whitehall at 11 o'clock on Armistice Day for wreaths to be laid at the Cenotaph
- lays wreaths on memorials at home and abroad
- encourages people to tour the battlefields
- has an active education and research function
- has a wide range of branded goods available to buy
- participates in the Royal British Legion Parade on Remembrance Day.

Regional Seminars

All Day Seminars are held around the country, often with internationally-renowned speakers.

Local Branches

The Association supports a broad range of local WFA Branches in the United Kingdom, in other European countries, in the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere. Many of our Branches produce their local newsletters; many arrange tours to the battlefields at reasonable prices, and all welcome new members warmly. Please see the Events section of the website to find out more about what is happening at a Branch near you.

Trench Maps

The Western Front Association, together with the Imperial War Museum (IWM) in London, took part in a joint project to produce a series of DVDs of trench maps and aerial photographs from the IWM archives. This project called 'Mapping the Front', created a set of themed DVDs of Great War maps and photographs covering significant and interesting aspects of The Great War. The quality of the maps allows high resolution and colour depth images as good as the originals. The DVDs are themed by area with maps of different scales detailing the changes to landscape over months and years.

Locations include the Somme, Ypres (this DVD is unfortunately no longer in stock, having been sold out), Arras, Loos, Gallipoli. Other themes also include Haig's personal maps, German army maps and The Official History of the War.

Each themed DVD contains:

Maps.

Aerial photographs (where available).

A standard set of index maps.

Help on how to read the military maps of the period.

Other contemporary and modern documents of relevance or interest such as the 'Report on Survey on the Western Front, 1914-1918.'

Online

The WFA is alive to the value of the Internet, and it has an ever-expanding website, which offers numerous ways to research the Great War.

WFA Branded Goods

The WFA e-shop sells branded WFA goods, back issues and collected volumes of our publications.

To join visit The Western Front Association website