



The Spire Sentinel



**The Newsletter & Magazine of The
Chesterfield Branch of The Western Front
Association**



ISSUE 66 - July 2021

Our aims are 'Remembrance and Sharing the History of the
Great War'.

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We have another `virtual` meeting lined up for July... The title of the talk, which will be presented by **Greg Baughen** "From Flying Dreadnought to Dogfighter: The Troubled Birth of the British Fighter" to us on July 22nd.

Here is the link.....<https://my.demio.com/ref/sTs3L2VM4VAuF9Z7>

With summer (hopefully) here, the WFA's Monday evening webinars will continue but on a less frequent basis. Although these are now going to be once every fortnight, the quality of the talks remains high, as will be seen in the schedule for July below. We are also very pleased to say that the WFA's webinars now have 'double' capacity so we can have up to 1000 members watching rather than the previous 500 limit, which I know has resulted in some being over-subscribed. These webinars all start at 8pm UK time.

On Monday 5 July we will have Tom Issitt talking about what was - arguably - the most difficult bike race ever staged. The riders, many of whom had only recently been demobbed from the army, raced an average of 300km a day over mud and cobbled roads in the snow, and the race was so tough it was never held again. 100 years later Tom Issitt rode his bike along the race route, visiting those same battlefields and paying his respects to the fallen.

To register for this webinar click here >>> [Riding through the Ruins](#)

On Monday 19 July we welcome back Clive Harris who has given a number of excellent talks in recent months. In order to commemorate the Battle of the Somme, but from a slightly 'unusual' angle, Clive will give a presentation entitled 'Wings over the Somme'.

Using contemporary accounts and more recent academic study, Clive Harris will discuss the integral role the flying services played in the battle, from its adaption to rapid expansion through to its maintaining of offensive operations over German airspace, a costly policy deemed a necessity to allow the vital work of aerial observation to continue with reduced interference.

To register for this webinar click here >>> [Wings over the Somme](#)

We do hope you will join us for these webinars, and if you want to register 'early' for those in August, please check out the details on the WFA's website.

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



Secretary's Scribbles

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to the July 2021 issue of the Branch newsletter and magazine. There was no June issue.... some family stuff had to be dealt with plus a sick dog and a sick car...a combination of the latter two putting the kibosh on our planned short holiday to Eyemouth in the Scottish Borders.

It is planned, unless our `Lords and Masters` backtrack (again!) on promises of lifting Covid restrictions to resume Branch meetings on August 3rd. That prolific author Andy Rawson will be delivering the talk as guest speaker. The title of Andy`s talk is `The Real Peaky Blinders`. The story of ex-

soldiers running amok with gambling and gang warfare across Sheffield in the 1920s. Andy`s great grandad was a police officer at the time and his workmate`s grandad was a gang enforcer in the same area. After years of looking at battles and battalions Andy is getting immersed in social history during and around the war . After all 1914-18 was only four years in people`s long lives. If you have seen the TV series (I have to confess I haven`t), you would get the appeal. It has emotionally scarred ex-tunnellers establishing a gang in post war Birmingham. All rather glamorous, unlike the real story of squalor and hardship, that soldiers came back home to.

Before that date we have another Webinar jointly with our friends at Lincoln Branch....here is the details - and the Demio link. The title of the talk, which will be presented by **Greg Baughen "From Flying Dreadnought to Dogfighter: The Troubled Birth of the British Fighter"** to us on **July 22nd**. Talks on subjects on aerial warfare are somewhat of a rarity so this is something to look forward to. Greg has been researching the history of British and French air forces for over fifty years. After a varied teaching career in this country and abroad, retirement has provided the time to turn this research into a series of books. The series on British air power will eventually cover the 20th century. So far the series has reached 1943, with the recent publication of "RAF at the Crossroads".

Here is the link.... <https://my.demio.com/ref/sTs3L2VM4VAuF9Z7>

Looking forward to September WFA Member and former Chesterfield Borough Councillor, Steve Brunt, will be coming to give us a talk on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) from its inception under Fabian Ware during WW1 to the present day, The meeting will be held on Tuesday 7th September at 7.30 pm - usual venue Chesterfield Labour Club.

I would like to see as many of you as possible at the August meeting...let`s get back into the swing of things - it`s been too long!!! In addition to our `own` meetings there is a further programme of webinars arranged by the WFA. **The full list, including the links for joining each talk is shown on page 2 of this newsletter.**

Take care

Grant Cullen.....Branch Secretary.....07824628638

Garrison Library

The Journal of the Royal United Services Institution. Gold Medal (Military) Prize Essay for 1918 “ *How can moral qualities best be developed during the preparation of the officer and the man for the duties each will carry out in war* ”

War in History. *Sir John Fisher and the Policy of Strategic Deterrent 1904-1908*

War in History. *The Impact of War: Matching Expectation with Reality in the Royal Navy in the first Months of the Great War*

Journal of Strategic Studies. *The Morale Maze: the German Army in Late 1918*

War in History. *The Chemical Dimension of the Gallipoli Campaign: Introducing Chemical Warfare to the Middle East.*

NWC Review Summer 2007. *Expectation, Adaption and Resignation...British Battlefleet Planning, August 1914-April 1916*

Air Power Review. *Haig and Trenchard: Achieving Air Superiority on the Western Front*

WW1 Listserve *Falsehood in Wartime: by Arthur Ponsonby MP (1929)*

Christopher Phillips *Civilian Specialists at War: Britain's Transport Experts and the First World War*

Elizabeth Greenhalgh: *Ferdinand Foch and the French Contribution to the Somme 1916*

William Stewart: *When the Learning Curve Falls - the Ordeal of the 44th Battalion, Canadian 4th Division, 25th October 1916*

Meleagh Hampton: *Hubert Gough, the Anzacs on the Somme. A Descent into Pointlessness*

Brett Holman: *Constructing the Enemy Within; Rumours of Secret Gun Platforms and Zepellin Bases in Britain, August to October 1914*

Gary Sheffield: *A Once in a Lifetime Opportunity - Personal Reflections on the Centenary of World War One in 2014*

Jim Beach: *Doctrine Writing at British GHQ 1917-1918*

Andrew Whitmarsh: *British Strategic Bombing 1917-1918. The Independent Air Force and its Predecessors*

Christopher Phillips: *Civilian Specialists in War - Britain's Transport Experts in WW1*

British Journal of Military Research *Volume 1 - October 2014*

Michael St. Maur Sheil *Does the Performance of the RFC at Cambrai in 1917 illustrate demands for aerial observation lead to the development of air power.*

Jonathan Krause *Early Trench Tactics of the French*

Paul Mulvey *The Western Front and Gallipoli 1915*

Unattributed *Gallipoli Landings from the Perspective of the Lancashire Fusiliers*

Unattributed *Gallipoli - The Last Battle of the Victorian Era ?*

James Kitchen *Going to War - Europe and the Wider World 1914-1915*

Institute of Historical Research, Andrekas Varnava *Imperialism first - War second?. The British deliberations on where to attack the Ottoman Empire Nov 14 to April 15*

International History Review: *Sir Basil Zaharoff and Sir Vincent Caillard as Instruments of British Policy towards Greece and the Ottoman Empire during the Asquith and Lloyd George Administrations, 1915-8*

Scientia Militaria. Ian van der Waag. *The politics of south Africa`s `Second Little Bit` and the War on the Western front 1914-18*

Peter Doyle, Peter Barton, and Johan Vandewalle. *ARCHAEOLOGY OF A GREAT WAR DUGOUT: BEECHAM FARM, PASSCHENDAELE, BELGIUM*

RUSI Journal ; Jonathon Krause; *Ferdinand Foch and the Scientific Battle*

Peter Doyle *Geology and the war on the Western Front, 1914-1918*

Simon Birch *The abortive British attack on the Gommecourt salient, in support of the IV Army assault on the Somme, 1 July 1916. An operational case study at divisional level.*

Dominiek Dendooven In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres, Belgium *Indians in the Ypres Salient 1914-1918*

E Tufan *The Late Ottomans' path to alliance with Germany in 1914, Revisited*

Dr Anne Samson, Independent Historian, co-ordinator of Great War in East Africa
With Lettow and Smuts through Africa: World War 1

Copies of any of the above papers can be obtained via e mail.....contact grantcullen@hotmail.com Let me know what ones you want and I will send them to you. Thanks

An update about WFA BRANDED GOODS
from the BRANDED GOODS TRUSTEE

BRANDED CLOTHING

West Coast Embroidery The firm that is presently used has had a name change
The owner of the firm (West Coast Embroidery) had retired,
The new owner has renamed the firm "West Coast Workwear"
(In actual fact if you look on their Website it says "Westcoast Embroidery & Workwear")
The Website has now changed to westcoastworkwear.co.uk
Email has also changed to Sales@westcoastworkwear.co.uk
Phone number and Business address stay the same.
95a Tulketh Street, Southport, PR8 1AW, Tel: 01704 873 301 | 0800 169 2228
The WFA Website has been updated

Also **PRICE INCREASE** --NEW PRICES WILL BE EFFECTIVE FROM 1st July 2021 Because of an increase of Material cost, the supplier will be increasing prices WEF 1st July 2021, we have done our utmost to keep the increase to a bare minimum, and the supplier has agreed to hold the current prices until 30th June 2021 (Website will be amended on 1st July)

BRANDED ITEMS Messenger Bags: As always stock of all items are kept as low as is workable, eliminating wastage and tying up cash, so Messenger Bags are no different. On attempting to order more messenger bags it was found that the ones we had no longer were available, after much investigating and trying different firms it was realised that a firm did the same bag (not in French Navy) but in Graphite Grey, so we went with that (not too much difference and at the same price,



Despatch Bags

Ironically the same firm (In Chesterfield) do a despatch Bag (in Oxford Navy)
(Quadra Vintage Canvas Despatch Bag) so it's been decided to give these a go as it suits with some members requests (More pockets and external pockets than the messenger bag, (albeit slightly more expensive)

Full description as under:

DESPATCH BAGS, (Quadra Vintage Canvas Despatch Bag)

Washed Canvas, Zippered main compartment, Dual rear pouch pockets,
Multiple zippered pockets, Padded base, Rip-Strip closure, Adjustable shoulder strap
Dimensions: 40 x 30 x 12 cm, Capacity: 14 litres



These items are included in the following full page of [all Branded Goods Availability](#)

BRANDED GOODS AVAILABILITY

New items are always being considered, so please check the Branded goods part of the shop for all items available, Prices are inclusive of postage within UK (Branded Items Nos 1-11) <http://www.westernfrontassociation.com/shop/wfa-branded-items/?p=2> or call Head Office (Sarah Gunn or Maya Shapland) on 020 7118 1914

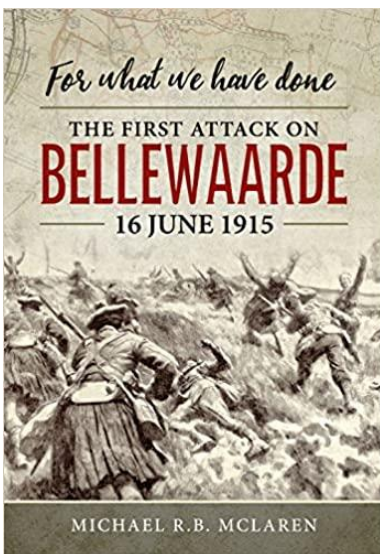
And the (Branded Clothing, Nos 12- 18) note new prices (under) effective from 1st July, Order direct from supplier (West Coast Workwear) <http://www.westernfrontassociation.com/shop/branded-clothing/> or ring (0800 169 2228 or 01704 873301)



- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| (1) Fridge Magnet | (£5) 59mm dia, front metal plate, high strength neodymium magnetic backplate, and plastic mylar front cover |
| (2) Anniv' Coaster | (£8.50) 4" in diameter hand crafted slate. individually polished, screen printed by hand and backed by a baize |
| (3) Mousemats | (£6) 196 x 235mm fabric surface and are of high quality. They have a rubberised base layer. |
| (4) Bookmarks | (£2) (dims 55x175mm) rich UV High Gloss Coating provides protection against stains and damage |
| (5) Baseball Caps | (£8) Lightweight 5 Panel cotton cap, adjustable with velcro rip-strip, one size fits all, |
| (6) Ties | (£11) Length 142cm, width 9cm (at widest part), 100 % Polyester |
| (7) Lapel Badges | (£2.50) 25mm Dia. Die struck + imitation hard enamel, Silver Nickel Plating, Butterfly clutch pin |
| (8) MUG | (£10) 11oz ceramic mug (95mm high x 85mm diameter) features the bold official WFA logo design (two sides) |
| (9) Messenger Bag | (£27) 37x29x11 cm, 100% Cotton.Full cotton lining,Zippered organiser section, Capacity:13 litres |
| (10) Despatch Bag | (£30) 40 x 30 x 12 cm, Washed Canvas, dual rear pouch pockets. Multiple zippered pockets. Capacity: 14 litres |
| (11) Shoulder Bag | (£25) 40 x 28 x 18 cm, Polyester. Internal valuables pocket. Zippered front pocket. Capacity: 14 litres |
| (12) Oxford Shirt | (£27) Kustom Kit Short Sleeve Corporate Oxford Shirt. Easy iron Button down collar, 85% cotton, 15% polyester |
| (13) Breathable Jacket | (£71) Russell Hydro Plus 2000 Jacket. Nylon taslon With PU Coating |
| (14) Rugby Shirt | (£25) Front Row Classic Rugby Shirt, 100% Cotton |
| (15) Fleece | (£24) Regatta Thor 111 Fleece Jacket, 100% polyester anti pill |
| (16) T-shirt | (£17) Russell Classic Cotton T-Shirt. 100% ringspun cotton. |
| (17) Sweat Shirt | (£22.50) Gents Russell Jerzees Raglan / Ladies Fruit Of The Loom Raglan |
| (18) Polo Shirt | (£20.50) Russell Cotton Pique Polo Shirt. 100% cotton |

Joint Branch `Virtual` Meeting - Chesterfield and Lincoln WFA - Thursday 20th May 2021

After some early glitches, caused primarily by updates to the programme by Demio, we got underway with introductions by Dudley Giles, Tony Bolton and Jonathan D`Hooghe. Over 80 registered, with around 50 `attending` on the night, including welcome participants from Germany and Belgium. Jonathan pointed out that one `upside` for the WFA from the `lockdowns` has been the attraction of a whole new audience to these presentations, with Chesterfield and Lincoln planning to continue to hold these, on a bi-monthly basis until the end of this year. Jonathan then introduced our presenter for the evening, Michael McLaren, whom Jonathan got to know at University 2012-2014. Michael has gone on to become a published author, this evening`s talk being based on his researches for the book.



Michael said he first became interested in this action at Bellewaarde because of a family history connection, his late grandfather`s older brother, Robert Seggie who was killed at this battle aged 21. What had happened there, the particular place and time.





Robert Seggie

1st Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers

Killed in action 16 June 1915

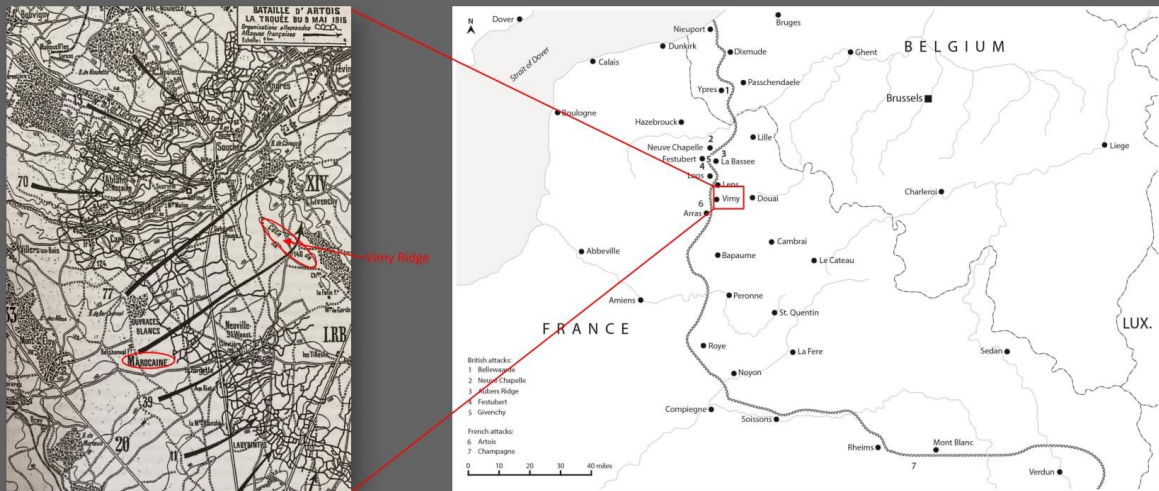
Commemorated Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres

Michael said he would begin with the context of the battle why, where and when it did



An approximation of the Western Front in the early part of 1915, with Bellewaarde being in the Ypres Salient, shown by the red box on the map. Bellewaarde lies on a low lying ridge about two miles east of Ypres town. The red part of the line on the map indicates that part being held by the British army, being very much the junior partner compared that being held by the French, who made many attacks during 1915, in the Champagne region in the south, Artois south of the Salient.

The Second Battle of Artois 9 May 1915



The French undertake attacks in the Artois region once the weather improved in late spring. The British can contribute in two ways - taking over more of the line thus freeing up more French troops, or by direct action. The British can only extend their line with the arrival of more troops from the UK but they do so by taking over most of the line in the salient by April 1915. On 9th May the British Army launches an attack on Aubers Ridge which is judged a failure with 10000 British casualties for no significant ground gained. To support the French, 1st Army launches the Battle of Festubert on 15th May and it lasts until 25th May and this is somewhat more effective than Aubers Ridge but still results in a further 16500 British casualties.



The Second Battle of Artois, 9 May – 18 June 1915

General Ferdinand Foch, the French Commander looks at the situation and suggests a second general offensive in this area and again requests British assistance and 1st Army under Douglas Haig

The Second Battle of Ypres, 22 April—25 May 1915

Battle of Gravenstafel Ridge, 22—23 April.

Battle of St. Julien, 24 April—4 May.

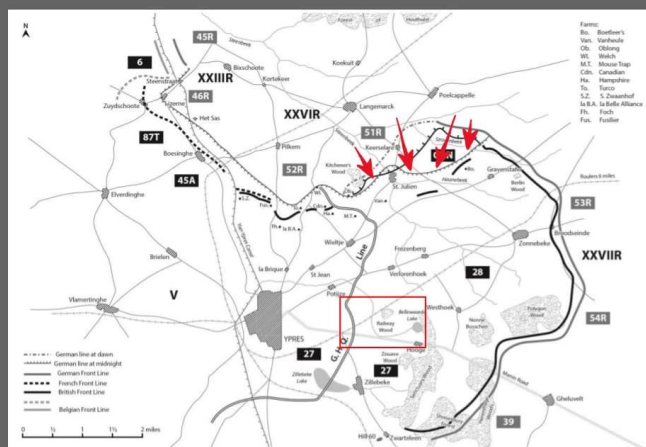
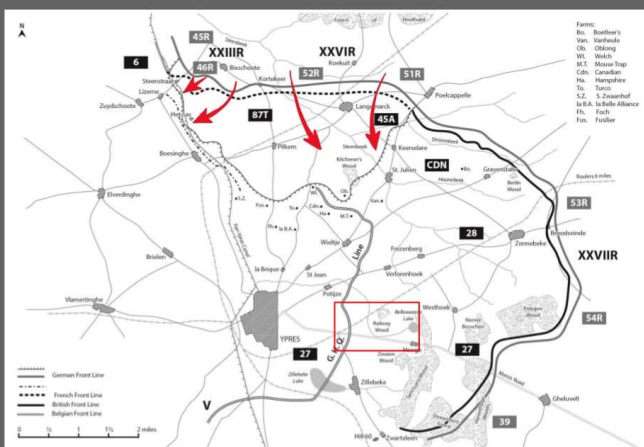
Battle of Frezenberg Ridge, 8—13 May.

Battle of Bellewaarde Ridge, 24—25 May.

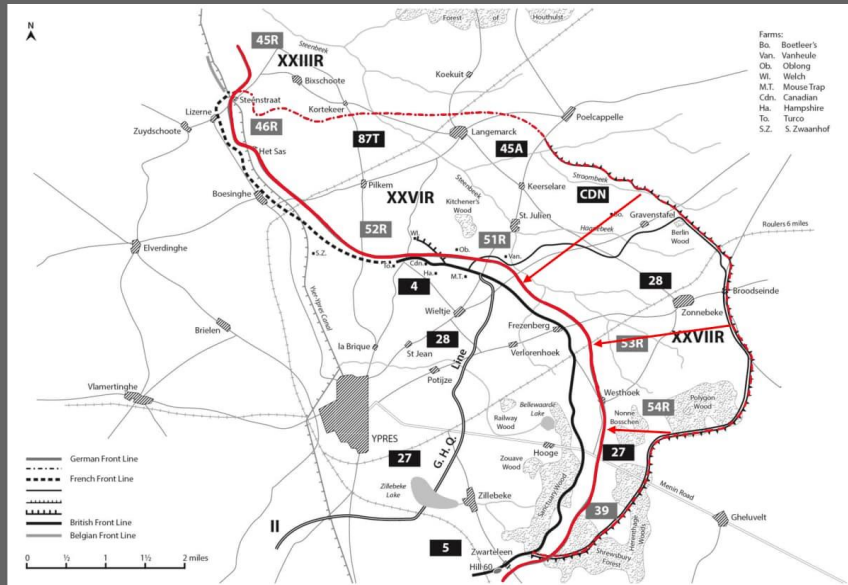


Battle of Gravenstafel Ridge, 22—23 April.

Battle of St. Julien, 24 April—4 May.



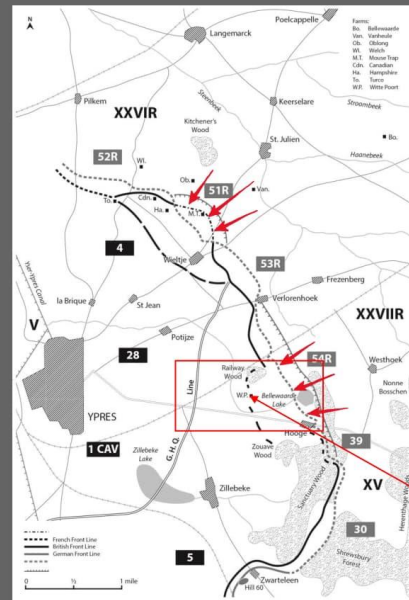
Withdrawal to the Frezenberg Line, 1—3 May



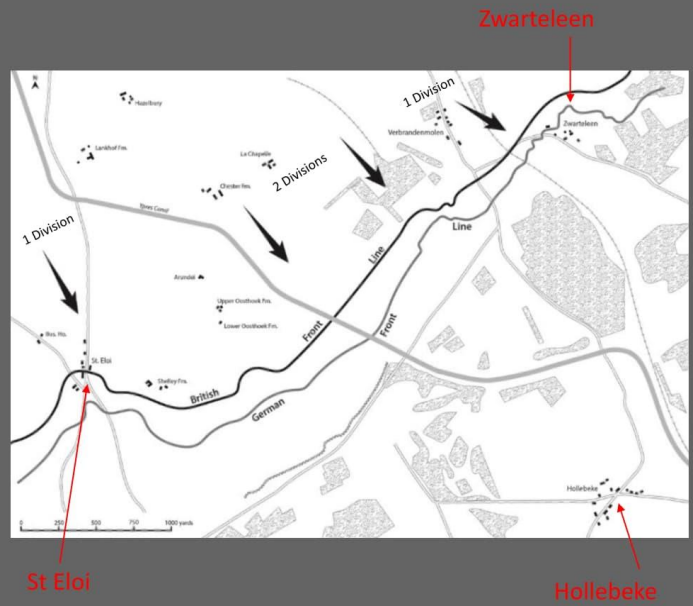
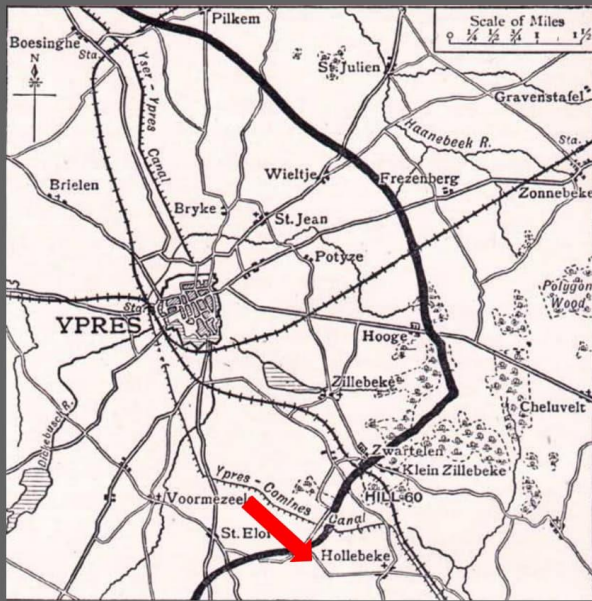
Battle of Frezenberg Ridge, 8—13 May



Battle of Bellewaarde Ridge, 24—25 May



Plumer's proposed attack to break out of the Salient.



Second Army statement, 26 May 1915:

'the position as it is now does not give sufficient elbow room for the delivery of the attack proposed and to obtain this our line must be pushed Eastwards previously.'





3rd Division: Major-Gen. J.A.L. Haldane

7th Infantry Brigade: Br-Gen. C.R. Ballard.

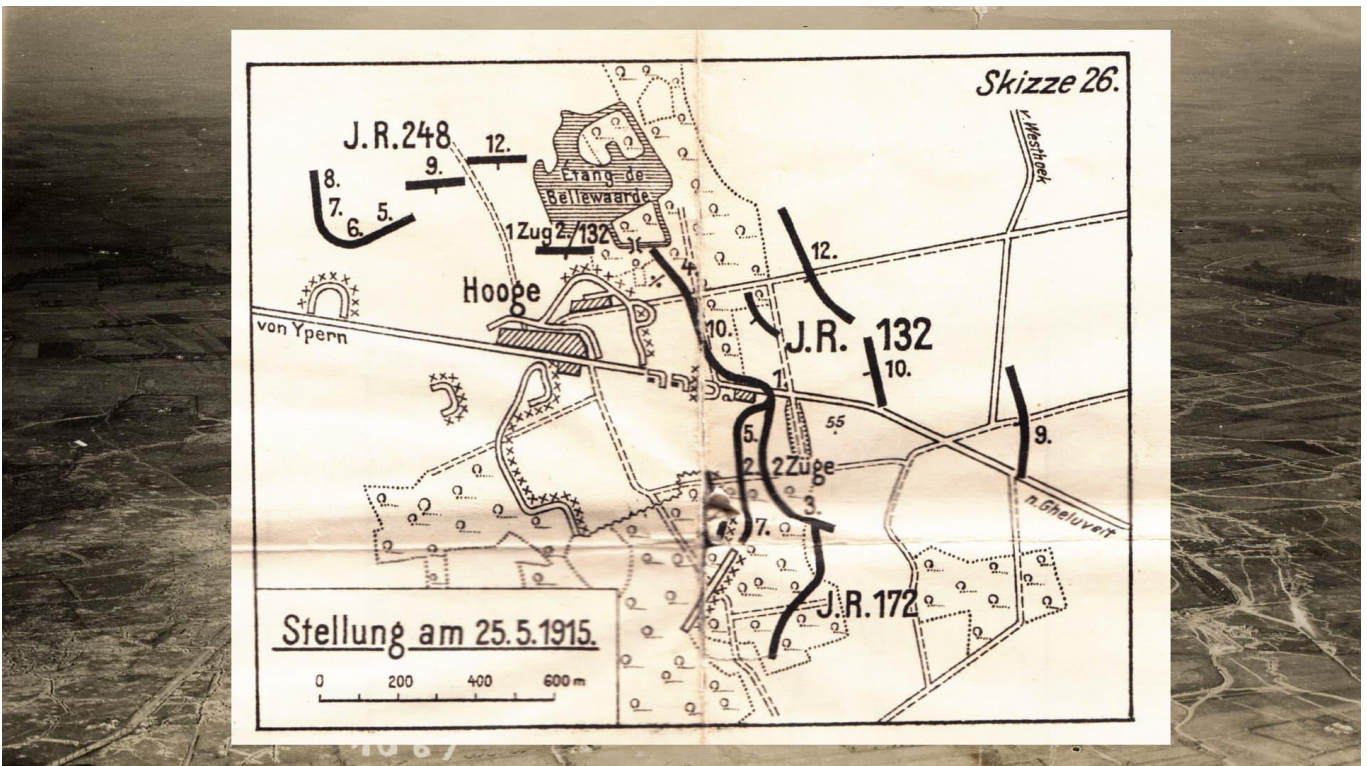
- 3/Worcestershire Regiment
- 1/Wiltshire Regiment
- Honourable Artillery Company (T.F.)
- 2/South Lancashire Regiment
- 2/Royal Irish Rifles
- 4/South Lancashire Regiment (T.F.)

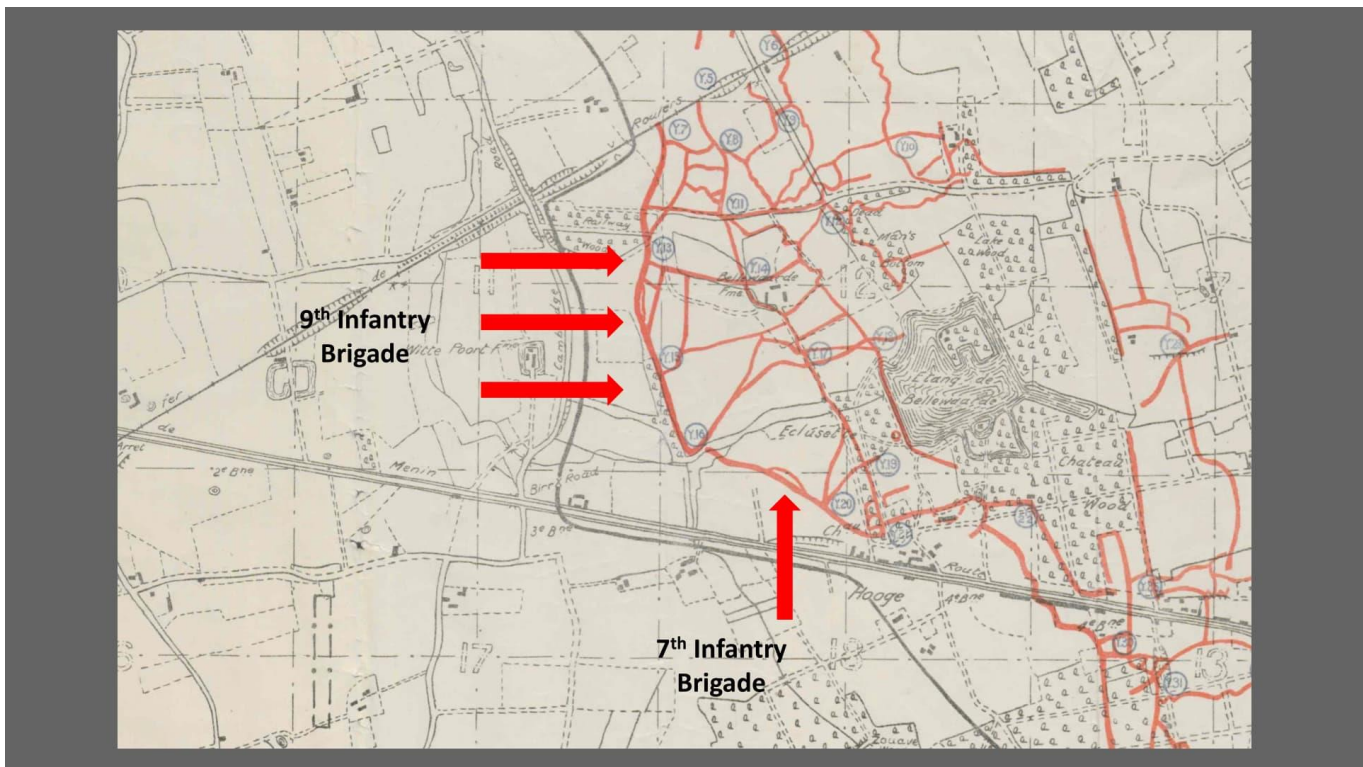
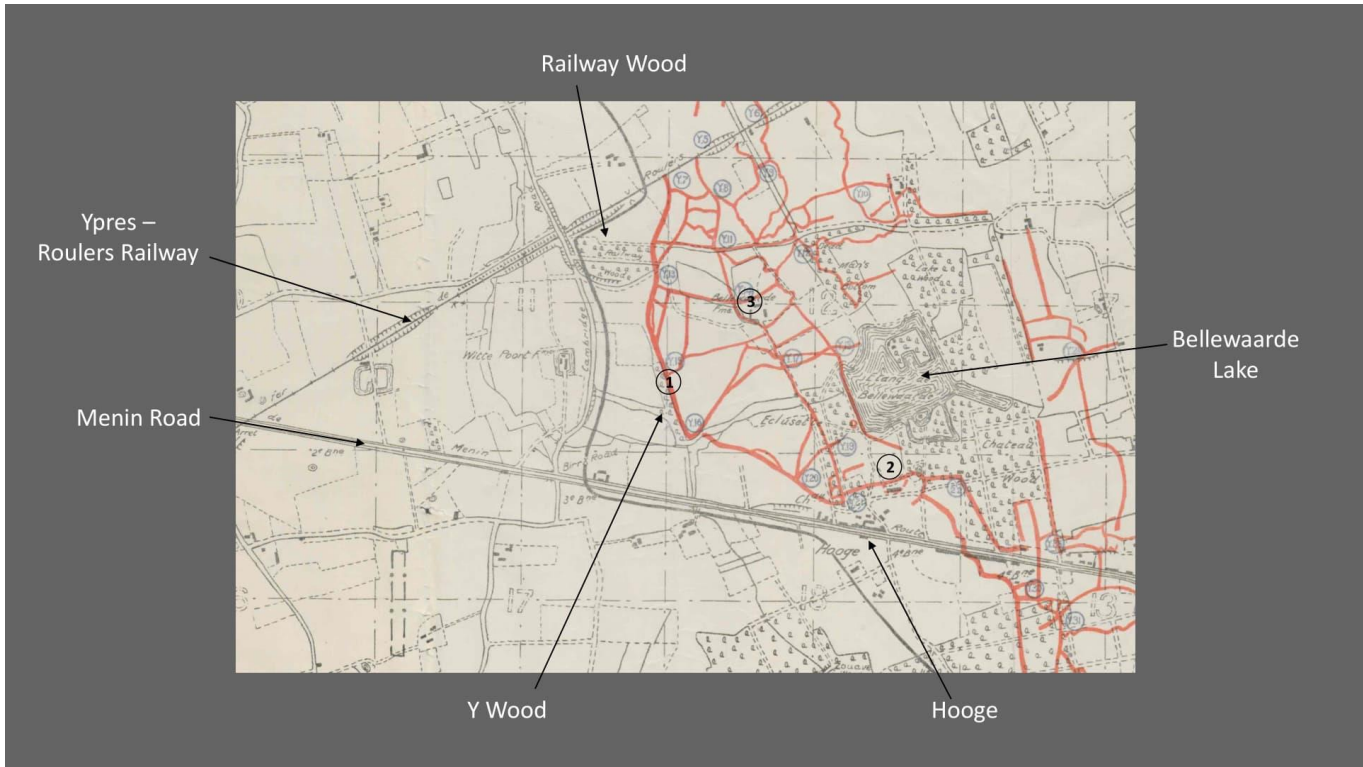
8th Infantry Brigade: Br-Gen. A.R. Hoskins.

- 2/Royal Scots
- 4/Middlesex Regiment
- 4/Gordon Highlanders (T.F.)
- 2/Suffolk Regiment
- 1/Gordon Highlanders

9th Infantry Brigade: Br-Gen. W. Douglas Smith.

- 1/Northumberland Fusiliers
- 1/Lincolnshire Regiment
- 10/King's (Liverpool Regiment) (T.F.)
- 4/Royal Fusiliers
- 1/Royal Scots Fusiliers





14th (Light) Division: Major-Gen. V.A. Couper

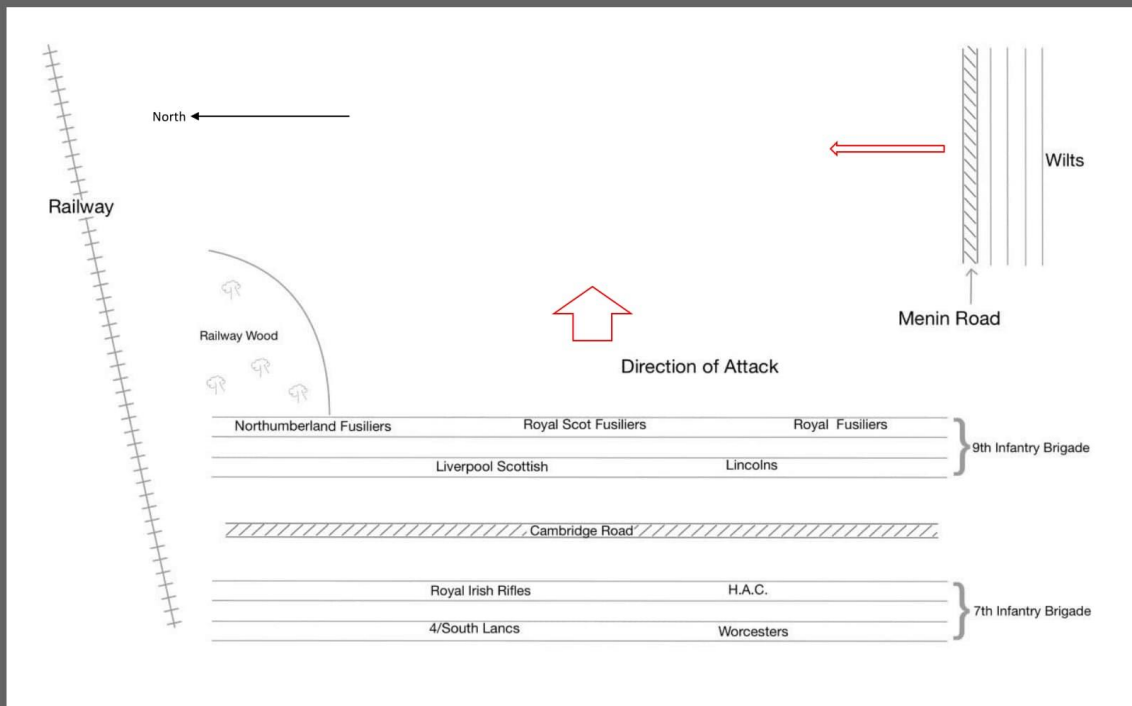
41 Infantry Brigade: Br-Gen. O.S.W. Nugent.

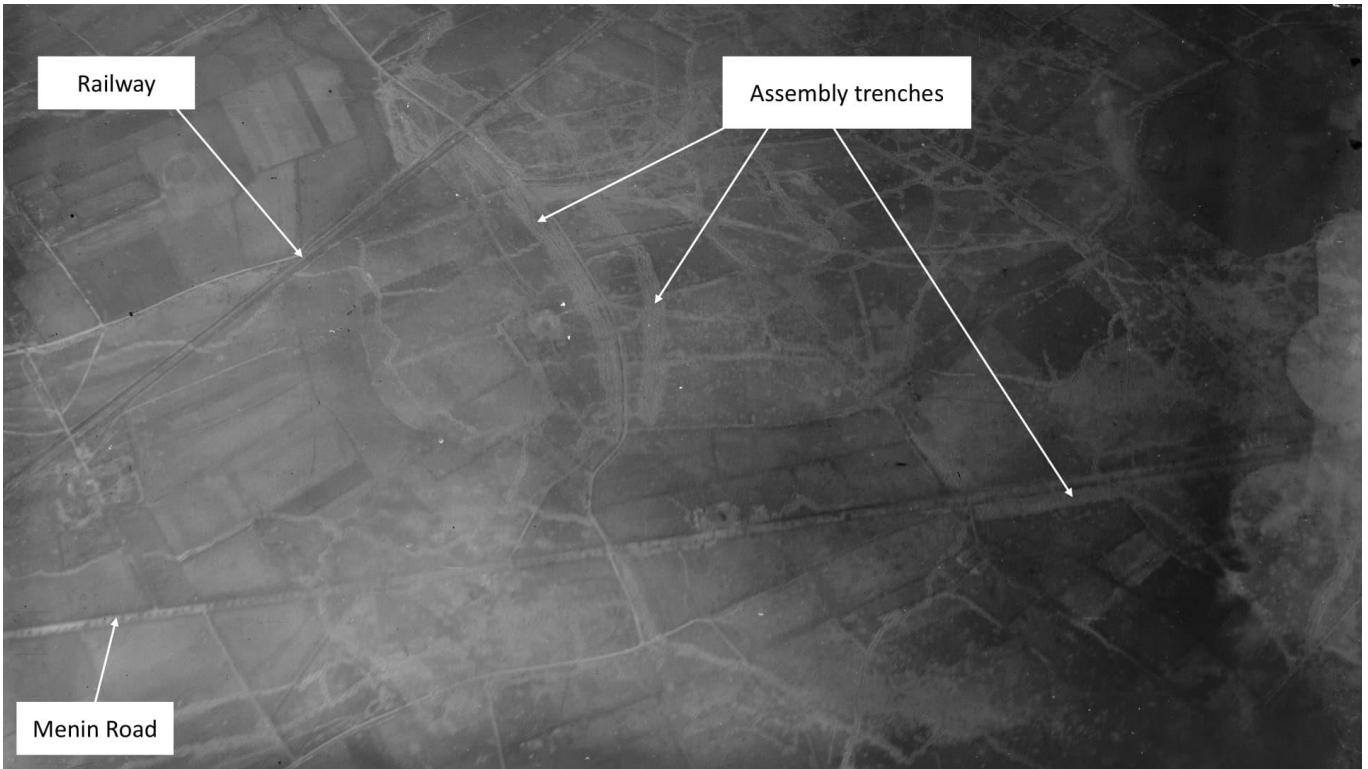
- 7th (Service) Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps
- 8th (Service) Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps
- 7th (Service) Battalion The Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own)
- 8th (Service) Battalion The Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own)

42 Infantry Brigade: Br-Gen. C.J. Markham.

- 5th (Service) Battalion The Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry
- 5th (Service) Battalion The King's (Shropshire Light Infantry)
- 9th (Service) Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps
- 9th (Service) Battalion The Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own)

43 Infantry Brigade: Not involved





Some supporting formations:

- 3rd Division Field Artillery.
- No. 2 Group Heavy Artillery Reserve.
- 12 Siege Howitzer Brigade.
- 5th Mountain Battery RGA.
- 24th Trench Mortar Battery.
- XXXVI Corps d'Armée (French Heavy Artillery).
- 6th Division, supporting left flank.
- 50th Division, supporting right flank.
- No. 3 Motor Machine-gun Battery.
- No. 10 Anti-Aircraft Section, RMA.
- No. 6 Squadron RFC.

Approx. 115 British guns fired 22,500 shells throughout the day.





Casualties (killed, wounded & missing)

3rd Division

Approx: 140 Officers 3643 Other Ranks.

- 9th Brigade lost 73 Officers out of 96 and 2,012 men out of 3,391.
- 7th Brigade: 60 Officers and 1,206 men.
- 8th Brigade: 6 Officers and 131 men.

Five battalion commanders wounded and one killed (Lt-Col. Boxer, Lincolns).

Liverpool Scottish deployed 23 Officers and 519 Other Ranks and suffered casualties of:

Officers: 4 killed, 6 missing and 11 wounded (total 21).

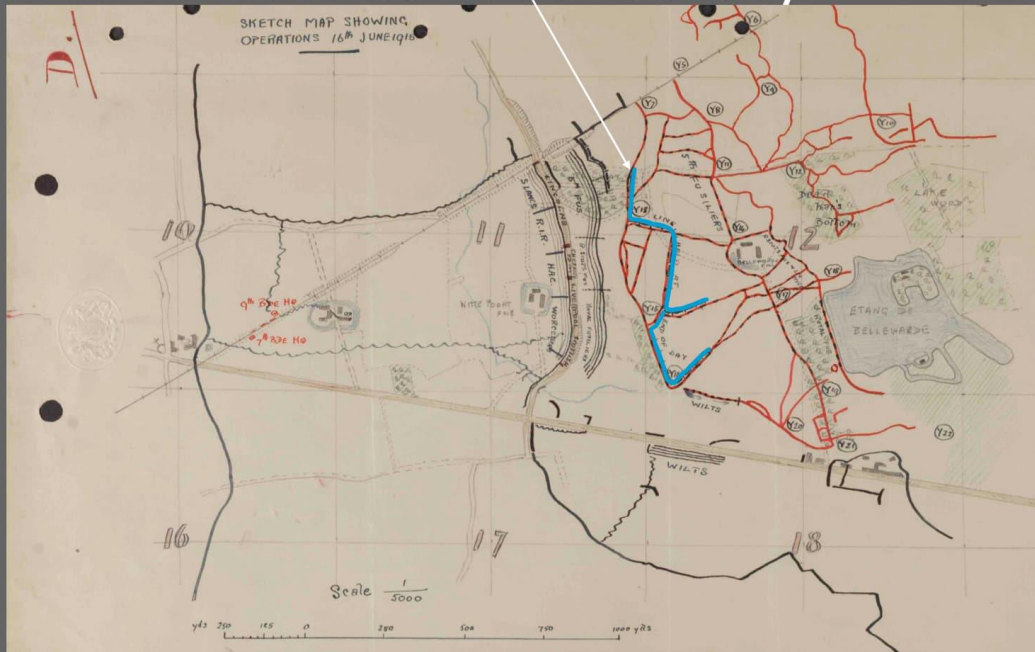
Other Ranks: 75 killed, 103 missing and 201 wounded (total 379).

14th Division

- 42nd Brigade: 9 Officers and 190 men.
- 41st Brigade: 3 men

German casualties est. 1,000 men.

Line held at end of day



The Second Battle of Artois, Second General Offensive 16—18 June, 1915.

🇬🇧 British Second Army, Bellewaarde, 16 June: 155 Officers, 3,727 ORs.

🇬🇧 British First Army, Rue D'Ouvert, 15—18 June: 142 Officers, 3,519 ORs.

🇫🇷 French Tenth Army, Artois, 9 May—18 June: estimate 102,500 (35% killed).

🇫🇷 French Second Army, La Ferme Toutvent, 7—13 June: 10,351.

🇫🇷 French Sixth Army, Quennevières, 6—16 June: 7,905.

🇫🇷 French First Army, St. Mihiel Salient, 1 May—20 June: 200 Officers, 16,000 ORs.

🇫🇷 French Seventh Army, Vosges, 5 May—22 June: 6,667.

🇫🇷 French Army Detachment of Lorraine, 5—22 June: 45 Officers, 800 ORs.

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The Mons Star

Today we are used to regular online arguments erupting over various topics, and the subject of who could be regarded as an 'Old Contemptible' and the commonly-used, but factually incorrect, reference to the 1914 Star as the 'Mons Star' still crop up today. Seventy years ago these discussions took place in the pages of regimental magazines and the national and local press.

On 25 May 1951 a letter was published in The Liverpool Echo concerning this issue:

"I have noticed on several occasions a reference to the "Old Contemptibles," 1914-1918 war.

There were two Stars struck for that war, one for the "Old Contemptibles," 1914 only, which comprised Regular soldiers.

And there was another Star for 1914-1918 soldiers who are not "Old Contemptibles."

I have noticed on different parades men wearing the 'Old Contemptibles' rosette on their 1914-1918 ribbon which they are not entitled to wear. - W. H. PIERCE, 93 Lansdowne Road, Birkenhead."

A response to this letter was published in The Liverpool Echo on 30 May:

"In reply to Mr W. H. Pierce, of Birkenhead, re: "Old Contemptibles" Star and Rosette (Echo, May 25), the 1914 or "Mons" Star was awarded to all soldiers (Allied Services, too), who served in France and/or Belgium between August 5, 1914 and midnight on November 22-23, 1914.

Several Territorial Regiments, the Liverpool Scottish, for instance, received the "Mons" Star and are entitled to wear the Rosette.

The 1915 Star (no Rosette) was awarded to all serving in a theatre of war in 1915. - R. D. McHARRIE, 3 The Aubyns, Wallasey."

Mr McHarrie's response elicited two further letters to The Liverpool Echo. The first was published on 1 June:

"Whilst R. D. McHarrie is mainly correct in his definition of entitlement to the 1914 or Mons Star, he is unfortunately wrong in stating that the Liverpool Scottish was one of the Territorial regiments entitled to it.

I have always understood that in spite of representations by post-1914 commanding officers of the Scottish, the War Office refused to sanction the wearing of the rosette by any 1914 members of the battalion other than the regular adjutant, who qualified because he had preceded the unit to France and arrived in the line in time to qualify for the 1914 Star. Other members of the battalion were awarded the 1914-15 Star, with which no rosette is worn. - PRE-1914 TERRITORIAL.”

Chum Arthur Frederick Washbourne M.M., who in 1914 had served with 8th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps, corrected and clarified a number of points in his letter that was published on 5 June:

“May I clarify the position as to what constitutes an “Old Contemptible.”

Army Order dated October 19, 1919, reads:- “His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve the issue of a clasp to officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men who have been awarded the 1914 Star under Army Order 35 of 1917, and who actually served under the fire of the enemy in France and Belgium between August 5, 1914, to midnight November 22-23, 1914.”

The Star was not issued as a “Mons Star.” There is no such medal of that name.

I am in possession of a complete list of battalions and units entitled to the clasp; unfortunately the Liverpool Scottish did not qualify, though several T.A. (sic - Territorial Force) units, yeomanry and others not actually regular troops did.

Holders of the Clasp to the 1914 Star are eligible as members of the local branch and for further information should apply to A. Kelly, hon. secretary, 115a Bentick Street, Birkenhead. - A. F. WASHBOURNE, M.M., chairman, Liverpool and Merseyside Branch Old Contemptibles Association.”

With regard to the 1/10th (Scottish) Battalion, The King’s (Liverpool Regiment) (Territorial Force), although the Liverpool Scottish were as a unit ineligible for the issue of the Clasp and Roses for their 1914 Stars several individual soldiers did make an application to receive them which was turned down, as evidenced from information recorded on the 1914 Star Roll. Inevitably there are always exceptions to this rule, and it is known that one Liverpool Scot, 2843 Private Thomas Alexander Lindsay, was issued with the Clasp and Roses for his 1914 Star on 22 November 1927. Whether or not he actually met the criteria for the award is not known, or if it was the result of a harassed War Office clerk not consulting the relevant Army Orders when Lindsay made his application...

The medal group to Captain Noel Godfrey Chavasse V.C. and Bar, M.C., also includes his 1914 Star with a Clasp affixed to the ribbon, although his entry on the 1914 Star Roll shows that this emblem was not officially issued.



Punishment !

This account could equally apply to countless thousands of men, none specific. After the abolition of flogging as a means of punishment to enforce military discipline in 1881; in during the First World War the British Army introduced Field Punishment as an alternative. Regularly employed, it was a common form of punishment awarded for a variety of offences. Periods for which an offender could be sentenced to this punishment, determined by the outcome of an enquiry, varied in duration according to the nature and seriousness of the offence. A Commanding Officer could award Field Punishment No.1 (F.P. No.1) or Field Punishment No.2 (F.P. No.2) for up to 28 days; a Court Martial could award up to 90 days.

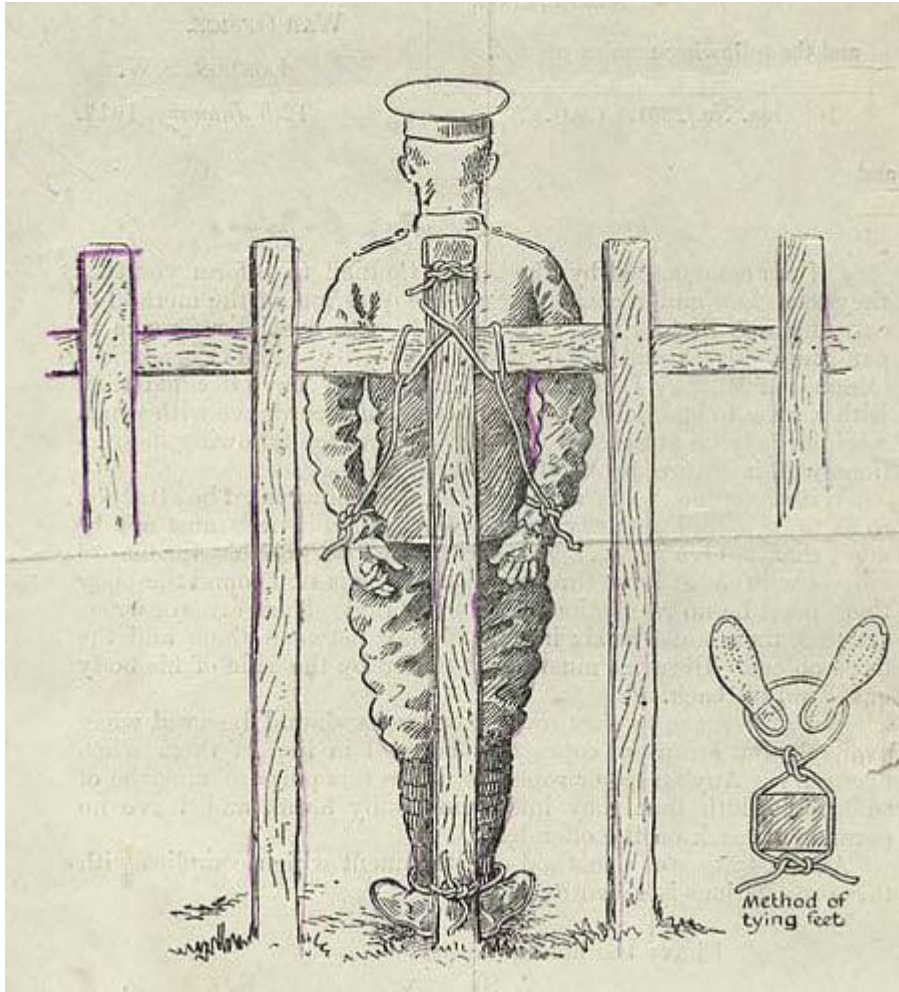
Field Punishment No. 1 - during the war it was awarded by the British Army on 60,210 occasions - involved the convicted man being placed in fetters and handcuffs, or similar means of restraint, and attached to a fixed object such as a gun wheel or fence post, for up to two hours a day. During the early part of the First World War the punishment was often applied with the arms of the offender outstretched and the legs tied together, giving rise to the term 'crucifixion.' Applied for up to three days out of four, up to a total of twenty-one days, it was usually carried out in Field Punishment Camps set up for the purpose a few miles behind the front but, if and when the unit moved to another region, it fell to the unit itself to ensure the prescribed sentence was carried out. Although the Manual of Military Law 1914 (to which all British and Commonwealth forces were subject to) specified Field Punishment should not be applied in such manner as to cause physical harm or endangerment, in practice abuse was commonplace. Accounts relate occasions where the offender was restrained in positions of extreme physical discomfort and stress; several memoirs refer to the punishment being applied within range of enemy fire. In the case of Field Punishment No.2 the offender was restrained in the same manner as No.1, but not attached to a fixed object; he could still march with his unit. Equally humiliating, it was far more tolerable. In both forms of the punishment the offender was subject to hard labour, extra fatigues, and loss of pay.

(VI.G.30) Pte. 26468, Georges Laurent, 14th Bn. Canadian Infantry, C.E.F.: s. of Joseph Laurent, of 682, Drolet, Montreal, Quebec: b. Montreal, 30 November 1895: Occ. - Labourer: joined C.E.F., Valcartier, 21 September 1914; apptd. 14th Bn., 23 September: trained Salisbury Plain, England, 14 October 1914 - 14 February 1915; Awarded '5 Days Field Punishment (F.P.) No.1, Forfeit 5 Days Pay; Absent Without Leave (A.W.L.),' Larkhill, November 1914: Awarded 'Forfeit 3 Days Pay, Refusing to attend morning parade,' 7 January 1915: served in France, disembarked St. Nazaire, 15 February following: Awarded '5 Days F.P. No.2; Leaving smoke helmet behind when returning from fatigue,' 7 August: Awarded '14 Days F.P. No.1; Threatening an NCO,' 11 December 1915: Awarded '28 Days F.P. No.1, Forfeit 4 Days Pay; A.W.L.,' 29 January 1916: killed in action 4.30 p.m., 20 May 1916, while in the trenches Armagh Wood, by the explosion of an enemy shell; death was instantaneous. Age 20. (IWGC record V.G.31) Ptes. Henry Anterieux, and Joseph Portelance were also killed.

Refers - Railway Dugouts Burial Ground (Transport Farm)

'In Memory & In Mourning: Ypres Salient Cemeteries,' Vol.4,pg.36.

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British Artillery Fuses

Britain entered World War I with a policy of using shrapnel shells for its field guns (13-pounder and 18-pounder), intended to burst above head-height for anti-personnel use. British heavy artillery was expected to attack fortifications, requiring high-explosive shells to penetrate the target to some extent before exploding. Hence British artillery fuses were optimised for these functions. Experiences of trench warfare on the Western front in 1914-1916 indicated that British artillery was unable to reliably destroy barbed-wire barricades, which required shells to explode instantaneously on contact with the wire or ground surface: British high-explosive shells would penetrate the ground before exploding, rendering them useless for destroying surface targets.

British No. 100 and later Nos. 101, 102 and 103 nose "graze" fuses available in the field from August 1915 onwards could explode a high-explosive shell very quickly on experiencing a major change in direction or velocity, but were not "instantaneous": there was still some delay in activation, and limited sensitivity: they could not detect contact with a frail object like barbed wire or soft ground surface. Hence they would penetrate objects or ground slightly before detonating, instead of on the ground surface as required for wire cutting. These graze and impact fuses continued to be used as intended for medium and heavy artillery high-explosive shells.

Up to and including the Battle of the Somme in 1916, British forces relied on shrapnel shells fired by 18-pounder field guns and spherical high-explosive bombs fired by 2-inch "plum-pudding" mortars for cutting barbed-wire defences. The disadvantage of shrapnel for this purpose was that it relied on extreme accuracy on setting the fuse timing to burst the shell close to the ground just in front of the wire: if the shell burst fractionally too short or too long it could not cut the wire, and also the spherical shrapnel balls were not of an optimal shape for cutting strands of wire. While the 2-inch mortar bombs cut wire effectively, their maximum range of 570 yards (520 m) limited their usefulness.

Detonation mechanism

The number 106 fuse drew on French technology to provide a mechanism for reliably detonating a high-explosive shell instantaneously when the nose made physical contact with the slightest object like a strand of barbed wire or the ground surface. Hence it was a "direct action" rather than a "graze" fuse: simple deceleration or change of direction would not activate it, only direct physical contact between the hammer projecting from the nose and an external object. The basic mechanism was a steel hammer on the end of a spindle projecting forward from the nose of the fuse. The slightest movement inwards of this spindle caused the fuse to detonate and hence explode the shell before it penetrated the ground. The steel hammer had a softer aluminium cap which absorbed the force of a glancing blow and prevented the spindle from bending or breaking, reducing the risk of misfire.

Arming and safety features

The first safety mechanism was a length of brass tape wrapped around the spindle between the fuse body and the hammer head, which prevented the spindle from moving inward. On firing, the hammer's inertia caused it to "setback" fractionally i.e. it resisted acceleration, and hence the accelerating fuse body forced the tape wrapped around the spindle against the underside of the hammer head, preventing the tape from unwinding. When acceleration ceased shortly after the shell left the gun barrel, the hammer and fuse body were travelling at the same speed and the hammer ceased to "set back", freeing the tape. The shell's rotation then caused a weight on the end of the tape to unwind the tape through centrifugal force, hence activating the fuse. Because of this, usage of this fuse in action was characterised by British troops in the front lines noticing the descending tapes detached from the fuses as they travelled overhead towards the enemy lines.

After the tape detached during flight, the hammer was prevented from being forced inward by air resistance by a thin "shearing wire" passing through the hammer spindle, which was easily broken by the hammer encountering any physical resistance. The spindle was prevented from rotating relative to the fuse body in flight, and hence from snapping the shearing wire, by a guide pin passing through a cutout in the spindle.

Later versions (designated "E") incorporated an additional safety mechanism: an internal "shutter", also activated by rotation of the shell after firing, which closed the channel between the striker in the nose and the powder magazine in the base until it was clear of the gun which fired it. On firing, the shutter resisted acceleration ("setback") and the accelerating shell body pushed against it, preventing the shutter from moving. When acceleration ceased shortly after the shell left the gun barrel, the shutter ceased to "set back" and was free to spin outwards, activating the fuse.

Use in action

The fuse was first used experimentally in action in the later phases of the Battle of the Somme in late 1916, and entered service in early 1917. From then onwards British forces had a reliable means of detonating high-explosive shells on the ground surface without merely digging holes as they had previously. The chain of events necessary to allow the fuse to activate a shell were:

Gunner removes the fuse's safety cap before loading

1. Fuse accelerates violently on firing: the setback of the hammer prevents tape from unwinding while still in or near gun barrel
2. Rifling in gun barrel causes the shell and hence fuse to spin rapidly
3. Fuse exits gun barrel and ceases accelerating: the hammer ceases to setback, freeing up tape
4. Fuse continues to spin between 1,300 and 1,700 revolutions per minute: safety shutter spins out ("E" models from 1917 onwards)
5. Centrifugal force of weight on the end of the tape causes tape to unwind and detach from the hammer spindle
6. Hammer encounters physical resistance (e.g. earth, rocks, wire) and decelerates, causing the momentum of the fuse body to snap the shearing wire and force the detonator onto the pointed end of the hammer spindle
7. Detonator explodes, sending flame through the centre of the fuse body to C.E. (composition exploding) magazine in fuse base
8. C.E. magazine detonates, sending flame into the shell nose
9. Flame activates shell function, typically high-explosive or smoke

On the Western Front in 1917 and 1918, the No. 106 fuse was typically employed on high-explosive shells for cutting barbed wire, fired by 18-pounder field guns at short to medium range, and by Mk VII ^[5] and Mk XIX 6-inch field guns at long range. Its instantaneous action also made it useful for counter-battery fire: high-explosive shells fired by 60-pounder and six-inch field guns were targeted on enemy artillery, and by bursting above ground could cause maximum damage to enemy artillery, mountings and crew. It was also approved as the primary fuse for high-explosive shells for QF 4.5 inch howitzers from August 1916 onward.^[4]

This fuse was also used to burst smoke shells. There were many versions of the No. 106 and it remained in service in the form of its streamlined variant, the No. 115, until World War II.



18 pounder shrapnel shell

The PoW pin-ups: Fascinating WW1 pictures show British soldiers in drag for stage production to boost morale at German prisoner-of-war camp

- Although the pastime of British PoWs putting on elaborate stage shows to keep up morale is commonly associated with the Second World War, these images show Tommies treading the boards over 20 years earlier
- One officer goes all out in a flapper dress, while others don frocks and make-up in previously unseen images
- The photos were taken by Second Lieutenant Clarence Pickard, a member of the Durham Light Infantry
- Lt. Pickard was captured by the Germans in June 1918 after being shot in the hip on the battlefield
- He was detained for the remainder of the conflict at Schweidnitz PoW camp in eastern Germany

Fascinating photos of captured Tommies doing amateur dramatics dressed in drag during the First World War have emerged 103 years on. Although the pastime of British PoWs putting on elaborate stage shows to keep up morale is commonly associated with the Second World War, these images show Tommies treading the boards over 20 years earlier. One officer goes all out in a flapper dress, while others don frocks and make-up in the jovial previously unseen images. The men took their performances so seriously that they spent up to six hours a day rehearsing. The photos were taken by Second Lieutenant Clarence Pickard, a member of the Durham Light Infantry, who was captured in June 1918 after being shot in the hip on the battlefield. He was detained for the remainder of the conflict at Schweidnitz PoW camp in eastern Germany, writing regularly to his sweetheart Gwen Johnson in Hartlepool, County Durham.



A British prisoner of war dressed as a flapper swoons in the arms of a comrade as they take part in dramatics to help boost morale at the Schweidnitz PoW camp in eastern Germany during the First World War



Captured British soldiers in drag take part in a stage production. The photos were taken by Second Lieutenant Clarence Pickard, a member of the Durham Light Infantry, who was captured in June 1918 after being shot in the hip on the battlefield.



Two soldiers dressed up as women taking part in amateur dramatics at the Schweidnitz PoW camp



© Elstob & Elstob/BNPS

The soldiers sit down for a photo. The conditions in First World War prisoner of war camps were generally far superior to those of the Second World War Lt Pickard's mother was initially told that he had been killed in action, so receiving his first letter from captivity was an emotional shock for his loved ones. The letters that followed gave an interesting account of day-to-day life in camp. In one of them he writes: 'Never mind dearest, the day will soon come when we shall be joined together again.' True to his word, they got married when he returned to Britain at the end of 1918. His camp photos and love letters are being sold alongside his campaign medals by a distant relative with auctioneers Elstob & Elstob, of Ripon, North Yorkshire. There are also three postcards Lt Pickard sent Gwen which have been partially censored. The auctioneer said that World War One PoW camps were far more civilised and hospitable than the horrific conditions endured in Second World War. Plays, which were advertised in camp newspapers, helped boost morale and alleviate the monotony of captive life



© Elstob & Elstob/BNPS



A French field kitchen in use by the French troops within half a mile of the Turkish lines on the southern section of Gallipoli Peninsula, 1915.

With almost the same number of soldiers as the Anzacs - 79,000 - and similar death rates - close on 10,000 - French participation in the Gallipoli campaign could not occupy a more different place in national memory. What became a foundation myth in Australia as it also did in the Turkish Republic after 1923 was eventually forgotten in France.

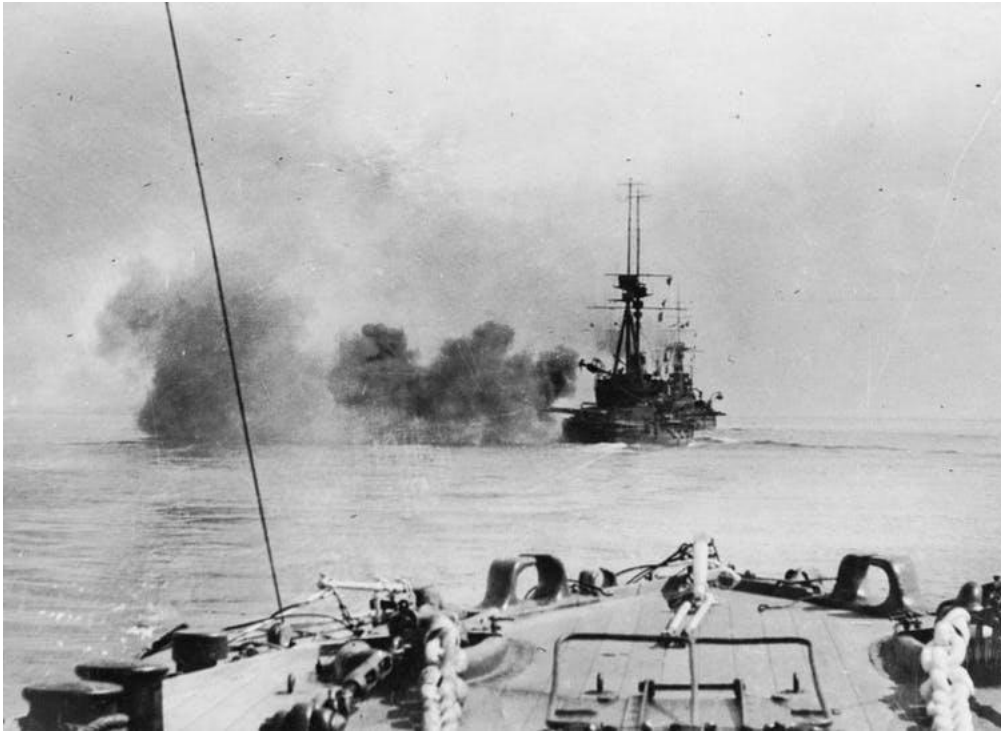
Some of the reasons are obvious.

France was fighting for its very existence and many, including Joseph Joffre, the commander-in-chief on the western front, thought Gallipoli a side-show at best and a wasted effort at worst. It was a British conceived and led campaign, although the French were a fully-fledged expeditionary force with their own staff and command structure.

It was also a failure, and while that never prevented anyone spinning redemptive narratives about heroism and national virtue, the French had plenty more relevant episodes to use for such purposes during the Great War, from the Marne in 1914 and Verdun in 1916 to final victory in 1918.

Even regarding the “front of the Orient”, as they called it, the French saw Gallipoli merely as a curtain-raiser to the subsequent campaign in Macedonia, to which most French units from Gallipoli transferred, and which finally defeated Bulgaria in 1918, contributing to the victory over the Central Powers. Gallipoli failed to achieve any of its goals.

What was in it for the French?



A French battleship firing at Turkish shore positions in the preliminary bombardment, Dardanelles 1915.

Other reasons for the neglect of the campaign are less obvious - and more revealing - about its actual nature.

The French conceived of the Dardanelles in part at least as a colonial campaign. This was not true of its ostensible goals - since the idea of defeating the Ottoman Empire and linking up with Russia was clearly part of a continental conflict between the major European powers.

But one consequence of success would be (as it eventually was) the partitioning of the Ottoman Middle East. The French could not afford not to take part in case the British won.

Even more tellingly, the campaign was conceived in a colonial mode.

As the “sick man of Europe” it was assumed that the Ottoman Empire would collapse at the mere demonstration of Allied naval and military might. The land campaign would be just like the expeditions that had subordinated “native” peoples to French and European authority pre-war - in Indo-China, China and Morocco.

Even after the naval fiasco of March 18, when British and French ships failed to force the Dardanelles, the French imagined that the land campaign would be an easy march along the shores of the Sea of Marmara to Constantinople.

Finally, two thirds of the French Expeditionary Force were composed of colonial soldiers, though two thirds were also white. While two regiments were specially raised for the campaign from metropolitan France, many of the other soldiers came from elite European colonial regiments or white settlers from Algeria and Tunisia.

Despite initial plans, it proved impossible to use native North African soldiers (though they later went to Macedonia) because they would be fighting against fellow Muslims and possibly occupying the holy sites of the Middle East.

But a quarter to a third of the French soldiers were *Tirailleurs Sénégalais*, or Senegalese Infantry, though in reality they were recruited from all over French West Africa and included some creoles from the West Indies and islands of the Indian Ocean. While it is not true that there was no memory of the Dardanelles campaign in inter-war France, it was largely colonial, being especially strong among the settler community in North Africa. Needless to say, the Senegalese had their own oral traditions but they were never in any active sense part of the official “memory” of the campaign. When the Empire vanished after the second world war, and French Algeria with it, the most obvious sources of a commemorative culture of Gallipoli disappeared.

Not exactly a colonial campaign

The paradox, as rapidly became evident to the French soldiers, is that Gallipoli as an experience had little of the colonial campaign about it. The Turkish soldiers who opposed the landings were men fighting to defend their homeland and religion, and they did so as tenaciously as any of the other European armies of the Great War.



A group of unidentified French gunners posed with a howitzer in the Dardanelles, 1915. Among them are a couple of Australians.

They were also instructed and partly commanded by a significant number of German officers, who had initiated them into the rudiments of trench warfare in ways that still remain fully to be established.

Even more fundamentally, Gallipoli was as much a military part of the war in Europe as it was by virtue of its political logic. The great surprise of the first world war was that a conflict that almost everyone had imagined as a war of movement in the same broad mould as warfare since Napoleon, where the outcome would turn on the massed infantry offensive, became in reality a drawn-out conflict in which the defensive predominated.

The application of industrialised firepower only made the stalemate all the more destructive and prolonged. In effect, the “front” was invented as the battlefield of this mutual siege warfare, and Gallipoli was simply the most distant of the fronts that locked down Europe in 1915.

Unsurprisingly - though at the time it surprised everyone - the conflict that raged for eight months on this most distant peninsula of the continent reproduced the trench warfare of the western and other fronts.



Summer News from the Cemetery Friends of Spital Cemetery FoSC July - September 2021



The roadmap to more freedom may have been delayed but we will keep our fingers crossed for brighter days ahead. A Basket of flowers symbolises this hope! Perhaps we should adopt this as our standby logo for the rest of this year! Welcome to our Summernewsletter. We hope this finds you well, friends, family and colleagues too.

We've had a fair bit of media coverage and promotion recently, starting with Derbyshire Live about our bid to become a tourist hotspot, quite fun although not quite what we'd written in the press release but we'd certainly welcome more visitors. Then Trudy at Hasland Magazine this month promoted the event on 27th July when we will finally unveil the Blue Plaque to honour local Nurse Fletcher. See below for more details. Viv Micklefield wrote a lovely article in Derbyshire Life Magazine, June edition, about hidden gardens in Derbyshire and encouraged people to visit Spital Cemetery for the fascinating collection of flower carvings, deep in symbolism understood by Victorian visitors. Twist magazine picked up on the Anzac Day event, and finally CBC have promoted two events we organised as part of their Year of Outdoors project, a Wild Walk in June and Hidden Treasures in July. <https://www.chesterfield.gov.uk/explore-chesterfield/year-of-outdoors/year-of-outdoors-events.aspx>

Anzac Day Dawn Service 25th April 2021

On 25th April at 5am at first light, accompanied by a spectacular dawn chorus, we gathered together in Spital Cemetery to remember that 106 years ago, to the day, at that hour, Allied troops stormed the beaches on the Gallipoli Peninsula in what is now Turkey.



It was the start of an 8 month battle that cost the lives of 130,000. 87,000 were Ottoman Turks, defending their homeland. 44,000 were Allied troops. Many, such as the members of the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps were a long way from home. This was their first entry into WW1 and ANZAC Day on 25th April, is celebrated annually by New Zealanders and Australians across the world.

This was a chance to reflect on the worldwide nature of this conflict and join hands across the world with others who helped to protect our way of life. Their contribution is increasingly being recognised.

Before the wars over 2,000 people from north east Derbyshire emigrated to Australia and New Zealand in search of opportunity and adventure. Many will have enlisted as ANZACs and some will have lost their lives. Hasland resident George Hewitt joined the Sherwood Foresters and was part of the British forces at Gallipoli. He died of his wounds and is commemorated on the Helles Memorial. We welcomed Denise and Emilio, his great grandchildren.

As day broke we called out the names of 116 service personnel buried in the cemetery or remembered on family headstones (killed in action) also veterans and other personnel who lived locally. We welcomed Ann and Paris granddaughter and great great granddaughter of John McBride remembered on the family grave in Spital but commemorated in Chester Farm Cemetery, Belgium.

Finally we likened the present battle we are all fighting against Covid to times of war, with such great losses and our thoughts went to those in the NHS and allied services who have died.

Creepy Crawly Cottage

Creepy Crawly cottage opened for new residents thanks to a wonderful neighbour Paul Stanley who made a replacement when he heard that our much loved insect hotel had been stolen! Yes, stolen! He cleared a more secluded spot but still accessible to local children who used to visit the old one. Thanks Paul. Please email if you would like directions. thefriendsofspitalcemetery@gmail.com

The decline in insects could lead to the extinction of 40% of the world's insect species over the next few decades. That's not good so every little helps.



A Wild Walk in the Dead Centre of Chesterfield

As part of the June events in Chesterfield's Year of the Outdoors we took a wonderful group on what was supposed to be a quick walk around the cemetery. It turned out to last 2 hours but no one complained, not even the three fabulously behaved children and three equally wonderful dogs. We covered 2.2Km (three circuits!) exploring the hidden wild corners, winding

in and out between flower carvings on gravestones, and through areas where the grass is not mowed and wildflowers are starting to get established. We pointed out some of the magnificent collection of trees, homes and sources of food for many creatures and birds. There was inevitably a bit of history thrown in for good measure and the kids collected natural material to make their own creepy crawly cottages, like ours, when they got home. Many thanks to Wendy Blunt from Chesterfield Borough Council for managing the bookings and for joining us and to all the participants.

Spital Cemetery Tours

Monthly tours of the cemetery are now back - second Sunday of the month 1pm. For further information, to book or discuss alternative dates please email spitalcemeterytours@gmail.com



Blue Plaque unveiling

On International Women's Day on 14th March 2018 we held an event with Chesterfield Borough Council and representatives from UNISON and from the Chesterfield and District Royal Engineers Association, at the graveside of Anne Fletcher in Spital Cemetery. It was 100 years to the day since Nurse Fletcher had died from TB contracted while nursing injured and sick men at the East Leeds War Hospital, many fresh from the battlefields in France and Belgium.

The Friends talked wishfully about putting a plaque on her house, a stone's throw away, in Spital. Fast forward 3 years and 4 months and we're delighted to be planning the unveiling on **Tuesday 21st July, 2021**. Refreshments will be available afterwards at St Leonard's Church Mission on Valley Road, followed by a visit to the cemetery where a representative from the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps Association (sponsors) will lay a wreath. A tour of some of the war graves in the cemetery will be available. You are most welcome but booking is essential. We will need to keep a close eye on numbers in the event of any changes to the freedoms we are all hoping for and also to plan refreshments.

Please email
thefriendsofspitalcemetery@gmail.com

Bat Walks with DCRT

A couple of years ago we held two Bat Walks starting in the cemetery and then walking down and along the rivers Rother and Hipper. They were extremely popular. Don Catchment Rivers Trust organised the walks and this year they have generously offered to do two more. We are so lucky that DCRT are still helping to clean up these rivers and take measures to make them healthy channels for wildlife. Follow the links below to book.

Friday 13th August start time is 7.30 - 9pm <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bat-walk-at-spital-cemetery-and-river-rother-tickets-158880918103>

Wednesday 22nd September - start time is 6.30-8pm
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bat-walk-at-spital-cemetery-and-river-rother-tickets-158881279183>



Friends of Spital Cemetery seek to promote Spital Cemetery as a haven for wildlife, and a place of remembrance, heritage and learning for the community.

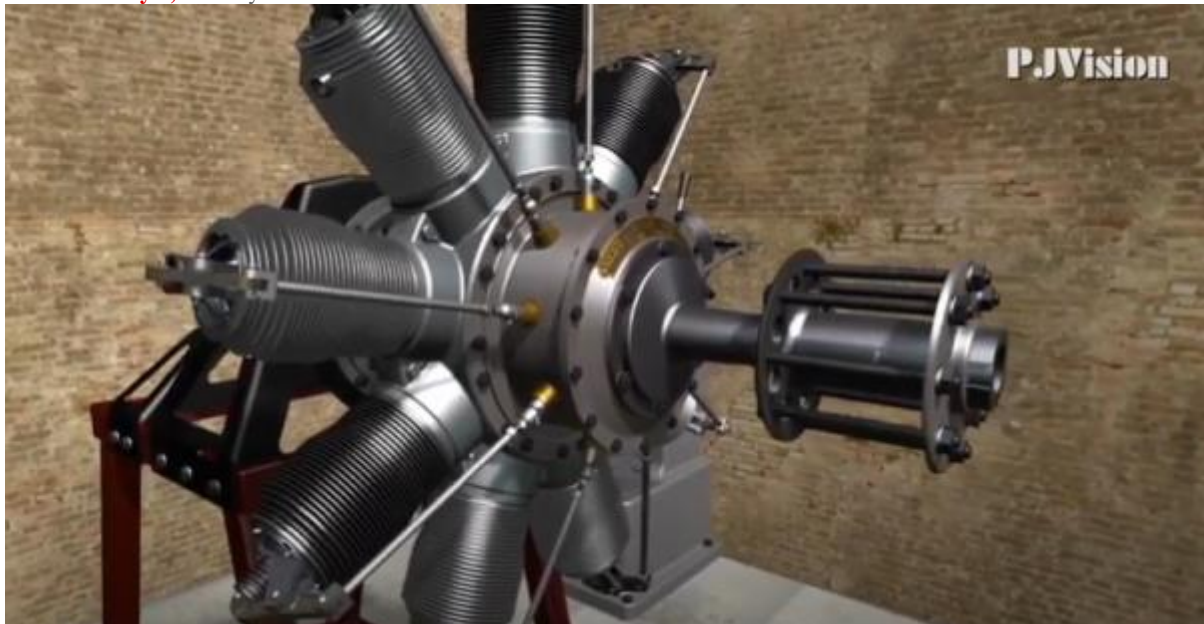
<http://friendsofspitalcemetery.co.uk/> <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofSpitalCemetery>

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Video: Secrets of the Gnome Rotary Engine

Posted on **May 2, 2021** by **MCG**



Check out the strange and magical inner workings of the Gnome Monosoupape aircraft engine of World War I in this fascinating digital animation.

To modern eyes, the Gnome rotary aircraft engine of World War I must be one of the craziest machines ever conceived by human minds. The Gnome superficially resembles a conventional radial aircraft engine, but there is a crucial difference. Here, the crankshaft is fixed to the airframe and the crankcase and cylinders rotate, driving the propeller. Wait, there's more: there is no throttle as such; instead, engine speed is controlled by cutting the ignition in and out. And there is no conventional intake valve mechanism either, but on the exhaust side alone. On that basis, this variety of the Gnome was commonly known as the *Monosoupape*, French for "single-valve." Despite its seemingly bizarre design, the Gnome was actually was one of the most effective aircraft engines of the first World War, manufactured under license by both sides in the conflict, and there were other rotary engine makers as well. To help us understand the mysteries of the Gnome's inner workings, Pierre Jansen of the Netherlands produced this stunning digital animation of the Gnome 9-B2, a 9-cylinder model of 1916 that developed 100 hp but weighed only 303 lbs. (Which points to one of the rotary's multiple attributes, a superior power/weight ratio.) Once the assembly is completed, at around the 8:48 mark the four-stroke operating cycle is demonstrated. Enjoy the video.

https://www.macsmotorcitygarage.com/video-secrets-of-the-gnome-rotary-engine/?fbclid=IwAR1ep2HLuAYbiXirH3LhzBz-w6TErLxNpIlPUoffh_u0i4tOEdUf-uOnV1o

