



# *The Spire Sentinel*



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



***ISSUE 78 - August 2022***

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



## Western Front Association Chesterfield Branch – Meetings 2022

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

January	4th	<b>.Branch AGM and Members Evening</b> - 3 short presentations by Jon-Paul Harding, Andy Rawson and Grant Cullen
February	1st	<b>`Steaming to The Front` - Britain`s Railways in The Great War</b> by Grant Cullen
March	1st	<b>`They Think It`s all Over` ....</b> By Andy Rawson . Plenty has been said about the breaking of the Hindenburg Line. This presentation looks at the pursuit of the Germans which occurred during the final weeks of the war.
April	5th	<b>Soldiers and Their Horses - Horses and Their Soldiers</b> by Dr Jane Flynn - a sympathetic consideration of the soldier - horse relationship 1914-18
May	3rd	<b>`Finding Deborah`</b> by Mike Tipping. How the team that discovered tank Deborah D-51 went on to find me, and my journey to Deborah
June	7th	<b>The Cost of the War'</b> By Roy Larkin. Hansard tells us that the Great War of 1914-18 increased the National Debt to £7,435,000,000 or £377,144,063,927 at today's value which took 100 years to pay off.
July	5th	<b>The Italian Front 1915-1918</b> by John Chester. Covers the fighting in Italy from beginning to end. Includes the contribution of the British and their part in ending the war.
August	2nd	<b>Peter Hart returns to Chesterfield - last time was just before the first lockdown in March 2020. The title of Peter`s talk is Rupert Brooke and the `Glitterati` at Gallipoli`</b>
September	6th	<b>The Inventions Department</b> by Richard Godber. A little known part of the Ministry of Munitions. Based upon Richard`s dissertation for his Wolverhampton MA, previously a very under researched area about which little was known.
October	4th	<b>`British League of Help`</b> by Dudley Giles. Nearly 90 towns, cities, and organisations in the UK, Australia, Canada and Mauritius signed up in the period 1920-1922 to 'adopt' a village, town or city in the Devastated Zone of France. Some of these adoptions lasted only a few years, some (like Sheffield's adoption of Bapaume, Serre and Puisieux) survived until after WW2
November	1st	<b>`Shell Shock and the History of Psychiatry`</b> by Jill Brunt. Based upon sessions on this subject presented to students at Northern College, Barnsley
December	1st	TBA

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**Brooke Square, Skyros**

*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 August 2022 edition of our Branch Newsletter.

The July meeting became memorable for all the wrong reasons - at about 3.15 pm on the day of the meeting, I got a call from Rob Nash telling me that our speaker for the evening, John Chester, had taken ill at his home and they were awaiting an ambulance to take him to hospital. Don't panic....don't panic....what to do....fortunately I had a talk in preparation for a Zoom talk (Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July) to the Dundee and Tayside Branch of the WFA and whilst it was a bit rough and ready - thanks Andy Rawson for being my projectionist - we got there in the end. The good news is that John Chester, whilst suffering a stroke got to hospital in time and after several days of tests received the good news that there is no lasting damage and just needs a good rest. Thanks to Rob Nash for keeping us up to date on John's progress. Hopefully, if John's progress continues we can invite him again sometime - but his health takes priority.

I have previously e mailed everybody with the link for my talk on Saturday which the Dundee and Tayside Branch kindly passed on to me to share with our members.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see that Andy Rawson has put together an excellent itinerary for the proposed visit to the sites around what was Redmires Camp in the hills just west of Sheffield. What we need now is to fix a date and time - would need to be on in early August - let's fix a date(s) on Tuesday ....let's get this show on the road!!



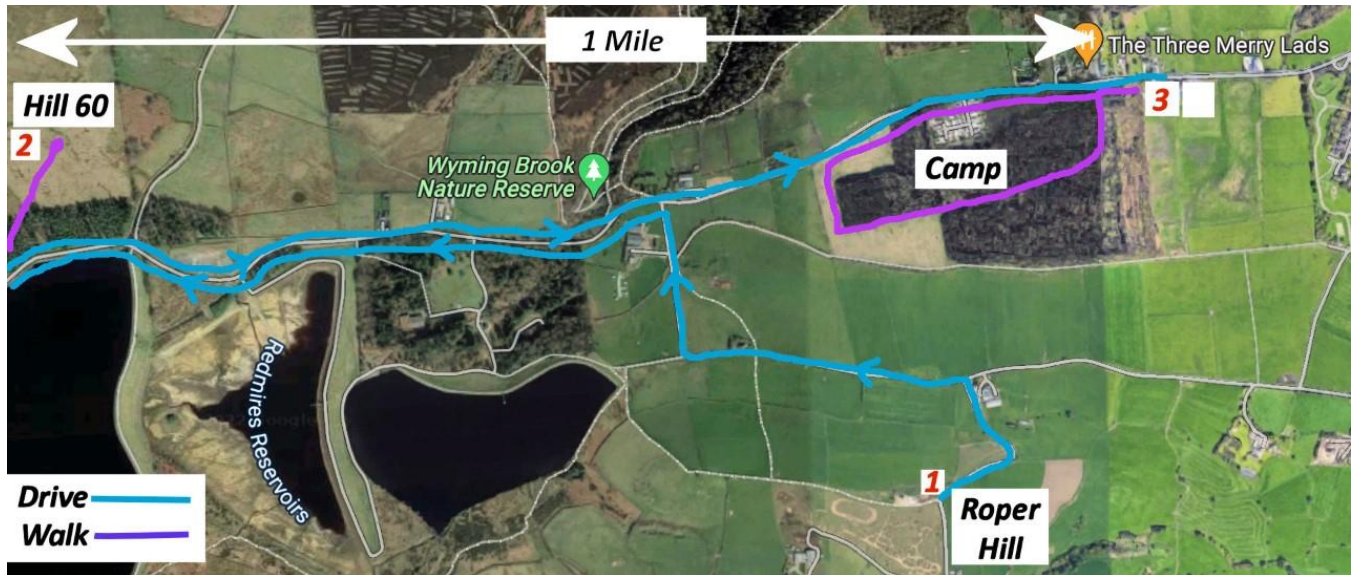
On Tuesday we have the welcome return of Peter Hart to Chesterfield - last time was just before the first lockdown in March 2020. The title of Peter's talk is **Rupert Brooke and the 'Glitterati' at Gallipoli**

Looking forward to seeing you all on Tuesday.

Best wishes, Grant Cullen    Branch Secretary    07824628638

## REDMIRE CAMP VISIT

Andy Rawson has put together his proposed itinerary - we need to fix the date !!



In summary there is a map attached with the stands and route

Stand S: Meet and organise cars/instructions

Stand 1: Roper Hill for introduction, orientation and the evolution of the camps

Stand 2: Walk up Hill 60 for training life at the camp

Stand 3: Walk through the WWII prison camp and around the WWI soldiers' camp

Times are estimated and involve talking time and travel to the next stand.

## REDMIRE VISIT: CHESTERFIELD WFA

### Stand S for Sugar: Car Park behind the Sportsman Pub

Rendezvous at car park; introduction/instructions and organise cars

Drive to Point 1: Roper Hill (route not shown on map)

### Stand 1: Roper Hill (20 minutes)

Involves: A 1 minute slight downhill walk on grass, involving one stile (not essential)

Orientation of the Redmires area and the evolution of the camps (WWI and WWII)



Hazards:                Parking for three cars maximum on a wide verge

### **Stand to Point 2: Hill 60: (40 minutes)**

Views over the reservoirs close to the practice trenches and silhouette soldier memorial

Involves:                Parking in car park and walking up a hill for 10 minutes

Hazards:                A large car park but it can get busy on weekends  
                              The walk is up a fairly steep but well used path  
                              Keeping the soldiers busy and the training regime

### **Stand to Point 3: The Camp (60 minutes)**

Walk through the WWII camp and around the perimeter of the WWI camp

Involves:                Returning back to the original carpark  
                              Walk through the woods which now cover the prison camp  
                              Walk around the perimeter of WWI  
                              Return through the woods (or along the road)

Hazards:                Flat 45-minute walk on woodland paths  
                              Can return along the road but the first half has no footpath  
                              Retracing the route would be more relaxing

### **Point S for Sugar**

Rendezvous back at the cars

Three Merry Lads pub, where soldiers liked a drink

Involves:                Taking in the views over Rivelin valley from the beer garden

Hazards:                Beer!

**Total Estimated Time: 2 hours + pub**



# 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)

[www.westernfrontassociation.com/shop/wfa-branded-items/?p=2](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) [www.westernfrontassociation.com/shop/branded-clothing/](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 55 x 175mm) 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)    | 37 x 29 x 11cm, 100% Cotton. Full cotton lining. Zippered organiser section, Capacity: 13 litres             |
| 10 | Despatch Bag      | (£30)    | 40 x 30 x 12 cm, (10) Washed Canvas, dual rear pouch pockets. Multiple zippered pockets. Capacity: 14 litres |
| 11 | Shoulder Bag      | (£25)    | 40 x 28 x 18 cm, (10) (11) 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   |



## July Meeting

As everyone was aware our July meeting was scheduled to hear a talk by John Chester on the Campaign in Italy 1915 - 1918 - a somewhat neglected Front in the war. However, at about 3 o'clock on the afternoon of the meeting, Branch Secretary, Grant Cullen, received a phone call from Rob Nash to say that John had taken unwell and wouldn't be able to come and deliver his talk. Just before the meeting got underway we received a message to say that John had suffered a stroke and was in hospital but prompt action by the paramedics had probably saved him from any lasting effects. Rob was asked by the meeting to pass on to John and Ursula his wife our very best wishes for a speedy recovery

Fortunately, Grant had a talk in preparation which was due to be delivered via Zoom to members of the Dundee and Tayside WFA Branch at the end of the month and stepped into the breach. 'Gremlins' got into the technology side of things and Grant had to seek the assistance of Andy Rawson as 'projectionist' for the slide show

The title of the talk was 'Commemoration and Remembrance of The Great War'.....a personal journey in pictures and words....along the Western Front before making a brief stop in Russia. Then on to Gallipoli before ending at the most important site of Commemoration and Remembrance in the British Isles.

The journey begins at the Menin Gate in Ypres in Belgium





More than 50000 names  
 Are Carved on Ypres Menin Gate  
 Of Soldiers who have no known grave  
 Just their destiny and date  
 Witness and last Testament  
 Name and Rank and Regiment  
 Is now all that survives  
 From so many squandered lives

And for every name inscribed  
 The poor bereaved were left to mourn  
 The passing of all those who died  
 No white stone on tended lawn  
 No place to go to contemplate  
 The sacrifice, this wicked waste  
 No footprint left to show where once they trod  
 A Soldier of the Great War - Known Unto God

FOX C. FRICKER A. E. GILHAM J. 19TH BN. LONDON REGIMENT SECOND LIEUT. HANNA J. H. HUNT S. H. JOHNSON G. A. M. T. NORTH S. OWEN L. S. PARKER A. V. WARREN W. D. SERJEANT CROFT H. MOON M. CORPORAL CONISBEE F. C. TURNER C. LANCE CORPORAL CLARKE W. E. MACNAMARA J. PRIVATE BACK F. BAKER T. J. BARKER O. J.	WOODROW J. J. WRIGHT W. WYTHE J. W. PRIVATE BROWN A. BUSHELL G. H. COLES P. T. CORNISH J. E. COUVES C. R. GREENLAND W. GRIST E. J. HARDY T. HEMMING J. HINES F. HOATH A. H. LANE A. E. LEARY H. E. LEPPARD T. J. MUMFORD U. NEUDEGG H. PETERS G. C. PHILLIPS C. M. PIGGOTT W. R. PITTMAN L. E. PRANGNELL F. RADLEY R. H. ROBERTS C. F. SLINGSBY A.	CULLING A. W. S. DAVIS G. F. ELSON W. GREEN C. W. HARRIS H. LONDON CYCLIST BATTALION SECOND LIEUT. WHITE R. H. M. C. WILDSMITH R. C. 29TH BN. CITY OF LONDON PRIVATE AUSTIN H. G. BUNCH S. TINKLER C. G. 30TH BN. LONDON REGIMENT SERJEANT GLARIDGE A. B. PRIVATE FORDHAM T. E. 31ST BN. LONDON REGIMENT PRIVATE BERRY C. C. HERTFORDSHIRE REGIMENT LIEUT. COLONEL PAGE F. D. S. O & BAR	SMITH R. TYRRELL A. H. R. WALLIS F. WEARE F. M. WYNNE E. PRIVATE ADAMS R. H. GRIST A. R. PRIVATE BURBIDGE H. A. GANE W. H. WALKER S. E. CORPORAL BILBY J. E.
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Grant used these introductory slides deliberately to have an impact upon the audience , on the unbelievable losses sustained by combatants of all sides in The Great War. Primarily we will be looking at memorials and commemorations of British and Empire (now Commonwealth) soldiers but we will not forget their gallant foes - they too were sons, husbands, brothers of those who were left to mourn.

Moving on we visit where just outside Mons at St. Symphorien Cemetery, arguably one of the most beautiful cemeteries in the care of the CWGC, in which is interred the first British soldier killed in combat in August 1914, and the last, a Canadian, shot

dead minutes before the armistice at 11am, November 11<sup>th</sup> 1918. This cemetery was started by the Germans after the battles around Mons August 24<sup>th</sup> 1914 and as well as British and Empire dead, Germans lie here too, opponents in combat, comrades for eternity.





We are all aware of the action at Nimy where the first two VCs of the war - Maurice Dease (Dease is buried at St. Symphorien) and Sidney Godley - were won. There was gallantry too by the Germans and here we have the grave of Muskettier Oscar Niemeyer, who, when Godley was the only remaining British soldier at the railway bridge jumped into the canal swam over to the adjacent road bridge and operated the machinery to swing it back into position over the canal. Niemeyer was shot and killed in this action.

Against overwhelming numbers the British forces retreated south west away from Mons and into France and there was many acts of gallantry, none more so at Etreux where the gallant Royal Munster Fusiliers put up a heroic last stand in an orchard on the edge of this village. They fought until they ran out of ammunition, and with their commanding officer killed, they were overrun, with only a few being taken prisoner. Today most of these men lie in the orchard where they fell.





Moving south we come to the town of Ypres...`The Immortal Salient`...surrounded on three sides by the Germans for most of the war and just on the north of the town, at

Essex Farm Cemetery, is the grave of VJ Strudwick - aged 15 - of The Rifle Brigade - a poignant reminder that many boys lied about their age to join up - and made the ultimate sacrifice.



It was here, at a nearby dressing station in May 1915, that the Canadian doctor, John McCrae penned the immortal poem, 'In Flanders Fields'

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.  
Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders Fields*





Soldiers came from all over the Empire to the Western Front, including the men of the Indian Army - of course this was before the partition of India into India and Pakistan in the late 1940s. At the village of Neuve Chapelle the Indian Army had its baptism of fire in 1915 and today those gallant men are commemorated with this magnificent structure, remembering, not only those who died in combat , but those who died as PoWs



South east of Ypres is the village of Zandvoorde and there is a grave in the local military cemetery which I find particularly sad - that of Sgt Louis McGuffie VC of the King`s Own Scottish Borderers - killed the 4<sup>th</sup> October 1918 - 5 weeks before the end of the war. He was the son of a widow lady from Wigtown in South West Scotland. It is hard to imagine what grief was suffered by that lady when she got word of her beloved boy`s death - the engraving on the headstone says it all...

*`O for the touch of the vanished hand and the sound of the voice that is still`*



The story behind the posthumous presentation of his VC is particularly moving....

In January 1919 Catherine McGuffie, then living at 1 North Main Street, received a letter from the King inviting her to London to be presented with Louis' Victoria Cross. As her husband had died in 1917 and with an invalid son at home, she did not have the money to afford a trip to London. When they heard of this the townspeople of Wigtown banded together to fund her trip. Upon her return the whole town met her at the railway station and paraded up to the County Buildings, led by the Town Band. Later a brass plaque, which can still be seen in the County Buildings, was provided by public subscription.



**Tyne Cot Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery and Memorial to the Missing** is a Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) burial ground for the dead of the First World War in the Ypres Salient on the Western Front.

It is the largest cemetery for Commonwealth forces in the world, for any war. The cemetery and its surrounding memorial are located outside Passchaendale, near Zonnebeke in Belgium. Almost 12000 men are buried here.

The surrounding wall has engraved the names of a further 35000 soldiers who perished in battles here and who have no known grave.



Vancouver Corner - `The Brooding Soldier` This Canadian battlefield memorial commemorates the first battle of WW1 in which troops from the Canadian Expeditionary Force took part: the Second Battle of Ypres. This engagement started with the first use of poison gas - chlorine - in WW1 on 22 April 1915 when the Germans released it against Allied troops. The Canadians defended an area around a road junction which they called Vancouver Corner and while they were able to slow and then stop the German advance they had very little protection against the poison gas except being able to urinate onto a handkerchief and hold it up to their face. In a 48-hour period more than 2,000 Canadian soldiers died in this area and more than 4,500 were wounded, gassed or taken prisoner.



## Let us look at two German Cemeteries



**Vladslo German war cemetery** is about three kilometres north east of Vladslo, near Diksmuide, Belgium. Established during World War I, the cemetery holds 3,233 wartime burials. In 1956, burials from many smaller surrounding cemeteries were concentrated in Vladslo, and it now contains the remains of 25,644 German soldiers. Each stone bears the name of twenty soldiers, with just their name, rank, and date of death specified. The cemetery is administered by the German War Graves Commission (*Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge*). They also look after the three other German war cemeteries in Belgium: Langemark, Menen and Hooghe .

The cemetery also contains a pair of statues - *The Grieving Parents* - by Käthe Kollwitz, a noted German sculptress. She made the statues in the 1930s as a tribute to her youngest son, Peter, who was killed in October 1914 and is buried in the cemetery. The eyes on the father-figure gaze on the stone directly in front of him, on which Kollwitz's son's name is written.

In 1933, after the establishment of the National-Socialist regime, the Nazi Party authorities forced her to resign her place on the faculty of the *Akademie der Künste* following her support of the *Dringender Appell*. Her work was removed from museums. Although she was banned from exhibiting, one of her "mother and child" pieces was used by the Nazis for propaganda.

"They give themselves with jubilation; they give themselves like a bright, pure flame ascending straight to heaven."



In July 1936, she and her husband were visited by the Gestapo, who threatened her with arrest and deportation to a Nazi concentration camp; they resolved to commit suicide if such a prospect became inevitable. However, Kollwitz was by now a figure of international note, and no further action was taken.

On her 70th birthday, she "received over 150 telegrams from leading personalities of the art world," as well as offers to house her in the United States, which she declined for fear of provoking reprisals against her family.

She died 16 days before the end of WW2



North east of Ypres is the large German cemetery of Langemarck close by the scene of horrific battles in October 1914 when many young German soldiers - the *Kindermord* - 'Massacre of the Innocents' were shot down whilst advancing against the experienced riflemen of the BEF. The cemetery, which evolved from a small group of graves from 1915, has seen numerous changes and extensions. It was dedicated in 1932. Today, visitors find a mass grave near the entrance. This **comrades' grave** contains 24,917 servicemen, including the Ace Werner Voss. Between the oak trees, next to this mass grave, are another 10,143 soldiers. The 3,000 school students who were killed during the First Battle of Ypres are buried in a third part of the cemetery. Adolf Hitler visited this cemetery in 1940

Can you see the four figures in the trees in the background ?

These are four bronze lifesize figures and represent four comrades mourning the fallen who rest in the cemetery. I have heard that these have been moved to another place in the cemetery, perhaps someone could confirm. If true I preferred the location in the picture - evocative - of the fallen being watched over for all eternity.

Before leaving Ypres, let us visit Ypres Town cemetery - here the grave of **Prince Maurice of Battenberg** (3 October 1891 - 27 October 1914) was a member of the Hessian princely Battenberg family and the extended British Royal Family, the youngest grandchild of Queen Victoria. He was known as Prince Maurice of Battenberg throughout his life, since he died before the British Royal Family relinquished their German titles during World War I and the Battenbergs changed their name to Mountbatten. The Prince served in World War I as a Lieutenant in the King's Royal Rifle Corps, and was killed in action at Zonnebeke, in the Ypres Salient on 27 October 1914. The 1st Battalion war diary states, "During the advance eastwards from the ridge the battalion came under terrific shell fire as well as rifle fire... Poor [Prince] Maurice was killed outright just on top of the ridge"

The wording on the lower part of the gravestone reads..... ***GRANT HIM WITH ALL THY FAITHFUL SERVANTS A PLACE OF REFRESHMENT AND PEACE.***





In Ypres town Cemetery there are other, non military, graves with local family headstones. On a number of these - there with British names - recording passing in the 1950s, 60s, 70s. Why ? In the early 1920s with so much unemployment in the UK some ex servicemen went back to Belgium to help with the clearance of the battlefields and the reconstruction. They married local girls had families and made their homes in Ypres. I wonder how they coped during the German occupation of Belgium in WW2 ?

Moving away south from Ypres and Flanders we come to the Valley of the River Somme, forever etched in the memory of the British people, particularly the first day of the battle - July 1<sup>st</sup> 1916.

Of Britain's first-day Casualties, staggering 19,240 died. Officers below Major died at a much higher rate on the Somme than private soldiers did, with 60% of British officers who were involved on the first day losing their lives. This gives lie to the oft repeated story that British officers were spectators from well behind the lines.

The battle lasted 141 days, from July 1 to November 18 1916. The official number of British dead, missing or wounded during that period is 419, 654. There were 72,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers who died at the Somme with no known graves and whose names are recorded on the British memorial at Thiepval.

Anne Frank's father Otto, Adolf Hitler, poet Wilfred Owen and writer JRR Tolkien all took part in the Battle of the Somme. It was in this war zone that Hitler sustained his leg injury, and the rumoured injury to his groin. JRR Tolkien contracted a fever in the trenches and was ruled out of fighting for the remainder of the war.

The valleys of the Somme and Ancre are dominated by the Memorial to the Missing at Thiepval. Designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, the memorial was built between 1928 and 1932 and is the largest Commonwealth Memorial to the Missing in the world. It was inaugurated by the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII) in the presence of Albert Lebrun, President of France, on 1 August 1932.

The memorial represents the names 72,246 officers and men and Lutyens's ingenious geometry arises out of the attempt to display these names in compact form, rather than in the longer, lower and linear form taken by other memorials to the missing of the war, such as those at Loos, Pozières and Arras. A large inscription reads.... *'Here are recorded names of officers and men of the British Armies who fell on the Somme battlefields July 1915 February 1918 but to whom the fortune of war denied the known and honoured burial given to their comrades in death.'*



There was a chap who worked for me in the 1990s whose elderly mother had had an uncle (whom she never knew) who had died at the Somme. The family didn't know anything of his whereabouts, grave or memorial. All they had was his medals and 'Death Penny'. After doing some research I found that he, William Beckett, had been killed on July 16<sup>th</sup> 1916 and had no known grave, but that he was commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing. On a visit to the Somme I took pictures of his name on one of the panels and sent it to the family...it gave them some sort of closure after around 90 years of not knowing what had happened to him, other than that he had been killed.



As you travel around the Somme battlefields there are places where you can see remnants of the trenches, although many areas nature and farming have obliterated all traces. Some parts you can visit today can be identified from pictures taken in 1916 - here we see a group of Soldiers waiting on the order to advance, sitting in the relative safety of a sunken lane, together with a picture of the same location 100 years later.







One of the most unique places to visit is the Lochnagar Crater - a huge hole in the ground created when the British detonated 26 tons of explosives under the German trenches on July 1<sup>st</sup> 1916 after weeks of tunnelling under the lines. The mine was dug by the Tunnelling Companies of the Royal Engineers under a German field fortification known as *Schwabenhöhe* (Swabian Height).

The mine was blown at 7:28 a.m. on 1 July 1916 and left a crater 98 ft (30 m) deep and 330 ft (100 m) wide, which was captured and held by British troops. The attack on either flank was defeated by German small-arms and artillery fire, except on the extreme right flank and just south of La Boisselle, north of the Lochnagar Crater. The crater has been preserved as a memorial and a remembrance service is held each 1 July.

Recently the WFA made a generous donation towards the upkeep of this site helping to ensure there will be safe access for visitors for years to come.

There were of course many craters large and small as a result of shelling, all across the battlefield, most of these being filled in during post war reconstruction and restoration of the land.





**HIGH WOOD** At the edge of High Wood is a memorial to men of the 1/9 Highland Light Infantry (Glasgow Highlanders), which is relatively recent. Constructed in 1972, it comprises a cairn with 192 stones taken from another High Wood (near Culloden), commemorating the 192 soldiers of the Glasgow Highlanders who were killed here. The height of the cairn, five feet and seven inches, also represents the minimum height accepted for recruits into the battalion.



When I visited there in late July 2006 and it was there that I had the most moving experience. On the plinth, held in place by a piece of stone there was in a plastic wallet , a letter..... written by 90 year old lady.....



It read along these lines....

*To my dearest dad.....you died the day I was born, so I have never known you, but mam told me about you and I have always loved you. Mam loved you too and until the day she died she had your picture by her bedside and she took it with her to her grave. Now my time on this earth is almost over and, please, please God when I cross over, you will be there to meet me.....MY DAD*

I am not ashamed to say I wept when I read these lines, written in the shaky hand of an elderly lady. I trust God united this lady with her Dad



The Piper's Memorial, Longueval, was unveiled in July 2002. It is dedicated to the memory of all pipers, of all nationalities and military units, who were killed in battle during the First World War. The statue is a figure of a piper in battle dress as he climbs out of the trench leading the men of his unit over the parapet. The plaque at the base of the memorial quotes from a poem by Lieutenant Ewart Alan Mackintosh, MC, who served with the 5th Battalion the Seaforth Highlanders. At first I didn't like this memorial, but it has grown somewhat on me since

***The pipes in the street were marching bravely  
The marching lads went by with merry hearts and voices singing  
My friends marched out to die  
But I was hearing a lonely pibroch  
Out of an older war  
Farewell, Farewell  
Farewell Macrimmon, Macrimmon Comes no More***

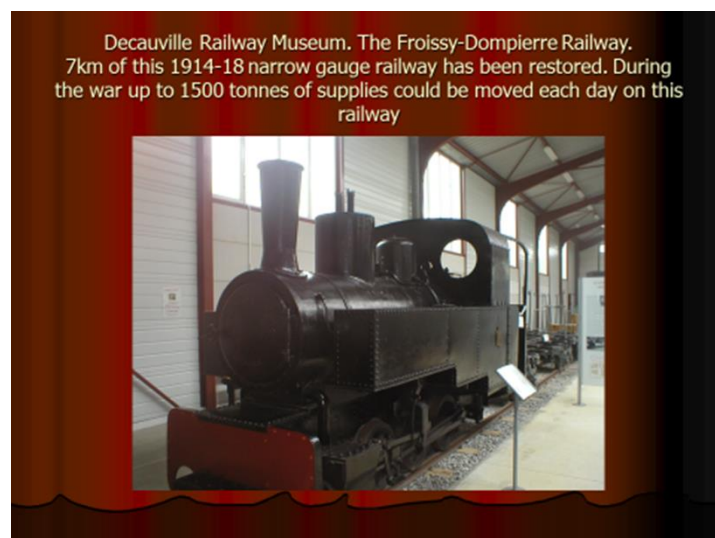


## Sheffield Memorial Park





**Sheffield Memorial Park** The Memorial Park is in the location of the British Front Line for 1 July 1916. At the time there were four small woods in this sector. They were known on British Army maps from south to north as Matthew Copse, Mark Copse, Luke Copse and John Copse. During the war the trees in these copses were shattered by artillery shellfire, leaving the tree trunks as splintered stumps. The wood was fenced off to form the site of the Memorial Park and its grounds and trees now cover the location of three of the copses: Mark, Luke and John. Matthew Copse, which was sited just to the south of the Memorial Park, has not regrown into a wood





The **Froissy Dompierre Light Railway** (French: *Chemin de fer Froissy-Dompierre*, CFCD) is a 600 mm (1 ft 11<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in) narrow gauge light railway running from Froissy (a hamlet of La Neuville-lès-Bray) to Dompierre-Becquincourt, through Cappy, in the Somme department, France. It is run as a heritage railway by APPEVA (*Association Picarde pour la Préservation et l'Entretien des Véhicules Anciens*) and is also known as *P'tit Train de la Haute Somme*. It is the last survivor of the 600 mm (1 ft 11<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in) narrow gauge trench railways of the World War I battlefields.

In summer the museum operates train trips from the depot up the valley in a zig zag manner

## 1st Moroccan Division - Zouaves and Foreign Legion

The 1st Moroccan Division Memorial is located by the entrance to the Vimy Ridge Canadian Memorial. It stands in front of a section of the battlefield that has been preserved in its war state. Trees were planted among the old craters in order to limit erosion, but the wooded area still bears the deep scars of the fights.

The 1st Moroccan Division consisted of regiments of Zouaves and French Foreign Legion soldiers.



Before moving east to Turkey we will pay a brief visit to Russia, St Petersburg - or Leningrad as it was known when I first visited in 1980. Here, on the River Neva is moored the protected cruiser `Aurora` from which the forward gun allegedly fired the first shot of the Russian revolution, the signal for the storming of the Winter Palace. There is a brass plaque commemorating this event on the gun mounting. The winter palace is now the Hermitage Museum.

The Aurora was one of few Russian warships which survived the Battle of Tsushima in 1905. On their way east to face the Japanese some of the Russian fleet fired on British fishing boats on Dogger Bank - causing casualties amongst the crews - having mistaken them for Japanese torpedo boats!



The Winter Palace Leningard / St Petersburg (now the Hermitage Museum). In the 1920s the Bolsheviks made a propaganda film about the storming of the Winter of the Winter Palace using soldiers as `extras` .....they had no blank ammunition to issue to simulate gunfire so live rounds were used with an inevitable result....it is said that more lives were lost during the filming than during the actual attack on the palace



Now, we travel to Turkey where on the Gallipoli peninsula, The **Çanakkale Martyrs' Memorial** is a war memorial commemorating the service of about 253,000 Turkish soldiers who participated at the Battle of Gallipoli, which took place from April 1915 to December 1915 during the First World War. It is located within the Gallipoli Peninsula Historical National Park on Hisarlık Hill in Morto Bay at the southern end of the Gallipoli peninsula in Çanakkale Province, Turkey. There are no individual graves for the Turkish / Ottoman fallen on Gallipoli, only what is known as `Symbolic Graves`

Remember that in 1915 soldiers for the army came from all over the Ottoman Empire, not just what is now modern Turkey





Do not ignore the ground on which you have walked,  
It is not ordinary soil.  
Reflect on the thousands of people, who lie beneath  
Without a shroud.  
You are the son of a martyr -  
Do not hurt your ancestor,  
Do not give away this beautiful motherland,  
Even if you have the whole world.



**Across the battlefields these words of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk which he wrote in 1934 are commemorated on huge concrete plaques**

*Those heroes who shed their blood and lost their lives! You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and Mehmets to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours. You, the mothers, who sent their sons from far away countries wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well.*



**This one was under repair when I visited in 2017**



**The Helles Memorial to the Missing**





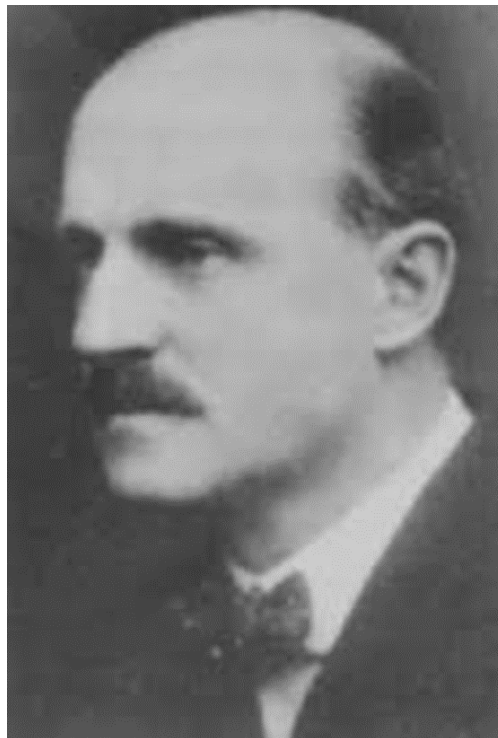
**View from the Turkish positions above V Beach - the location where the SS Clyde grounded can be seen as a string of rocks in the middle distance**

The Grave of Father Finn – Chaplain to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers

V Beach Cemetery



**The Grave of Charles Doughty-Wylie VC** on the hill at Seddul-Bahir.



Charles Doughty-Wylie, was no stranger to war. He had fought in every major conflict involving the British forces since 1895. During the Young Turk Rebellion of 1909 he

was the British Consul in Mersin. As a result of the rebellion he stepped in to halt the massacre of Armenians (around 30,000 deaths) along the southern coast of Turkey. He even procured troops from the local governor in Adana and with some Marines from a British warship almost single-handedly stopped the massacre. His wife set up a makeshift hospital for injured Armenians. In the Balkan Wars he assisted the Turks as part of the British Red Cross and received the Order of the Medjidie for his work.

In 1915 he helped British troops get ashore at V Beach from the SS River Clyde, the modern day 'Trojan Horse' landing troops at Seddul-Bahir Fort. Doughty-Wylie had such an affection for Turkey and Turks that although he would lead his troops into battle, he would not lift a weapon against them, carrying only a swagger-stick. On 26th of April during the clearing operation of Seddul-Bahir village he was killed instantly. For his efforts he was awarded a VC. His body lay where it fell and he was buried in that spot, alone, on the hill at Seddul-Bahir. to this day his resting place is preserved, away from the nearest CWGC cemeteries.

Doughty-Wylie was certainly what you would call an 'International Man of Mystery' he carried on a long distance love affair with the 'Queen of the Desert', Gertrude Bell it was sometime later during the campaign that a lone boat landed on the nearby beach and a solitary figure of a woman dressed entirely in black, silently came ashore, walked straight to his graveside, laid some flowers, spent some time alone there, then just as quietly returned to the boat and sailed away. Nobody knew who it was or how she could so confidently sail into a war zone and walk directly to his grave. To this day nobody is sure if it was the British female spymaster and unofficial Queen of Iraq, Gertrude Bell, or his wife who was working in a hospital on the Greek Islands.

## Redoubt Cemetery



REDOUBT CEMETERY In the Spring of 1922, as part of a unique act of commemoration, the parents of a teenager killed at Gallipoli took the sapling of an English oak tree in a bucket of water across the Mediterranean. One hundred years on and the sapling has grown into an enduring memorial to the sacrifices of hundreds of men from a close-knit group of old Lancashire mill towns. Second Lieutenant Eric Duckworth had



not long since celebrated his 19th birthday when he fell during the battle of the Krithia Vineyard on 7th August 1915. Like many, his body was never recovered - but unlike most, his parents were wealthy and well-connected: and James and Mary Duckworth would use their influence to find out far more about the death of their loved one than the majority of those in a similar position could ever hope to discover. Eric Duckworth had studied at Rugby School and was being prepared for a career overseeing the family's thriving chain of grocery businesses when war broke out. He was immediately parachuted into his hometown Territorial Army battalion (the 1/6th Lancashire Fusiliers) as a junior officer.

Part of the East Lancashire Territorial Army Division (soon to be renamed the 42nd Division), the 1/6th recruited from the mill towns of Rochdale, Middleton and Todmorden. The officers' mess was a tight-knit and socially interconnected group made up of 'the great and good' of these three neighbouring communities, and it was this interconnection that would ultimately facilitate Eric's parents' act of pilgrimage to the Dardanelles.

The intention of Mary and James Duckworth appears to have been to plant the tree sapling in the spot where Eric had fallen, but when they arrived at the site they found that it was being reclaimed for agriculture. Visiting a nearby Imperial War Graves (IWGC) cemetery they were deeply moved to discover that it contained men from Eric's platoon - and furthermore, there were a couple of graves in the Redoubt Cemetery marked as 'An officer of the Lancashire Fusiliers: Known unto God'. Could one of these be their child?

The parents decided to plant the tree sapling in this cemetery and attached a name plaque to it in memory of their son. They then gave money to the Turkish gardener employed by the IWGC to look after the tree, and in the ensuing years Eric's younger brothers (who had been too young to take part in the war) went out to check on its progress and provide further financial support for the local gardeners.

I visited Redoubt cemetery in September 2017

## **The French Cemetery above Morto Bay**

This rarely visited Cemetery - certainly rarely by French visitors - is it because many of the fallen who lie here were not from Metropolitan France but from the Colonies? - sits on the slopes above Morto Bay. The site is dominated by ossuaries, principal of these in the form of a lighthouse



The individual graves are marked by steel crosses made from barbed wire picket posts left in abundance by the Allies when the evacuation ended in January 1916

We will conclude this short pause on Gallipoli at Eceabat - Maidos in 1915. It is from here that you get the short ferry trip across the Dardanelles to the bustling town of Cannakale.

Just a short walk from the harbour there is **Respect for History Park** (tr. *Tarihe Saygı Parkı*), established in 2008. It is an outdoor exhibition, where several battle scenes of the First World War have been recreated.





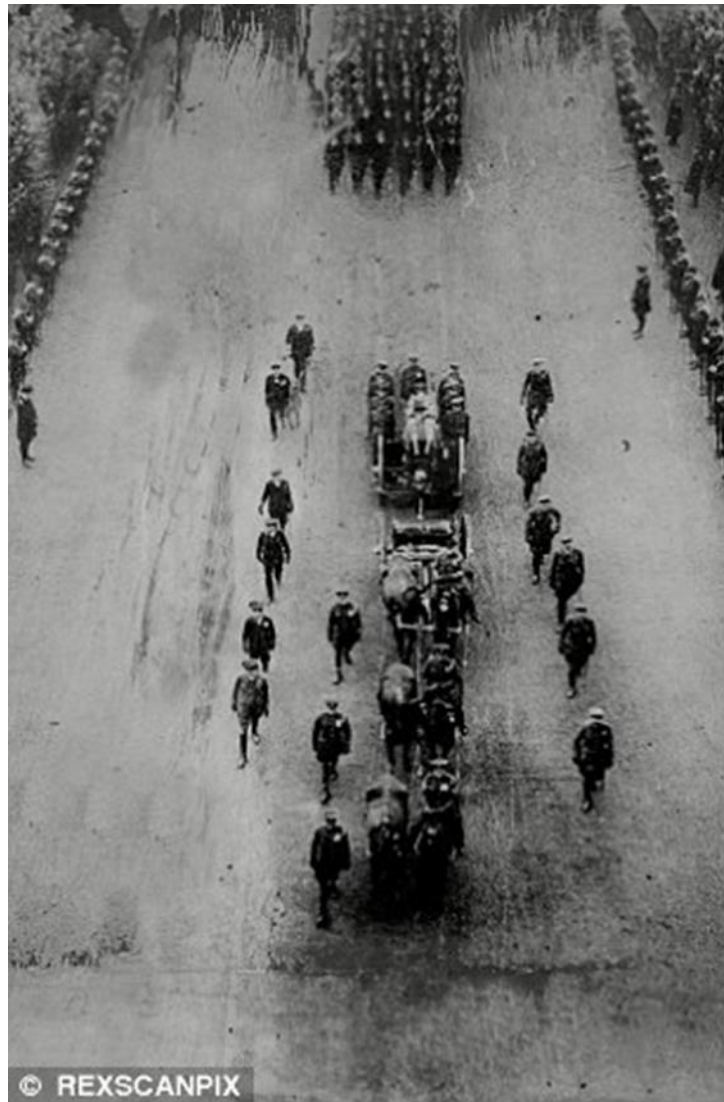
I will conclude this presentation by referring to that most famous site of Commemoration and Remembrance in the UK - the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey.

I will refer to his journey home and internment in the words of the singer songwriter Ralph McTell who wrote these words.





From Ypres, Arras, Aisne and Somme  
Six unknown soldiers were exhumed  
A blindfold officer picked one man  
And reverently they brought him home



Six black horses drew the hearse  
Through silent London crowds immersed  
In deepest thought belief or wishful prayer  
That it might be their own boy there





The metal tyres on the carriage wheels  
Played the tuneless requiem  
The sky as grey as bayonet steel  
Above the sombre hatless men  
One more enemy to kill  
That remaining sense of guilt  
That through it all somehow they had survived  
Returned to mothers, sweethearts, wives  
Familiar Streets their own backyards  
Their medals and all praise ignored  
Relieved to be his honour guard  
And walk with him their true reward



While far from pomp and circumstance  
Across the autumn fields of France  
The trenches start to slowly fill and fade  
The bloody page turned by the ploughman`s till



Thankfully we`ll never know  
If he was constant strong or frail  
Scared or brave in equal parts  
Country tanned, or city pale  
A carefree youth or thoughtful lad  
Not wholly good nor wholly bad  
A bomb does not judge how you played your part  
A bullet stops a lion`s heart





With softest cloth and gentlest broom  
 To sweep and wipe cathedral dust  
 Like dried tears from this marble tomb  
 Take care for he was one of us



In perfect irony and grief  
 The bride`s bouquet becomes a wreath  
 And wrapped beneath the dark angels folded wings  
 TOMMY ATKINS RESTS WITH KINGS

## The Day My Family Came.....



*I half awoke to a strange new calm And a sleep that  
would not clear  
For this was the sleep to cure all harm And which  
freezes all from fear.*

*Shot had come from left and right With  
shrapnel, shell and flame And turned my sunlit  
days to night  
Where now, none would call my name.*

*Years passed me by as I waited, Missed the  
generations yet to come, Sadly knew I would not  
be fated  
To be a father, hold a son.*

*I heard again the sounds of war When twenty  
years of sleep had gone,  
For five long years, maybe more, Till peace once  
more at last had come.*

•

*More years passed, new voices came, The stones and  
trenches to explore, But no-one ever called my name  
So I wished and waited ever more.*

*Each time I thought, perhaps, perhaps, Perhaps this  
time they must call me, But they only called for  
other chaps, No-one ever called to set me free.*

*Through years of lonely vigil kept, To look for me  
they never came, None ever searched or even  
wept, Nobody stayed to speak my name.*

*Until that summer day I heard Some voices soft  
and strained with tears,  
Then I knew that they had come To roll away  
those wasted years.*

*Their hearts felt out to hold me, Made me  
whole like other men, But they had come just  
me to see, Drawing me back home with them.*

*Now I am at peace and free to roam Where 'ere my  
family speak my name, That day my soul was called  
back home For on that day my family came.*

**Thank You**



# The Tregaskis Brothers



Today, in the calm of the old battlefields of the Somme which bloom under millions of poppies which wave in the mild summer, thousands of young men stand in silence behind the shadows of their white graves, a whole generation of young men who together, fought and served with courage in the trenches and the battlefields and who side by side, with bravery and determination gave their today and their lives for our tomorrow and who will forever be remembered and honoured with gratitude and respect to bring them back to life, so that they are never forgotten.

Today, it is with the highest respect and gratitude, with all my heart that I would like to honour the memory of two men, two brothers who died in each other's arms. I would like to pay a very respectful tribute to Lieutenant

Arthur Tregaskis and his brother, Lieutenant Leonard Tregaskis who fought in the 16th Battalion of the Welsh Regiment and who were killed in action together 105 years ago, on July 7, 1916 at the age of 32 and 33 on the Somme front.

Arthur and Leonard Tregaskis came from a devout Wesleyan Methodist family whose origins, were in Cornwall. The brothers' great grandfather, John Tregaskis was born in Gwennap, a copper and tin mining area in 1785. This was the Wesleyan heartland in Cornwall.

In about 1830, by which time he was 45 years old, John Tregaskis and his wife and children moved to Swansea, where he set up in business as a baker. John Tregaskis was still alive in 1861, a retired baker aged 76. Their son Henry Tregaskis, who had been born in Gwennap in 1821, and moved with them to Swansea when he was still a boy, married Elizabeth Ann Gregor in Swansea in 1845. Elizabeth was originally from St Austell in Cornwall, but had been born in Australia. Henry set up as a coal merchant, and by the time of the 1851 census they were living in Heathfield Street, Swansea, and had a son and a daughter. By 1871 they had moved to Cardiff, where Henry was running a biscuit factory.

George Henry Tregaskis, the father of the two brothers was born to Henry and Elizabeth in 1852 when they were still in Swansea. In 1877 he married Julia Ann Simmons at Liskeard, in Cornwall.

By 1881 the Tregaskis family had settled in Cardiff, and George, by then aged 28, is described as a biscuit manufacturer running the family business. He, his wife and their two children were living at 1 Glossop Terrace, right next to Tredegarville School in Adamsdown, and just over the road from St David's Hospital. It was probably here that their sons Leonard and Arthur were born in 1883 and 1885 respectively, though immediately after Arthur's arrival, they moved to live in posher Penarth at 32

Westbourne Road. It was here that the young boys grew up, and another son and daughter were born. By 1900 the family had moved to 35 Plymouth Road in Penarth. George Tregaskis continued the family's connections with Wesleyan Methodism. In 1893 he is described as being the Circuit Steward for the Cardiff and Penarth Wesleyans, and in 1897 was the local representative at the Wesleyan Methodist Synod. He was also prominent at the opening of a number of new Wesleyan works in the area during those years. He is mentioned in the press as being present at the opening of new works in Splott in 1885, and his wife Julia at the opening of the chapel in Barry in 1891. He also became heavily involved in the development of the Wesleyan work in Penarth while they lived there.

In addition to his involvement with the extension of Wesleyanism in Cardiff and district, he engaged in temperance work locally, and was chairman of a Cardiff temperance society in 1886. In 1887 he was a key figure in the Cardiff Charity Organisation Society working alongside the great industrialist and Christian philanthropist Richard Cory. He was elected as Poor Law Guardian for St Mary's in 1894, and became a prominent campaigner for the Liberal cause in that decade. All this while at the same time being the manager of the Crown Biscuit Works right next to the railway line in John Street, Cardiff. The site is vacant today, the old biscuit factory building having been demolished after many years in the twentieth century serving as a brush factory. From 1893 he was the manager of the Spillers Nephews Biscuit Factory on Atlantic Wharf.

When they were old enough, both Leonard and Arthur were sent to Wycliffe School in the Cotswolds for their education between 1895 and 1897, when they returned to Penarth. In 1898, the two boys took part in a production of Humperdinck's operetta Florette, based on the Grimm fairy tale called 'The Goose Girl' put on by the congregation of St Augustine's Church in the town. Leonard took the role of the king, while Arthur played the part of a courtier.

By 1901 the family had moved again, this time to Taffs Well where they made their home at Wellfield House on the main street, just near the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel which the family would have attended. Both Leonard and Arthur were working in the family business as clerks by this time, Arthur being nineteen and Leonard a year younger. The family were still living in Taffs Well by the time the Great War began, by which time Leonard was 28 and still living at home. He became a keen hockey player and was vice-captain of Whitchurch Hockey Team.

Arthur, however, had emigrated to Canada by 1911, and was farming near Wilkie in Saskatchewan. He was later joined there by Leonard in 1913. Another brother, Ernest also settled nearby in Canada and remained there.

When war broke out in 1914, both Leonard and Arthur tried to volunteer in Canada, but missed the first draft. So they decided to return home to Wales in order to volunteer for the British Army. They were offered commissions, and so joined the 16th Cardiff Pals Battalion to serve as junior officers.

It was on 19th September 1914, six weeks after war was declared, that Lloyd George proposed the formation of a separate Welsh Army, but it was not until 19th November that sanction was given to the establishing of a Cardiff battalion, with recruiting beginning on 23rd of that month. Captain Frank Gaskell of Cardiff, then recovering from wounds, was placed in command, with Major Fred Smith, vice-captain of Cardiff Rugby Club as second in command. He would take over command after the death of Gaskell in 1916. It was on 4th December that Arthur and Leonard joined the battalion, which was initially based in Porthcawl.

The 16th Welsh, Cardiff Pals battalion moved to Colwyn Bay before Christmas, enjoying a parade through the streets of Cardiff on the way. After eight months

training in North Wales they were moved to Winchester in August 1915 to join other units of the 38th Welsh Division. There was a further brief and emotional visit to Cardiff with a parade at the Arms Park before the battalion entrained for France on 4th December 1915.

For the first few months they held trenches in the Givenchy-Festubert sector, where they sustained about 50 casualties, one of whom was the CO who died in May 1916. By the time the summer of 1916 arrived, they were a relatively seasoned unit ready for their first major set-piece battle as part of the newly launched Somme offensive. At Mametz on July 7, 1916, a very wet day, they attacked the Hammerhead, a heavily defended projection from the main body of the wood, attacking uphill across open ground while facing severe enfilading machine-gun fire on the right flank from the direction of Flatiron Copse and Sabot Copse. It suffered 450 casualties, among whom 150 dead, who included both Arthur and Leonard Tregaskis, one being shot by a sniper, the other coming to his help and himself being shot by the same sniper, the two of them dying in each other's arms.

The war diary of the 16th Welsh records what happened when they advanced across No Man's Land at 8.30am on July 7, 1916:

"8.30am Battalion under orders, drawn up on their own side of the slope facing Mametz Wood in lines of Platoons with a two platoon frontage. 11th South Wales Borderers in support, 10th South Wales Borderers in reserve. Our Artillery ceased firing at the wood at 8.30am and the first lines of the battalion proceeded over the crest of the slope but instantly came under heavy machine gun frontal fire from Mametz Wood and enfilade fire from Flatiron Copse and Sabot Copse and the German second system which ran between Mametz Wood and Bazentin Petit Wood. Battalion suffered heavily and had to withdraw to their own side of the crest. Battalion made two more attacks, but position was too exposed for any hope of success and orders were received to cease operations. 11th South Wales Borderers attempted to approach the wood through a gully running between Caterpillar Wood and the slope mentioned above but machine gun fire drove them back. Weather very wet, this adding greatly to exhaustion of troops. Battalion received orders to return to their bivouacs. Moved off 10.30am. Arrived 4.00am on the 8th."

It is not clear at what point in the operation that Arthur and Leonard were hit, but being officers leading their men and both of them being over six feet tall, they would have made very obvious targets.

The commanding officer of the 16th Battalion of the Welsh regiment, Major Smith wrote:

"They fell leading their men in an attack on a big wood in which attack we suffered considerable losses. Leonard was without doubt the most popular man in the Battalion, beloved by everyone. Arthur was quiet but very sincere but possessed of great courage. The army chaplain wrote they were both among the noblest and bravest of our valiant officers. I always found them true-hearted men. The whole battalion regarded them with deep affection and real pride."

He continued:

"A brother officer, writing to us months ago, paid them a great tribute. He said: "The two Tregaskis are fine fellows, six-footers both. They are straight, pleasant and excellent fellows, without any "side" or anything but the best."

After his death the Captain of Leonard's company wrote:

"Words cannot express my gratitude for his whole-hearted and unselfish help. The men could have spared any of us better, as he knew them so well."

After the war was over, their parents, George and Julia Tregaskis, were living in Jersey, their father having by then retired. George died in Cardiff in 1931 aged 78.



Today, Arthur and Leonard Tregaskis rest in peace next to each other with their men, comrades and brothers in arms at the Flatiron Copse Cemetery, Mametz, and Somme. Arthur, Leonard, you who lived and fought together on the battlefields of the Somme with bravery and who in each other's arms gave your lives, I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you have done for your country and for France who will be forever grateful to you and who will never forget who you were and what you gave in the hell of the battlefields and barbed wire in which fell so many young men who, side by side, served with honour and pride, who stood tall and brave alongside their comrades, their friends, their brothers who, under the fire of machine guns and cannons, moved forward with resolution and determination to save the world and humanity from the destruction and madness into which the war had brought them down by showing them death and brutality. Young and innocent, they were the helpless witnesses of the fury of a world at war and who, on the battlefields, in terrible combats, killed each other in bloodbaths and charged the enemy trenches, bayonets forward to face the fire of the machine guns who gave them no chance but in this hell, in this apocalypse, they gave the best of themselves and kept their humanity in a war that had nothing human and under the fire of the artillery, they kept their smile and their good humour, they watched over each other in a deep camaraderie and friendship which united them and which gave them the strength to fight and to hold their positions. Together they shared and lived the darkest hours of history but in the darkness, under hurricanes of fire and screaming metal raining and flying above their heads, their courage was the light that kept them alive and despite the death that surrounded them, their courage was never broken, they fought for peace and freedom to make live their hopes and dreams which were in their hearts and gave all they had, for their comrades and their loved ones who awaited their return but they also fought to put an end to all wars, so that their children, the next generations could live happily and in peace and for that, many of them gave their lives. In the fields of poppies, they did their duty beyond bravery as you did Arthur, Leonard, you guided your men with admirable courage, young men who followed you with pride and confidence in the heart of the battle and who were honoured to be led by you who on this day of July 7, 1916, fell together, into each other's arms under the helpless gaze of all those who served and fought by your side. Brothers forever bound by blood and courage, you gave your life for each other, for your men, giving your last breath together on the battlefield on which you did your duty with honour and loyalty, with courage and perseverance and today it is side by side that you rest in peace, surrounded by all those by whom you were deeply admired and loved. we will never forget you and we will always remember of you as exceptional men, two brothers and heroes who for us, gave everything they had and on whom I would always watch with respect and gratitude so that they are never forgotten and so that in the light, in our hearts and our thoughts, they can live forever. Thank you so much Arthur, Leonard, for everything. Lest we forget. 🌹

François Berthout