



# The Spire Sentinel



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



**ISSUE 80 - October 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	Peter Hart returns to Chesterfield - last time was just before the first lockdown in March 2020. The title of Peter`s talk is <b>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>`The Fighting Fifth` .....and the attack at Bellewarde Ridge 16<sup>th</sup> June 1915</b> by John Beech. John has a strong personal connection with the Northumberland Fusiliers in this action
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	<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

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### WFA 2023 Calendars



### **Statement from Branded Goods Trustee**

We realise that the sale of Calendars is a bit later again this year, but as it stands at the moment Calendars will once again be available for purchase at Branch plus on the Website (eshop) or phone Maya or Lisa at the Office, I will shortly be writing to Branches giving them an update once the calendars are available (which hopefully is imminent) This routinely turns a profit, also it enables branches to gain some income through branch sales Please keep checking Website for up to date information, (these have as yet not been finalised so not gone into print yet)

Mark Macartney

*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*

### **October Meeting - John Beech**



John is a familiar face to most regular attenders to Branch meetings although we`ve not seen as much of him recently since he took over as Branch Chair of East Midlands (Ruddington) Branch.

I am very grateful to John for stepping in with this talk when the programme had to be rearranged.

John lives in Nottingham, is a Health & Safety / Systems Manager at Key Property Solutions and graduated MA from Wolverhampton University in February 2020. He is not long back from long delayed trip to the Western Front (where the pictures were taken)

**His talk is titled 'The Fighting Fifth and the First Attack on Bellewaarde Ridge 16 June 1915' and will look at the following areas:**

- The importance of Bellewaarde Ridge and how it was captured by the Germans during the Battle of Bellewaarde Ridge on 24/25th May 1915
- An brief overview of the German forces facing the 9th Brigade primarily Das Württembergische Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment Nr. 246
- The preparations for the attack, which were completed in only five days
- An overview of the events of 16th June using the battalion, brigade and RIR Nr. 246 War Diaries and an after action report on the strength of the German defences
- The cost of the attack
- The aftermath - a brief overview of the Second Attack on Bellewaarde Ridge on 25 September 1915 which also failed, and its final capture on 31 July 1917 on the first day of Third Ypres
- Two asides looking briefly at Frederick Fyfe of 1/10th Kings (Liverpool Scottish) who was a photographer pre war with the Liverpool Echo, who was wounded on the day but took photographs of the attack in progress - some of the few photos of actual combat from the war, and Herbert Burden of the Fifth who was AWOL both before and after the attack and was shot on 21 July 1915 and is purported to be the model for the 'Shot at dawn' memorial at the National Arboretum at Alrewas. He is often quoted in the press as he was only 17, but I will outline his short career and Courts Martial and why we need to look at both sides of the story.





## *Secretary's Scribbles*

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to the October 2022 edition of our Branch Newsletter.

As you know we had to make a change in the calendar of meetings for the rest of the year. Dudley Giles who was due to present in October cannot now do that date and who will now fill the December slot. So on Tuesday evening we welcome John Beech, Chair of East Midlands (Ruddington Branch) who will talk about the Northumberland Fusiliers attack at Bellewarde Ridge 16<sup>th</sup> June 1915. John has a strong personal connection to this action which I am sure will add a bit of emotion to his presentation. John has been a great supporter of our Branch over the years and although we don't see so much of him now due to his duties as Branch Chair at Ruddington, I am sure our members will accord him a warm welcome. Personally I am grateful to John for filling this gap which unexpectedly opened in our calendar. John recently visited the Western Front and walked the ground that he will be speaking about at our Branch meeting on Tuesday.

Your committee have looked into the possibility of running our own transport - minibus? - to the WFA Commemoration Parade at the Cenotaph in London on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Member Rob Nash, is now the WFA Parade Marshall at this event We sought expressions of interest from members about organising transport which would be subsidised by the Branch plus a generous amount given to Branches by WFA Central for this purpose.

Sadly the number of members interested were very sparse but we are looking at organising something, hire car, taxi etc, to take those to London who expressed a firm interest in going.

Next month we have local lady Jill Brunt coming to talk about '*Shell Shock and the History of Psychiatry*'. This talk is based upon sessions on this subject she presented to students at Northern College, Barnsley. Members may recall her husband Steve speaking to us last year about the CWGC and his new role within it.

Now that we are in last quarter of 2022 my thoughts are now turning to recruiting speakers for next year. One of those who will be in the line up will be Tim Lynch who received an award from the WFA for his MA Thesis. This was presented at our President's Conference earlier this year. For 2002 we had an amazing response from members volunteering to step forward and give a talk - look at Richard Godber last month....first time ever....great talk.

So - who is next?. Seriously though we have a WFA speakers list so please let me have an idea of what topics you would like to hear being discussed and we will see what can be arranged

Best wishes, Grant Cullen Branch Secretary 07824628638



# 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   |

## September Meeting

Branch Chair, Tony Bolton opened the meeting, going through a few `parish notices` before introducing our speaker for the evening, Richard Godber. Richard came forward when Branch Secretary, Grant Cullen, made an appeal for `new faces` when he was making up the speakers` lists for 2022

Richard. Is 51, with 3 children and very understanding wife. Born and bred in Chesterfield. Started work in joinery and progressed to be a Project Manager and finished working in Dubai for 3 years. Came back to UK in 2009 just as financial crash happened. Started working as a taxi driver which gave him the space to undertake his BA and MA.



Did his MA at Wolverhampton with Gary Sheffield and Spencer Jones, where he got a meritorious pass with a distinction on his dissertation

The presentation was on the establishment and work of the Inventions Dept. from 1915-1919. This is a very under researched area. It was part of the Ministry of Munitions and was originally intended to be a recipient of 'war winning' Inventions from the public, but it rapidly pivoted to become the driving force for war innovation. The presentation went on to show the history of its existence, its key players and notable Inventions, together with some of the more outlandish, left field suggestions that were received.

Richard introduced us to a nigh-on unheard of department within the Munitions Ministry. Whilst its creation was be shown to be somewhat of a political expediency to blunt the edge off the criticisms that the Government were facing at the time, the MID went on to have a hand in the creation of some of the most important scientific developments of the First World War.

The MID came into being on 13th July 1915. The drive for its creation was multi-faceted, to resolve both political and practical issues that the Ministry of Munitions was facing. Popular pressure had been growing through public dialogue and debate in the press. With intellectuals and industrialists all leading the call for a Government driven focus on the coordination of scientific research and military needs. The creation was announced officially during a speech to Parliament made by Lloyd George on 28th July 1915. However, it was not just high- profile people in the public eye who were calling for this: there was also a groundswell of opinion forming within the general public that more support was needed for inventors to help assist the soldiers in the trenches. Historically, the Governmental strategy with this had been to follow the policy of laissez-faire. From an inventions and design

development point of view, this policy had not been an issue in previous conflicts as they had been of restricted size and limited duration, and had not tested the development structure that had existed within the War Office for ordnance development and procurement. This system had come under intense pressure through the first six months of the conflict and finally buckled, leading to the shell crisis of May 1915. The furore that ensued in response to this crisis, with the shortage of efficient munitions and the complete lack of new munitions to reflect the novel fighting conditions that the BEF were facing for the first time in trench warfare, led to both the formation of the Ministry of Munitions and then in fairly short order to the creation of the MID.

Lloyd George's speech to parliament benchmarked his expectations for the new department modestly, to say the least. It can be argued that the MID was almost set up to fail, and for it to be the dumping ground for every hare-brained, outlandish idea in order to assuage the concerns of the public that action was being taken. The Saturday Review published in 1918 a retrospective overview of the MID origins:

The existence of such a department [MID] enabled the already organised experimental departments in our Government and private factories to pursue unmolested their own investigations...The Munitions Inventions Department thus became a sort of dustbin into which all surplus talent was thrown.

Fortunately for the MID, this lacklustre approach and expectations was not reflected in the calibre of the men appointed to serve and run the department. The first Controller of the MID was Ernest Moir, who was selected and appointed by Lloyd George. At the same time, Lloyd George appointed a committee of experts in various fields of specialisation. In his appointment of Moir, Lloyd George made a mistake, in that Moir was a very capable and successful inventor in his own right. His drive and inventor credentials, his ability to do the role 'too`well and arguably better than Lloyd George's initial intention for it). together with the lack of cooperation that was received by the MID from the War Office due to his civilian status, were the fundamental reasons for Lloyd George taking the decision in December 1915 to promote Moir out of his MID position. He was moved to head up a delegation sent to the USA to chivvy along and speed up the supply of USA made munitions.



The political nature of this move is reflected in the choice of successor. Mair's acting replacement was announced as being Colonel Goold-Adams (left). The appointment of an army man, (and a man from the War Office) to replace the civilian, facilitated the sudden thawing of War Office attitudes towards co-operation with the fledgling department, and all issues were settled over the course of three days at the beginning of December 1915, with all powers and controls of inventions passing from War Office to MID. As noted above. Goold-Adams was first appointed as Acting Controller. Yet the final acknowledgement that his appointment was a politically driven one was confirmed in September 1916 when Moir returned from the USA, having concluded his work there. Instead of stepping back into the MID controller role he was appointed as Director-General of the American and Transport

Department, with Goold-Adams being appointed as permanent Controller of the MID.



Goold-Adams was a very competent and efficient soldier and he wasted no time in applying himself to his new role. By January 1916, he had already begun to pivot and extend the scope of MID's role. He instigated a letter to be sent to all Universities and Technical Colleges throughout the UK and the Empire. This letter requested that the existence and purpose of the MID should be disseminated to all staff and scholars to enable them to direct any inventions through the proper channels. More importantly, this letter also requested that any members of the scholarly staff already carrying out research for other Government bodies should officially record this with the MID. This effectively created a register of research being carried out throughout the Empire and enabled the MID to be at the centre, attempting to coordinate what research was being done, to obviate gaps or duplication.

Another way that the MID mandate was increased and pivoted was the creation of a drawing office; not only to assist inventors in providing proper technical production drawings, but also creating its own inventions. The number of technical staff at the MID increased 77% from May 1917 to September 1918. 21% of designs on the MID books in October 1918 were generated in-house. Another reason for this increase in staffing levels was the creation of the Ministry of Munitions Journal, which was first published in December 1916. The remit of the Journal was not just limited to the MID but covered all aspects of the Ministry work, but due to its nature, a lot of the writing and work on it was done by the MID staff members.

In the October 1918 edition of the journal, 14 articles had been produced by the MID staff with 20-30 books also having been reviewed by the MID examiners. 98 copies of each edition of the journal were sent overseas to the colonial Governments. UK embassies and all allies. The intention of this was to both disseminate new inventions and technical data, and to almost have an international brainstorming forum with all invested parties trying to further improve new designs, techniques and inventions.

The essence of the journal was to encourage dialogue, and correspondence was heavily promoted. This was shown in the November 1918 edition, which carried details of a reward scheme being run for workers and owners of controlled establishments for any ideas or inventions which led to improvements in productivity.

The journal continued to be printed until the end of the war, but Goold-Adams tenure as Controller did not. With the advent of Winston Churchill as the new Minister for Munitions he found his days were numbered. Churchill evidently did not have much time for Goold-Adams' abilities and sought out Lloyd George's agreement to replace him. This was done in January 1918, with Rear Admiral Bacon taking on the role (left). Bacon had been acquainted with



Churchill when he was First Sea Lord and was given the prestigious role of Commander of the Dover Patrol. It was not until Admiral Geddes took over as First Sea Lord that criticisms of Bacon's practices and abilities came to light and he was forced out in December 1917. Following his dismissal, Bacon immediately wrote to Churchill and offered his services to him. Churchill wasted no time in accepting this and offered him the role as the MID Controller.

This ruthless replacement of Goold-Adams, whilst perfectly within Churchill's remit, was met with some dissatisfaction from people associated with the MID. Goold-Adams wrote to all members of the advisory panel on 19th January 1918 to advise them of his dismissal, and to give heartfelt thanks for their assistance, and to ask that his successor would be afforded the same help. This

letter was collectively replied to by the Committee, thanking Gould-Adams for his work and thoughtful leadership.

As for Bacon's abilities, 1918 brought new challenges to the MID for him to deal with. The projects that had been the centre-pieces of the department; the tank and the Stokes mortar, were complete from a novel design point of view; the Nitrogen Production committees work was drawing to a close with the imminent publication of their final report. What Bacon did focus on was the post-war period and reconstruction. He put forward a proposal for a National Scientific Centre to be established to continue the work started by the MID and to promote further the support and nurturing by the Government of scientific research. This, however, was rejected by the Government committee established for reconstruction. His other major task was to collate and bring a semblance of order to the tens of thousands of files that the MID had created. To his detriment, he was quite rude, patronising and dismissive of inventors in general. In his autobiography, he refers to them in terms of calling them lunatics, cranks, foolish and pathetic throughout the section relating to the MID. His judgement was perhaps overly influenced by a small minority of, shall we say, eccentric individuals and suggestions. Notable amongst these were the suggestion made by one man with a cormorant fixation. His suggestion was to have them fly over to the Rhine valley and peck out the mortar from the Krupp factories to instigate a building collapse. Another gentleman suggested that seagulls be trained to sit on top of periscopes to flag their positions for destruction. However, the most audacious for ignoring the laws of nature was the suggestion for combating Zeppelin raids; by freezing clouds and then mounting cannon on them to act as floating gun batteries! The MID closed its doors on 19th March 1919, with the staff either being made redundant or moved to other departments; however, the influence and legacy that the MID created carried on beyond this date. This legacy is shown in the next paragraphs through the MID work on artificial limbs and the solving of the Nitrogen supply problem that loomed large in the middle years of the War.

Firstly, let us look at how Britain and its Government reacted to the unprecedented scale of mutilation and limb loss that was suffered during The First World War. Initially, the response could be described as ad-hoc at best, with no guidance or control being offered by Government.

The scale of the problem was enormous. The nature of the conflict of The First World War was that of machine guns, high explosives and shrapnel; all confined into a small area defined by the attritional nature of trench warfare. This, in tandem with tactics (certainly in the first half of the war) that did not reflect the advances that had been made in the destructive killing power of the artillery, led to high levels of casualties that required amputations to be carried out. By the end of the conflict, 47,000 British soldiers had had a limb removed. During the first six months of the war, no proper thought was given to how to deal with these mutilated veterans; as the August 1914 assumption that the war would be over by Christmas did not materialize and by early 1915 a more co-ordinated response was being sought.

The need was initially addressed by benevolent benefactors, such as Mary Eleanor Gwynne Holford, who founded the Queen Mary Hospital (QMh) at Roehampton in early 1915. But her work, whilst outstanding in effort and ideals, was not co-ordinated with manufacturers and other interested parties and facilities. This all changed with the commissioning of a report by Lloyd George from Captain Sir Henry Norman (below) in September 1916. The reports commissioning was one of the first acts of Lloyd George after taking over as Secretary of

State for War in July 1916. The report was published by HMSO in October 1916 and ran to 37 pages.



Norman's report on the French system showed a decentralized, regionalized, organisation with centres of 'excellence' located around the country, to enable ongoing long-term care of the patients. This included not only the initial care and rehabilitation from the injury through to having the prosthetics fitted, but also extensive training for injured servicemen before they were demobilised in either the trade they had before, or as close as was now physically possible, injury allowing. A lot of emphasis by the French was placed on the psychological healing of the man and giving him back his sense of worth and pride after suffering horrible injuries. This holistic approach to treating not just the wound and the loss of a limb, but also in rehabilitating the self-perception of the individual, helped them come to terms with the loss and for them to feel that they were still a productive member

of society. It also enabled them to earn a living and look after their family.

Norman recommended that the British Government followed the model that the French had established, including the shouldering by the taxpayer of lifelong cost of providing and maintaining the prosthesis, and providing facilities in which the injured had time and facilities to be re educated and to regain the skills that they had taken for granted when they were able-limbed. This was a seismic shift away from the traditional Liberal ethos, and more towards a social reformist policy.

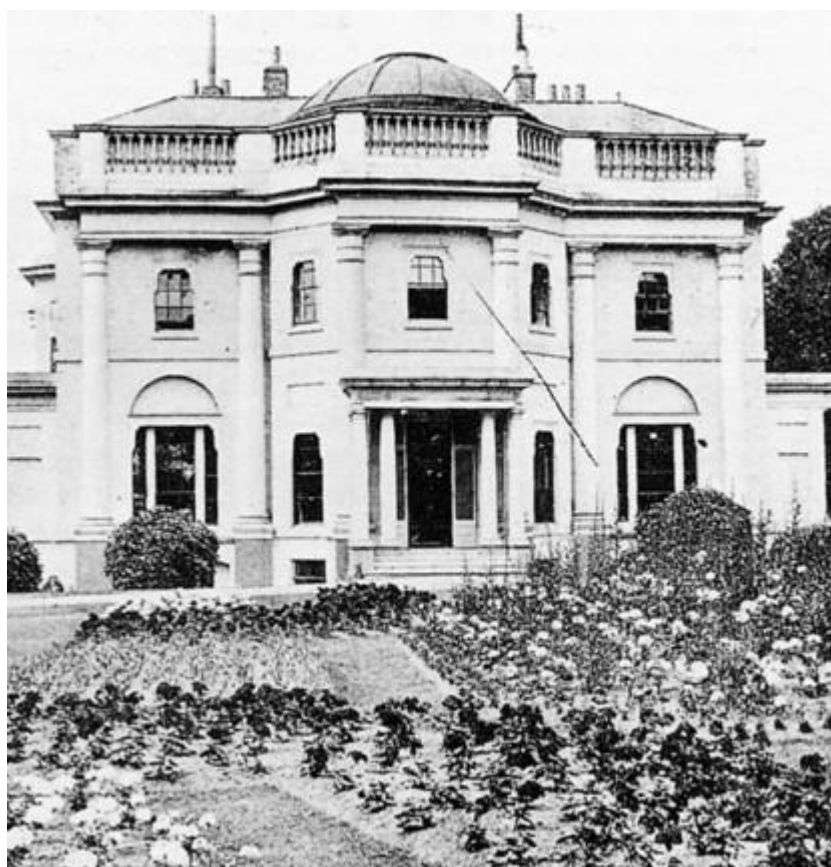


To this end, the MID set up formalised routes of communication with QMH and established an Advisory committee with MID and QMH representatives. MID oversaw the incorporation of on-

site workshops at QMH with some of the country's leading prosthetic limb manufacturers. This mirrored the French model and did not just allow on-site access to limb manufacture and modification, but it led to the prosthetic limb manufacturer being involved in patient care pre-amputation, ensuring that the best surgery was carried out not only from a surgical point of view, but also to ensure that limb fitting requirements were also considered.

Support for Norman's findings was given in March 1917 by the Royal Society for Medicine (RSM) in their report published in *The Lancet*. In it they noted and approved of Norman's report and reiterated his point, that the best way to achieve maximum rehabilitation was to ensure... physical treatment should in the great majority of cases be provided as an integral part of the re-education [and] that centres of re-education and centres of physical treatment should be closely associated.' In Norman's speech given to Parliament, a new term was used to describe this work of physical re-conditioning, that of physiotherapy;

Unless we are to have an army of cripples as a result of the War, it is absolutely necessary to set up centres for this physio-therapy [sic]. The results are marvellous and astonishing when one sees them or learns of them statistically for the first time.



The work that the MID commissioned was to bring together the invested parties; namely QMH, the Lord Roberts Memorial workshops (which provided training and work for disabled servicemen), to produce a full set of arm fittings to be used with an artificial arm. As noted in the MID monthly report in December 1918, these works had been completed and had entered into the testing phase at the MID test ground at Imber Court. (left)

As mentioned above, the care that was received by the men was not just that of physical repair, but as

recommended by Norman in his report, also the repair of their self-esteem and self-worth. QMH monthly progress reports show the holistic offering that was made increased in both size, nature and diversity. An employment bureau was established on-site at QMH in September 1915. After operating for 72 months, the bureau had been responsible for successfully placing 3746 men back into paid employment. This was done through several routes either by placing them back into their original jobs if their injuries allowed, or more commonly by being retrained on-site in the training classes that ran daily. By September 1916

five classes operated - commercial, motor mechanic, electrical, woodworking and leatherworking.



Collectively, these classes offered the chance for a qualification in any of 24 trades.

Even though the MID ceased to exist from March 1917, its influence and legacy were keenly felt for years. As noted by Guyatt, a network of specialist hospitals had been opened throughout the country, following the guiding lines of Norman's report to Lloyd George some three years earlier. By 1917, there was a national centre at Prince of Wales hospital, Cardiff and two centres in both Scotland and Ireland. By 1917, regional centres had been opened in 70 more hospitals throughout the country.

To summarise the QMH story it is probably best to refer back to the source of the impetus of its creation. The inspiration for the works done at the hospital by Mrs Holford was her meeting with a Private Chapman. He had lost both arms at 1st Ypres and was in hospital when Mrs Holford visited. He bemoaned the simple hooks that he had been given. Her sorrow at his plight galvanised her into action and led her to establish the QMH. Chapman wrote to Mrs Holford regularly until his death in 1943, advising her of how his life played out. In his letters it can be clearly seen what the legacy of the MID was; it enabled a man to regain most of the life that he thought he had lost.

Another example of the legacy the MID left is the work it undertook in the development of alternative sources of nitrogen is one of understated and under-appreciated importance. This work meant that Britain would never again be in the same position as it was at the commencement of the First World War; wholly dependent upon foreign Countries for vital chemical, supplies need needed for the waging of war.

As a small precis on the importance of nitrogen. Nitrogen is one of the main chemicals used in the production of explosives and propellants in the munitions industry; it was also a base block for all commercial fertilisers used in agriculture. Without nitrogen, shell production would have ceased, rendering the BEF dangerously exposed, and crop yields would have plummeted forcing the country into possible starvation. This could have resulted in a similar situation as was witnessed in Germany in late 1918. So, nitrogen was a vital commodity. But in 1914 all of Britain's nitrogen supply was imported from halfway around the world from Chile.

Therefore, Britain's ability to manage and maintain its supply of nitrogen was of the highest national interest in the aspects of both feeding and defending the nation. In 1916 Goold-Adams summarised why the production of synthetic nitrogen was so important.

The reason for going into the question of the synthetic production of nitrogen compounds,...in view of the enormous increase in the consumption of nitrogenous bodies and the inroads being made upon the Chilean nitrate beds, the problem of ensuring adequate [sic] sources of supply has to be faced, especially perhaps from the point of view of self-containedness [sic] under war conditions. Had it not been for the synthetic industries at her command, there seems no doubt that Germany would have come to a stop before now.

But what was causing the concern regarding the security of nitrogen supply at this particular point in the war. The answer is the vulnerability that the British Government felt for their supply lines. Whilst Vice-Admiral Graf Spee's assault on the British interests in the Pacific and South American coast had not lasted very long, it had exposed a weakness within the British Merchant supply system. This weakness was further dangerously exposed by the initiation of unrestricted submarine warfare on 4th February 1915. This jeopardised British supply continuity and therefore action was required to mitigate the threat.

This sense of threat was confirmed by Goold-Adams citing as a major factor for the need for the nitrogen production. The inauguration of the submarine campaign in February 1916, and the grave menace to overseas supplies of nitrates.

The NPC was formed in June 1916, following representations made by The Faraday Society to Goold Adams identifying the problem of nitrogen shortages, and offering their services in finding a solution. It was quickly decided that the main focus of the experimental work would be upon replicating the Haber-Bosch process already functioning commercially in Germany. Progress was rapid, and by November 1917 a semi-commercial working prototype had been

constructed with plans being formulated for a full-size plant to be constructed at Billingham on Teesside. As noted by Pattinson, this was another pivotal moment in 'the paternalistic role in science which the government adopted during the war.' However, just as the scientists had completed their work, the dynamics of the war shifted. The pressure on the nitrogen supply chain eased with the USA entering the conflict and the commencement of the convoy system, which virtually cancelled out the U-boat threat.

However, this did not render the hard work done useless, in fact quite the contrary. Another factor to consider was the increased material and transport costs; the pre-war cost was £10.69/ton but by the second half of 1917 the cost had spiralled to £27/ton an increase of 252%. The ability to secure its own supply and the cost benefits to Britain meant that the industrial production of nitrogen would continue after the war came to an end. MID experiments had shown that it was viable to produce nitrogen at a cost as low as £14/ton.

From a Government backed initiative point of view, though, the time had come for the Government to re-focus its attention on the more pressing questions of the day. The work that had been commenced at Billingham was eventually taken over by a syndicate of companies including Brunner Mond and Nobel Explosives Company in 1920, and with Government assistance made a capital investment at the site of between £4-5 million. Post war, the need for nitrogen moved away from munitions production to that of agriculture. Due to the demands of wartime, farmers had been encouraged to increase domestic yield to ensure that the population was fed; this also freed up merchant tonnage to enable war materiel to be carried. By the time of the armistice an additional four million acres were under the plough. This produced a need for nitrogen fertilisers of 320,000 tons for 1918-19, a five-fold increase on pre-war figures.

The recommendations made in the final report of the NFC for the completion of the Billingham site was therefore enacted, together with the establishment of a calcium cyanamide process facility to compliment and reinforce UK ability to be self-sufficient. The Billingham site, was completed in 1920 and was taken over by the syndicate, which in 1926 was renamed Imperial Chemicals Industries (ICI). Turnover for the first year was £27M. This achieved one of the aims of the NPC and the MIDD which was to develop a new industry in Britain to ensure that the chemical deficit that Britain had at the beginning of the First World War was never replicated. This legacy decision was vindicated 19 years later. By 1939 Britain had its own synthetic high octane fuel production facility which was the fuel needed by Hurricanes and Spitfires. ICI sites were also able to supply three-quarters of the nation's needs for nitrogen.



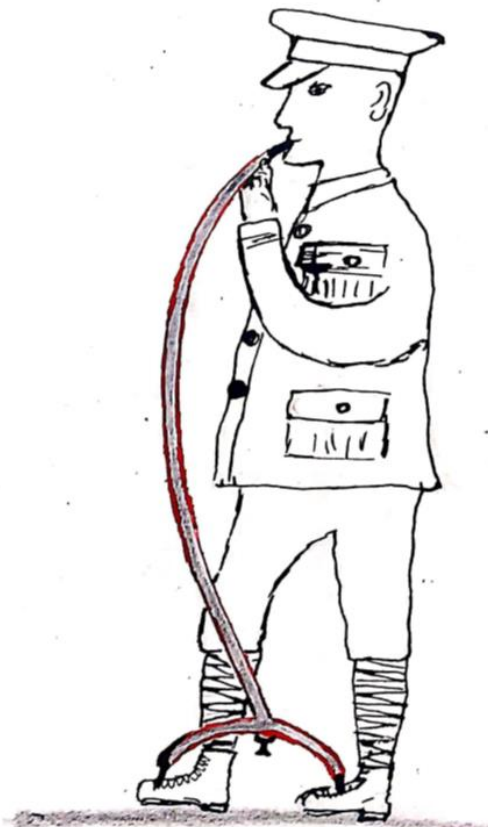
Macleod makes the observation that the formation of ICI was not only.....

*Designed to benefit the UK and to future-proof her. But also to enable the UK to compete commercially in the global market against a revitalised German chemical industry .*

The MID was a truly successful organization, achieving and surpassing the goals that had been set for it. In all aspects of the work that was undertaken, the end results were positive. This was due in-part to the very capable leadership that the MID was fortunate enough to enjoy and also to the dedication of the scientists that became involved. The MID was created at a time when mistrust between military and civilian counterparts was high, and yet despite this, the MID was able to forge a strong bond of understanding to enable the common goals to be achieved. In the War Office Report of the Committee on the Lessons of the Great War, dated October 1932, the authors noted that 'close co-operation with civilian experts is therefore very necessary [and] we are strongly impressed with the importance of this.'

Thus, demonstrating that the learning, co-ordination and the championing of the use of civilian resources by the military, that had been the cornerstone of the MID ethos and its legacy had been maintained, years after the MID shut its doors.

Richard concluded his presentation by talking about several `ideas` which were never adopted by the MID....you can understand why....



A lady suggested because you can keep your hands warm by blowing on them, by fitting these tubes to boots a soldier could keep his feet warm by blowing down the tube! This would help to prevent trench foot!





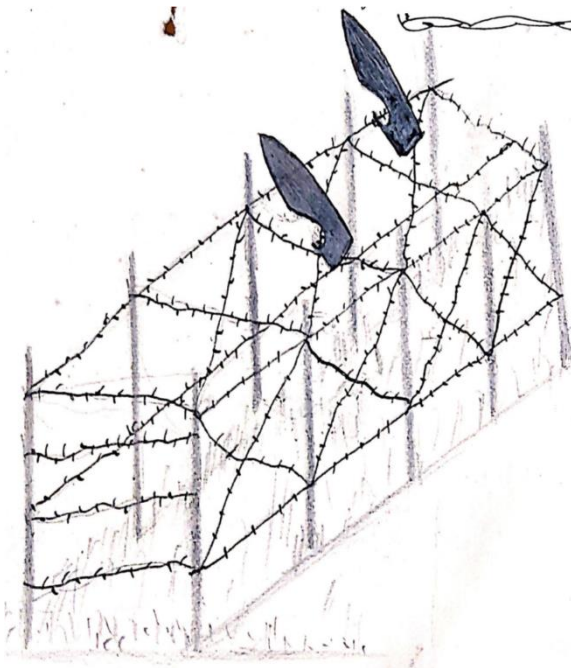
Another `inventor` had a clear fetish for Cormorants....he suggested strapping explosives to their backs and training them to dive bomb torpedoes....dive bomb Zeppelins with a bomb on the back...but the best one was to train them to fly to the Krupp factory in the Ruhr where they could peck out the mortar of the brickwork causing the factory to collapse.

Another guy came up with the idea that if we could find a way of freezing clouds the clouds could be used as platforms for gun batteries floating in the air!

There was another suggestion from a chap who was appalled by the German`s use of poison gas - `not cricket` ...we should bomb the German trenches with snuff and pepper - much more `sporting`

Then there was the suggestion that because of the shortage of copper in 1915 - a key material in production

of brass shell casings - these could be made of porcelain.



In this idea bullets could be fired with a cutting slot to cut barbed wire - Richard speculated on the size of the gun - and the fact that in flight bullets spin!

These unadopted `ideas` brought Richard`s presentation to a close but that wasn`t the end of the evening as there was a very lively Question and Answer session. This might have been Richard`s first presentation but the consensus was it will by no means be the last. A highly informative and entertaining evening. Incidentally this was our best post - pandemic attendance.



Arthur Roberts was a black Scottish soldier who survived the first world war and ended his days in an old people's home in Glasgow. His name would have been lost to us were it not for a remarkable sequence of events. In the autumn of 2004 a young couple found his diaries, letters and photographs in a house they had bought in the city a few years earlier. The diaries were written over the course of a single year: 1917. In his diary, he detailed his experiences of war and loss, of heavy shelling, blood-covered rations, of comrades he witnessed dying. Arthur, who had died in 1982, was miraculously returned, his voice brought back to life.

There were no black troops included in the Peace March of July 1919, a victory parade held in London to mark the end of the war. Allison O'Neill, one of the care workers in the home where Arthur spent the last of his days, said that he had felt forgotten on Remembrance Sundays. He would go and sit in his room and not watch the ceremonies on television. Perhaps he had tired of the "glory of war" and the "old lies", and perhaps the wound cut deeper. It is one thing to make sacrifices; it is quite another thing to become the victim of a kind of national amnesia. Reading Arthur's diaries and looking at his photographs, I felt compelled to save his face, commit him to memory. When Arthur came back from the war, he returned to his job at Harland and Wolff shipyard to work on the vessels that made the Clyde famous. In 1919, there were race riots in port cities across the country, including Glasgow. Arthur would have come home from a place where he was fighting alongside men to a place where the same men were effectively turning on him. The Aliens Restriction Act 1914, extended in 1919, effectively made Arthur a foreigner in his own country. In the shipyards, he was called a "black bastard" a few times.

I got a very real sense of Arthur from reading his diaries - of his kindness, his empathy, his spirit, his pride, the ways he dealt with the horrors he had witnessed. At one point he writes: "The dead were so numerous it was impossible to proceed without walking on them." When we put on our red poppies this year, we should be remembering, too, the soldiers like Arthur, who knew every type of loss yet whose dark faces were missing from the victory parades, whose stories have been lost.

*Raphael Sledge*

## Jerome K Jerome - his part in the Great War.



Best known for his book 'Three Men in a Boat', Jerome K Jerome was in his fifties when the Great War started. His autobiography 'My Life and Times' contains an account of his work during that war. His reaction to the declaration of war was one of "cheerful satisfaction. The animal in me rejoiced .... Men all around me were throwing up their jobs, sacrificing their careers. I felt ashamed of myself, sitting in safety at my desk, writing articles encouraging them at so much a thousand words."

Jerome's first venture into the service of his country was to go to the USA and assist in English propaganda. He got himself into trouble with the press by being sceptical over German atrocity stories, particularly as he knew Germany and Germans quite well. An American delegation returning from Belgium was equally doubtful of the stories. He found the American public were "mildly pro-French and equally anti-English."

On return to England he tried to go overseas as an entertainer with the YMCA but was turned down by the War Office. A chance meeting with an acquaintance led him to a scheme set up by the French Ambassador's wife. The French army being less fussy meant that he could "become a French soldier: at two and a half sous a day." Dressed in a "russet kharki relieved by dark blue facings with a sword belt and ornamental buttons" he found himself, in 1916, walking "through the gateway of the Citadelle at Verdun saluted in awed respect by both sentries."

After landing in France with an ambulance unit he was assigned to "Convoi 10" based in the Argonne area some 20 miles from Verdun. His colleagues were a mix of British and Colonials, who were too old or physically unfit for active service.

The understanding between the opposing soldiers was noted. "During the two hours, every afternoon, when the little tramway was kept busy hauling up food, both French and German batteries were silent. When the last barrel of flour, the last sack of potatoes, had been rolled to safety down the steps of the field kitchen, the firing would break out again. When a German mine exploded, the Frenchmen who ought to have been killed were invariably a quarter of a mile away sawing wood. One takes it that the German peasant lads possessed like gift of intuition, telling them when it would be good for their health's sake to take walking exercise."

He describes a night call out "*Ambulance faut partir*. The bearded figure under its blue iron helmet kindly lights a candle (rat having providentially found something more tasty) and departs. Ambulance Driver Nine struggles half unconsciously into his clothes.... Pierre, the aide, is already grinding away at the starting handle.... Within the twentieth swing - or thereabouts - the car answers with

a sudden roar.... A shadowy group emerges apparently from the ground. Two stretchers and three *assis* (*walking wounded*) is the tale. The stretchers are hoisted up and fitted swiftly into their hangings. The three *assis* mount slowly and shuffle painfully into their places.... And Ambulance Driver Nine climbs into his seat.”

“Through the forest, he keeps his eye upon the strip of sky above his head. Always he must be in the exact centre of that narrow strip of sky.... They find the road on the left... the descent appears to be steep. The car begins to jump and jolt. “*Doucement, camarade - doucement!*” Comes the agonized cry from within. Pierre opens the little window and explains that it cannot be helped. It is a *mauvaise route*: and there is silence. Ambulance Driver Nine recalls grim stories of the mess-room: of nights spent beside a mud-locked car, listening to groans and whispered prayers: of cars overturned, their load of dying men mingled in a ghastly heap of writhing limbs.”

At some date (the autobiography does not say) he says “It had been a trying winter, and my age had been against me. At the end of it, I was not much good for the work. I came back cured of any sneaking regard I may ever had for war.

Much of the book is taken up with accounts of his literary and theatre life - interesting in its own right, but the chapter on his wartime experience is a small but useful addition to our understanding of conditions in the Verdun area.

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## A Veteran`s Diary....

At the end of last year I was contacted by an elderly widow, her late husband had been a long time member of the WFA but due to infirmity had never been able to attend a Branch meeting but nevertheless eagerly awaited the newsletters. She was sorting out his books and papers and came across two WW1 field diaries which had been copied from the originals - those now being in the care of the IWM. She asked me if I wished to `copy the copies` and this I did and can now share these with members. This following is the first of the two. The second will follow in a future Newsletter.

*This is the diary of Private Walter Roddis*

The diary was written twice, once in a pocket diary of 1915 and the other on loose sheets. All the writing was written in pencil. After eighty years it had become extremely faint, and the places where the paper had been folded the writing had disappeared.

The loose sheets start in 1914 and end in 1917. The pocket diary begins in Aug 1915 and goes right up to the time of Walter's demob. Owing to the overlapping of most of the diary I was able to piece together the sentences which had been ripped or obliterated, and thus make a complete war diary.

B L Jervis

1914

## The Diary of Pte Walter Roddis

1st Sept 1914

I enlisted at St George's Hall, Rotherham, Yorkshire, England.

2nd September

Were at home, went and drew two pounds from Rotherham Main Colliery and had a good drink at Rotherham

3rd Sept

Were sent to Pontefract but found it very dissapointing so on 4th made attempt to go home without paying Railway fair. Mr Hill saved me by lending my fare home. Arrived home to the surprise of My Aunt and stayed there till Monday 6th Sept, I then were sent back.

I stayed in Pontefract until the 11th Sept when to Military Officer in the name of Capt. Dray Lt French and asked for Volunteers for The Royal Munster Fusiliers. myself and all the Whiston boys left Pontefract and ——— in the ——— the ——— make selection of us

run I remember there a person in the name of Sgt Major Hardy gave us a "Double" in fact he nearly killed us of course. He was well cursed that day but we gradually became more perfect and things went well. Of course I had a few more experiences of pack drill and guard room

Well we were there about 9 months and we made a good Division by all accounts. We left the Curragh in May of course, I were on the Transport at the time so I traveled it to Phoenix Park, Dublin where we spent evening in the city. We then arrived at

2

15-5-1915 Basingstoke in Hampshire on the 15th May 1915  
 we were there about 2 months and then we left  
 9-7-1915 for Dardanelles on the 9th July in the great liner  
 the Moratania and landed <sup>in</sup> at Lemnos harbour  
 on the 16th July, and went on our joining soil  
 on 18th July. ——— few military movements  
 for about a fortnight and on the morning of the  
 6-8-1915 6th Aug we left Lemnos on a ship called the  
 Cowan and arrived in Suvla Bay on the mornin  
 of 7th Aug were the Monitors and Battleship were  
 Bombarding the Land, two ships I saw were the  
 H.M.S. Swiftsure and H.M.S. Cornwallis. The ships  
 were bombarding the coast, it were a sight I sh<sup>d</sup>  
 never forget. The first bit of warfare we saw was  
 some of the Munster boys on landing trod upon  
 land mines and were blew to pieces. We then  
 left the lighter which took us much nearer to the  
 coast, we had to drop into the sea up to our  
 waist, we landed on land safe but wet thru  
 and found that the Turkes had retured back.  
 We advanced and dug trenches, and the same  
 evening it rained so that we our second  
 wetting that day. We were in the position  
 two days and then we advanced, in the advance  
 J. Smith to pals were killed, Jim Smith from Whiston one  
 J. Jones Jack Jones from Parkgate. we were there a few  
 9-8-1915 days and then on the 9th Aug. we advanced  
 we had two days hot fighting no water and a  
 dying for a drink it were an awful experions  
 We had four days rest in reserve. The next  
 15-8-1915 advance, 15th Aug, was the General advance  
 across a salt lake which caused a terrible loss  
 21-8-1915 of life. We occupied Enemys trenches from 21st  
 to 28th Aug. We then came to the 'Noted Chocolate

to rest. We left Gallipoli (Suvla Bay) on the 1st Oct and arrived by boat in a Grecian island called Mudros. We visited the villages where grapes were growing all around. We saw a beautiful Military Grave yard with hundreds of our brave lads buried, who died from wounds Dysentery and other complaints even some of our brave sisters were laid low there. We were there till 12th or 13th of Oct when we left again for Salonica ready for the Bulgars, arriving in Lombard Camp Oct 15. We were paid on 22nd Oct. I went into Salonica and I met Sgt W. France we spent a jolly evening drinking.

We left Salonica by train for Serbia arriving at Gergoli? a station on Grecian soil, marched through a Serbian village called Causli and rested. We started next day and marched to the village of Dedili in Serbia we camped there for the night I were on Seals? so I were with H Quarters.

4-11-1915 4 Nov. We crossed the River Parda the same day. We then marched to Paladova and then came to Rabrova. I was then played as Army Chaplain's Servant (Cannon Maclean) and yesour, so I went back to the Hospital where he stayed. The boys then went to Tatali and then to a position in a Bulgarian Village called Cestrina where they had awfull hardships to endure Frost and snow, then went away to Dorrain a Serbian fishing village because the officer were sick (Chap (Officer)). Then 6th to 9th the boys retreated from Cestrina surrounding Hills on 6th Dec they had an awfull time. I went to the 5th Canad Hosp. in Paymaster Road with my Chaplain, he then left hospital and went on ~~the~~ ship to Engl



so my good time finished. I then went to  
 to Hill detail camp, I met Bob Hill there, we were both  
 sent on Railway fatigues, we had some merry  
 nights in a place for drinking called Uncle  
 in 1916 Tom's Cabin. I joined my Batt. in Jan. 1916 after  
 spending Xmas and New Year in Salonica.  
 I joined the boys in a Greek called Yaraharou  
 a Greek village. We were six weeks in  
 Kapusulan and then went to Asmaria Greek  
 village a lovely camp.

We had a few weeks working amongst Greek  
 and all Nationalities of woman and man at  
 34 kilo camp in Serres Road. We moved  
 again on 29th July back towards Salonica,  
 six hours rain, a long march all tired out  
 and fed up, slept in ploughed field.

1st July I was in trouble on the 21st July, I refused  
 7 days punishment received a Court Martial  
 and received 2 years hard labour which was  
 suspended since it has been all cleared for  
 good conduct and Devotion to duty (swank).

21st June 30th June arrived in camp all dead tired  
 after long march. We were having a drink  
 on the 5th Aug. anniversary of Suvla Bay  
 victory when I was drunk put in Guard Room,  
 case dismissed next morning.

7/18 Aug 17th/18th Aug. marching towards Serres  
 19th Aug I came to Brigade Machine Gun  
 Company. Same evening marched about 12½  
 miles to Sathana a Greek village. The

2/8/1916 Gunner took up positions for Aircraft Aug 22 1916  
 Saw Greek Refugees fleeing from their homes.  
 Also on Nov 8 1915 saw Serbian Refugees  
 fleeing from their homes very pitiful sights

I can tell you.

- Aug 29 Aug we were just behind Sirkavea talking  
 9/1/1916 to refugees. Tues Sept 5th 1916. Bombardment  
 on Struma. 26th Aug. Our boys went ~~into~~  
 the front line trenches on Struma
- 10/1/1916 22nd Aug was employed as Groom to Major Dashwood  
 of the M.G.C.
- 23rd Brought my two horses back because of  
 Bombardment on Struma.
- 11/1/1916 28th crossed Struma with Lt May  
 30th Battle of Struma lots of casualties  
 1st Oct went with breakfast to officers in trench  
 had to cross River Struma by ferry boat.
- 12/1/1916 1st Dec. Visited Sgt Price and Benny Abbott in gun position  
 my 11th 2nd Oct. 30 Brigade in advance Lt May + Sgt Price  
 May. killed.
- Oct 6th Sent Tablecloth home from Carachaho  
 5th moved from Carachaeo to village to village  
 of Merbies, Billeted in house with Scottish Horse.  
 25th Oct moved to Crjak.
- 26th Oct to Barasmea a village had a jolly night  
 with Bert and the boys
- 29th Oct Bombardment
- 2nd Nov moved across Struma River to village  
 of Nevelgen
- 1st Nov. Saw Perry Hitchen while I was exercising my  
 horses.
- Went to Nevelgen, to right of Hornich, with guns  
 took up position while Publims took village  
 successfully, a few prisoners.
- We were shelled by the Bulgars in position no  
 casualties, we were relieved at night.
- 11/1/1916 Mac goes on leave on 21st Nov 1916  
 1st Dec played Artillery at football lost 2-1

6

Goal  
Marchure

RB  
Lawrence

LB  
Dennis

RH  
Eaton

CH  
—

LH  
Hill

RW  
Rogers

Lang

CF  
(Roddie)

Richard

L.W.  
Abbott

Referee Gill  
Kenny

5th Dec moved to side of River Struma there till  
16th then moved to village Sukarea very bad  
food from 17th to 23rd

Christmas  
1916

Spent Xmas 1916 in Greek village of Sukarea?

Dec 17th Biscuits no jam or bacon

Dec 18th Ditto

Dec 19th Ditto

Dec 20th Ditto

Dec 21st No fags or Tobacco

Dec 22nd No smokes & rations of bread biscuits

Dec 23rd All Biscuits

Dec 24th Biscuits, Jam, Bacon. Line orderly,  
weather lovely

Christmas Day. had tea with Archie in dugout  
Archie placed box and put paper on. we had  
Scotch Oat Cakes and shortbread and different  
cakes. Then Don handed Gold Flakes round  
we had a sing song, had a drop of whiskey  
from Gaby.

- 11/1917 Jan. 1st 1917 went to Scottish Horse with some chums for a drink of beer
- 4th Jan 1917 Watched air battle German Airplane brought down by Capt Green M.C. D.S.O. the name on the Airplane 'My Darling', Pilot wounded
- 8th Jan I broke a Crown and Anchor man.
- Jan 11th went to Genako to moved the guns back marching all day.
- 12th Jan Saw another Airplane Battle brought it down again, moved to Orjah raining all day arrived 12 o'clock
- 13th Sun shining 14th Jan exercising miles from Orjah 15th Air battle German brought down 16th line orderly 17th exercising 18th exercising
- 20th Jan joined Batt. leaving machine gun Company
- 21st Jan Our chums parade at Orjah (Orjay)
- 23, 24, 25th making light railway to village called Coproa
- 26th Snow storm wet through
- 27th left Batt. at Oldjay for 64 kilo worked there all day.
- 28th left for 52 kilo mud up to your knees
- 1st Feb Jim Norris and Martin stole bottle of Rum and had a jolly drink. Harry Myers goes on a pass to Blighty on 3rd Feb.
- 4th in Greek village watching villagers dance
- At Dump 16th March reaching Batt on St Patricks Day
- 17th went from Morchgen to Prasnich made attack cleared village. My mate A gale won D.C.M. on St Patricks Day
- 4 gale  
D.C.M.
- Sunday 13th resting all day. Monday 19th Working from 8.30 to 12-00 then 1 to 3 pm went to Prasnich all night carrying barbed wire returned 5.30 am, left

1917

8

Nevelgen. - March went to Turlus. 22nd resting  
23rd Drilling. 24th Road making. 25th to 28th  
Drilling. 29th practising Barrage fire training  
under it.

30th making road to Cuckaluk

1st, 2nd 3rd March Digging. 4th March Nevelgen  
5th in front resting. 6th on Sentry lovely night  
7th Good Friday working.

8th April. Making mule track at night to Prasnich  
returned to village called Nevelgen remained there  
till 10th April and then went in front line to  
Prasnich.

12th April 1917 Fort on sentry nothing unusual  
occurs

13th April on out post had an alarm, to of the  
post said they could see the Bulgars coming happily it  
were a false alarm. Same day one Bulgarian  
soldier. comes in an surrenders we were all after  
his buttons as souvenirs.

14th Outpost and patrol nothing unusual occurs

15th Outpost same result

16th Observation post in Greek house in village of  
Prasnich from 4 am to 8 pm saw lots of enemy  
making trenches

17th moved from Prasnich to Cuckaluk

18th moved to Turlus went through course of firing  
till 20th April. 21st resting played Royal Irish  
at Football Munster won 4-0

23rd April moved back from Turlus to Cuckaluk  
had C.O. inspection. All kinds of Military work  
up to May 6th 1917.

Wolf  
Hitchen May 7th went to Brigade Head Quarters for Bombing  
course. May 13th had dinner with Wolf Hitchen who

9.

in French Mortar Battery, called back same day to Tapalora

May 14 1917 8 Airplanes go over Fort Lupel and dropped bombs with good results returned safely

May 15th five of us in small dug out at Battle HQ

May 16th went on outpost at 1:30 am till 10 o'clock pm very quiet all day.

17th making Dug outs.

18th Ike Horner goes away for a commission

19th May went out with fighting patrol. 100 men to

Demihersar Road found Bulgars, went into action, we had 7 casualties, there were three military medals and a military cross won the same night for gallantry

20th May left Tapalora and marched to Turbas

21st Sunday resting all day.

22nd Started Bombing course again

22nd May playing at cricket with Munster Officers against Dublins, won easy taking 7 wickets for 1 run (some feat) eh. 22nd May we had to stand to for support to 28th Div at Ellison but later it were cancelled

24th played cricket again beating both Dubs, we made 134 they made 35. I bowled well again also making 35 not out with the bat

25th moved again from Turbas going to Caprina this time. Went out searching with Lt O'Brien and a few other boys. We then went to Nevelgen on 31st May.

1/2 June 1st, 2nd June. I had Tonsillitis in my throat Excused Duty

3rd June beat A Coy 2-1 at football

5th June left Nevelgen for Prosnick doing outpost again

1917

10

in front line, the boys then commenced to clear everything away ready to Evacuate the Struma plain on account of Malaria Diseases.

6th/7th Hagnay and A Gale, two pairs go to Hospital, Evening 9th June I were Guard to Artillery Waggon fetching rails and sleepers from Irish crossing in front of Prosnich.

10th came to Battle HQ

12th left Battle HQ for Turlus

13th arrived at Turlus

14th making camp ready for the boys.

15th Boxing at Turlus knocked out by Irishman called Cpl Sheeran.

16th beat Artillery at football 4-3.

17th moved again for Turlus to village called Tereka in Boraves

16th played HQ at Football drawing 1-1

17th/18th very easy time, reading

19th Boxing at Tereka

20 Jun '17 20th We are having well earned rest

at Tereka playing football competition.

my platoon won about 4° a man. 21st Drilling

22nd played A com. at football beating them 5-0

23rd came again to Brigade for bombing course passing out as first class bomber.

26th Plucking Apricots on Capera Hillside, fine fruit I can tell you.

27th and up to July digging trenches for bombing practice.

1st July 1st July. The Batt moved to place called 13 wells.

I left bombing school on July 23rd

after passing Bombing Examination by Lt Winder Bombing officer joined Batt at Hill 576 on July 24th

1917

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25th/26th/27th ordinary duties

30th July - on guard

1st Aug moved to the front - which was at Artillery side of Struma having moved back by 3rd? moved from village called <sup>later Mar</sup> Washer Mur to 37 holastone (bolastone)?

27th Aug moved again at night to Kilo 4

Sept 6th joined Batt. for boat after trekking down Serres Rd with pack mules.

Sunday 9th Sept left Old Salonia and boarded H.M.S Arragon which is now sunk, arriving in Alexandria Egypt on 10th Sept after splendid voyage 11th on board ship all day, left boat on 12th Sept boarded a train for a town called Ismailia, the place where I sent the table centre from.

13th Sept in town on pass plenty of nice beer had a good evenings enjoyment

14th Australian Picture House.

We remained there till 24th Sept, my birthday moved to Kantara which is now a great military place, marched 12 mile to El Feidan rested next day till 5 pm then marched 7 miles to Bheliq staying there till 3 am 26th Sept then marched to Kantaror where we stayed in rest camp

27th Sept 1917 moving by train to Souani Alerick arriving Raffia

Returned to company 28th Sept Training in Desert

3rd Oct Jim and myself admitted to hospital

Battling in Lake Timsah

Plain at Sepheta came by train to Ellarisk

moved out to Kantara, left Kantara 7th Oct for Citadel in Cairo arrived 4 pm on 7th Oct.

9th Oct left Citadel for Alexandria 9 pm arrived



Darmankhour Station at 12 o'clock arrived.

Also on 8 Oct Treatment. 9th mille, 10th mille  
left 17th \_\_\_\_\_ 18th went by train to Kantara

Employed Sgt Maj. Sergeant Birchman Went to Australian  
had a fine tea, left detail 10.30 am 27th Oct

for Batt arriving at Raffia m - 30 am 28th Oct

28th Oct marched up line about 10 miles

29th marched 8 miles to Shieba

Oct 30 moved to front line.

Oct 31st stood to till dawn

1st Nov. on guard. (Guard)

3rd Nov on patrol to Wadia between Gaza  
and Beersheba

4 Nov. on Patrol

5 Nov digging trenches for R Irish

Attack started on 6th By 10th Div 75 Div 60th

53 Div, great success but . . . . . Without water  
for 50<sup>+</sup> hours marching in the terrible heat.

On evening of 6th Nov. marched to Samaria

Railway Bridge, no tea, no water, no Breakfast  
prisoners coming in in Batches

There were three Turkish Nurses, one doctor  
also three women, two kiddies prisoners very  
touching sight

8 Nov. visited Turkish lost positions, terrible sights  
dead Turks also a few of our Boys. We <sup>then</sup> went  
in reserve to 59 Div after the first Battle. 9 Nov.  
marched back to a place called Calm

Sunday 11th. resting

12, 13, 14th. parade and washing, 15 in Bombing  
competition, Connaught Rangers the winners

17th/18th on the move again went to Beil-a

on fatigues (fatigue) in the beautiful city

13.

of Gage Salvaging the articles the Turkes had left. I went for bath, rations.  
30th went for to front again.  
1st Dec Front line, 4th relieved Black Watch.  
27th we were in Wadi Sunt were David killed Goliath in Bible History.  
28th Attack lots of Casualties.  
29th, 30th in Wadi against Bier Ishmach.  
Jan 1918 1st Jan 1918 New Year in Wadi Ispah.  
2nd, 3rd moved Batt to Wadi Keth.  
4th on Picket.  
5th moved below Bier Ishmach.  
Sunday 6th Raining all day and night.  
7th On Grazing Picket with mules.  
8th Cold and miserable.  
9th Taking ammunition to Batt.  
10th Moved to Advance positions.  
11th Washing clothes.  
12th Fetching Rations.  
13th Raining wet through on Judian Hills.  
14th Relieved R Irish.  
16th Set off for Jerusalem marched to ?am - Alla and then to Jerusalem spent first night in an Hotel built by the Kaiserine.  
17th On the Mount of Olives, saw Dead Sea.  
18th Jan. Digging out Rations to the poor of Jerusalem supplied at Kaiser Palace by some Sisters.  
17th Evening put in Guard Room in Jerusalem for not having a pass, it was found to be a mistake so I was let out next morning 18th.  
had a good drink in Jew house in Jerusalem.  
19th in the city having a fine time.  
left Jerusalem 19th Jan 1918.

14.

21st Jan. taking some Refugees, about 150 men women and children to in En Erish about five of a family of Sirain people, could speak English I had a good afternoon square pushing with two of the Sirain girls

29th Air Battle. Johnny Turk brought down.

30th Jan. <sup>...</sup> went to Jerusalem for some Ordnance supplies had another good evening then came back

26 1918 31st Jan/1st Feb. ordinary duties on hill <sup>at Commandment</sup> were Moses dropped 6th Batt. sent to front line I stayed back till 12th then went to Kur Bethel.

Hitchen Beth returned to advanced transport saw W Hitchen 14th Feb sick with piles

15th Sick. 16th Fetching water from Jeb's well Foreign name Ain Eyub, also the tomb of Job which is called Naby Eyub. 17th passed through Iben - Harith 22nd Jess Birthday. 23rd Brough Leave party to Beil ~~Seit~~ <sup>Seit</sup> gang to Jerusalem

24th Went to Lator, 25th grazing packet at Bient Seit. 26th Feb Joe goes to hospital

27th Kicked by mule. 3rd March moved from Beil Seit to Iben Horith. March 6th 1918 moved from Iben - Horith passing through Janiah and Elkennah. 7th took up positions on Indian Hill 9th Attack position I had one of my gun mules killed lucky escape, shell went straight through him; 10th boys held up all day by German machine gunners at place named Majadjul

<sup>Sgt</sup> Wilkison  
<sup>L/Cpl</sup> Storenson  
17th relieved by Dublins. I was recommended for Gallantry on the 10th March the captain made me drunk on Rum. Service for Capt Longfield. Sgt  
<sup>Capt</sup> Longfield  
Wilkison of Bradford and L/Cpl Storenson of Canklaw

There was an old lady about 90 years old she went  
 through the Bombardment. 12th Raining  
 17th St Patrick's Day. 18th in Bed  
 19, 20th, 21st moving Batt. 20th March Jack Brazan  
 Killed. 22nd Bathing in Waddy. 24th went with  
 leave party to Jobs well. 29th Good Friday in  
 front line. 31st sick with Malaria, boys in attack.  
 Easter Monday Batt. moving <sup>from</sup> front line  
 7th 9th must drive behind lines in Y M C A hut  
 10th April. Air Raid. 12th April moving to Beil  
 Ello. 19th Batt moved to Um Suffer. I went to  
 hospital. 21st left Beil-Ello to Um-Suffer  
 arrived at Beil ~~Ello~~ <sup>Ello</sup>. 22nd in  
 ambulance motor to Jerusalem put in Hosp.  
 which used to be Monastery of St Pierre de  
 Sion it was an Austrian Hospital  
 April 1918 23rd April, moving arrived at Enab village  
 put in Enab French monastery. left about 2pm  
 passed through Lation arriving at 26 CCS Ludd  
 25th. Left Ludd 25th at 7.30 arriving at Gaza  
 47 General. 28th Moving from a Gaza Kantara  
 6 hours journey. arrived at 44th C.C.S.  
 leaving April 30th 1918 for Cairo: Started  
 9.0 left in open motor. 31st ordered to bed.  
 12th in church at Abbassia.  
 11th E Rounds comes to visit me in Hosp  
 13th May leaving Hosp. for Palegar  
 14th Poor nights sleep. 15th M O inspection  
 2 hours compulsory sleeping parade  
 16th Cairo. 17th Cairo, 18th Cairo, 19th Cairo  
 20th Hospital 11? Monday Cairo 2228 Cairo 24  
Schmitz at Cairo 25, 26, 27 in Cairo 28th in  
 camp. 29th Picket at 27th General. 30th May Cairo

1st June. good night drinking with Westenholme  
tenholme of Sheffred

2nd Church parade at Palegon. Pictures and  
Drinking at Cairo. 3rd having walk. 21 guns

fired in Cairo Royal Salute Kings Birthday

4th. On defaulters. 7th moved to A Company

10th, 11th Matania Relapse. 13th Discharged from

Hospital. 14th in Cairo. 15th fighting with Private

16th in Guard Room waiting for F.G.C.M. 17th, 18th,

June reviewed. 7 days Field Punishment No 2 in

work house. — Pitt goes to prison. released from

prison. 25th in Cairo, 26th. Helioopolles.

26th sick, 27th sick. 28, 29th, 30th in

Helioopolles 30th on guard. 2 Helioopolles Drinking.

2nd Billiards, Tea and good night in Helioopolles

Nock Round 22nd Sept.

Treatment Carbolic C.S. Eusol stinging

(syringing)

6th July Golfer goes to Kandara

7th July Left Cairo for Kandara

8th July in 24 General Hospital relapse.

18th July 1918 General Allenby visits Hospital

24th July H.H. Suddan visits Hospital

25th July Lord Allenby

25th July Q.M.S Tyler goes home

25th Came to Labour corp

26th Alexandria Races

1st Aug 1918 Left Alexandria for Cairo for

Garrison Royal Irish

24th Aug. watching Mohammedans taking Holy

carpet to Mecca procession leaving Cairo

1/1/1919 1st Jan for Blighty cancelled. left Citadel

16th Jan 1919 arrived Ramdara

1918

17

17th

24th Officers servant to Blighty

25th Leaving for Blighty. Port Said 9 A.M.

went on H.M.S. Hashgar

Left Port Said Sunday 26th 12 a.m.

Italy 960 meter, calm sea

Monday 27th arrived Toronto 29 11 a.m.

28th Rough Sea

30th No and in Italy meet in Italy went to

theatre. Bucksees (for nothing) (free of charge)

Feb went to Italian village St Georges

4th leaving Toronto for home 9 A.M.

Castelenetta Appi, Rubiera Rubiera Liggio ~~the~~

Uario, had tea in Beera, Lombardy plains

Alexandria 1 am sat

<sup>Modane</sup> Modane to — by electric train Chiomantey?

Sabatierand. St Germaine. Sunday 8th Feb.

Loganne, Chessy Jarvisy

arrived Le Harve 11th Feb.

left Le Harve 8 o'clock on S.S. Millard

Arrived Southampton. Sat morning 4 a.m.

went on station 1-30, leaving Southampton 2-30

Banbury, Leicester, Land York

Modane alp Ending of Italy.

		£	s	d
21.	Book opens July 9th 1915.			
	First pay 22nd July 1915		2	0
	6th Oct.		10	0
	22nd Oct Salomua		8	4
	"		4	0
	26th		4	0
	Jan 17th 1916		4	0
	12 - 2 1916		4	0
	10 - 3 1916	Kampuyala	4	0
	5 - 5 - '16	Asamaria	4	0
			4	0
			4	0
			4	0
	2 - 6 - '16		4	0
	1 - 7 - '16	Remittance	2	10 - 0
	8 - 10 - '16	in the field	12	6
	19 - 10 - '16		12	6
	5 - 16 - '16		12	6
	26 - 12 - '16		12	6
	3 - 1 - '17		4	0
	22 - 1 - '17		4	0
	18 - 12 - '17		4	0
	7 - 3 - '17		4	0
	5 - 3 - '17		4	0
	6 - 1 - '17		4	0
	2 - 5 - '17		4	0
	24 - 8 - '17		4	0
	"		4	0
	15 - 6 - '17		4	0
	12 - 7 - '17		8	0
	11 - 7 - '17		4	0
	1 - 9 - '17		10	0
	16 - 9 - '17		10	3
	23 - 9 - '17		10	3
	25 - 10 - '17		10	4
	15 - 11 - '17		10	3
	19 - 12 - '17		10	3
	13 - 1 - '18		10	3

1 take 'First pay' to men, As first pay on foreign L.  
 Walter Rodden having joined on the 1st Sept 1914.