



The Spire Sentinel



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



ISSUE 89 - July 2023

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



Western Front Association Chesterfield Branch – Meetings 2023

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

January	4th	. AGM + `British League of Help` 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.
February	7th	` The First AIR War` ` by Grant Cullen. Based on a collection of rare photographs acquired over 20 years ago at a yard sale in Hazelwood, Missouri, US, this will look at the various protagonists in WW1 - people and Planes
March	7th	` Voie Sacree` by Roy Larkin. The story of the road that connects Bar-le-Duc to Verdun It was given its name because of the vital role it played during the Battle of Verdun in World War I.
April	4th	" For Home and Honour` by Yvonne Ridgeway and James Kay. A bit of a history of our local community in North Sheffield during WW1, from their own research, looking at recruitment, the 1st Sheffield blitz, the tribunals for those wishing to avoid military service and some of the local soldiers' stories.
May	2nd	The First World War contribution of Dulmial Village, in present day Pakistan by Dr Irfan Malik. His Gt. Grandfathers experiences in WW1, and the wider role of muslim soldiers during that conflict
June	6th	Stepbrothers in Arms: the Conscript Experience in 1918 By Tim Lynch who will examine the myths and realities of the army of 1918 and what the evidence actually tells us about ideas of cohesion, morale and professionalism in the BEF.
July	4th	Dr Rebecca Ball ' Daddy, what did you do in the great War? ' Drawing upon fifty working-class autobiographies, this talk examines the impact of the Great War on fifty English families with a particular focus on fathers.
August	1st	Dr. Adam Prime - a newly appointed WFA Trustee who will talk about ' India's Great War ' This talk looks at India's contribution to the First World War in every sense of the word.
September	5th	" Dark Satanic Mills - How Britain's Industry Went to War ". By Andy Rawson This is an insight into the wide range of factories across the country, which worked around the clock to keep up with the expanding requirements of the armed services.
October	3rd	Hedley Malloch ' Left Behind - the fate of British soldiers trapped behind German lines in Belgium and France after the Retreat of 1914
November	7th	Peter Hart - Trench Humour -a look at how soldiers use humour to get through the horrors of trench warfare.
December	5th	David Blanchard - The Casualty Evacuation Chain from Hill 60, Ypres, in early 1915

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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 issue 89 of our Branch Newsletter for July 2023. On Tuesday, we welcome a first time visitor to the Branch Dr. Rebecca Ball who is rapidly making a name for herself on the WFA speakers` circuit .

Rebecca is an early career researcher, currently writing a book on the everyday lives of the English working class between 1900 and 1945. She completed her undergraduate degree in Modern History and Politics in 2013 at the University of Manchester,

after which she completed her MA in History in 2014. Clearly not put off by endless research, she decided to continue on and undertake her PhD at the University of Wolverhampton, which she completed in 2022. Her PhD was inspired by her MA research on childhood in Britain during the First World War and this research also inspired her talk



'Daddy, what did you do in the great War?'

Drawing upon fifty working-class autobiographies, this talk examines the impact of the Great War on fifty English families with a particular focus on fathers. It explores too the childhood experiences of individuals whose father was absent on the Home Front and compares them with the experiences of those whose family remained together due to their father's exemption.

Dr Rebecca Ball

Saturday 24th June after a gap of several years Worksop Royal British Legion held their Armed Forces Day at Shireoaks Sports and Social Club. There was to be a flypast by a Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Spitfire but this was cancelled as the BBMF had identified a potential problem with Merlin engines and grounded all planes powered by this unit as a precaution. Chesterfield WFA was in attendance with a display of models, medals and other artifacts...thanks to Jane Lovatt who took charge of the stand.

Although we are just past the half way stage of 2023. I am already `taking bookings` for speakers for next year, indeed Jane and I spoke to a chap at the Armed Forces Day who has travelled the full length of the Western Front...viewing it from a different perspective ..aerial views photographed from a drone. Different?...yes...but that`s what we need to maintain interest.

Last Saturday, July 1st was, of course the 107th anniversary of the First Day of the Somme. When you think of it...over 19000 killed on that day alone. Even looked at from over 100 years it`s a horrendous figure with so many towns and villages the length and breadth of the land being affected by these losses.
Best wishes,

Grant Cullen Branch Secretary

07824628638

grantcullen@hotmail.com

June Meeting

We were back in our regular meeting room after being temporarily displaced to the bar area for our May meeting during the run up to the local elections.

Branch chair (and WFA national Chair) Tony Bolton welcomed another good attendance. It was good to see Arthur Lacy and Tim Whitworth back among us, the latter having unwell for a spell.



Tony then introduced our speaker for the evening, Tim Lynch, a Branch member and well known battlefield guide and author. The title of Tim`s talk “Stepbrothers in Arms: the Conscript Experience in 1918” would examine the myths and realities of the army of 1918 and what the evidence actually tells us about ideas of cohesion, morale and professionalism in the BEF.

Tim opened by saying that he always introduces his talks with the word `HISTORY` or hiSTORY...as it is a `story` that we tell. In these days of culture wars history is bigger than ever..the story of the past is used to reinforce what we do today. Whoever controls the past controls the future...whoever controls the present controls the past. It is important when we start to think about the story of the First World War....



`Pip, Squeak and Wilfred` ...issued to men who had been in service on 31st December 1915.

Those arriving on January 1st 1916 only got these two...



So what was so important in 1915 that it warranted an extra medal? What happened that the battles of The Somme, Passchendaele, Kaiserschlacht, the 100 Days ...the defeat of the German army...all these took place after 31st December 1915.

What was different about 1916.....conscriptioin was introduced....those who received the 1914-15 star used it as a badge of recognition that they had been volunteers and not conscripts.

Some of those who arrived in theatre too late, subsequently bought the medal for the same reason. This really important distinction was made between the volunteer and the conscript.

This distinction became an essential part of the story of the First World War.

If you look at any history of the war you will read more about the conscientious objectors - The Conchies - than you will about the Conscripts who actually joined willingly, in fact until relatively recently more had been written about General Seely's horse than about half the men who served on the Western Front.

Just as a little aside, as time changes, history changes....has your opinion on Conscientious Objectors changed post covid...anti maskers and anti vaxxers...would have been classed as `Conchies`. Some of the many Conscientious Objectors were very principled men and really felt that they could not fight while some just did not want to do what everyone was telling them to do.

Conscription is only seen as objections to it - but most men did not object to it...but as Richard Holmes said there was at least four armies in the British Army...Old , New, Borrowed , Blue and by the end of the war every man pretty much knew what `tribe` he was in. There was the `Old` pre-war army...the `New` army - the Kitchener volunteers...we have the Territorial force `Borrowed` from Home Defence...and look at the language.. `Blue` - not a term you use when somebody is happy.

So how does that fit with the concept that conscripts are inferior soldiers, yet elite soldiers were conscripts? At a servicemen may have known what `tribe` he belonged to outside they were often discriminated against in, for example membership of Old Comrades Associations...many of whom said membership open to all who served...*conscripts excepted*...

The idea that they were all in it together....clearly they weren't...there was a perception that conscripts had sought to evade military service.

There was a lot of debate about medals, conscripts....but how could a guy who turned 18 in 1918...have volunteered in 1915! Around five million men served in the forces in WW1 - about half of them were conscripts.

After introduction of the Military Services Acts, the government became more critical of those granted exemptions or those who had failed entry medicals...again, they would not volunteer...they avoided service...they shirked. In other words in British military history conscripts were considered to be inferior soldiers...this despite the fact that in the past British armies had been bested by conscript armies of their enemies.

There is a paradox as well, as historians will say, not that conscripts were inferior soldiers, but that they were brilliant soldiers. In April 1939 conscription was introduced having those called up to undergo 6 months military training, but in October 1939 full conscription was introduced so, the elite troops got into the army by conscription.

Tim went on to say that, at the very heart of what he was talking about, where did this idea that conscripts were inferior soldiers - where did it come from and why does it persist?...and is it true.

Tim then put up a picture of his great uncle, Harold Wiseman, who was called up in 1917

So what made him..in the eyes of many...a shirker..a reluctant soldier...as, by the time he got to the war zone...we hear this from a Colonel Green..

“...by the second half of 1918 there was a falling off in quality of divisions in France whether regular, territorial or Kitchener...too many young, unfit or with inadequate training...which meant that HQ had to lean heavily on those Divisions which had retained their quality...The Guards, the 4th, the 18th, the 51st plus the Australians, New Zealanders, Canadians and South Africans”

That was said by a guy who was there...knows his stuff...doesn't he...?

So where do those Divisions get their quality troops..whilst the rest don't?

Were the Australians really as goods made out?...at least 33 British divisions were used...and often with better results. The Canadians...yes..very good....but certainly in the original contingent, in some cases up to 100% of them were British born. Similarly with the Australians, many of them were British born. So why were British men in Canadian or Australian uniform considered better than British men in the British army. By this point the South Africans are a composite brigade being attached to the British 66th...diluted (by all accounts) with the unfit and those who lacked training. Where is that coming from?

The things that we get -about the Australians - they all came from the bush - farmers and stockmen - roughly-toughy soldiers - but they weren't - there were hairdressers, bankers, shop assistants, fruit growers etc - `cos you know what...Australia had the same sorts of businesses that Britain had. The Australian historian, Charles Bean created the myth of `anzacary` ...that they were all fantastic soldiers....but the British cant start slagging off the Australians and the Canadians they might pack up and go home...so they get `bigged up` way beyond what they are actually doing.

By 1917 the Regimental system had broken down and recruits could come from any part of EnglandBrummies to the Black Watch...Jocks in the Kensingtons...Irishmen everywhere...even the Connaught Rangers had a French speaking company. Is that a result of the war or is that something that had been happening all the way through?

For example the Cameronians were `obliged` to take conscripts from outwith their traditional areas..again that word..`obliged`but...if you were from Edinburgh or Glasgow you could not be compelled to serve in an English regiment....you were called up to serve in a Scottish regiment....unless you consented otherwise.

Let us think about what is being said there..the Cameronians - 1914 55 casualties 15 of them from Scotland...1918 68 casualties - 53 from Scotland...does that sound like dilution of the Regiment?...or is it making a Scottish Regiment `Scottish`and yet the regimental system is breaking down?

Tim said we need to consider what the regimental system actually is as it is quite confusing...what do they mean when they talk about a regimental `system`? We are talking about units created just over 30 years before, 1881, when they amalgamated the existing battalions into two battalion regiments. Back in the 18th century there was two battalions both commanded by Colonels named Howard so to distinguish between them they used the colours of the facings on their uniforms...the Buff Howards...the `Buffs` and the Green Howards...that `s how they got their names.

The idea was to bring battalions together into an administrative grouping or regiment. So, 1881, amalgamations begin...sometimes making sense but occasionally giving rise to confusion. The 2nd Warwickshire or 24th Foot...these are the guys you see in `Zulu`...they are all Welsh and became the South Wales Borderers. There are many such examples...The Lincolns became the Royal North Lancs and an Irish regiment became the Royal West Kent. It was not unusual for battalions of the same regiment never to meet...

The regulars hated the Territorials feeling that they were the top dogs and everyone else was rubbish but the regular army has always been a mix...a mix exacerbated by dilution...it never was a local regiment with local men only. But in the case of the territorials they were...part time and therefore from the local area. The territorials were upwardly mobile - their way of moving on - they were referred to as artisan companies...upwardly mobile working class guys and middle class guys looking for connections. It was not unknown for Territorial Yeomanry to hire servants when they went to camp and in some cases it was quite an expensive hobby - to be a volunteer in the 1870s was £50 - quite a sum for ordinary trades men, shopkeepers etc earning average wages of the time - about £150 per year. It was not something you took up lightly taking up one third of your income...what it does though is exclude riff-raff!. It also created some of the best clubs in London. In Oldham, hardly the most fashionable of places, there was a waiting list to join...it cost a guinea a year subscription and you had to purchase your own uniform, this was at a time when the poverty level income for an entire family was about a pound a week. Some regiments continued to charge subscriptions even when they went to France .

Tim showed that even at battalion level in the Territorials, it wasn` t exclusively local. So, we have the regular army with men coming from pretty much all over the place.

The years leading up to the First World War had been marked by the `Great Unrest` strikes, protests which led to the military being involved with protestors often being held back at bayonet point...which resulted in a campaign against joining up - don` t take the King` s Shilling until you know that you will not be called upon to shoot your fellow working men.

In 1913 there is very much a thought that the Territorials are very much the `Boss` class - upwardly mobile middle class folks...but there was still at the back of the mind this thought that they may be called out to put down strikes. So it took a lot to move from that attitude in 1913 to the mobbing of recruitment centres in 1914 - why - an existential threat to Britain from outside.

There are two phrases - Hunger Conscription or Economic Conscription - and many of the men who joined the Army did so because they had no job and that actually continued well into 1914 - many of the first 100,000 who joined up did so because they were unemployed. Many Parish Councils cut charitable donations and told them - no more - you have to join up. There is at least one story of a land owner turfing off tenant farmers who had refused to join up. Many joined up, not because they wanted to fight for their country - because of the opportunity to work and earn money.

In Leeds and West Yorkshire a quarter of men who came forward to enlist were rejected outright as not making the minimum standards for Height, weight and chest size - another 20% were considered as `special` ...in other words they *could* be brought to minimum standards of size and weight with food and exercise. Over 40% had deformed limbs brought about by disease and malnutrition.

Social Darwinism was all the rage in the early 1900s....of those who did join up as volunteers in 1914...look at the pictures...many wear boaters...middle class...not working class who were often stunted by poor diet and illness. Even so many didn't want to join up because they only wanted to serve with those of their own social standing and there was criticism of the recruiting offices for passing men of lower class - undesirables - as this was putting off those in the salaried or professional classes from enlisting.

What we are now seeing is that only the `right sort` should be allowed to join.

When you get this `theme` that a battalion had lost its character...questions were even asked as to what the father of a recruit was employed as...some were rejected upon answering that question...businessmen only.

Tim then put up a map showing where the Leeds Pals recruited...71 from what was middle class urban streets - none from working class districts.

One surprising statistic regarding the Leeds Pals or the Hull Commercials was their losses - half occurred before they were deployed to France so there had to be changes, there was no way they could carry on recruiting the way they had.

In concluding Tim went back to the start of his talk whereby he explained that only those recruited on or before 31st December 1915 were entitled to the 1915 star - but what about the example of a soldier who, lying about his age joined up in 1914 or 1915 and who was subsequently sent home when this was found out. When he became of age for overseas service - say in 1918 - he was conscripted..are you saying that this chap was a shirker who didn't want to fight...a fact that gives a lie to the claim that all those who were conscripted had to be compelled to go....and yet this discrimination persisted, as Tim had explained..well into the post war era with the ban on conscripts in many regimental associations.

The talk over we then had our customary Q & A session, or more correctly a good going discussion. The knowledge of our members and attendees never ceases to amaze me, certainly keeps our speakers on their toes, Tim being no exception, fielding the questions and building upon these to further the discussion.

The evening drew to a close with Branch Chair Tony Bolton thanking Tim for his excellent talk, to which all attending responded appropriately.



BRANDED GOODS AVAILABILITY

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Prices are inclusive of postage within UK (Branded Items Nos 1-11)

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/
or ring (0800 169 2228 or 01704 873301)



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|----|-------------------|----------|--|
| 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 |

Recovering Gallipoli's Missing Soldiers



In November 1918, Lieutenant Cyril Hughes and his graves registration section landed on Gallipoli on a bleak day that winter storms punished the rugged terrain. Hughes was confronted with a landscape of broken trenches, and rusted barbed wire. He could see the bones of hastily buried soldiers from a mile away as broad white streaks down the ravines.

Hughes' section joined the British Graves Registration Unit, which would find, identify, record, and temporarily protect every British and dominion grave, and bury any unburied dead.

Hughes had a strong connection to Gallipoli, landing there in May 1915. He was twice wounded before being evacuated. Hughes regretted abandoning his comrades' graves: 'In 1915 we did not quite finish our job,' he explained, 'but, by Heaven, we would see it out this time.'

An immense task confronted Hughes' section. Of 12,000 Allied soldiers who had died in the Anzac sector, nearly 6,000 were unburied, their remains scattered about the ridges.

Hughes' task of tracing and interring the unburied proved challenging. Winter rains had washed away burial sites, with remains swept down crevices; dense scrub and wild flowers obscured skeletons; and wild dogs had preyed upon bodies and scattered their bones.

This picture illustrates the section's work, with remains of Anzac soldiers killed at Chunuk Bair having been collected and prepared for burial. Very few could be identified.

Hughes established his headquarters at Kilia Liman, where he displayed a Union Jack and two Australian flags. As a reminder of home, he planted gums trees, nursing them through the extreme seasons.

Hughes recorded a lone Australian father arriving at his camp to search for his missing son. He spent a few days 'looking for his son's grave'. Realising that his search was hopeless, he 'pushed off to Italy'.

In September 1919, Hughes was appointed Inspector of Works, and assumed responsibility for executing the Imperial War Graves Commission's charter across all of Gallipoli. By 1925, Hughes's party had practically finished the reburials, and all its cemetery construction work on Gallipoli.



Shell Green Cemetery - September 2017



Anna Coleman Ladd is a "distinctive stranger", nowadays few people remember her but she took part in "repairing" many broken faces of WWI soldiers disfigured by their wounds.

Anna Coleman Watts born on July 15, 1878 in Philadelphia, USA.

In 1905, at the age of 26, she married a doctor, Maynard Ladd with whom she would have a daughter Gabriella May, and they settled in Boston.

The young bride continued her studies with sculptor Bela Patt, who made decorative fountains, nymphs, leprechauns, mythological creatures, busts... One of his works "Triton babies" is exhibited at the San Francisco International Exhibition in 1915.

At the same time, she wrote two novels and two plays.

It's in Boston where she hears of a certain Francis Derwent Wood, located in London, who helps soldiers disfigured by the war by making masks for them.

In December 1917, Anna joined her husband, a member of the Red Cross, who had been sent to France a few months earlier. In Paris, and in collaboration with the American Red Cross, she creates her own studio on the same model as the one from the "Tin Noses Shop". She opened her studio in January 1918.



To achieve successful results, Anna studied photographs of the soldiers before their mutilation. She paints the masks directly onto the soldier's face in order to find the most faithful carnage possible.

Each mask is different and unique to meet the specific needs of each injured, for some it's missing half of the face, for others it's missing an eye or nose.

But Anna doesn't just give them a face, she also gets to know them over a cup of tea or coffee, she wants to know their habits, their family. She offers them a welcoming and warm setting and meets them in a flowery studio decorated with American and French flags, but there was no mirror. Thanks to the photographs and the moments spent with them, she chooses the expression that suits them best, this is all the more important that it is the one that will last forever.



In order to make the mask, Anna made a face plaster mold and, thanks to the photographs, she molds the mask to get the same features as in the photos.

This only covers the damaged part of the face, it is fixed by glasses, ribbons or threads.



Thanks to Anne Coleman Ladd many broken soldiers were finally stepping out of their homes again without suffering from the gaze of others. Upon returning from war, they were far from being treated as heroes, they were traumatized, rejected and suffered physical and psychological consequences. Women were unable to kiss their husbands, children scared by this unrecognizable father. Some who couldn't find their

family after the war for fear of disgusting or frightening them, finally dared to come home. Even the authorities asked them not to expose their wounds so as not to demoralize the country; told them they are monstrous, deformed, vile...

In one of her reports, dating back to 1919, Anna explains that a man, injured two years before, had never returned home for fear that his mother would see how poorly he was, he had only one eye left. He came to see Anna after fifty operations. She adds that people are used to seeing men with missing legs or arms but they are not used to an abnormal face, so it allows you to get an idea of a person's emotions, honesty and intentions.



Some wrote to her that they can "live again", one of them wrote that he will now be able to marry the woman he loves. The Studio closed in 1919, lack of sufficient grants. Anna, assisted by four assistants, created nearly two hundred masks.

Anne Coleman Ladd didn't just give back the "brave faceless ones" (brave faceless) as she calls them, a face but she gave them back dignity and a social life, lost in the atrocities of war, to a time when plastic surgery and repairs were only in their beginnings. In 1932, she received the Legion of Honor for her efforts.

The **Dardanelles Commission** was an investigation into the 1915 Dardanelles Campaign. It was set up under the Special Commissions (Dardanelles and Mesopotamia) Act 1916. The final report of the commission, issued in 1919, found major problems with the planning and execution of the campaign.

The following were appointed:

- Earl of Cromer (initial chairman, died 29 January 1917)
- Sir William Pickford, chairman
- Andrew Fisher, former Prime Minister of Australia
- Thomas Mackenzie, former Prime Minister of New Zealand
- Sir Frederick Cawley, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
- Lord Clyde, Privy Counsellor
- Stephen Gwynn, MP for Galway
- Walter Roch, MP for Pembrokeshire
- Admiral of the Fleet Sir William May
- Field Marshal The Lord Nicholson

The First Report of the Dardanelles Commission (Cmd 8490 1917)

Extracted from the inquiry into the origin, inception and conduct of operations of war in the Dardanelles and Gallipoli from 4th August 1914 (outbreak of war with Germany) to 23rd March 1915 (when idea of a naval attack was abandoned.)

List of witnesses examined

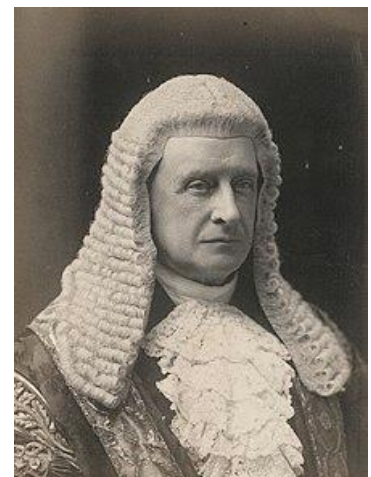
Date of Examination	Name	Functions in the autumn of 1914 and the spring of 1915
Sept 19 th 1916	Lt.Col Sir Maurice Hankey	Secretary to the War Council
Sept 27 th 1916	ditto	ditto
Sept 27 th 1916	Viscount Gray of Fallodon	Foreign Secretary
Sept 28 th 1916	Winston S Churchill	First Lord of The Admiralty
Oct 4 th 1916	ditto	ditto
Oct 24 th 1916	ditto	ditto

Oct 25 th 1916	ditto	ditto
Oct 26 th 1916	ditto	ditto
Oct 5 th 1916	Commodore de Bartolomeo	Naval Secretary to The First Lord of the Admiralty
Oct 5 th 1916	Vice Admiral Sir Henry Oliver	Chief of the War Staff
Oct 25 th 1916	ditto	ditto
Oct 5 th 1916	Admiral of The Fleet Sir Arthur Wilson	Member War Staff Group
Oct 6 th 1916	Admiral Sir Henry Jackson	Member War Staff Group
Oct 6 th 1916	Vice Admiral Sir Sackville Carden	Commander Mediterranean Fleet up to March 17 th
Oct 10 th 1916	Lt. General Sir James Murray	Chief of the Imperial General Staff
Oct 10 th 1916	Vice Admiral Sir John de Robeck	In Command of the Mediterranean Fleet from March 17 th
Oct 10 th 1916	Rear Admiral E Tudor	Third Sea Lord of the Admiralty
Oct 10 th 1916	Commodore Cecil Lambert	Fourth Sea Lord of the Admiralty
Oct 13 th 1916	ditto	ditto
Oct 10 th 1916	Sir Grahame Greene	Secretary to The Admiralty
Oct 24 th 1916	ditto	ditto
Oct 11 th 1916	Lord Fisher of Kilverstone	First Sea Lord of The Admiralty
Oct 12 th 1916	Maj-General E Hickman	Commander Plymouth Garrison

Oct 12 th 1916	Maj-General C Callwell	Director of Military Operations
Oct 12 th 1916	Brig-General Sir George Aston	Employed at Admiralty up to end of August 1914
Oct 12 th 1916	Admiral Sir E. Hamilton	Second Sea Lord of The Admiralty
Oct 13 th 1916	Rear Admiral Morgan Singer	Director of Naval Ordnance at The Admiralty
Oct 12 th 1916	Sir Reginal Brade	Permanent Under Secretary at the War Office
Oct 13 th 1916	Rt. Hon AJ Balfour	War Council
Oct 13 th 1916	General Sir Ian Hamilton	Commander Dardanelles from March 13th
Oct 18 th 1916	Rear Admiral Thomas Jackson	Director of the Operations Division of the Admiralty War Staff
Oct 18 th 1916	Viscount Haldane	Lord Chancellor
Oct 18 th 1916	Field Marshall Viscount French	Commander of the BEF in France
Oct 24 th 1916	Captain Hall RN	Director of the Intelligence Division of The Admiralty
Oct 24 th 1916	Vice Admiral Sir Reginal Bacon	Commander Dover Patrol
Oct 26 th 1916	The Marquis of Crewe	Secretary of State for India
Oct 30 th 1916	Rt. Hon. David Lloyd George	Chancellor of the Exchequer

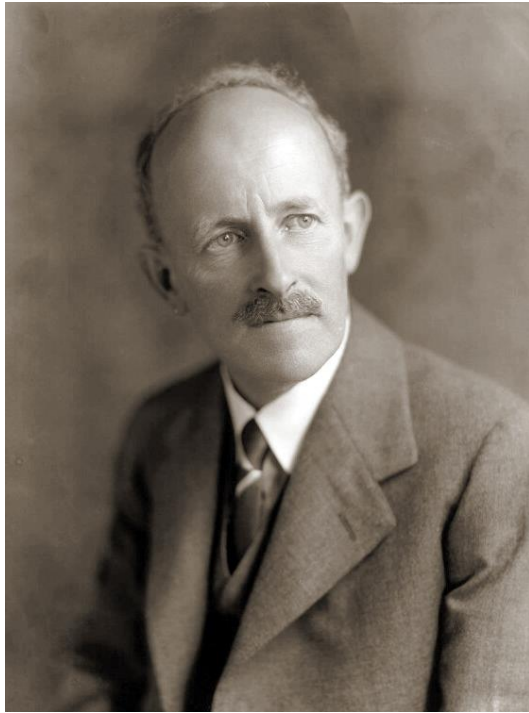
Oct 31 st 1916	Commander Hubbard	Retired RNR, formerly in Turkish Service
Oct 31 st 1916	Rt. Hon H. Asquith	Prime Minister
Nov 8 th 1916	Rt. Hon Reginald McKenna	Secretary of State Home Office
Dec. 1 st 1916	Sir George Arthur	Private Secretary to Lord Kitchener
Dec 4 th 1916	Maj. General Sir Stanley Von Donop	Master General of the Ordnance
Dec 4 th 1916	H J Creedy	Private Secretary to Lord Kitchener

Note. It will be observed that, with the exception of Commander Hubbard, who, after retiring from the Royal Naval Reserve, was employed as a captain in the Turkish Navy, all the witnesses who have appeared before us occupy, or have occupied, official positions. It is indeed obvious that none but officials could throw any light upon the special subject which has up to the present, engaged our attention.

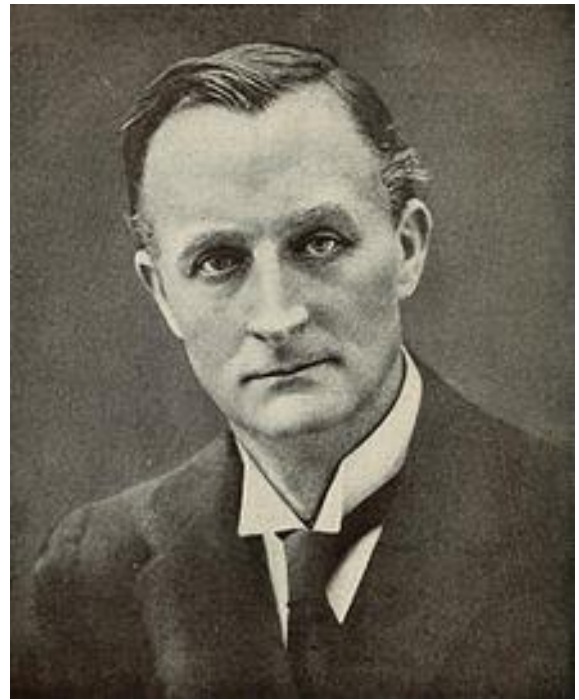


Right -First Chairman of the Commission, Evelyn Baring, First Earl of Cromer, Died January 1917. Left Sir William Pickford. Chairman of the Commission

Dramatis Personae



Sir Maurice Hankey



Sir Edward Gray



Winston Churchill



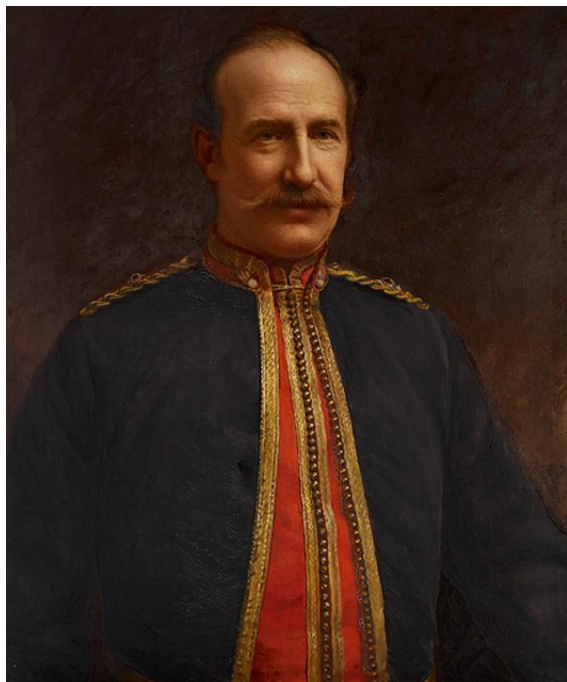
Sir Henry Oliver



Sir Arthur Wilson



Sir Sackville Carden



Sir James Wolfe Murray



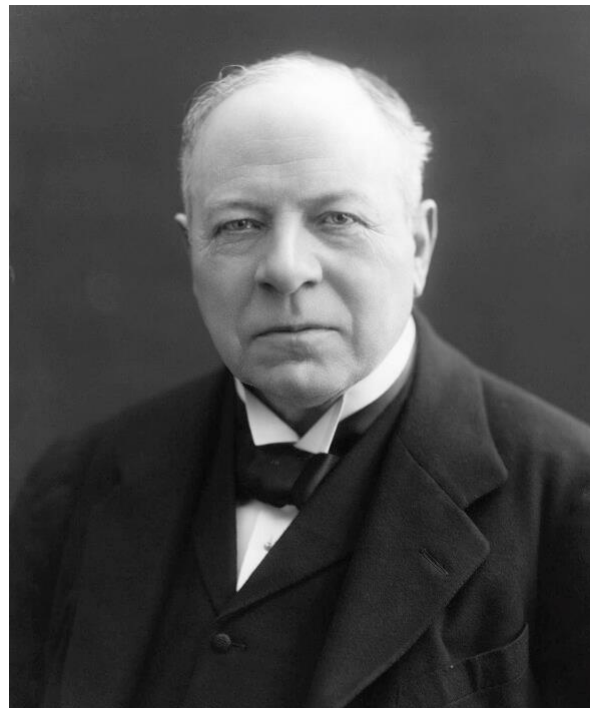
Fisher of Kilverstone
Sir John de Robeck



Lord



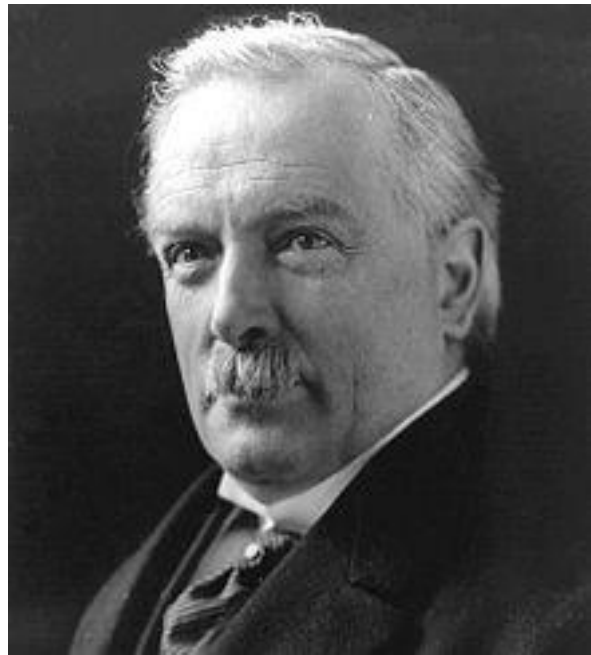
Viscount Haldane



Sir Ian Hamilton



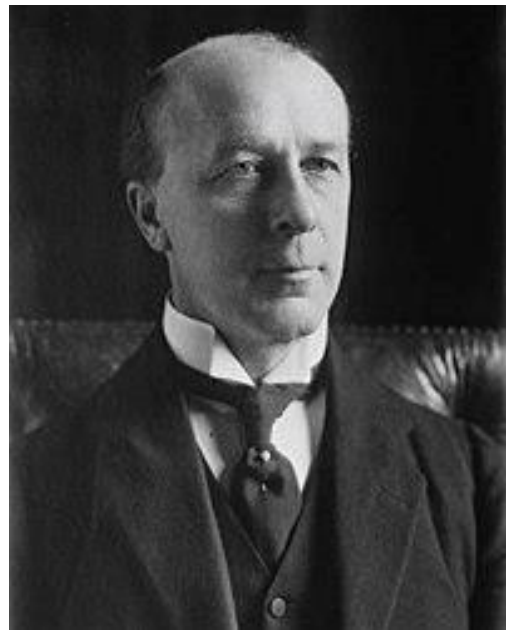
Field Marshall Sir John French



David Lloyd George



Rt. Hon H H Asquith



Sir Reginald McKenna

Introductory Notes

In the first place it has to be remembered that the events which we will have to narrate happened in the last five months of 1914 or the first three months of 1915; that, at a time a very heavy strain of work was thrown on all the departments of the Government which were concerned; that in respect to many points of considerable importance the various witnesses called have had, in the absence of complete written records, to speak from memory of what actually occurred and that the constant strain of work resulting from subsequent events of equal or perhaps of even greater importance may possibly, in view of the period which has elapsed, have, to some extent obscured their recollection of all the circumstances. It can therefore be no matter for surprise that the evidence given as to the views expressed at the time by some of the leading officials should be in certain cases, conflicting.

We have of course attached special importance to opinions which were unquestionable expressed during the period when desirability or otherwise of making an attack on the Dardanelles was under consideration. Without casting any sort of imputation on the good faith of the witnesses themselves, it is conceivable that, in giving to the Commission an account of the past they may have been to some extent unconsciously influenced by their knowledge of subsequent events.

In the second place, we have to remark that the premature and deeply regretted death of Lord Kitchener naturally renders it impossible for us to state, with the same confidence as that which obtains in the case of the living witnesses, whether we have faithfully represented the opinions he entertained and the aims which he had in view at different periods of the proceedings. The difficulty is enhanced owing to the strong opinion which Lord Kitchener entertained as to the absolute necessity of maintaining the strictest secrecy in respect to all matters connected with military operations. Sir Maurice Hankey, indeed, stated that some difficulties at times arose owing to Lord Kitchener's unwillingness to impart full information even to members of the War Council. We have however, done all that is possible to ascertain both his views and intentions by closely examining such contemporaneous records as exist and by enquiry from those who were associated with him during his lifetime. It is, in this connection, singularly unfortunate that that gallant officer, Colonel Fitzgerald, who was Lord Kitchener's personal military secretary and who was probably better acquainted with his opinions than any other individual, shared the fate of his distinguished chief.

We have not thought that we should be justified in deference to the consideration which is rightly shown to the memory of the illustrious dead in abstaining from a complete revelation of the actions which Lord Kitchener took during the various phases of the events under consideration, nor have we hesitated to express our views on that action. It is necessary to do justice to the living as well as to the dead.

Moreover, it must be steadfastly borne in mind, at the time when the attack on the Dardanelles was under consideration, Lord Kitchener occupied a position such as probably never been held by any previous Secretary of State for War. The

circumstances of the case cannot be understood unless the nature of his position is fully realised. In this connection, we may quote the following passage from the evidence given by Mr Winston Churchill

“Lord Kitchener`s personal qualities and position played at this time a very great part in the decision of events. His prestige and authority was immense. He was the sole mouthpiece of the War Office opinion in the War Council. Everyone had the greatest admiration for his character, and everyone felt fortified, amid the terrible and incalculable events of the opening months of the war, by his commanding presence. When he gave a decision it was invariably accepted as final. He was never, to my belief, overruled by the War Council or the Cabinet in any military matter, great or small. No single unit was ever sent or withheld, contrary, not merely to his agreement, but to his advice. Scarcely anyone ever ventured to argue with him in Council or at the War Office. Respect for the man, sympathy for him in the immense labours, confidence in his professional judgement, and the belief that he had plans deeper and wider than any we could see, silenced misgivings and disputes, whether in the Council, or at the War Office. All powerful, imperturbable, reserved, he dominated our counsels at that time. If the course of my observations and the documents it is my duty to lay before you appear to constitute any reflection upon his military policy, I wish here to testify to the overwhelming weight of the burdens laid upon him, to his exemplary courage and patience in all the difficulties and perplexities through which we were passing and to his unvarying kindness to me “

Although we have thought, however, that we should be failing in our duty if we did not deal with fully with the part played by Lord Kitchener in these transactions, we would ask those who may read this report to remember, in justice to his memory, that it has not been possible to check his recorded opinions in the light of subsequent explanations , and, secondly, that, if, in the eyes of any critics, he may, under circumstances of very great difficulty be held to have committed some errors of judgement, the fact cannot in any way obscure the very distinguished services which he rendered to his country in other directions.

To be continued