

Branch Newsletter – October 2023

Next Meeting:

Will be on Saturday 14th October at St Peter's Collegiate School, Compton Park, Compton Rd. West, Wolverhampton WV3 9DU. 2.00pm for a 2.30 kick-off.

Our speaker today is our old friend Phil Tomaselli: "*Strange Tales of the Great War. Several Vignettes of WW1 Research*".

A collection of unusual stories uncovered by Phil during his many years of research relating to the Great War.



-----oOo-----

2023 Branch Tour – our worthy Secretary, Bill Pinfold reports:

“In early September, 30 Branch members and friends set off for 3 days of touring the Battlefields of the Western Front. We were based in the Mercure Hotel in the centre of Arras which gave good access to our visits to sites in the Somme, around Amiens and Bullecourt. 15 cemeteries and battlefield sites were visited as well as the CWGC Visitors Centre in Arras and the museum in Bullecourt. 23 talks were given by 9 different members ranging from personal histories to major battles. Our regular speakers were joined by first timers Pete Langford and Bob Thompson who made excellent debuts.

Temperatures were over 30 degrees every day so shade was found at every opportunity for the talks and the normal browsing of the headstones was less than usual as people were eager to return to the air-conditioned coach. The hotel did a very good trade in cold beer on our return.

A very good trip with exceptional weather, lots of interesting talks and visits and good companionship over the evening meals.

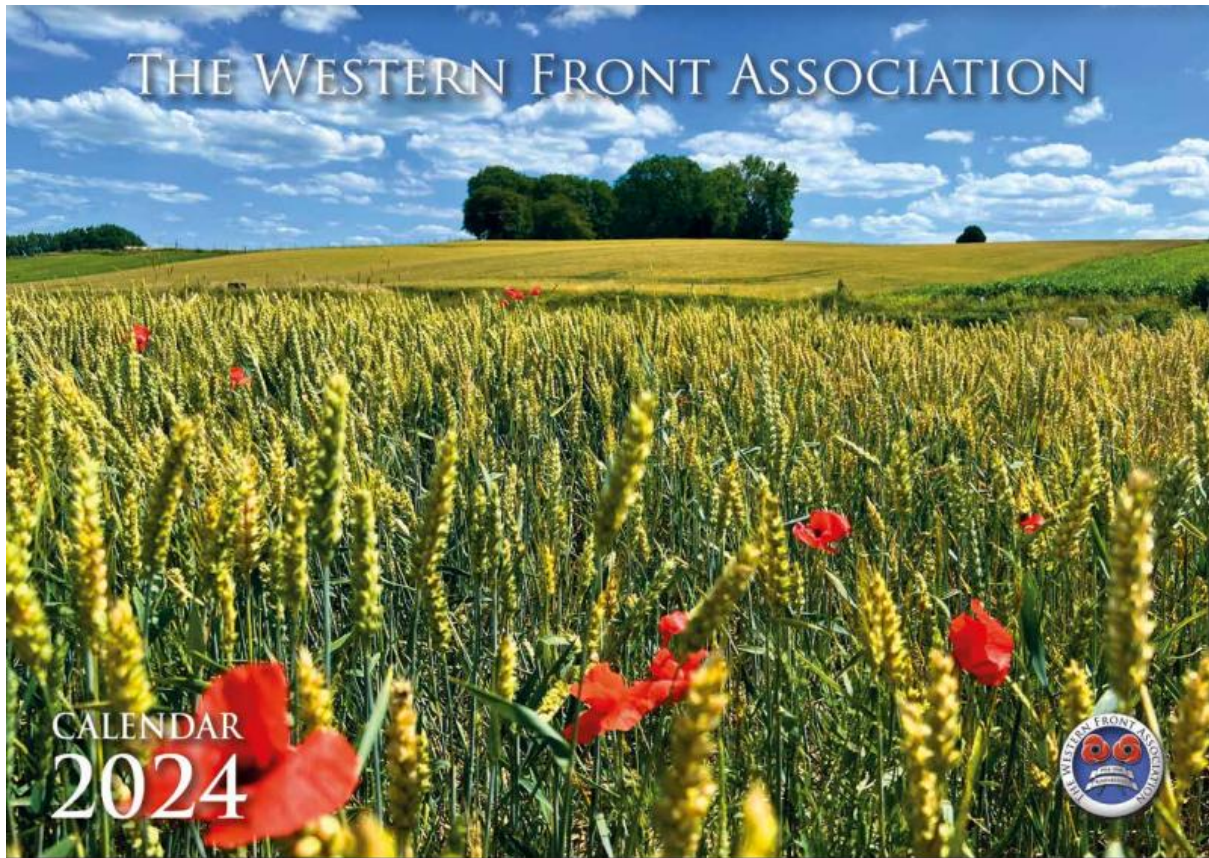
Thanks must go to Andy and Chris for their excellent planning and organisation and Dunwood’s driver, Rob for his driving skills and cheerful disposition. The good news is that planning for 2024 has already started.

*Bill Pinfold
September 2023”*



(Thanks to John White for the photo)

2024 WFA Calendar



The proof copy of next year's calendar has been sent to Chairman Alan. Once again our very own John White has 3 of his photographs included. We all send our congratulations to John and Mandy.

John Scott treats us to another story of one of the men of Kinver in the Great War:

HENRY WALTON

The Kinver Historical Society produced a booklet "Kinver's Own Heroes" in 2005. In it was a mention of Harry Walton who the family believed was in the Worcestershire Regiment, gassed in Mesopotamia and died about six months after he left the army. When I tried to find out more I could find nothing. In stepped the eponymous Andy Johnson who found out much. I have now found out more thanks to the information he gave me.

Henry Walton was the son of William and Sophia. He had an older brother John and a younger brother Thomas. They lived at 49, High Street Kinver. On the 1891 census Henry and John are listed as spade makers while Thomas is still at school. William is listed as Forge-

man Ironworks so they may have worked at the Spade works and the ironworks in the Hyde. On the 28th July 1893 Henry joined the army at Worcester stating that he was a Farm Worker. He was 18 years and 1 month old and was 5 foot 7 inches high. He weighed 125 pounds (8st 12lb) and his chest measured 34" and 36" fully expanded. He had a fair complexion, blue eyes and light brown hair. He became 3746 private Henry Walton of the Worcestershire Regiment.

He remained at the barracks from enlistment up to 13th November 1895 when he was posted to Malta until the 2nd October. He was then posted to Bermuda till 16th December. Then he was posted to South Africa where he took part in the 2nd Boer War so received the Queens South Africa Medal. On the 18th November 1900 he returned home until 17th February 1902 when he was again posted to Bermuda where he remained until the 30th November. He then came back home until 31st march 1903 when he was transferred to the Army reserve. He was discharged on the expiration of his terms of engagement on 27th July 1905. When the Great War started he again enlisted this time in Hereford on 10th August 1914 this time stating that he was unemployed. He was 38 years old 5 foot 8 ½ inches tall his chest measured 35 ½ inches and 2 ½ inches expansion. This time his Regimental number was 1763 in the 1/1st Hereford Regiment. This was a Territorial regiment and later all Territorial regiments were re-numbered so his number became 235427.

On the 8th August 1915 he was posted to Gallipoli but was transferred to Malta with Frostbite probably in November. He rejoined the unit in Egypt and was wounded (gunshot wound left leg) in March 1917 in the Battle of Gaza and was hospitalized in Alexandria. In June 1918 they were moved via Italy to the Western Front.

He was diagnosed with Bronchitis in July 1918. On 31st October 1918 Henry was discharged as no longer being physically fit for War service K R Para 392 xvi and was issued with a Silver War Badge. He was also issued with the 14-15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory medal. All were returned. On 29th November 1918, less that a month after being discharged, Henry Died of Tuberculosis in Moxley Sanatorium. He was buried on the 10th December 1918 and rests in unmarked grave number 2532 in Bilston Cemetery.

After standing tall twice for our country he is not commemorated any where. I believe that either he was miss diagnosed with Bronchitis or this made his Tuberculosis much worse. In either case he should be commemorated. I have forwarded all the details to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in the hope that he can be included on their Web Site and hopefully be given a headstone to rest under.

Henry never was gassed in Mesopotamia."
John Scott

Andy Johnson has been inspired and motivated:

Don't you just hate Nick Baker? Handsome, sophisticated, erudite, wealthy and writes such excellent articles. He puts us mere mortals in the shade. It's the sign of a good article when you don't just read it, but it takes you on a journey.

Nick's last article "Medals Pitched" about the sale of Tommy Wilson's medals from WW1 & Huddersfield Town's glory days had me wandering back to the 3 years I spent in Huddersfield (no, there isn't a jail in Huddersfield), and in particular a pub called "The Slubbers Arms". They have great names in Huddersfield – at various times I lived in Thunderbridge, and in Wasp Nest Road in Fartown.

Wilson wasn't the only Huddersfield player to also play a part in WW1, I would like to introduce two others – Larrett Roebuck and Fred Bullock.

Larrett Roebuck

Larrett's time with Huddersfield was short – only 19 matches all in 1914, but he has the distinction (!) of being the first professional football player to be killed in WW1.



Larrett was born in Barnsley in 1889 and after a month in jail in 1904 for stealing a watch, determined to change his ways and enlisted in the York & Lancaster (Y&L) Regiment. Had he told the truth about his age, he would have avoided incarceration, he was only 15 years old when locked up but said he was 17.

He also exaggerated his age when he enlisted in 1904, but served with the Y&L until 1912 when he and his wife and 4 children returned to South Yorkshire. His performance for a Colliery team led to him signing for the Terriers (Huddersfield!!). One of his 19 games was against Bradford Park Avenue who (normally, but not that day) included Donald Bell, who would win the V.C. in 1916.

As a reservist, Larrett was immediately re-called to the 2nd Y&L and was in France from 9th September 1914. His service lasted just 6 weeks. On 18th October he was

one of 31 men of the 2 Y&L killed in action near Beaucamps-Ligny, just to the east of Fromelles and Aubers Ridge.

In 2009 during some building work in Beaucamps, human remains were found. This resulted in 11 men of the 2Y&L men killed on 18th October being identified and re-buried in Y-Farm Cemetery, Bois Grenier. Larrett was not one of the 11 men identified, he is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial.

Fred Bullock.

From the days when footballers had real names! Fred Bullock played full-back for Huddersfield Town from 1910, when they first joined the Football League, until his retirement in 1921 – with a slight gap of 1915 to 1919. Fred enlisted with the 17th Middlesex (the Footballers Battalion) who had so many famous names from the Football League in

their ranks.



Fred was wounded in the shoulder in July/August 1916 near Delville Wood, as was Major Frank Buckley who later was associated with some minor football team in our locality.

He was wounded again in 1918, this time in the knee, but even before being de-mobbed he resumed his football career. He was to captain the Terriers in the FA Cup Final of 1920 where they were beaten 1-0 by Aston Villa.

On his retirement, Fred advertised his availability as a manager in the Daily Mail, but to no avail. So, like many footballers on their retirement, Fred became a publican.

In October 1922 he became licensee of "The Slubbers Arms" on the Bradford Road, Huddersfield – you can't quite imagine today's footballers following that path.

Just a month later, on 9th November, his wife found him unconscious having drunk from a beer-bottle which had contained ammonia for cleaning purposes. He died a week later from ammonia poisoning.

It was said that Fred had been suffering from "nervous troubles" since he had taken over the Slubbers Arms. The Coroner's Report said "suicide" but it could easily have been Fred accidentally mistaking the bottle's contents.

When I occasionally visited the Slubbers Arms as a student in the 1970s, little did I know of its past history.

You can see Fred in action in this short clip from the 1920 FA Cup Final – on 33 seconds he is clearing his lines, but sadly a few seconds later he misses a header which leads to the Villa goal.

<https://player.bfi.org.uk/free/film/watch-fa-challenge-cup-aston-villa-v-huddersfield-town-1920-online> Andy”

Did someone mention Nick Baker?

People with Silly Names.

By Nick Baker

'People with silly names' wrote a noted professor, 'deserve everything they get'. It is thus perhaps fortunate that X Æ A-Xii Musk will inherit enough wealth (and possibly a spaceship) in order to avoid hearing what Average Joe actually thinks of their ultra-modern moniker. Yet the present is not entirely to blame and, putting aside such reasonable given-name strings as the winning 1966 World Cup side (no substitutes or double-barreled footballers in those days thank goodness), history has given us some right-ones, from Abriel to Zynae.

The First World War proved no exception, and there have been a number of studies of contemporary children's names relating to generals, battles and theaters of war. I personally knew a William Dardanelles Martin, who the neighbour named on his mother's behalf (another story - but let's say mom wasn't pleased). Nevertheless, discussing unusual names with the same professor mentioned at the start of this article, it crossed my mind that an uninvestigated wartime name might be 'Victory' although initially I thought this name to be so unlikely as to be, well, unlikely. I was wrong, and the resulting investigation produced some surprising results.

First, Victory as a given name, whilst certainly unusual, was not entirely unknown well before the FWW. A quick glance at parish records on the 'Find My Past' web site show a (female) Victory Milles baptized in 1553 in Sussex. Using the 'Free BMD' web site, an excellent instrument (although sometimes a somewhat blunt one) for this sort of thing, the first occurrence post-civil registration (1837) is a child born in 1842 (Victory Louisa Harford, Birmingham of all places), and from then on a Victory is recorded every two to five years up to 1914. From additional more conventional given names we can see this includes both male and female children.

Ah ha! I hear you say, "But might these be transcription errors from Victor or Victoria". I thought this too and, well, they might indeed be, as the 'Free BMD' records are transcribed from lists themselves transcribed from original birth registrations. So, as a sample I took all the Victory's recorded before the First World War and looked up their origin documents (the birth register recording sheets). In the 30 examples were 4 errors (all Victors). At 13.3% this is high enough to cause concern. Thus, I did the rest (which a good statistician would have done in the first place) and similarly analysed all 154 Victory's between 1914 and 1950. Errors, zero. This equates to a total error rate of 2.2% - good enough. Of course, there may be other errors further back in the transcription trail, but they would be both expensive to investigate and possibly impossible to determine, so let's put that possibility to one side. Having established that errors are minimal the returns show a significant rise over the FWW period, quickly tailing off in the early 1920's. This demonstrates that 'Victory' as a given first name was indeed used during the wartime period and its immediate aftermath.

Working with this data I was able to determine that 124 children were first-named 'Victory' between 1914 and 1924. Some fascinating statistics emerged (more later), but first, having these names in front of me, I thought it would be interesting to cross reference them against some other on-line data sets. One of the most obvious was the British Army service records offered on the 'Ancestry' web site. What emerged generated more heat than light but certainly warmed my sense of humour. My thinking was that at least some of the Victory's

might appear as soldiers' dependents. What I wasn't expecting was so many, 30 in fact. However, on closer examination only 6 of these were genuine first-name Victory's. Another 6 were 'middle name' Victory's (which leads us down another rabbit hole – more later) and an astonishing 18 weren't children at all. Of these, 13 were apparently named Victory Medal, and the other 5, Victory Midal, Michal, Madal, Michael and, wait for it, Medical. It turns out various clerks, clearly preoccupied with other things or having just got back from the pub, had recorded the soldier's entitlement to a Victory Medal in the space reserved for offspring. The database thus includes these as children's names and then occasionally further mangles them to provide a good laugh. This, as anyone who has ever 'done computers' will know, is a perfect example of GIGO (Garbage In, Garbage Out). Meanwhile, those who worry AI (Artificial Intelligence) is about to take over the world should be very, very, afraid (who was it said AI is the ability to play chess whilst the building is on fire). Nevertheless, this little exercise afforded some positive output, proving that 'Victory' was also used as a subsidiary name. This makes a lot of sense. A bonkers middle name has always been more acceptable than a bonkers first name (indeed many individuals use subsidiary or modified names if their first name is unacceptable to them – I know I do). Nevertheless, even the few middle-names unearthed in the service records hint there are more FWW Victory's out there than the 124 I identified (hold that thought).

Perhaps a word of explanation here. The 'Free BMD' database is compiled from lists of births, marriages and deaths as supplied to the General Records Office. These changed in format over the years. Early lists are handwritten and might include middle names, later printed lists had only initials. Over time middle names, maiden names and (very usefully) age or dates of birth alongside deaths were included. It is possible to extract more detailed information using original General Record Office certificates, but this is costly and time-consuming. It's also possible to use other pay-to view databases (which I do – and see later), but as its users will know 'Free BMD' is comprehensive and simple to use. For further information contact Andy Johnson's 24-hour on-call genealogy service.

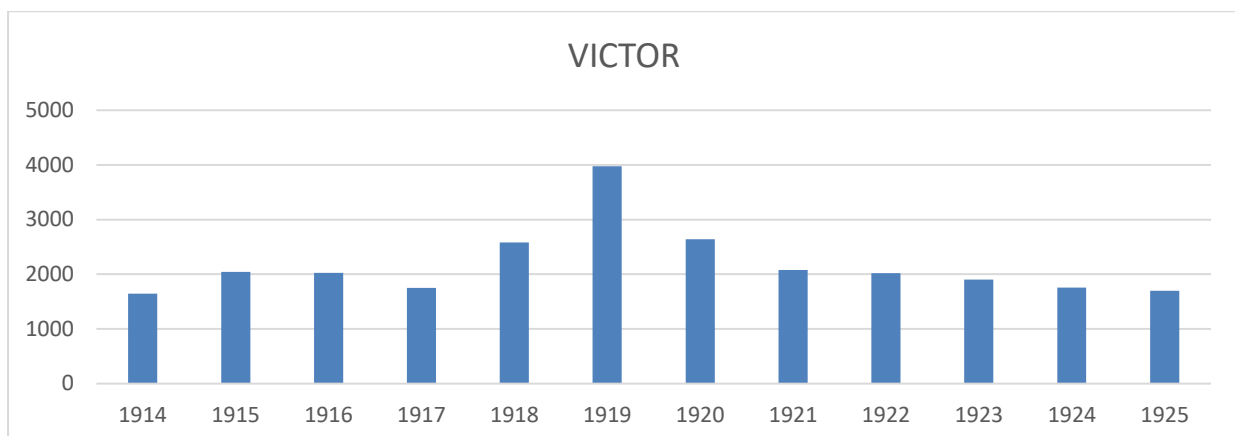
Another point worth considering here is sex. Of the children. From the few pre-war middle names we have, and the few picked up in service records, we can see Victory was used as both a male and female name (in the service records 3 male and 6 female). To explore this further I turned to death. Whilst females might change their surnames upon marriage few change (well perhaps a very few) their first names, so it follows that a search for Victory and death should bring up individuals from the point where 'Free BMD' starts including middle names again, with the massively useful addition of age then a date of birth. The results were, once again, surprising and revealing.

Firstly, the thing that 'jumped out' was just how many of the Victory children died in infancy. This, of course, should be no real surprise - any name would produce a similar result. But it's still shocking. Of the 124 born between 1914 and 1924, 21 died between those dates aged from 0 to 2. At 16.9% this is a considerably higher rate of attrition than service deaths (12.5%). OK, so there is more to this (and it's a well-researched subject) but being an infant in 1914-18 was certainly more dangerous to life than being at the front, a point to ponder. Moving on to the actual reason for looking at deaths, between 1970 to 1993 (when are able to see middle names, ages, and dates of birth) 24 individuals were returned born between 1914 and 1925 of which 7 can be identified as male, 7 as female and 10 unknowns. Although a fairly small sample, I see no reason why we can't use this to reasonably infer (alongside the 3:6 ratio in service records) that the name Victory was divided across the sexes. For those uber-genealogists wondering why I didn't check Free BMD marriage records against the

unknowns, I did, and the results were so confusing I gave up (anyone who is particularly annoyed with me is free to pick up on this). As an interesting aside, 3 of these individuals were actually born on the 11th of November 1918. True 'Victory Babies'.

Another useful data source is the recently released 1921 census. This should, in theory, list all the Victory's (including middle name ones) who were born before the census was taken on 19 June 1921 and who hadn't died or left the country (as in England and Wales). So, although inevitably missing some individuals born before 1921 and including non after 19 June that year, it was certainly worth a look. Now, working on the basis of about 120 Victory's born between 1914 and 1921, minus about 20 deaths, this should work out at about 100 individuals. The number returned was 71. This is a little 'light' but given the difficulties of working across such large and in many ways flakey data sets I felt it was a large enough to draw some conclusions (well...there was no choice). The extract also returned 121 middle-name Victory's an indication that, as suspected and indicated from the small sample in pension and death records, there were actually more middle than first name 'Victory's'. It might also be that by 1921 some of the fervor of naming a child after a historical event had worn off and on the census (not always noted for accuracy or even people telling the truth) some parents had swapped first for middle in an act of retrospective pragmatic repentance. One inexplicable finding was that of the 5 children first-named Victory in 1914 in 'Free BMD', non are to be found on the 1921 census and, so far I can tell, only one had died. Dunno. Further digging might reveal more – you are welcome to take up the spade. Now then, another point is whilst 'Victory' as a name might be at the extreme end of what's normal, it may well be that other parents named their children less literally but non the less significantly, by using 'Victor' or 'Victoria'. I thought I might cheat as the Office for National Statistics offers a historical search facility for common children's names. It's rubbish. Back to 'Free BMD'.

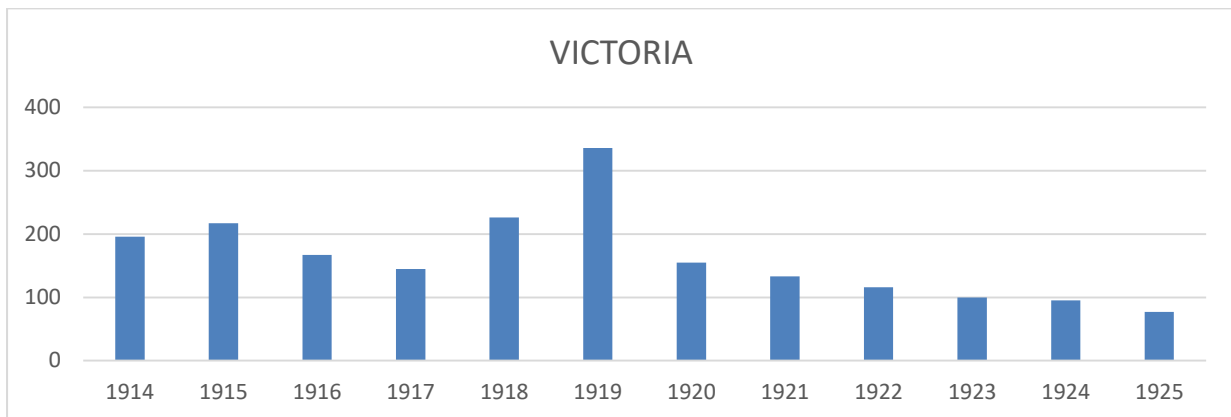
Now then, I think we all know a Victor or two. As a boy's name this was fairly common until recently, so the question is, did the war see a rise in Victors? The answer is it most certainly did, and now we need some diagrams.



As we can see Victor reached a peak in 1919 rising to just under 4,000 first-name registrations. 1919 and 1920 also are above 2,500, whilst we can see that by 1925 numbers has settled back to more or less pre-war levels, - half the number in 1919.

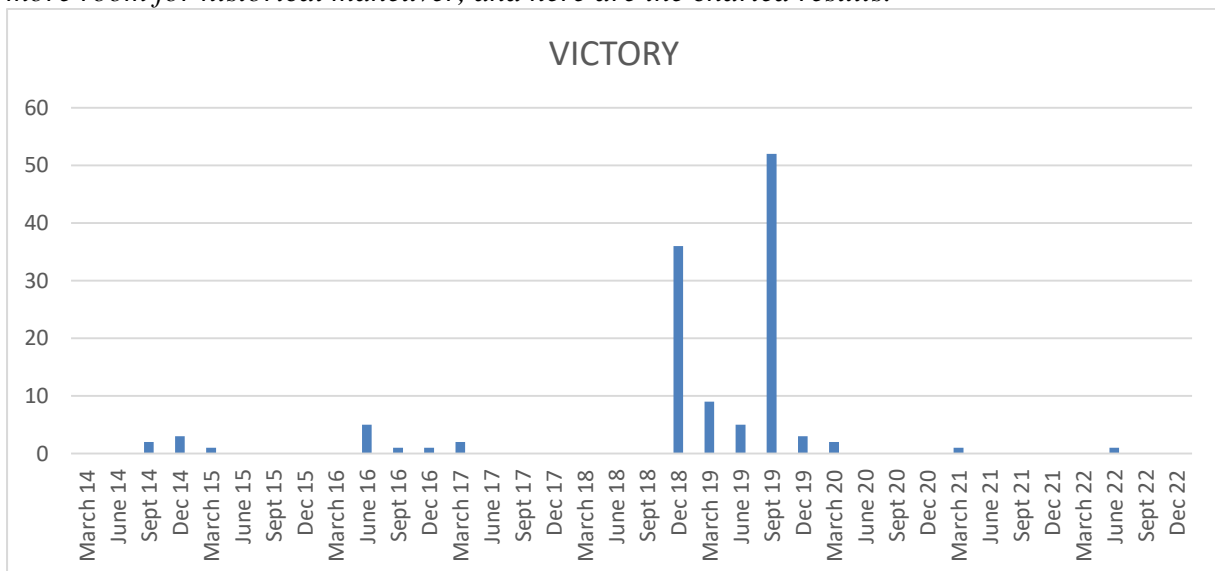
What about 'Victoria'? First, it's interesting to note just how few Victoria's (in comparison to Victors) were registered during the period 1914 to 1925. My own guess here is that by

1914 Victoria was seen as somewhat old fashioned, being associated with the ‘Old Queen’ and a past era.



As a comparison I looked up the number of Victoria’s registered in 1887, the year of the Queen Victoria’s Golden Jubilee, and found 1,739 – some ten times the number in 1914. However, in terms of the war years a peak can still be seen in 1919 mirroring the rise in Victors, if in no way equaling the numbers. The numbers drop consistently into the 1920’s, to a mere 77 in 1925, inferring the name’s association with ‘Victorianism’ was if anything accelerated in the post-war period. It would be interesting to extend this further – and anyone is welcome to do so!

So, what about a chart for Victory’s. Ahh... more complicated and more interesting. As its users will know ‘Free BMD’, from which I extracted these figures, divides each year into four quarters, Jan-March, April-June, July-September, and October-December. This gives a little more room for historical maneuver, and here are the charted results.



If we apply a chronology of wartime events to these results we can see the British public’s appetite for naming their children Victory is not general but highly specific and, I suggest, changed with the possibility and fact of victory itself. In 1914 there is a rush of enthusiasm with a small number of children named in the immediate aftermath of the declaration of war. By mid-1915, by which time the reality of a long war had begun to sink in, naming’s drop to zero. In mid-1916 with the possibility of the ‘big push’ providing an optimistic illusion of triumph (at least in the press) there is a flurry of naming’s. Then, between mid-1917 and the

end of 1918 there are no relevant registrations at all – exactly reflecting the prospect of British success during this time. Even Allenby’s ‘Christmas Present’ of Jerusalem doesn’t appear to have prompted a patriotic naming response (and yes I did look up ‘Jerusalem’ – nothing doing). Finally, with victory actually achieved, or at least the armistice signed, the last quarter of 1918 shows a significant rise. Although it was the period following the peace treaty itself, signed in late June 1919, that resulted in the greatest number of names. After that Victory as a chosen first name plunges rapidly, falling to its infrequent pre-war occurrence. Such a matching of names and events, even though the numbers are very small, implies that parents were responding to wartime events. This has wider societal ramifications. It would seem that for most of the war victory was not on people’s minds - until it actually happened. Whatever the government might have said, the press might have reported, and the military might have planned, these results hint the public at large were never fooled into thinking a successful outcome was just around the corner. Except perhaps during the Battle of the Somme, when we see a slight rise, and the failure of which may well explain why we don’t see another until the war was actually over.

Finally, Victory did make a brief comeback during the Second World War with 18 instances between 1939 and 1945, 10 of which occurred at the end of the war. A fellow Wolverhampton Branch member told me recently over a pint that in his family there was a Victor named at the end of the FWW and another at the end of WW2.

Of course, we must remember that each of these ‘data units’ is a person, and out of curiosity I decided to look at one in detail. Again, the result revealed something unforeseen. Going for a local I examined the case of Victory Harold Holt, whose birth was registered between July and September 1919 (later revealed as 16 June) a ‘Peace Settlement’ baby, in the Stourbridge Registration District. The 1921 census shows Victory, aged 2, living at 65 Fenton Street, Brierley Hill, with his father Albert, mother Gladys and older brother Albert Stanley aged 4. The 1939 Register (a ‘partial census’ taken at the start of WW2) shows the same family members living at 16 Victoria Street, Brierley Hill. However, Victory’s name was later altered to ‘Victor’. The 1939 Register was used until the 1970’s for various reasons and this change was probably made as part of a National Health Service record (so, after 1947). Thus, it would appear that Victory Harold Holt adopted the name Victor, even on official documents, as a means of discarding his otherwise unusual, and no doubt frequently questioned, name - once he had it under his own adult control. Having said that his two marriages and death registration use Victory, showing he used a variety of names according to circumstance. Of such things are the genealogical swamp formed, and there are no doubt other examples.

In conclusion (and congratulations if you are still here) there are, I fully appreciate, a number of statistical holes in this investigation, and certainly some areas that could be further ‘drilled down’ and challenged (breaking down Victor and Victoria by quarter is an obvious one, as would be the second name Victory’s), but it stands as an example of how even ‘idle thoughts can yield result’. If anyone wants to pick up on anything they are welcome, but I am off for a large gin and tonic and a lie down.”

Nick.

Su and Paul Handford have just returned from Ypres:

We've just left Ypres and the whole Menin Gate is covered by wooden panels and drapes for a two year restoration as is the Cloth Hall in drapes being restored just in case any one is visiting for research and photographic opportunities.



With all these wonderful contributions from our members, it's about time I wrote something myself.....

Shadrach Hackett – reports of his death had been greatly exaggerated...

As my research into the Fallen of Dudley from the Great War continues, more and more fascinating stories emerge.

The Vicar of Dudley, the Rev A Gray Maitland LL.D, held a special Memorial Service for the fallen heroes of Dudley at St Thomas' on 7th November 1915: the First World War had been in progress for over a year, and there was no sign of it coming to an end. Dudley had already paid a terrible price in killed and wounded men, and the Vicar paid tribute to the fifty fallen heroes of the parish. There were fated to be many, many more.

The Dudley Chronicle reported this service; Shadrach Hackett was one of the men named in the report, and he had formerly lived at No. 6 School St, near Eve Hill. Shortly after being recorded in Dudley by the 1911 Census he moved to Wales, getting married to Rosina later in the year and lived in Newport, Monmouthshire. Shadrach was one of the few soldiers whose papers survived the destruction of the Army's storage warehouse in Arnside Street, London which was badly damaged in the 1940 Blitz, so his military service is on record. It would appear that Shadrach's Christian Name was routinely subject to variations in spelling: whilst his birth was registered in the name Shadrach, the 1911 Census form completed by his father referred to him as Shadrack. The Civil Registration Marriage Index is also in that

name. However, the Vicar may be excused for using the form of the name found in the King James Bible.

Medically unfit for further military service

However, it is clear from his surviving papers that he served for barely six weeks before being discharged as permanently unfit to become a soldier; he never left the country. Despite passing the medical examination when he volunteered to join the 5th South Wales Borders on 31st August 1914 (often such examinations were hurried, and superficial at best) at Newport, one wonders how the examining doctor could have passed him as fit for active service for when he was further examined by the Medical Officer at Park House Camp, Tidworth he was swiftly discharged under the terms of Paragraph 392.(iii)(c) of King's Regulations, suffering from valvular disease of the heart and chronic rheumatism and so found to be medically unfit for further military service. Despite being only 26, his work as a labourer had obviously taken its toll; he was discharged on 15th October 1914. Within the year he was dead: according to the Vicar of Dudley.

However, no date of death and place of burial could be found for Private 14456 Hackett of the 5th SWB, and he was not recognised by the CWGC as a casualty; neither was there any record of a Dependant's Pension being payable to his widow. His death could not be found in any surviving records.

The only Shadrach Hackett I could find with a connection to Dudley was the death of a man named Shadrick of the right age in the latter part of 1945 in Dudley. The 1939 Register records a Shadrick Hackett described as a *Pensioner (ex Soldier)* living in Bromyard, Herefordshire. There was obviously some more research to be done: had he really died in 1915? The surviving record cards of the Ministry of War Pensions (saved for the nation by the Western Front Association) provided an answer.

Once more unto the breach

There were three extant Dependant's Pension record cards found in respect of a Private 21369 Hackett of the 9th Worcesters. Significantly, there was note of a transfer of the records from Wales to the Midlands Region, the pensioner having moved from No. 22 Emlyn Terrace, Newport to 8 Ct, 14 Hse Eve Hill, Dudley; not very far from where Pte 14456 Hackett had lived in 1911. His wife was Rosina: it is therefore certain that the Shadrick Hackett of the 5th SWB discharged in 1914 as unfit to serve was the same man as the Shadrick Hackett who had served with the 9th Worcesters.

Dates for your Diary

- i. **Saturday 7th October – Perton Library Local History Fair**



Perton Library History Fair

Saturday 7th October 10:00am-3:00pm

**Come along and enjoy a fantastic day celebrating our
history and heritage!**

Lots to see and do for all the family

All events FREE to attend

The Branch Stand will be in attendance.

ii. **Saturday 7th October – RWF Fest**

Venue: Hightown Barracks, Kingsmills Rd, Wrexham LL13 8RD. An event organised by the Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum. £33.22 inc. Lunch. Tickets and further details [HERE](#)



- iii. **Wednesday 11th October – “The Home Front 1914-1918”** by David Vaux and Paul Jacques. Industries across Birmingham and the Black Country geared up for the huge demand for munitions; in particular, production of heavy guns at Avery in Smethwick and tank production in Oldbury and Wednesbury. Because the efficient evacuation of wounded from The Western Front resulted in high demand on hospitals, a number of wealthy people allowed their homes, including Lightwoods house, to be used for the recuperation of wounded soldiers.

A Smethwick Local History Society event.

Venue: Lightwoods House, Lightwoods Park, Adkins Lane, Smethwick, B67 5DP 2.00pm start. £3 charge

[Programme – SMETHWICK LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY](#)

- iv. **Saturday 21st October – Wolverhampton City Archives Local History Fair.**

Venue: Molineux Hotel, Whitmore Hill, Wolverhampton. 10.00 – 16.00hrs. Excellent cakes available in the Wrekin View Cafe on the top floor – almost as good as ours!



Wolverhampton Archives
Local History Fair

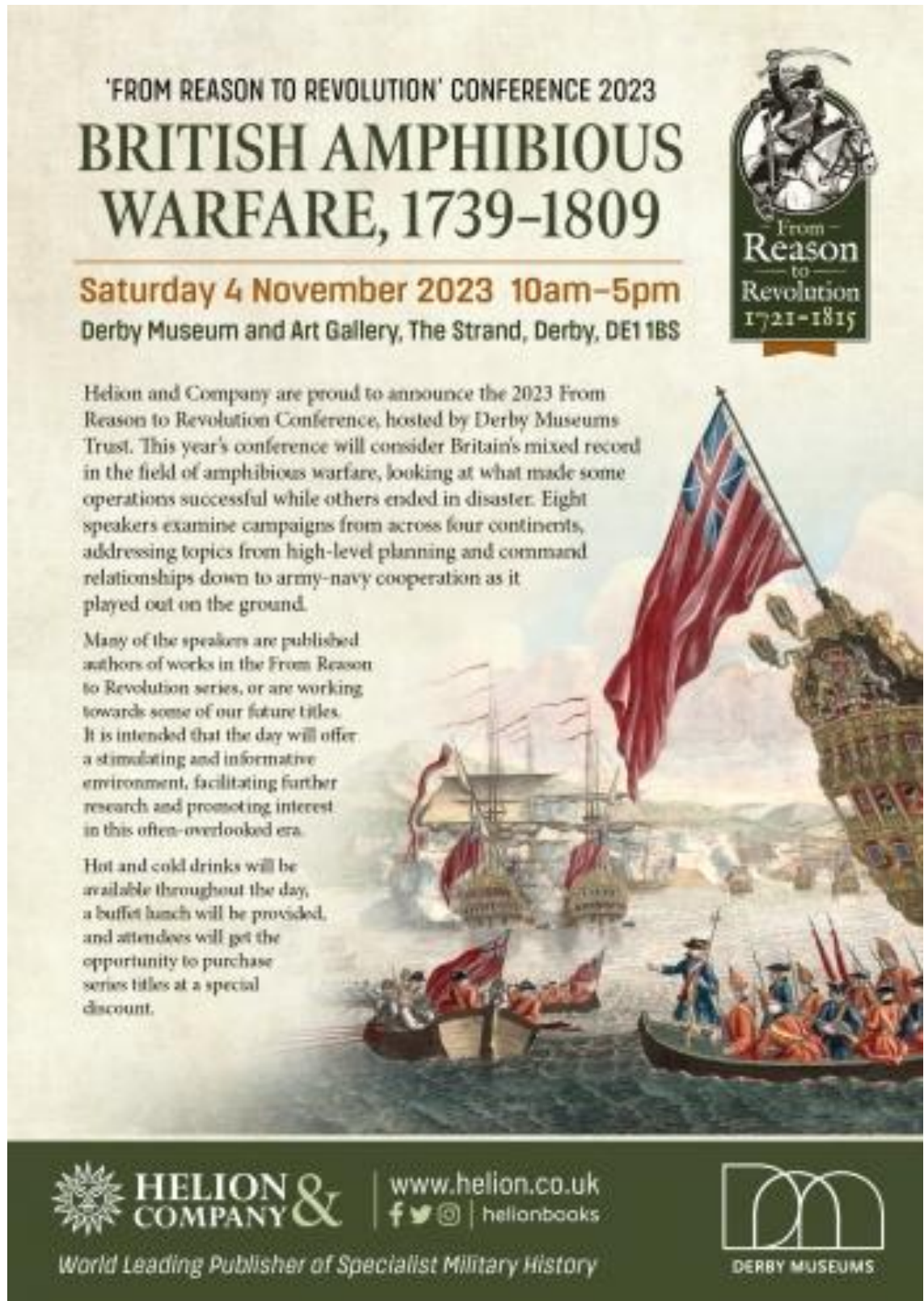
Wolverhampton City Archives

are holding the latest in a series of Local History Fairs on 21st October 2023, at the **Molineux Hotel (Whitmore Hill, off Waterloo Road)**. The doors open at 10.00.

Come along and see a variety of displays by local history societies - there is something for everyone. And when you have seen them, you can enjoy a delicious slice of cake and a cuppa in the Wrekin View Café on the top floor hosted by the Friends of the Archives!

- v. **Thursday/Saturday 26th/28th October – “One Night”.** *A new play by the BAFTA and Emmy award winning Christopher Swann. Set in a Military Chapel in Northern France in 1920 the play explores War, those that fought and died and the horrors of those that lived. We are proud to bring the imagining of that secretive night when the Unknown Warrior was chosen, so that we remember them all.*
Venue: St Paul’s Church, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham. 19.45hrs.
Tickets can be bought [HERE](#)

- vi. **Saturday 4th November – “British Amphibious Warfare 1739-1809”** by Helion Books.
Venue: Derby Museum & Art Gallery, The Strand, Derby. £35 inc. Lunch.
Tickets and further information [HERE](#)



'FROM REASON TO REVOLUTION' CONFERENCE 2023
BRITISH AMPHIBIOUS WARFARE, 1739-1809

Saturday 4 November 2023 10am-5pm
Derby Museum and Art Gallery, The Strand, Derby, DE1 1BS

Helion and Company are proud to announce the 2023 From Reason to Revolution Conference, hosted by Derby Museums Trust. This year's conference will consider Britain's mixed record in the field of amphibious warfare, looking at what made some operations successful while others ended in disaster. Eight speakers examine campaigns from across four continents, addressing topics from high-level planning and command relationships down to army-navy cooperation as it played out on the ground.

Many of the speakers are published authors of works in the From Reason to Revolution series, or are working towards some of our future titles. It is intended that the day will offer a stimulating and informative environment, facilitating further research and promoting interest in this often-overlooked era.

Hot and cold drinks will be available throughout the day, a buffet lunch will be provided, and attendees will get the opportunity to purchase series titles at a special discount.

HELION & COMPANY | www.helion.co.uk
f t i | [hellationbooks](#)

World Leading Publisher of Specialist Military History

DERBY MUSEUMS

- vii. **Saturday 25th November 2023 – Helion & Co Great War Conference.**
Venue: Birmingham & Midland Institute, 9 Margaret St, Birmingham. £35
inc. lunch. Tickets and further details [HERE](#)



HELION & COMPANY

GREAT WAR CONFERENCE

The BEF on the Western Front 1914-18, Themes and Reflections

Helion are delighted to announce our first dedicated Great War conference. On the day we will be examining a variety of aspects of the British Expeditionary Force on the Western Front 1914-18, with an exciting line-up of speakers and a stimulating range of papers. We will also have a large book stand with an extensive selection of our titles, all available at discounted prices. A number of authors will also be present signing books. It promises to be a rewarding and fascinating day.

Speaking at the event (subject to change)

Peter Simkins: keynote speaker, opening and closing remarks

Lucy Betteridge-Dyson: 'Why do only Mules and Horses work?' Equines in BEF transport services on the Western Front

Charles Fair & Richard Hendry: The London Territorials in the BEF

Spencer Jones: Hubert Gough and Fifth Army in 1918

Michael LoCicero: The Dunes Disaster: Unternehmen Strandfest, 10 July 1917 and the Maritime Dimension of the Third Ypres Campaign

Birmingham & Midland Institute,
9 Margaret St, Birmingham B3 3BS

Saturday 25 November 2023
10am-5pm



TICKETS £35
per person, including lunch,
and drinks during the day

Scan here to book or go to the
events page at www.helion.co.uk



**HELION &
COMPANY**

www.helion.co.uk    | [helionbooks](#)
World-leading Publisher of Specialist Military History

- viii. **Saturday 2nd December – The Royal Warwickshire Regt 14/18 in books & cartoons** by Paul Jacques and David Vaux. **A Midland Ancestors event.**

Venue: Birmingham & Midland Institute, 9 Margaret St, Birmingham B3 3BS.
Free to attend. Details [HERE](#)



Programme of Talks 2023

Lyppard Grange Community Centre, Ankerage Green, Worcester WR4 0DZ

21st October 2023

Nursing in the Falklands War on HMHS Uganda
by Liz Omerod

13.30 for 14.00 start.

Liz's talk is from a personal perspective and includes the practicalities of turning a cruise liner into a hospital ship. It is illustrated with slides including those "before and after" views of the clinical and other areas. Liz joined the QARNNS in May 1972 at the Royal Naval Hospital in Gosport. She worked in several different clinical areas including 3 years in the A & E department. Following a 6 month course in Cardiac nursing in London, Liz returned to the joint Intensive & Coronary Care Unit at the Naval Hospital in Plymouth. Following service on the Uganda where she was Senior Nursing Officer on Intensive Care Liz returned to the Plymouth Naval hospital to complete her commission. Leaving QARNNS in 1985 she became a Palliative Clinical Nurse Specialist with the Macmillan Service in Cornwall and later in West Berkshire. Now retired Liz has done some work as a volunteer at the hospice in Hereford and has delivered many talks on her experiences in the Falklands. **Friends £3 Non-Friends - £5 Light refreshments included.**

Saturday 18th November 2023 **'A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Retirement' by Bill Nelson**

13.30 for 14.00 start.

A humorous take on a retired Army officer's transition to life in the civilian security sector- following his encounters with insurgents in Iraq; kidnapping, corruption and murder attempts in Azerbaijan; planning insurrections in the Middle East; fleeing the KGB in Turkmenistan; meeting Vladimir Putin in Abu Dhabi; and many more as he bounces from country to country and crisis to crisis.

A former Lt Col in British Military Intelligence with broad domestic and international operational intelligence and security experience, Bill Nelson has worked in the private sector for 25 years. His commercial experience includes corporate security management with Mobil Oil and Bechtel; security service provision and business management with G4S; and before Rose Associates International Ltd, he led the Arup Resilience, Security & Risk consulting practice in the Middle East and N Africa. He lived and worked in the Former Soviet Union for 5 years and the Middle East for over 16. He is an acknowledged SME on Counter Terrorism, Terrorist Methods and Tactics and Urban Security Master Planning. He is one of less than 250 members of the Register of Chartered Security Professionals globally, regarded as the 'Gold Standard' in security competence by the National Protective Security Authority and National Counter Terrorism Security Office; and one of very few registered Suitably Qualified Security Specialists by the UK Loss Prevention Board / BRE. He is a regular speaker at international conferences. He speaks fluent Russian and proficient French and German.

Friends £3 Non-Friends - £5 Light refreshments included.

Contact Sandra Taylor: friendsoftheworcesters@gmail.com 07919 522840

If you know of any other relevant events that our members may be interested in, don't be shy – let me know and I'll put it in the Newsletter.

Future Newsletters:

Please send any items you would like to be included to me at my official e-mail address: wfawtoneditor@gmail.com

Many, many thanks to those members who have provided items for the Newsletter; you know who you are, and your reward shall be in Heaven... No money will change hands, but you have a reasonable chance of your article being lifted by Head Office and reproduced in the Bulletin.

**John Hale
Branch Newsletter Editor**