

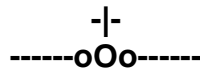
Branch Newsletter – November 2023

Next Meeting:

Will be on Saturday 11th November 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 very own Ken Wight, speaking on "The Old Boys of King Edwards, Stourbridge in the Great War - Part One."

Stories of some of the old boys of Ken's school and their experiences during the Great War, based on his own extensive research.



To begin this month's Newsletter, a few announcements from our esteemed Treasurer, Andy Johnson:

BLESMA COLLECTION

At the October meeting there was £23.50 in the collection box for the BLESMA appeal. The branch has topped this up to a total donation of £50.

Thank you.

CHRISTMAS MEETING

We will be having our usual buffet before the Christmas meeting provided by Caroline and Sandra. The cost is being held at £6 which may need a top-up from branch funds, we'll see. 32 folks signed-up at the October meeting. To be added to the list give Mandy (or her assistant) your £6 at the November meeting .

As ever, if you don't want to partake of the buffet, then the Christmas meeting will operate according to the usual timetable. We don't provide cake at this meeting.

2024 BATTLEFIELD TOUR

Dunwood have already provided a price to our request, and I've asked them to take a hold on 20 rooms for our party. The price is a 4% increase on 2023 and a £10 increase for single supplement, this all seems quite reasonable.

It's a return to Ypres, details as below. There is no itinerary yet, but we're already getting offers from the usual ~~old farts~~ first-class presenters.

Hotel Novotel, Ypres

Sunday 15th to Thursday 19th September 2024

4 Nights b&b, Novotel Hotel, Ypres
£544.00, plus £120 single supplement.

Please note

- this is a **Sunday** departure
- from **Pear Tree Lane** only
- and will be via the **Tunnel**

You WILL require insurance; it is a condition of foreign travel with Dunwood. Dunwood offers cover for £48.95 (2024 price). Deposit will be £50.00.

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UNESCO have recognised the cultural importance of the memorials and monuments of the Western Front:

[CWGC announcement HERE](#)

Richard Pursehouse has found an interesting website for us:

Hi ,

I thought I'd drop you a line about the website below as I think members might be interested

<https://victoriacrossonline.co.uk/>

There is also a Facebook page.

A monthly newsletter has started up and is packed full of interesting info, photographs etc and I've been able to recycle some of my articles in it! Although it's remit covers 1856 to present day, there should be something for everyone

Regards, Richard''

Big Guns at Barrow:



An impressive array of future Royal Navy artillery lined up at Vickers, Barrow-in-Furness, in 1906-1907. The four single 7.5-inch turrets in the foreground are part of the secondary armament, constructed for use in the Minotaur class first class (armoured) cruiser HMS Shannon. The BL 7.5-inch gun in the turret fired a 200-pound shell with a muzzle velocity of approximately 2,800 feet per second, providing for a firing range of as much as 14,200 yards, or 13 kilometres. The Shannon would carry a total of ten of these, mounted along the ship's sides, along with a main armament of four BL 9.2-inch guns, mounted in two twin turrets, fore and aft.

Menin Gate, Ypres – before & after:



Our esteemed Treasurer, Andy Johnson, heeds the siren call of the keyboard once more:

Once again Nick Baker entices me to my keyboard, this time because of his tour-de-force on weird names. Last month he had me wandering around Huddersfield, this time closer to home – Union Street, Tipton. I may have mentioned once or twice (!) my granny's chip shop which was damaged in the zeppelin raid on Union Street on January 31st 1916. There's a second part to that story.

Nellie Johnson (nee Tibbs) gave birth to a son two days after the zeppelin raid. The birth was bought on by 'zeppelin shock', or possibly due to being 9-months pregnant. The midwife suggested that she might add the name Zeppelin to her new son's name to mark the historic event. My grandmother, allegedly, gave her a full and frank Black Country response, and my eldest Uncle was named Frank – just Frank.

This did make me wonder if others had been a little more "soft in the head" and given their child such a stupid name – of course they had.

Not surprisingly, all of the uses of the name were in 1915 and 1916 with one exception. Charlotte Zeppelina Lushey was born on 7th March 1910 in West Ham. Her parents apparently wanted to mark the development of commercial flight of the zeppelin – probably LZ-6 which was converted to a passenger airship on February 12th 1910. Charlotte lived

until 1981, unlike LZ-6 which lasted only until September 1910 when an error by a mechanic led to its total loss by fire.

I have been able to trace 14 war-time instances of the name Zeppelin, or the female version Zeppelina, or the truncated version Zepp. These followed the incidences of Zeppelin raids from early 1915, and there are none that I can find after 1916. By the end of 1916 the threat of zeppelin raids had diminished.

This is unlikely to be the full number as the excellent resource www.freebmd.org.uk often records just the initial of a second forename, so some instances may be hidden. I did a scan of the instances of a middle initial 'Z' during 1915 and 1916, and a representative number of pre-war years. The numbers in 1915 and 1916 were consistent with pre-war at around 100 per year – the vast majority being female. This led me to think that there probably weren't a huge number hidden, but undoubtedly some.

The first war-time use of the name was Zeppelin J Burrows, born March quarter 1915 in Merthyr Tydfil. This followed the first zeppelin raid on 19th January 1915 at Great Yarmouth. Quite what persuaded Zeppelin's parents to mark an event on the opposite coast, over 200 miles away, is not known.

It seems that a number of the instances followed a local run-in with zeppelins: Kent, Chadwell St. Mary, Leighton Buzzard, but the ones that interested me were two births registered in March quarter 1916. This period covers the Midlands zeppelin raid on 31st January 1916 which caused numerous fatalities – 13 in Union Street, Tipton alone, and more in Wednesbury and Walsall.

Maybe it was the same midwife who had attended my granny, but the births of Zepp Allen and Sidney Zepp Davies were registered in West Bromwich in March quarter 1916. They both had tragically short lives, Allen died shortly after his birth, and Davies in 1917.

It's interesting (well, sort of interesting) that on the 1921 census only 3 instances of this unusual name were recorded, and none on the 1939 Register. A little embarrassed by the name?

The 15 instances are recorded in the following table.

1910 MARCH Quarter		
Charlotte Zeppelina Lushey	West Ham	Born 7 March 1910
1915 MARCH Quarter		
Zeppelin J Burrows	Merthyr Tydfil	
1915 SEPTEMBER Quarter		
Elsie May Zeppelin Evans	Bromyard	
James Zeppelin Norman	Hackney	
Zeppelina Wilson	Driffield	Died in 1915

1915 DECEMBER Quarter		
<i>Zeppelina V Smith</i>	<i>Mile End</i>	
1916 MARCH Quarter		
<i>Zepp Allen</i>	<i>West Bromwich</i>	<i>Died 1916</i>
<i>Sidney Zepp Davies</i>	<i>West Bromwich</i>	<i>Died 1917</i>
1916 SEPTEMBER Quarter		
<i>Ina Zeppelina Eileen Gale</i>	<i>Lambeth</i>	<i>Born 3 Sept 1916. Leefe-Robinson won VC shooting down first zeppelin on the same day</i>
<i>Alfred Zeppelin Johnson</i>	<i>Belvedere, Kent</i>	<i>Zeppelin raid on nearby Gravesend on 9th September 1916</i>
<i>Edith Vera Zeppelina Wright</i>	<i>Chadwell St Mary, Essex</i>	<i>Born 17 June 1916. 25 April 1916 Zeppelin LZ97 bombed nearby Chadwell Heath</i>
1916 DECEMBER Quarter		
<i>Zeppelina Clarke</i>	<i>Lexden</i>	
<i>Zeppelin S W Kempster</i>	<i>Leighton Buzzard</i>	<i>A number of Zeppelin raids near Leighton Buzzard in Sept/Oct 1916</i>
<i>Henry Albert Zeppelin Hastings</i>	<i>Edmonton</i>	
<i>Mary Zeppelin Barker</i>	<i>Rotherham</i>	<i>Died 2000</i>

Post Script

Olive Floyd was born on 11th November 1918 in Aston, Birmingham. What middle name did her parents give her? Armistice of course. I can very easily (and incompletely) find over 30 instances of Armistice as a name, mostly the middle name, but in the last quarter of 1918 11 babies were given Armistice as a first name. A prettier and more hopeful name.

Searching from 1900 to 1970 (using first name only), there were 28 instances, predominantly the end of 1918 and 1919, but very occasionally another one until the very final use of Armistice as a name in 1928 when it ceased to be used. I suppose there are other types of armistice!

Second Post Script

There was no use of Heinkel, Messerschmitt or Stuka as a name during the 1940s, at least not in Great Britain. Andy"

Richard Pursehouse has provided something of interest to us:

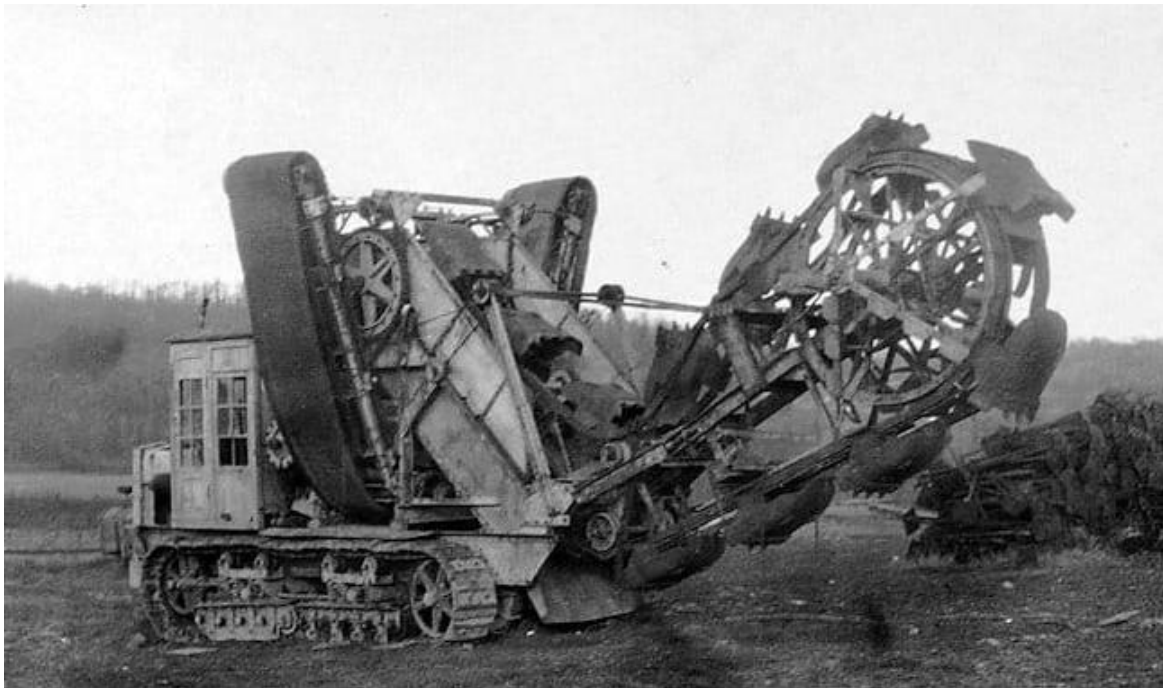
Thought the below might be an interesting link - the photographs of King George V from The Great War. You can type in your area of interest (eg Messines!!!!) towards the end.

[King George Vs War Museum \(rct.uk\)](http://rct.uk)

German mobile de-lousing machine:



Still on all things German:



The Imperial German A7V Schützengrabenbagger LMG Trench Digger. Only a single example known to have been built and used.

Don't you just love those compound words? Secretary Bill will give you a translation at the next meeting if you need one; it all makes sense.

If you're down Stourport way:

[Black Star pub](#)



The Branch Stand in action at Wolverhampton Archives' Local History Fair last month:



An interesting FaceBook page I stumbled across recently:

[The Rotherwas Munitions Factory Project, Herefordshire](#)



The building exists, and is still in use today.

Dates for your Diary

i. Thursday 9th November – “Remembrance: Veterans & Widows, Past & Present”

A live Podcast from History West Midlands. 18.30hrs

Information and registration [HERE](#)

(Thanks to John Yarnall for bringing this to our attention)

ii. From now until 19th November – German War Graves exhibition.

Venue: Lichfield Cathedral. *“We are delighted and honoured to host an Exhibition in collaboration with Staffordshire Museum and Archives and the German War Graves Commission (Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge e.V.) from 16 September to 19 November.*

Cannock Chase is the final resting place for 4,971 German soldiers who fell and died in the United Kingdom during both World Wars. This bilingual exhibition traces the history of the cemetery and explores the reconciliation between Britons and Germans after 1945, the complexity of remembrance and war.”

iii. 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](#)

iv. 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



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Just bought my ticket: I wonder how it will compare to the sadly-missed Tally Ho! conferences?

- v. **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](#)

- vi. **Thursday 11th January 2024 – “The Poet and the Rogue: Wilfred Owen and Horatio Bottomley”** by Paul Norgate.
Venue: Kidderminster Historical Society at the Museum of Carpet, Stour Vale Mill, Green St, Kidderminster DY10 1AZ (adjacent to Morrison’s).
2.30pm. £4 admission

[Kidderminster History Society programme](#)

- vii. **Saturday 9th March – “From Trams to Trenches – the men from Birmingham Tramways who died in the Great War”** by Doug Smith.
Venue: Kidderminster Historical Society at the Museum of Carpet, Stour Vale Mill, Green St, Kidderminster DY10 1AZ (adjacent to Morrison’s).
11.00am. £5 admission (inc. Cake!)

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Programme of Talks 2023

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

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