



frontline.

The newsletter of the MK WFA, January 2023.



A Happy New Year to MK WFA

A very happy New Year to all our members, families, and friends. Our next talk is 'India's Great War' by Dr Adam Prime, lecturer in the Politics and Contemporary History at Salford University, talking about his research into the Indian Army during the Great War. He will explain how the Indian Army came about with its origins in the defence of the East India Company from 1757. A hundred years later, when the British Army needed to defend the Northwest Frontier against the Russians, a more professional army began to emerge. By the time of the outbreak of the First World War the army was made up of 240,000 Indian and 17,000 British soldiers. This talk looks at India's contribution to the First World War in every sense of the word. It takes in the huge recruitment boom and how the diversity of religious and caste differences was met to maintain peace, order and morale.

Dr Prime also describes the experiences of Indian soldiers, and their British officers on the Western Front, in Gallipoli, in Mesopotamia and in the Middle East. Finally, it looks at India itself and the actions undertaken there to defend the Northwest Frontier.

Help! Albert French required.

As mentioned in the last 'Frontline', Chris Roberts contacted me to say that there will be a celebration of the 10th birthday of the MK Rose on 7th July. As 'Albert French' has been an annual event since the start, The Friends of the Rose would like to see him commemorated on the day. Chris is asking if we know a re-enactor, or young person, who could play the part of Albert on that day? I have a uniform that could be used, so if anyone can think of someone suitable, please email me. Many thanks.



December and January

Able Seaman John Cotton, killed in action 22nd December. Anne's grandad's 4th cousin.

John Cotton was born in Leyland, Lancashire on 10th November 1894 to Ralph Morris Cotton and Betty (née Rainford), one of 5 children. John was a student at the Roman Catholic College in Ushaw near Durham. He then went on to train as a teacher.

John Cotton joined the Navy in August 1916 and was in barracks in Portsmouth before being transferred to *HMS Mentor* - a destroyer under Commander Edward Tyrrell Inman - and had an uneventful 3 months at sea celebrating his 21st birthday on board. He then transferred to shore barracks HMS Pembroke at Chatham. John's naval number is prefixed with a 'J' which suggests he was training in communications - signals, morse, flashing light, basic wireless telegraphy etc. He returned to sea on the newly built *HMS Simoom* on 21st December 1916, again under Commander Inman.



The following night they put to sea to intercept the German 6th Destroyer and at 2.45 a.m. the two forces met. During the engagement the German destroyer S50 fired a torpedo which exploded *Simoom's* magazine, causing heavy casualties. *HMS "Morris"* took off all the *Simoom's* survivors. *Simoom's* battered stern section remained afloat and after unsuccessful attempts to take the wreck in tow, she was torpedoed and sunk.

John Cotton was one of 47 seamen (including Commander Inman) who died in the attack. His body was never recovered.

He is commemorated on the Portsmouth War Memorial, on the Ushaw College memorial, in St John's Church, Whittle-le-Woods and on a memorial cross near Whittle.

Serjeant Charles William Fewell MM, MGC, killed in action 28th Jan. 1918. Sue Macfarlan's great uncle.

Charles lived at Chelmsford and enlisted at Warley. serving as 9470 in the Essex Regiment. The Supplement to the London Gazette dated 28th January 1918 announced the award of his Military Medal. He was killed in action on 8th January 1918 while serving as Serjeant 9285 in the 148th Company of the Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). He was aged 26. He is buried at Belgian Battery Corner Cemetery, Ypres, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

Capt. J. S Husband, writing to Mrs. Fewell, says:

'Men eager to help at once started to dig the unfortunate officer and sergeant out. We got your husband free as soon as possible, but he was past all help. The shock of the explosion and the crushing which he received rendered him unconscious from the first. Everyone in the Company mourns his loss, for he was an excellent soldier and companion. When he joined my Company I at once recognised in him a non-commissioned officer whose efficiency and ability were much above the average. It is just about seven weeks ago that I had the pleasure of recommending him for a commission. To have had him with me as an officer would have been a great pleasure to me.

The G.O. commanding the Brigade expressed his regret at the death of so gallant and promising a soldier, for he had forwarded his commission papers with his recommendation. I cannot tell you how much I regret his loss, but to me he was the ideal of sergeants, efficient in instruction, patient with difficult men, gallant and resourceful in the field. I was proud to recommend him for the Military Medal for his prompt action when his officer had been killed during an engagement not far from the scene of his gallantry where he fell.'



Mentioned in Despatches



MK WFA's Year, 2023.

January - My Uncle - The Battle of Britain VC' by Jim Nicholson. January 'Frontline'.

February MK WFA AGM and quiz. February 'Frontline'.

Welcome, minutes of last AGM, treasurer's report, election of committee - present committee were re-elected. Gary Short offered to help, so we gratefully welcomed him aboard as social media coordinator. Stuart offered his heartfelt thanks to the committee for their consistent and invaluable input and support, Rhian for her help with the raffle and assorted technical issues, and the loyal members of MK WFA for their attendance and support. The AGM was followed by refreshments and the quiz.

March Phil Tomaselli presented 'The Russian Front.' March 'Frontline'.

April WFA AGM. On 22nd April Jim and I travelled down the National Army Museum in London for the 2023 AGM of the WFA. As well as giving us the opportunity to have a good look round the museum (well worth a visit) we were treated to three excellent lectures; 'The British West Indian Regiment: Race and colour on the Western Front' by Dominiek Dendooven, 'Absent bodies and broken hearts: the Imperial War Graves Commission and the repatriation debate, 1915-1939 by Prof. Mark Connelly and 'The German capture of Fort Douaumont 25 February 1916 by Christina Holstein. Lunch was followed by the AGM, details of which were reported in the WFA magazines.

April 'Jig-a-jig Tommy' by Bruce Cherry. April 'Frontline'.

May, - 'WW1 Tanks and the Battle of Cambrai' by Stuart Macfarlan. May 'Frontline'.

June - Albert French Commemoration at the MK Rose

The commemoration, organised by us this year, started at 6.45 with a welcome from the Mayor of Milton Keynes, Councillor Mick Legg, followed by my introduction about Albert French, a reading of a selection of the letters of Albert French by myself and Paul Salver, interspersed with the chorus from the song 'Only Remembered', and ending with 'The Devon Brigade' by Tony Kempster (singer/guitarist). I finished my address with a reading of the poem 'Anthem for Doomed Youth' by Wilfred Owen which was followed by a moving speech by John Moffoot, MBE, Deputy Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire. Sarah Fennessey of New Bradwell British Legion read the Exhortation, flanked by her standard Bearers and other Legion members. Heidi, from Wolverton Town Band, played the Last

Post, and the Reveille after the Two Minute Silence. Wreaths were then laid at the base of Albert's pillar. The Commemoration over, I thanked all the participants and attendees.



June - 'Dora - The Defence of the Realm Act', talk by Kevin Varty, followed by a slideshow on the reuniting of John and Dorothy Mann by Jane and Roy. June 'Frontline'.

July - Twinning Trip.

The Twinning visit from the Belgians took place on Saturday 1st July 2023. This was a whistlestop tour for them as they returned home on Sunday afternoon, but they obviously had a great time. They attended the Covenant signing at MK Civic Offices where they were officially welcomed. They then went on a tour of Bletchley Park before heading to their hotel. A hog roast meal for them had been planned on the Saturday evening at the MK Museum where the Wolverton Town Band together with their Belgian counterparts performed. The MK WFA members who went on the twinning trip last year also received an invitation to this event



Signing the Armed Forces Covenant.



Welcoming the Belgians at MK Museum.

The civic service was on Sunday 2nd July at 10.00am on The Square, Wolverton where there was a short, well attended service to pay respect to those that have fallen. The Belgian band could be heard marching and playing from the town hall at 9.45am down to the Square, where they joined the Wolverton Band for the service. MK WFA participated in the service and wreath laying. Afterwards were cream teas and cake at Foundation House on The Square before the Belgians prepared to head home.



July - 'Britannia's unruly stepchildren', Americans in the British Armed Forces – Michael O'Brien
July 'Frontline'.

August - August 'Frontline'.

September - 'Logistics of the East Africa Campaign' - Dr Anne Samson. September 'Frontline'.

September (15th - 17th) - MK Museum Heritage Open Days

In September we attended three days at MK Museum where our display formed part of the MK Museum Heritage Open Days and Beer Festival. We set up our Great War exhibition including details of local men like Wolverton's Albert French, what life was like in the trenches, and information about the creative heritage of the Great War – War Artists, poets, and trench art. We had plenty of visitors, who took time to linger over the displays and ask questions, so we were really pleased with the outcome. Some of the interesting conversations we had included mention of a Grandad who had joined the RFA in 1912 and was with the Old Contemptibles at Mons and Le Chateau.



Another grandad started his war with the Beds and Herts Regiment, but ended it as a RFC tailor sewing tents at Wolverton. Another was gassed on the Somme, invalided out but did not live long after the war, he certainly would not have envisaged that his son would be killed in the retreat to Dunkirk. One visitor's relative was in the West Riding Regiment and died on the first day of the Somme, aged sixteen. Another grandad had been a sapper with the RE and had been captured in Flanders, ending up a POW in France. Add to those several ladies who were really taken with the

embroidery on Anne's collection of WW1 postcards, and lots of youngsters who tried on helmets and posed for photos, and you can see we had a busy and interesting time.

October - MK WFA Seminar

Our biggest event of the year was our seminar, which took place on 14th October 2023 at Bletchley Masonic Centre, and judging by the comments we received on the day, and the many complementary emails we received afterwards, the day was a great success. The crux of the day were five renowned excellent speakers presenting four talks that covered an exciting variety of aspects of the Great War. Our first speaker was Roy Larkin, whose talk on 'The Army Service Corps' proved to be a really great way to open the seminar. He was followed by Helen Frost, not on the list of WFA speakers, so our 'secret weapon'. She presented an amazing talk on 'The Women's Land Army in WW1', and also brought an excellent display that enhanced the entrance hall. Also giving attendees something to look at was Kevin's Vickers machine gun set up at the front of the hall, and at the back some of our display from the recent MK Museum event. In the entrance hall alongside Helen's Land Army display was our trench 'reconstruction'.



After a buffet lunch it was time for the 'second half'. Alexandra Churchill, in her indomitable style, gave a very informative talk on 'The Hejaz Railway', and she was followed by Peter Hart and Gary Bain giving a kind of double act 'Laugh or Cry: Life or Death in the Trenches', which gave an entertaining insight into the sometimes grim but essential humour that allowed the British Tommies to somehow cope with the horrors of their surroundings mentally. Five speakers and four talks, a variety of subjects, all differently and refreshingly presented. A massive thanks from us to our speakers and all who attended.



October - October 'Frontline'

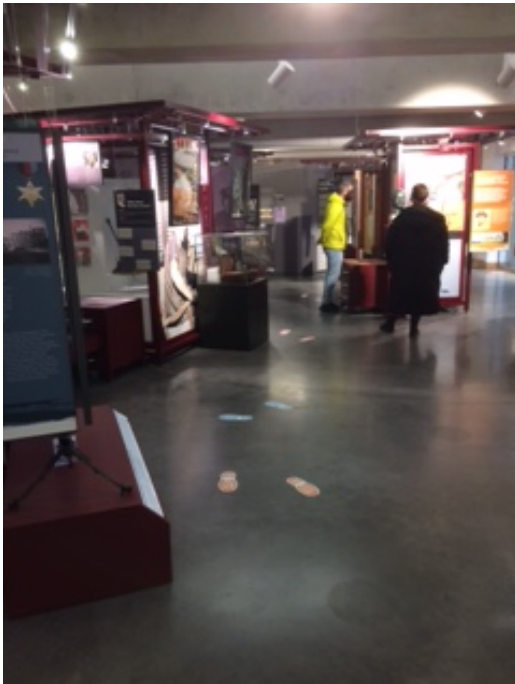
November 11th - WFA Remembrance Ceremony at the Cenotaph.



On the 11th November Jim and I travelled down to London to attend the WFA Commemorations at the Cenotaph, where we laid a wreath on behalf of our branch. As usual it was a splendid and evocative occasion, with the pipe band, a large turnout from the WFA and the Armed Forces, and an ever bigger and very appreciative crowd. which we rounded off with the service at the Guard's Chapel, main speaker being John Nichol of 'Tornado Down' fame, and a visit to the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey, where amongst the sea of poppy crosses was Jane's 'Old Contemptible's plot.

November 17th - 'He didn't talk about it,' analysing veterans' silence - Julian Walker. November 'Remembrance' 'Frontline.'

December - Visit to Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum and lunch. Christmas 'Frontline'.



Add to all this the several battlefield tours and CWGC tours our members attended, which made, all in all, 2023 quite a busy year!

Stowe. Standing with Giants. Gary and Clare.

'Standing With Giants' is a project based around remembrance, creating large-scale outdoor art installations made from recycled materials and handmade by volunteers. These installations provide a meaningful space for reflection, grief, discussion and hope, bringing people together to remember those who fought for freedom, past and present.

An even bigger installation, which has taken four years to create, will be heading to Normandy for the 80 year anniversary of D Day in June.

The website can be found here : <https://www.standingwithgiants.co.uk/>.

Please see below photos taken at Stowe by Clare and I when we visited in November.





Major Lanoe Hawker V.C.

A new independent film about the exploits of Britain's first 'ace' pilot, Maj Lanoe Hawker, will be released on the anniversary of his death, November 23, 2023

The 23-minute film tells the story of a pivotal few days in World War One, when airmen were transformed into fighter pilots for the first time in history.

In 1913, Lanoe George Hawker was one of the very few British people to receive his 'Aviator's Certificate' after paying for his own flight training at Hendon.



He joined the fledgling Royal Flying Corps and was sent to France at a time when both sides were tentatively operating small numbers of aircraft, mainly in an observational role. However, primitive bombing and aircraft combats with rifles and revolvers soon became commonplace, and both sides started experimenting with the use of machine guns. In 1915, Hawker was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DFO) for attacking a German zeppelin shed by dropping hand grenades at low level.

Hawker soon proved himself to be a capable pilot, shooting down in total 7 enemy aircraft, and becoming Britain's first 'Ace'. He was also a resourceful inventor of new devices, such as fur-lined thigh boots known as 'fug boots', a ring gunsight, a method of doubling the ammunition drums for the lewis gun, and a simple 'rocking fuselage' for practice on the ground. He managed to install a machine gun on his aircraft, a Bristol Scout 'C', effectively turning it into a fighter aircraft. However, the gun had to fire in a 45 degree angle to prevent the bullets hitting his propeller, the main obstacle for most early WW1 aircraft.

Despite this awkward configuration, on 25 July 1915, he managed to attack and overcome three German aircraft in succession, earning him the Victoria Cross, the U.K's highest and most prestigious military award. This event is the subject of the new film.



Bristol Scout

Hawker remained a successful fighter pilot and squadron leader and became the very first British ace. However, by late 1916 his Airco DH.2 fighter aircraft, a 'pusher' with a forward-facing machine gun, see photo below, had become obsolete with the Germans flying more modern aircraft.



DH2

Haker led 24 Squadron to France in 1916, at the hight of the 'Fokker Scourge' caused by the German Fokker E1 monoplane with it's interrupter gear that allowed its machine gun to fire

through the propeller. Hawker's aggressive instructions to his pilots, 'Attack everything!' soon began to turn the balance, with 24 Squadron achieving 70 victories in 8 months

In September 1916 the Germans introduced the Albatross D11, a fast and nimble biplane fighter, and the tide turned again in the German's favour. On 23 November 1916, over Bapaume, Hawker was engaged in a long but unequal fight against these faster and better armed aircraft, one of which was flown by the soon-to-be legendary 'Red Baron', German ace Manfred von Richthofen, who wrote 'I discovered I was not meeting a beginner. He had not the slightest intention of breaking off the fight.' The battle lasted over 30 minutes until Hawker began to run out of fuel and he was fatally struck in the head by a bullet and was killed. His plane spun from 1,000 ft and crashed a few yards east of Luisenhof Farm, just south of Bapaume on the Flers Road. He was Richtofen's 11th victim. German Grenadiers reported burying Hawker 250 yards east of Luisenhof Farm along the roadside. Richthofen salvaged Hawker's Lewis gun from the wreck as a trophy and hung it above the door of his quarters. Major Lanoe George Hawker is listed on the Arras Flying Services Memorial for airmen lost with no known grave. He was 25 years old. His V.C can be seen at the RAF Museum at Hendon.

The project to create the film has been a labour of love for the last three years for film director and actor Daniel Arbon. The film uses a mix of replica aircraft, hand-built miniatures, life-size cockpits and CGI to tell the story of the action on July 25, 1915, when Hawker downed three enemy aircraft in one sortie and won the Victoria Cross for his achievements. The film has been funded on a budget of £20,000, raised through a combination of grants from The Great War Aviation Society, other sponsors, and crowdfunding. As well as writing and directing the film, Daniel plays the role of Lt Col Charles Burke and has built many of the sets himself, including the cockpits. Much of the flying footage was filmed using a replica Bristol Scout, owned and operated by David Bremner and Theo Willford to recreate the aircraft flown by David's grandfather, Capt F D H Bremner. For the filming, the replica aircraft was adapted with Hawker's side-mounted Lewis gun, and the markings changed to match those employed by Hawker.

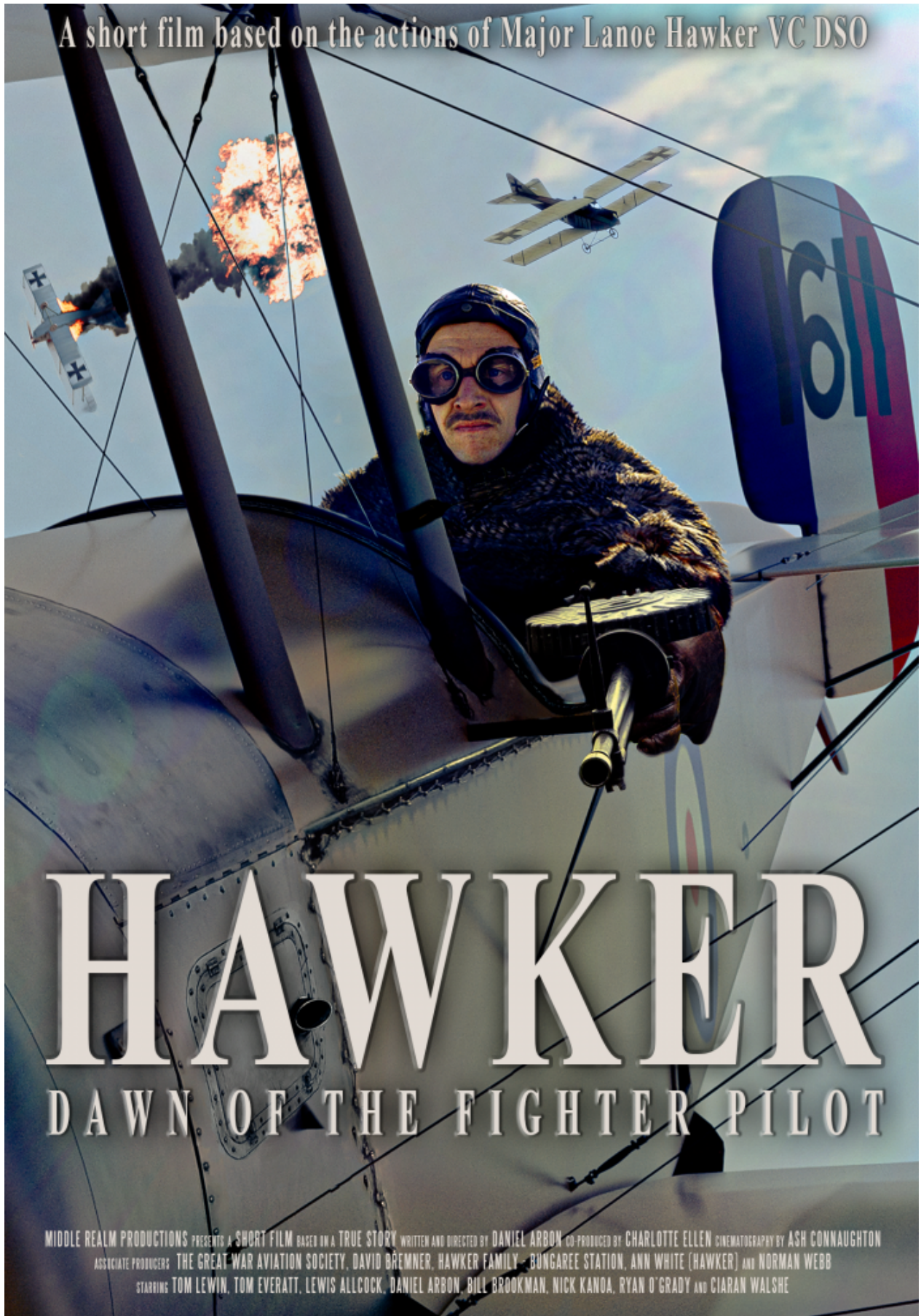
Daniel Arbon commented: "This project has been my life for the last three years, and I am so thankful to everyone who has supported us, either financially or by spreading the word, and to all the cast and crew who worked so hard. It has been an honour to lead this project and to have the support of the Hawker family and all the history enthusiasts. I really hope everyone enjoys the film."

David Bremner said: "The Bristol Scout was the first aircraft manoeuvrable enough to be practical to aim the aircraft, rather than just the gun, and Hawker was the first to fully realise its potential for air warfare. Theo and I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of this project, and it's a privilege to celebrate the film's release."

The film will be available on Vimeo, where it can be streamed for £0.99 or purchased for £1.99. Links will be posted on social media at Facebook/[TheGreatWarAviationSociety](#) and /[Hawkerfilm](#) or Twitter @GWAS1914_1918.

To view the trailer, read a history of Lanoe Hawker, and go behind the scenes of the film with an interview with Daniel Arbon, visit www.crossandcockade.com/Hawker

A short film based on the actions of Major Lanoe Hawker VC DSO



MIDDLE REALM PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS A SHORT FILM BASED ON A TRUE STORY WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY DANIEL ARBON CO-PRODUCED BY CHARLOTTE ELLEN CINEMATOGRAPHY BY ASH CONNAUGHTON
ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS: THE GREAT WAR AVIATION SOCIETY, DAVID BREMNER, HAWKER FAMILY - BUNGAREE STATION, ANN WHITE (HAWKER) AND NORMAN WEBB
STARRING: TOM LEWIN, TOM EVERATT, LEWIS ALLCOCK, DANIEL ARBON, BILL BROOKMAN, NICK KANDA, RYAN O'GRADY AND CIARAN WALSH

The new film is released on November 23 and will be available on Vimeo Courtesy Cross & Cockade

The Dead Poets Society

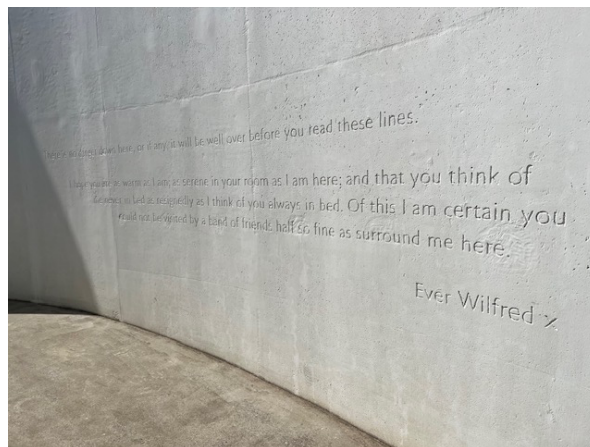


The Herts Constabulary trip in September took members of the WFA MK Branch to St. Quentin in search of amongst other lost men, the dead poet, Wilfred Owen:

We visited Maison Forestiere (Forestry House). The house stands outside the entrance to a military encampment, the whole camp area being surrounded by high wire fences. The original house is not present anymore, it was demolished by the local mayor and replaced with a new white structure (apparently to attract more tourists, with a build cost over a million euros). The new museum was opened in 2011, the main area projects Wilfred Owen poems on the walls, while Kenneth Branagh narrates the written word. The original cellar where Wilfred and several others stayed for seven days is still there and open for visitors to view and enter.



The 'New' Forestry House with original cellar. Wilfred wrote his last letter to his father from this hideout.



It was the 31st October 1918 when Owen and his battalion (2nd Manchesters) reached Pommereuil, about 2 miles north-east of Le Cateau. (It had been taken just a week before by two sister battalions of the Manchesters). A Field Ambulance unit had originally been established in the house from which wounded were sent on to Le Cateau and beyond. It also had to deal with many French civilians who were in a very feeble condition because of age, food shortages, illness and gas poisoning.

By the time Wilfred Owen arrived, the Ambulance unit had moved on. During the early evening of the 31st, surrounded by sleeping officers, including his Company Commander, officers' servants and some

battalion HQ personnel, he wrote his last letter from the cellar in this house. At that time he felt he was out of danger. But there was danger to come and he died on the nearby banks of the Sambre-Oise canal at Ors on 4th November.



Sambre-Oise canal at Ors where Wilfred lost his life.

As part of the trip we visited the cemetery and grave of Wilfred to pay our respects. Wilfred is buried at Ors Communal Cemetery. The tragedy of the loss of Wilfred is underlined by the receipt of the telegram notifying his mother of his death while the church bells in Shrewsbury rung out in celebration of the winning and the end of the war.



Ors Cemetery Sword of Sacrifice and the grave of Wilfred Owen.

Report and photos - Gary Short.

Wilfred Owen: 18th March 1893 - 4th November 1918: A summary by Anne McIntyre

When war was declared, Wilfred Edward Salter Owen was in France working as a private tutor. He returned to England and joined the Artists' Rifles in October 1915. He was subsequently commissioned as a Second Lieutenant into the Manchester Regiment and was sent to France in December 1916. In April 1917, after a traumatic period of action, he was diagnosed with shell-shock, and was sent back to Britain. While recovering in Craiglockhart War Hospital he met Siegfried Sassoon. There, with Sassoon's support, he found his poetic voice and wrote the famous poem, *Anthem for Doomed Youth*. Owen returned to France in August 1918 and was awarded the Military Cross in October. He was killed in action leading his men across the Sambre Canal on 4 November, just a few days before the Armistice.

Anthem for Doomed Youth, Wilfred Owen:

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?
 — Only the monstrous anger of the guns.
 Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle
 Can patter out their hasty orisons.
 No mockeries now for them; no prayers nor bells;
 Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs,—
 The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells;
 And bugles calling for them from sad shires.
 What candles may be held to speed them all?
 Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes
 Shall shine the holy glimmers of goodbyes.
 The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall;
 Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds,
 And each slow dusk a drawing-down of blinds.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Original

Army Form A. 45.

PROCEEDINGS OF A MEDICAL BOARD

assembled at WELSH HOSPITAL NETLEY. on 25.6.17.
 by order of A.C.I. 423 dated 9/3/17.
 for the purpose of examining and reporting upon the present state of health of
 (Rank and Name) 2/Lieut. Wilfred Owen. (Corps) 5/attd.2/Manchesters.
 Age 24 Service 1.9/12 Disability Neurasthenia (143)
 Date of commencement of leave granted for present disability.....
 Date on which placed on half-pay for present disability.....

The Board having assembled pursuant to order, and having read the instructions on the back of the form, proceed to examine the above-named officer and find that
 in March 1917 he fell down a well at Bouchoir, and was momentarily stunned. He was under medical treatment for 3 weeks, and then resumed duty. About the middle of April he was blown up by a shell explosion while he was asleep. On May 1st, he was observed to be shaky and tremulous, and his conduct and manner were peculiar, and his memory was confused. The R.M.C. sent him to No. 41 Sty. H. Gailly where he was under observation and treatment by Capt. Brown R.A.M.C., Neurological Specialist for a month. On 7/6/17 he was transferred to No. 1 G.H. Etretat, and on 16/6/17 to the Welsh Hospital Netley. There is little abnormality to be observed but he seems to be of a highly strung temperament. He has slept well while here. He leaves Hospital to-day transferred to Craig Lockart War Hospital, Edinburgh for special observation and treatment.
 The Board will classify the officer under one of the following categories, the probable period of unfitness for the higher categories being stated.

1. Fit for General Service Unfit six months.

*Edward
 H.P. Edinburgh*

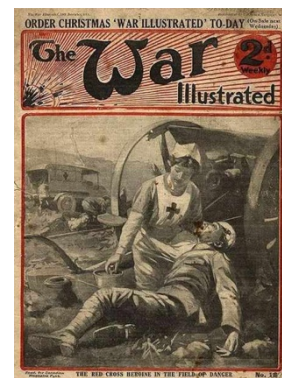
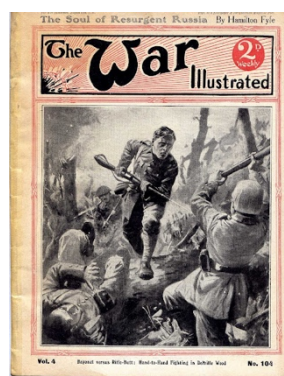
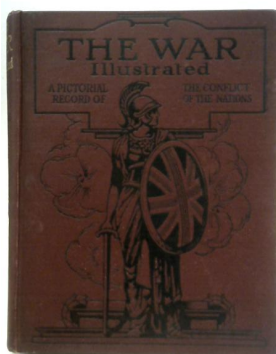
World War One in Objects, 16. Bound Volumes of 'The War Illustrated'.



'The War Illustrated' was a British war magazine published in London by William Berry, later owner of 'The Daily Telegraph'. It was first released on 22nd August 1914, eighteen days after the United Kingdom declared war on Germany, and regular issues continued for the duration of the Great War until being discontinued after the 8 February 1919 issue (returning in a similar format for WW2 on the 16th September 1939). The magazine offered a pictorial record of the Great War and included weekly reports, events and editorials, as well as numerous maps, photographs, illustrations, paintings by war artists and the effect and consequences of global conflict. Subtitled "A Pictorial Record of the Conflict of the Nations", the magazine was initially sensationalistic and patriotic. Although it contained articles, the main focus was on photographs and illustrations, dramatizing, and often fabricating, events involving German troops. The magazine became more diligent in properly verifying its reports from 1916 onwards.

Both versions of 'The War Illustrated' were edited by John Hammerton, who also contributed articles throughout the magazine's run. The magazine contained personal accounts of the war by war correspondents, descriptions and illustrations of Victoria Cross actions, and articles by authors such as Winston Churchill and H.G.Wells. The magazine was extremely popular - at its peak at the end of World War I, 'The War Illustrated' had a circulation of 750,000.

As mentioned in last month's 'Frontline', LT Colonel Ken Roberts, a member of MK WFA for several years, has just moved down to Suffolk, but before he left he very kindly donated a set of 'War Illustrated' (ten volumes) to the branch. These are available for any branch member to borrow, long or short term. If anyone would offer to look after them on behalf of the branch that would be very helpful, as I already hold the stock for the lending library and a few less books piled about the house would be a great help! They are a fascinating read!





'The Doughboys 1917-18' - Mike Sheil

When the United States entered the cataclysm of the Great War the global conflict had already lasted three long years. This talk describes what the American forces saw when they arrived at the Western Front, and their feelings and actions as they encountered bitter fighting, obliterated villages, vast cemeteries, and massive destruction. In 2016 Michael was commissioned by the US National WW1 Museum and Memorial and the US State Department to create a special outdoor exhibition of the American battlefields. This exhibition was viewed by over 6 million people in the UK and US. Mike's fascinating talk is illustrated with some of the thousands of amazing photographs he has taken since 2005, showing the battlefields as they are today.

January 19th 'India's Great War' - Adam Prime

February 16th 'The Doughboys 1917-18' - Mike Sheil

March 15th 'Robert Keable, utterly immoral WW1 chaplain?' -Simon Keable-Elliott

April 19th The U-Boat Campaign 1914-18' - Dr Graham Kemp

May 17th 'Now the War is Over' - Dr Daniel Weinbren

June 14th - 16th Twinning Trip to Belgium (TBC)

Meetings are 7.30 - 9.30.at Wolverton Working Men's Social Club, 49 - 50, Stratford Road MK12 5LS

Committee members are...

Stuart Macfarlan - Chairman (macfarlan87@gmail.com)

Anne McIntyre - Secretary/historical events co-ordinator (annefmmcintyre@gmail.com)

Ian Wright - Talks organiser

Caroline Wright - Treasurer

Jim Barrett - Seminar and visits co-ordinator

George Maby - Wolverton Town Council liaison (Twinning and Albert French commemoration)

Gary Short - Social Media co-ordinator.