



The Spire Sentinel



**The Newsletter
of The
Branch of The
Front**



**& Magazine
Chesterfield
Western
Association**

ISSUE 112 - June 2025

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



Western Front Association Chesterfield Branch – Meetings 2025

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

January	7th	. AGM + `Quintinshill 22 nd May 1915 - Britain`s Worst Railway Disaster` Grant Cullen. Meeting Cancelled
February	4th	AGM + Villages at War - Clowne and Barlborough in World War 1 by Paul Burkitt.
March	4th	Andrea Heatherington - "Scamps in Khaki" - criminal deserters' Deserters sometimes turned to crime to support themselves whilst on the run.
April	1 st	Grant Cullen Britain`s Worst Railway Disaster - Quintinshill - 22 nd May 1915
May	6th	"Combat motivation and morale in British Empire armies in the two world wars" by Prof. Gary Sheffield
June	3rd	'The Forgotten Blitz and the Defeat of the Zeppelins'. by Ian Castle
July	1st	Jutland - Clash of Titans by Scott Lindgren
August	5th	Roy Larkin - Follow a Supply Column and others through mobilisation and the total chaos of the opening weeks of the Great War
September	2nd	'Motorcycle Despatch Riders In 1914' by Nick Shelley. Nick describes the motorcyclists' contribution to the 1914 campaign, using their own words and their own previously unpublished photographs.
October	7th	After Kut - What ?. Tony Bolton
November	4th	Peter Hart topic to be confirmed
December	2nd	An Historians Wrongful Assumption ? - a short look at Sniping and how it developed in World War One. By Morris Charlton

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Chairman`s Notes....



I hope everyone enjoyed last month's talk by Gary Sheffield and the evening went well, I heard it was a great presentation with some good Questions and Answers. I'm sorry I missed it, but I was out on Verdun Battlefields with two of our regular attendees at the branch, John Sutton and Craig Dudley. I was very grateful they asked me to join them on this trip, it was certainly an eye opener. We visited some very interesting places and saw some fascinating forts that had plenty of battle damage and discovered more knowledge on them

with the guided tour and monuments to the French. Verdun is certainly a recommended place to visit to see a different side to the 1st World War. I am still going through my pictures and trying to understand more about Verdun and hopefully I will return as we didn't get to see and do all that we had planned.

This month's talk is '**The Forgotten Blitz and the Defeat of the Zeppelins**'. with local topic included. I am looking forward to listening to the talk and being back at the Branch meeting.

Just another reminder about Armed Forces Day in Worksop and Chesterfield in June and July, I am sure Grant will put the dates in the newsletter. I have done a scribble so please come forward with any ideas for the branch i.e. visits for this year or next or speakers for next year's program just drop either Grant or myself an email or come and grab one of us at a meeting.

See you all 1st Tuesday in June

We have been kindly gifted some books by a very lovely gentlemen I was fortunate to meet called Eric Turner who comes from Wilmslow.

Jon-Paul Harding

Branch chair

June Meeting - Ian Castle



'The Forgotten Blitz and the Defeat of the Zeppelins'. by Ian Castle

Biography

IAN CASTLE began writing military history over thirty years ago, but for the last seventeen years has focused on Germany's First World War air raids on Britain. Initially exploring the London raids, his later research extended to include attacks across the whole country. He has recently completed his 'Forgotten Blitz' trilogy.

In addition to writing books, Ian regularly contributes articles to magazines and journals and has been involved in several television documentaries exploring aspects of this early air campaign. Besides giving regular talks on the subject, Ian has also built an extensive website (www.iancastlezeppelin.co.uk) highlighting these air raids. In December 2023 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.



Secretary`s Scribbles

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to the June 2025 issue of our Branch newsletter.

Hard to believe we are almost at the half way point of the year...where has all the time gone? For me May has been a very busy month, as many of you know I`m on the

Speakers Circuit - not just for other WFA Branches, but Probus, U3A and other community groups. In the month I`ve given talks to WFA Northamptonshire, WFA East Midlands and WFA Spalding . At the latter it was great to see John Chester in good form. Some of you may recall a couple of years ago John was booked to come and give a talk to our Branch. About 4pm on the day of the meeting I received a call telling me that John had collapsed with a stroke. Good news is he recovered well, has no lasting after-effects and indeed may be coming to give a talk to us next year. Elsewhere you will see a report on the ceremony to mark the centenary of the Consecration of Worksoop War Memorial. Branch member and WFA National Chairman Tony Bolton and I participated in the ceremony which attracted hundreds.

On Tuesday we have a first time visitor to the Branch, Ian Castle, with what should prove to be an interesting presentation '**The Forgotten Blitz and the Defeat of the Zeppelins**'. Please do come along and give the Branch, and Ian, your support.

Last Friday (May 30th) saw a very interesting Commemorative event in Worksoop - 100years since the unveiling and consecration of the Worksoop Cenotaph. National Chair - and Branch Member - Tony Bolton and myself had a part to play in the ceremony - see report and photographs elsewhere.

Also included in this issue are some photos from Branch Chair Jon-Paul Harding`s expedition to Verdun.

Next month - July 1st we have a naval subject with ***Jutland - Clash of Titans*** by Scott Lindgren

Best wishes,

Grant.

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The 100th anniversary of the Unveiling and Consecration of Worksoy Cenotaph

On Friday 30th May a large crowd gathered in the Memorial Gardens, Worksoy, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the unveiling and consecration of the Worksoy Cenotaph, 30th May 1925. The event was organised by Worksoy Royal British Legion, sponsored by Bassetlaw District Council and Aurora Wellbeing

Included in that crowd was WFA National Chairman and Branch member Tony Bolton, Branch Secretary Grant Cullen, WFA Trustee Mark Macartney and WFA Parade Marshall, Rob Nash....here he have the three `wise men` ...Tony, Grant and Rob....Mark was taking the picture. Grant is also Branch Secretary of the Worksoy Branch Royal British Legion.



The original plan was for Tony to read a short piece about the unveiling but was asked to lay a wreath on behalf of the WFA and had to stay with the invited guests party, so Grant read the full piece.....here he is doing his bit...see below



The Great War of 1914-1918 ended on the 11th November 1918 bringing an end to that global conflagration. By the end of that year and over the months of 1919, men from Worksop who had served in the Armed Forces started to return home, to loved ones and in many cases their old jobs. Of those who went to fight, over 500 did not return making the Ultimate Sacrifice. In common with other towns and villages across the land, plans were set in train to create a permanent memorial to remember them. Mr A.H. Richardson of local architects Richardson and Lloyd designed the memorial in the form of a Cenotaph, an empty tomb, with construction, in Portland stone being entrusted to local stonemasons, Lidster and Brammer. The names of Worksop`s fallen, which had been carefully collected and recorded were mounted on the Memorial in ten bronze panels

On Saturday 30th May 1925 the War Memorial was unveiled by General Horace Smith-Dorrien and dedicated by the Right Reverend Edwyn Hoskyns, Bishop of Southwell.

Sir Horace had strong connections to the Sherwood Foresters having been given his first commission with the 2nd Battalion. William Henry Johnson, the only man from Worksop to have been awarded the Victoria Cross was also present together with members of the British Legion. The Guard of Honour was provided by the Worksop & Retford Squadron of the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry and the Worksop Company of the 8th Sherwood Foresters.

On the same day Victoria Hospital war memorial extension was officially opened.

In subsequent years deeper research revealed additional names which should have been included on the original plaques, and these, together with names of The Fallen from subsequent conflicts were added in 2012 on the Eastern Memorial plaque.

Wreaths were laid by representatives of the various organisations - including the WFA but perhaps the most emotional was the last one. Two ladies stepped forward together and placed a wreath. The sister and daughter of Sergeant Wayne Reece, the last man from Worksop to be killed whilst on active service - Iraq , January 2007. Plans are in place that, with the family`s agreement, to have his name added to those on the Memorial.

Please find more of Mark`s photographs from this historic day.



Tony pays homage at the memorial wall.

The actual Cenotaph is on an island on an adjacent busy road so the wreaths were laid against the Memorial Wall in the gardens, later to be moved to the Cenotaph itself.



The mascot of the Mercian Regiment led the parade of standards.





May Meeting



Guest Speaker - Prof. Gary Sheffield

“Combat motivation and morale in British Empire armies in the two world wars”

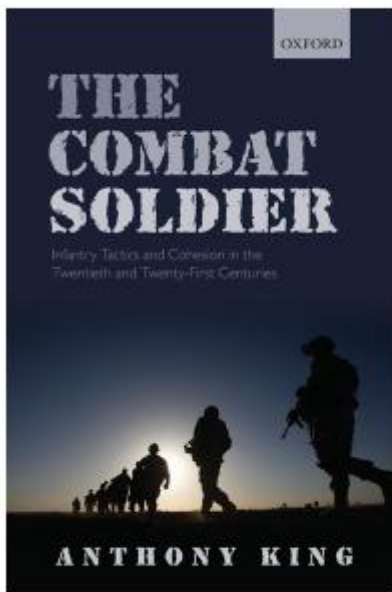
Professor Gary Sheffield is the Honorary President of the WFA. Currently Visiting Professor in the Defence Studies Department of King's College London, he has published widely on the history of British and Dominion armies in the First World War. He is finishing a book entitled 'Civilian Armies: The Experience of British and Dominion Soldiers in the Two World Wars', to be published by Yale University Press.

Was there such a thing as a universal British Empire soldier in the era of total war, 1914-45? This talk by Professor Sheffield looked at the factors that affected morale and cohesion, examined if there were differences between armies and conflicts. He used case studies of Gallipoli 1915 and Normandy 1944.

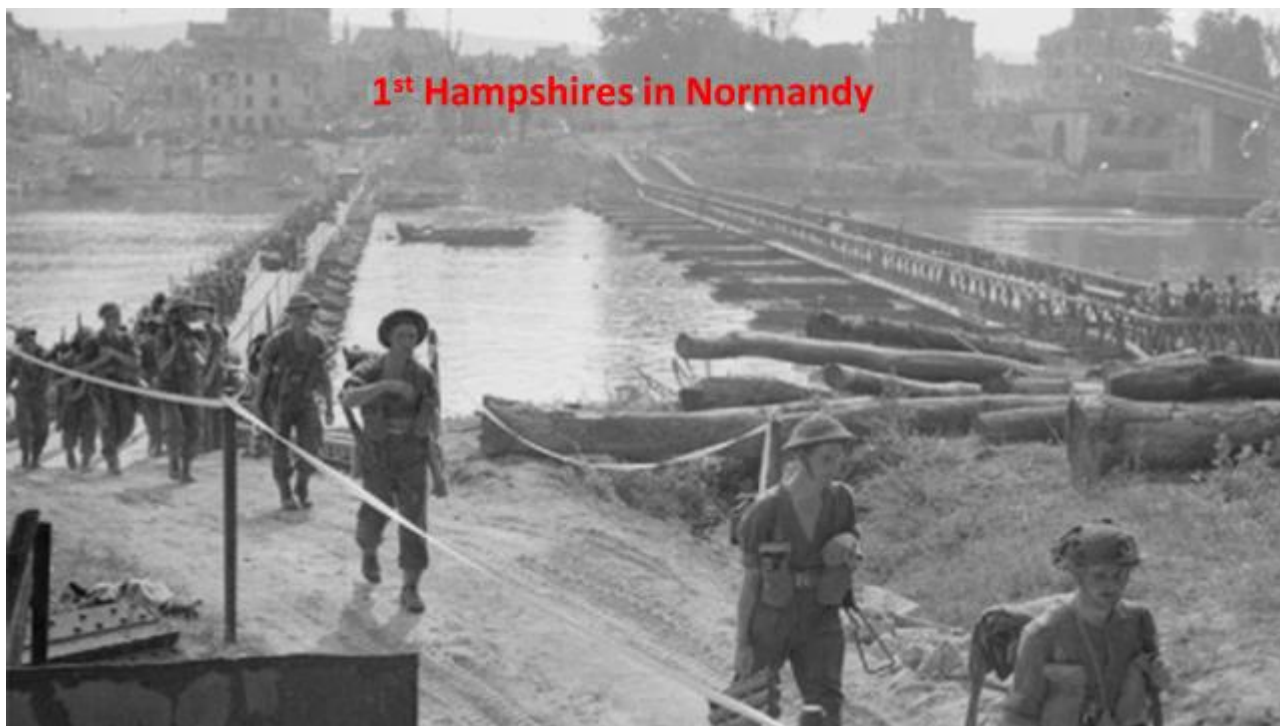
Combat Motivation and Morale In British Empire Armies In The Two World Wars

Professor Gary Sheffield
DSD
KCL





1st Hampshires in Normandy



Lord Lovat



Hew Strachan,
'Training, Morale
and Modern War',
*Journal of
Contemporary
History* 41/2
(2006)



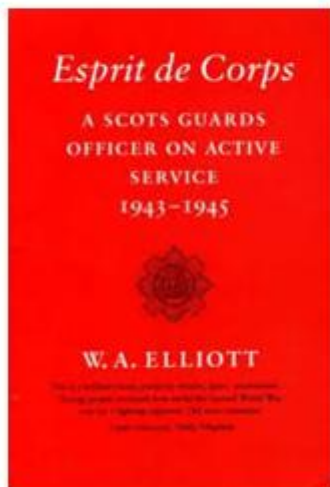
Gary Sheffield,
'All Pretty Well Fed Up and Worn Out'? Morale, Combat
Motivation, and the "Marshall Effect" in VIII Corps at Gallipoli',
British Journal for Military History (2019)
www.bjmh.org.uk '

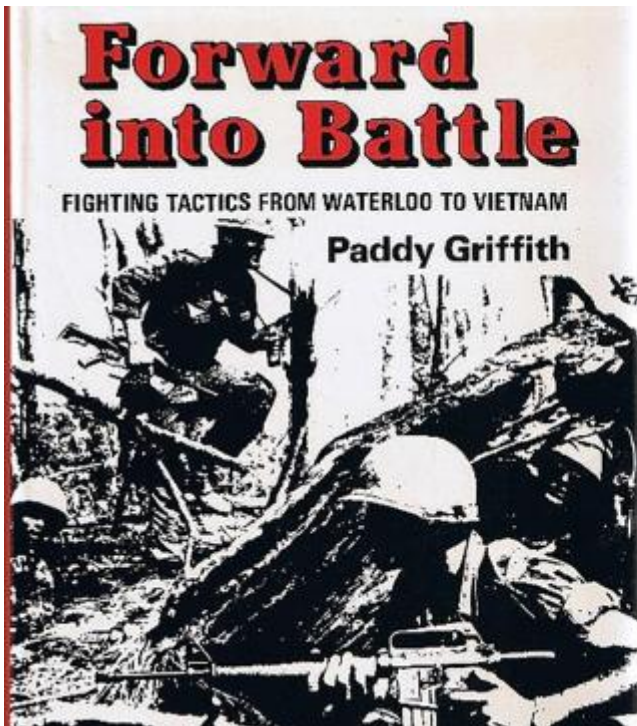
6th Royal Scot Fusiliers, Operation Epsom, 26 June 1944



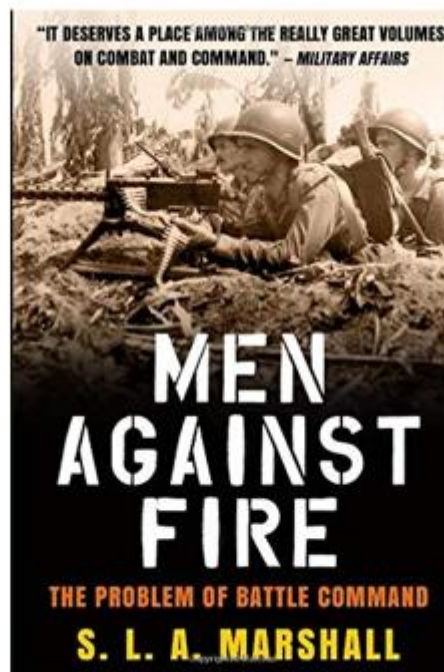
New Zealand Infantry on the
Somme, September 1916

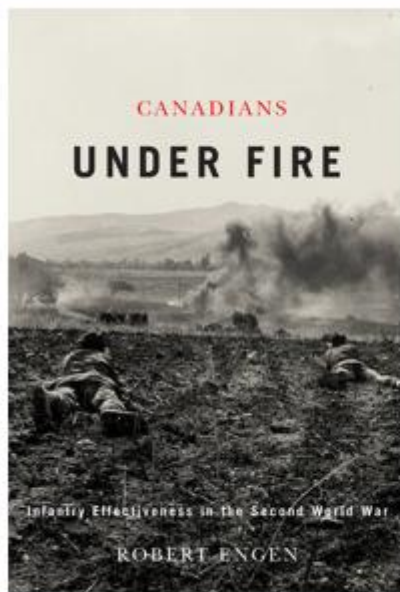




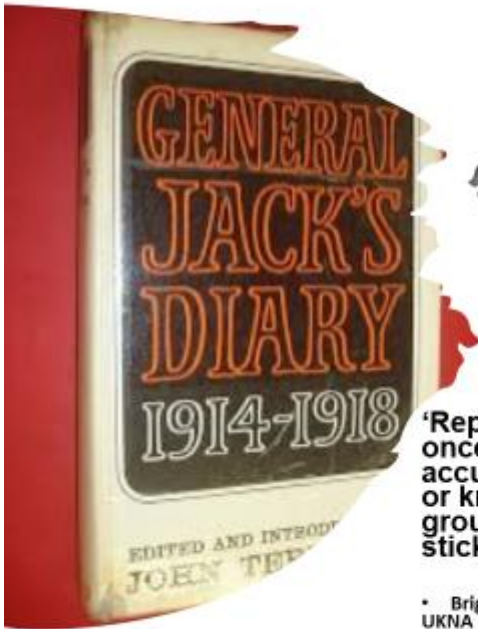


Did only 15-20% of infantry fire their weapons?





‘Funk firing’



'Reply at once to enemy small arm (sic) fire. Fire at once at any enemy you see in range – slowly and accurately from the quickest position, lying, standing, or kneeling... Push steadily forward in your little groups, using slow covering fire where necessary, and stick roughly to your own line of advance'.

• Brig-Gen. J.L. Jack's orders to 28 Infantry Bde, 27 September 1918, WO 95/1775, UKNA



'You cannot account mathematically or in any other way for the work that a "big" man does when confronted with a task that would make lesser beings quail. You sense the presence of your leader, you take confidence from him, you try to live up to his standards'.

• A.J.F. Doulton, on Major-General Reginald Savory, in *The Fighting Cock: The History of the 23rd (Indian) Division 1942-47* (1950), pp.11-12

**CSM Stan Hollis, 6th
Green Howards**



**Sgt Tom "Diver" Derrick,
2/48 Battalion Australian
Imperial Force**



**Homeric
warfare?
Back to S.L.A.
Marshall?**





Concluding thoughts

- A version of the Marshall Effect thesis is valid for *some* armies at *some* periods
- Bayonet charges were not merely a reaction to the Marshall Effect, but remained in use because they were an effective tactic BUT brought brutality to the battlefield
- Lack of firing by infantry – I found little evidence to support theory
- Role of leaders, both formal and informal 'Big Men', was critical: SLAM was on right path but for wrong reasons.



Seaforth Highlanders of Canada stage a bayonet charge for the camera, 1939

Any questions?

XX
Some pictures from Jon-Paul's trip to Verdun.....





LEPT	GILOT ERNEST	HIEULLE ANDRE
ON	GILOT GEORGES	HILD JOSEPH
ARD	GONOT ALBERT	HILAIRE EMILE
IL	GRANDJEAN EMILE	HILAIRE JULES
POLD	GRILLOT MAURICE	HILAIRE THEOPHILE
ME	GRODENIS GABRIEL	HOLVEC JOSEPH
BERT	GUAY MAURICE	HOUDMONT EUGENE
BES	GUILLAUME ERNEST	HUGUIN CHARLES
LE	GUILLAUME MAURICE	HUMBERT JEAN
LE	GUYOT RENE	HUMBERT EMILE
BENH	HAINON CAMILLE	HUMBLET MAURICE
ENI	HALINCOURG GUY	HURLIN LUCIEN
LES	HAMELINE	INCHELIN JULES
BERT	HANNION CAMILLE	INEICHER CHARLES
GENE	HARBULOT GABRIEL	ISRAEL HENRI
ILLE	HARBANT ALPHONSE	JACOTTIN JULES
TE	HARMAND EMILE	JACQUEMIN PAUL
ON	HAUVY RENE	JACQUEMINET AT
PH	HENCHIN PIERRE	JACQUOT GASTON
EST	HENRI CHARLES	JACQUOT HENRI
AND	HENRY GEORGES	JADOUX LEON
	HERBIN PAUL	JANGELEFRANCOIS
	HERTELER EDOUARD	JEANJEAN ATIL
	HIBST HENRI	JEANJEAN EUGENE
	LAFE EUGENE	LEPN LARD



1914-1918

JEAN YVOT MAURICE	LAROCHE MARCEL
JOFFIN ARMAND	LARDE EMILE
JOLIN OIS FRANCOIS	LAUMONIER ROBERT
JOLLY MARCEL	LAURENT RENE
JOLY PAUL	LAURENT GEORGES
JONVAUX AUGUSTE	LAURENS CAMILLE
JONVAUX PAUL	LAUVERGNIAT PIERRE
KARTES LOUIS	LAUVICHE FERNAND
KLEIN RENE	LEBEAU JEAN
KIFFER FERRAND	LEBON CHARLES
LACRESSE LOUIS	LECAMPE RENE
LAMARRE FERNAND	LECHANTRÉ LOUIS
LAMBRY CHARLES	LEGLER HENRI
LAMBRY GUSTAVE	LEGNANET
LAMBRY LEON	LEGONTE VICTOR
LAMBRY LOUIS	LEFOURTIER MARCEL
LAMPEY LUCIEN	LEFORT PAUL
LAMPEY ROBERT	LEGLER RENE
LAMONNETTE MARCEL	LESTACHE JEAN
LAMONNETTE ALFRED	LETHUILLIER PAUL
LAMONNETTE TAD	LETHUILLIER JULES
LAMY GASTON	LEJFUNE RENE
LANGELO F.	LETOURNAIN LOUIS
LARONIER LOUIS	LEMOINE AUGUSTE
LAUREUX PIERRE	LEMOINE EMILE









