

BETWEEN THE LINES

Newsletter of the East Kent Branch of The Western Front Association

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Trustees of the East Kent Branch:

Hazel Basford
Greg Bayne

Committee:

Hazel Basford (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer)

Michael Lucas (Speaker Secretary)

Richard Young

Edward Holman

Rachel Wilsdon

Steve Ifield

Contents

Title	Author	Page
Editorial	Editor	2
Jack Patterson: Soldier and Prisoner of War	Richard Young	3
Captain Sydney Maiden, Part 1: A View of Ypres in 1923	John Drouot	5
Margate's War Shrine and other War Shrines	Editor	8
Queen Mary's Stirring Message to our Fighting Men - April 1918	Editor	12
A Margate school-girl's Great War Certificates	Editor	13
More depictions of 'The Hun'	Editor	14
St Dunstan's Trays and other Memorabilia	Editor	15
Some examples of Grimwade's 'Food Economy Ware'	Editor	16
'Food Economy Ware' advertisement from 1918	Editor	17
Comforts for the Soldiers and Sailors	Editor	18
War Service Anti-Aircraft Company Certificate	Editor	19
More photos from the archive	Editor	20
A personal tribute to Major Tonie Holt	Editor	21
Programme of talks	Hazel Basford	22

Articles, etc for *Between the Lines* should be sent to me in M/S Word with accompanying images attached as JPGs. The deadline for contributions (articles, letters, queries, etc) for the next issue of *Between the Lines* is Sunday, 15th December 2024. □

Contributions should be e-mailed to me at: [REDACTED]

James Brazier, WFA East Kent Branch Newsletter Editor



Welcome to another issue of *Between the Lines*. Since I took over the role of editor in January 2023, I have now produced ten issues of our newsletter. It was my original intention to produce the newsletter at quarterly intervals but, somehow, I must have got carried away. Anyway from January 2025, I do intend to produce just four issues each year namely: January - March; April - June; July - September; and October - December. That should relieve some of the pressure on me and members will know when the newsletter issues are due to be published.

To date, I have been pleased with the number of contributions submitted for publication by our members but there is room for more in our future newsletters from other members.

We have a number of regular contributors such as Richard Young, John Drouot and Ed Holman but it would be nice to see contributions from other members too. Articles don't need to be long and the subject matter is not restricted to east Kent although, because we are fortunate to live in a very interesting part of the country, there are a wealth of stories to be told regarding the Great War. Last year, John Websper wrote a very interesting article about Port Richborough and Richard Young has continued to write about some of the men from Canterbury who served their King and Country in the Great War.

This issue of the newsletter contains another interesting article from Richard Young, this time on another Canterbury man, Jack Patterson, who fought at Mons, was captured shortly afterwards and spent the remainder of the war in prisoner-of-war camps in Germany. Also in this issue is another in-depth and very much out-of-the-ordinary article by John Drouot, this time on a subaltern in The Buffs, Sydney Maiden. John's particular interest is The Buffs and he researches much of his article through the The Buffs regimental journal *The Dragon*. John has researched a number of the reports in *The Dragon* on officers returning to the battlefields after the Great War. It is entirely appropriate that The Buffs should attract John's attention and I know that I am not alone in looking forward to further articles from John in subsequent issues of *Between the Lines*.

I take the opportunity to contribute a number of articles - partly to ensure that there will be a range of subjects covered in our newsletter each time and that,

with such coverage, it will be more likely than not that members will find something in each issue which will be of particular interest to them.

In this issue, I have written about the 'war shrine movement' that swept the country in late 1916/early 1917. These war shrines were, in the main, regarded as temporary war memorials and, as such, most were replaced once the war had finished with permanent war memorials. A number of street shrines still exist such as at St Albans in Hertfordshire and in east London. Indeed, Mark Connelly explored the 'war shrines' in the City and East London in his book *The Great War: Memory and Ritual* (pub. 2002).

I have had a long interest in 'war shrines' partly because the war shrine at Margate still exists and is in good order. In 2007, the churchwarden at St Saviour's Parish Church at Westgate-on-sea fortuitously discovered, behind the church organ, what was once a war shrine. It was made of cardboard and is believed to have been displayed inside the church building from 1917. It listed the names of the war dead from the parish and was superseded by the permanent war memorial tablet in the Church that was unveiled in July 1920. Sadly, the cardboard 'Roll of Honor' - as it was headed - had succumbed to the appetite of church mice over the years with the result that much of the top-right corner no longer existed. The damaged 'Roll of Honor' was professionally framed and was appropriately hung in the War Memorial Chapel at the church. Whether the Roll of Honor will be kept is a matter of conjecture at the moment. However, a surrogate Roll of Honor has been digitally created which will, at least, ensure that the list of names on that Roll of Honor is preserved for future generations. I feel sure that there must exist a number of other 'war shrines' throughout east Kent. If you know of any, please do let me know; they could provide material for future articles in our newsletter.

And lastly, mention must be made of the recent sad death of Tonie Holt. There is no need for me to tell you who he was or of the huge contribution he made, together with his charming wife, Valmai to the study of the battlefields - not just WWI - and their guide books to the battlefields. Obituaries of Tonie have appeared in *The Times*, *The Daily Telegraph* and on the WFA website. A number of Branch members attended his funeral at Barham Crematorium on 5th October and, afterwards, attended a 'Celebration of Tonie's Life and Legacy' held at Broome Park Hotel. Tonie's funeral service was most memorable both for the moving film-show of old photographs of him and for his friends and family singing along to Tonie's favourite song - *Over the Rainbow*. □

James Brazier
Newsletter Editor

Jack Patterson: Soldier and Prisoner of War

John ('Jack') Patterson was born at Colchester in 1894. His father, a Sergeant-Major in the 20th Hussars, was posted to Canterbury in 1898 and when he left the Army a year later, he became landlord of *The Little Rose Inn* at the corner of King Street and Palace Street, but long since demolished. Jack was educated at the Payne Smith School, Canterbury, which he left in 1908 to follow in his father's footsteps joining the 7th (Princess Royal) Dragoon Guards, at Canterbury, soon afterwards being passed on its "sister" regiment the 4th (Royal Irish) Dragoon Guards, with whom he served until 1923.

Six years after signing on, he was in France in August 1914. The regiment left Tidworth on 14th August and on the 15th, they embarked at Southampton on HMT *Winifredian*. They arrived at Boulogne on 16th, and entrained, travelling via Amiens to Hautmont and one day later they moved forward on horseback to Damousies. They arrived at Bois Le Haut travelling via Harmagnies.

On the morning of August 22nd, "C" Squadron of the 4th Dragoon Guards had occupied an outpost position at Casteau, north of Mons, under the command of the legendary Tom Bridges. Movement was seen at about 7am and Corporal Drummer Thomas fired at a mounted figure thereby firing the first British shot of the First World War. An hour later, a group of five horsemen (4th Cuirassiers) was sighted and "C" Squadron were ordered by Bridges to pursue them, led by Captain Hornby (Jack was his trumpeter). They caught them on the outskirts of Soignies and the five horsemen were killed.

On 24th August the 9th Lancers along with a squadron of the 4th Dragoon Guards charged the enemy at Audregnies with disastrous results, 243 killed, wounded or missing. One of those injured was Jack Patterson who was pinned down in No Man's Land under his horse and then taken prisoner, having served just eight days in France. His war was over, and he did not return to England until 1919.

He was picked up by the Germans, who had broken through, and taken to hospital in Dour, Belgium, and lay there for six weeks where he increased his knowledge of French as the matron wished to improve



Jack Patterson

her English, and he ended up in charge of the linen room. It was not to be the last time that he was lucky. Soon came the day when he was paraded with the other prisoners and sent to Munster Lager. After about six months, he joined a working party at Lesse. By this time, with help from a Belgian who spoke six languages, his German had greatly improved. Lesse brought him considerable happiness and he visited the town several times, the last being in 1959, although quite ill at the time (he died in 1969).

The British prisoners were lined up with other nationalities, in order of height with a Russian over 6ft 6ins ending with a little Welshman of 5ft 4ins with Jack on his left. After being inspected by the farmers for farm work

only Jack and the little Welshman were left, but the latter found another employer. They were all billeted in the former school.

Opposite was a baker's shop and one day the little old baker approached Jack and asked him whether he would like to work for him. Jack's ability to speak German delighted him and explained that he was 82 and ran the family business with his wife and two daughters. Jack looked at this cushy number and was soon in charge of two horses, the plough and bringing in the firewood etc. Treated like one of the family, his situation contrasted with the long days, hard work and poor food of the other prisoners and therefore they decided to stage a stay-in strike. Happily, this



Jack Patterson's family c. 1914: Standing L-R: Jack, Robert and Agnes
Seated L-R: Maggie, Robert Patterson, Margaret Patterson and Rose

coincided with the visit of a local bigwig, the Graf Von Munster, who having spent some time in England before the war wished to meet the English. Refusing to obey the orders of the German sergeant to clean up, the situation was resolved with arrival of the Count and two ladies. The interpreter (Jack) was called forward but was answered in impeccable English and an offer of tea was gladly accepted by the visitors, the water boiled in a bully-beef tin and served in three cups borrowed from some French prisoners next door. "No-one in the world", declared the Count, "can make tea like the English." All this happened about 10am and they didn't leave until 7pm, leaving behind a hamper on departure which the prisoners discovered contained six bottles of whisky and more food than they had seen for a long time.

Alas, the good times were over and after going to Machtsun, soon Jack was working in a sugar beet factory in Peine followed by sundry jobs until 1918 when he was sent to work in a salt mine at Saltsdefurth. After a run in with a German sergeant, Jack injured his hand and the sergeant now his enemy, accused him of deliberately injuring himself and flung him in the underground cells. After three and a half weeks, his fingers, still wrapped in the temporary dressing, were festering. A doctor was called, and his hand attended to (although for the rest of his life he had two mutilated fingers to remind him of his stay in the salt mines) and after another confrontation Jack

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
PATTERSON	4/D. Gds.	7 Pte	2361
John			
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	166/103	56	P. of W.
BRITISH	20	56	
14 STAR	CC/4	53	
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein	16. 8. 14 AS/CC/2981		

Jack Patterson's Medal Index Card

told the sergeant that the war would soon be over and when the English came it would be his turn! This had the desired effect and after five weeks in the cell he was sent to hospital in Hamelm where English officers had taken over.

Jack took no time in acquainting the British authorities of the plight of his fellow prisoners in the salt mines, with eminently good results for all, except "Jerry". In 1919, Jack rejoined his regiment at Tidworth, was promoted to sergeant and sent to India in 1921 and at the time of the regiment's amalgamation with the 7th Dragoon Guards was made Acting Squadron Quartermaster-Sergeant.

With the amalgamation, his acting rank would not be confirmed. His parents, then host and hostess of *The Yew Tree Inn*, Military Road, Canterbury, wrote and suggested that he should send in his papers and return to take over the pub, his elder brother, Robert, having died aged 30 as a result of having been gassed during the war. Jack Patterson did return but not to take over the Yew Tree. Instead he accepted a job as civil subordinate to the sergeants' mess caterer at the recently formed Cavalry Depot at Canterbury (1923) and remained there until 1927, when cavalry depots were scrapped. He then went to the Ministry of Labour and remained until he retired on pension in 1954.

Jack said that he would be ever grateful to the people of England who sent food parcels as the food in the camps was totally inadequate and to the Red Cross who sent clothing to him and other prisoners.

A man of many parts, he captained the old Waverley FC from 1923-1930, played cricket for St Lawrence CC and Beverley CC, was involved in amateur boxing, acting as MC at boxing tournaments throughout the country and raising money for charity.

During WW2, although too old for service, he served in the Observer Corps, helped his doctor with analysing blood tests etc, as well as taking his share of fire watching. He also founded the Canterbury Ex-Cavalrymen's Association. □

2361	Trumpeter Patterson	
Date sent.	4 th B. Sdr.	ack?
20.12.16.	2 pr drawers 2 handkerchiefs	
	1 pr corduroy trousers cap - bor outfit	
	toothbrush (also parcel from Mr. Penning)	18.4.17
26.1.17	1 pr boots, 1 pr socks, 1 shirt, hairbrush, salt	
	peppermint, button - boracic outfit	
	towel, P.C. rec. warlocky.	7.3.17
	all feet parcels rec. regularly dated 25-2-17.	
21.5.17	1 suit, 1 shirt, 1 towel, 3 pr socks,	
	mending, braces, peppermint, toothbrush	
	& powder, bor. powder. No 3 P.C.	19.2.18
16.8.17	1 pr boots, 2 pr pants, 2 thin canvas shoes	
	3 pr socks, braces, cap badge towel &	
	2 handkerchiefs. (4 & 5) P.C.	27.10.17
29.10.17	2 vests, 1 towel, socks, cap - jersey	
	Comforter gloves - mending toothbrush	22.3.18
	(6) P.C.	
8.11.17	1 greatcoat. (7) P.C. asky for boxing gloves	28.2.18
	ack: 6-7-18	
4.1.18	1 suit 2 pr socks, mending handkerchief	19.2.18
	(8) P.C.	
8.2.18	1 pr boots, 2 pr pants 2 shirts. (9) P.C.	14.2.18
15.5.18	1 pr canvas shoes, 2 pr socks 2 towels	
	2 handkerchiefs cap, braces, mending	
	10 P.C.	14.8.18
6.6.18	Socks tooth powder, boots (11)	14.10.18
	Photo rec? 20 pr	14.12.18
22.8.18	1 pr boots, 2 pr pants, 2 shirts, lavender	
	11 1 suit, 2 pr socks, 13. mending P.C.	

List of some Red Cross parcels sent to Jack Patterson whilst a PoW

Richard Young

Captain Sydney Maiden, Part 1: A View of Ypres in 1923

Author's Note: This article began as a standalone piece about a man of the Buffs remembering his time on the Western Front. As I researched the career and life of Sydney Maiden I found much more about him, his war and his relationship with the Buffs and with Kent. I recognised that there was more to this 1914 volunteer than his time in Ypres and a second part will appear in a future edition, looking at his war away from Flanders and at his later career, inside, outside and alongside the Buffs.

I am interested in the visits that veterans and families made to old battlefields in the years immediately following the Great War. In this article I examine how Sydney Maiden, a wartime volunteer officer, described his memories of the war in an account, in *The Dragon*, of his 1923 journey back to the Western Front.

In 1913, Sydney had left the King's School, Canterbury to read history at Hertford College Oxford. With the declaration of war he left university and, by November 1914, was studying at the Royal Military College Sandhurst, passing out in March 1915 as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 1st Buffs. The battalion, at that time, was in the Bois Grenier area south east of Armentieres; at the end of May 1915 it moved to Ypres.



Sydney Maiden in 1912, a King's Sixth Former: King's School Archives, used by permission

In the June 1923 edition of *The Dragon*, the editor promised an account, by Captain Sydney Maiden, of his visits to Ypres and Armentieres with special reference to their condition "today as compared to 1915 when occupied by the 1st Battalion". Despite

the editor's promise, the article he published begins precipitously in Ypres, with only a fleeting reference to Armentieres: "*The Battlefield outside is gone. One should not say that regretfully, but it was, as at Armentieres, a little disappointing only to be able to find one's way on a road*". Maiden shows an ambivalent regret that the places he visited are no longer the places he remembered. At one location, he notes the return of houses and trees where once "*picks and shovels were drawn for a night's digging*"; at another, where fields "*once were full of horse and mule lines and hutments. All is peaceful now.*" He also remarks that, from St Jean, "*one can now look right across to Hooge and Hill 60*". This probably reflects both the present level of damage still extant in and around the city, and the startling novelty of being able to stand above ground, safely, peering into the distance. Maiden's are not memories of fighting and regimental achievement and rarely about specific places, they are of a lost way of life in a Front Line that is no more, except in remembrance.

Visits to battlefields involve recollection of the dead, which Maiden does at both the regimental and personal levels. An event from 1915, seems to have been seared on his memory. It occurred near Poperinghe, "*where by great misfortune Lieutenant Taylor and some thirteen men were buried by an eight-inch Naval shell*". Lieutenant Taylor, who had joined the 1st Buffs at the end of March, was killed on 7th June 1915 and is buried in Perth Cemetery (China Wall). The impact of this incident on Sydney was such that, eight years later, he could recall not only the event but the number of the casualties: the CWGC records ten 1st Battalion men, dying on June 7th, all buried in Perth Cemetery: the Battalion diary notes that the remaining three were wounded.

Sydney Maiden made a regimental visit to the graves of Colonel Geddes and General Julian Hasler who, in 1915, had commanded the 2nd and 1st Buffs respectively. After this duty call, he then made a personal one to the grave of Sergeant Colin Blythe 12th KOYLI, at Wieltje: Blythe was killed 8th November 1917. Maiden remembers him as "*the greatest of slow bowlers*" adding, "*One's thoughts went back at once to the St Lawrence ground where many of his triumphs are remembered to this day*". The CWGC website adds that Blythe "*Played for Kent between 1899 and 1914 during which time he took 100 wickets each season, bar two. He also played in 19 Test Matches for England.*" On seeing his grave, Maiden reflects that "*It is a far cry from a comparatively unknown Belgian village to Canterbury but somehow, the distance has been lessened by these bonds forged in the years of loss*".



Colin Blythe: Slow Bowler
– (Kent Cricket Website)



Colin Blythe: Infantryman
– (Kent Cricket Website)

Walking out into the Salient, Maiden describes the wasteland around Verlorenhoek: *“many years will pass before tin, wire and other metal debris will be quite eradicated from or absorbed by the ground. The shell cases, bully beef tins, the odd starfish looking fuse keys of shrapnel rusted to earth colour lie over all the ground”*. The War Diary of the Controller of Salvage records the recovery, in September 1918, of 20,969 screw pickets, 12,780 pick heads, 53,513 steel helmets, 28,806 water bottles, 122,364 horseshoes, 61,016 rifles, 32,700 bayonets and 635 miles of telephone wire. Much of this would have been from redundant storage facilities. What Maiden is reporting is probably the detritus of an artillery battery which, as the war became one of movement, nobody was going to clear up until Belgian civilians turned up, looking to earn a few francs for scrap.

Sydney Maiden’s walk through the countryside around Ypres finished at the Menin Gate, where *“Cafes have sprung up round this place of evil memory and the grey overgrown ramparts, pockmarked by shot and shell through many sieges, still stand and look as ever they did.”* The clashes between the “evil memory” of the Menin Gate and the sight of a returning, vibrant civilian life, trigger thoughts on the proposed Menin Gate Memorial: *“[T]o thousands of men [the Menin Gate] is a big scar in the ramparts and for them at any rate no memorial gateway is needed”*. As for those of us who have come later: *“It is doubtful whether those who never knew the horror of that hideous exit will be impressed by a new archway. There was only one memorial possible at Ypres and that was to leave it as it was in November, 1918”*.

In the immediate months of peace there was an argument for preserving Ypres in the state it was in on 11th November 1918. In January 1919, Winston Churchill, the Minister of War, took up the call

proposing that Britain *“acquire the whole of the ruins of Ypres ... A more sacred place for the British race does not exist in the world”*. The same year, given the understandable views of the Belgians on this topic, a less acquisitive plan gained preference: that Reginald Blomfield raise a memorial within the city to the fighting that had gone on there. He chose the Menin Gate for his location and, by 1922, his design of an archway had become established.

Despite his heartfelt views, Captain Maiden recognised the futility of his preferred Ypres memorial, writing: *“The City has been rebuilt, therefore a memorial here or there makes little difference.”* He explains that his resignation came partly from the practicalities of the situation but also from an admiration of *“the Belgians and the French of the Nord”* and the *“great courage and determination”* they showed through their efforts that *“cleared up a colossal mess and raised up cities and villages, where only shelltossed rubble lay five years ago.”*



Maiden’s “big scar in the ramparts”. The Menin Gate 1919, Canada
Dept of National Defence Library and Archives, Copyright Expired



The desolation of the Ypres Salient seen through Chateau Wood, 1918. Photographer - Frank Hurley. Australian War Memorial, in the public domain

From a twenty-first century position, I was surprised by Maiden's reaction to the Menin Gate Memorial, which I know to be a monument to nearly 60,000 men missing in action in the Salient: still an important symbol, over a hundred years since the war. At the time Maiden was writing, Fabian Ware and the Imperial War Graves Commission were working to make the Menin Gate into the memorial we now recognise but the original purpose of the monument, and the one that may have been in Maiden's mind, was to memorialise the fighting that had taken place around Ypres and its contribution to the Allied victory.

The concept of the missing - those with no known resting place - mattered to the next of kin, to communities, to politicians and to people like Ware, charged with making meaningful remembrance of the war's cost. It was less significant to regiments, including The Buffs, which tended to treat their honoured dead without distinguishing between those with graves and those without. Throughout the 1920s, the topic of the missing appears only twice in *The Dragon*: neither in the spirit of regimental remembrance. In March 1922, the paper gave a warning, to be passed on to affected families and friends, about financial scams selling bogus information about the graves of missing men. Then, in October 1923, the paper noted that one of the roles of the Ypres League, a generic organisation for veterans of the Salient, was to "*preserve at Ypres a Roll of the honoured dead and missing*".

Before making his visit to Ypres, Sydney Maiden had left The Buffs, become a school-master and married. In his account, he writes of "we" but, in its truncated form, the article gives no indication of the identity of his companion. My hunch is that it was the new Mrs Maiden and that in part, at least, his purpose in making the visit was to share with her an important part of an earlier life that, in truth, could never fully be shared.

Later in life, Maiden became a professional artist, mainly painting large decorative murals for public or commercial premises. He also produced images of England's green and pleasant land. In his article he seems affected by the damage the war had done to a once green and pleasant Flanders.

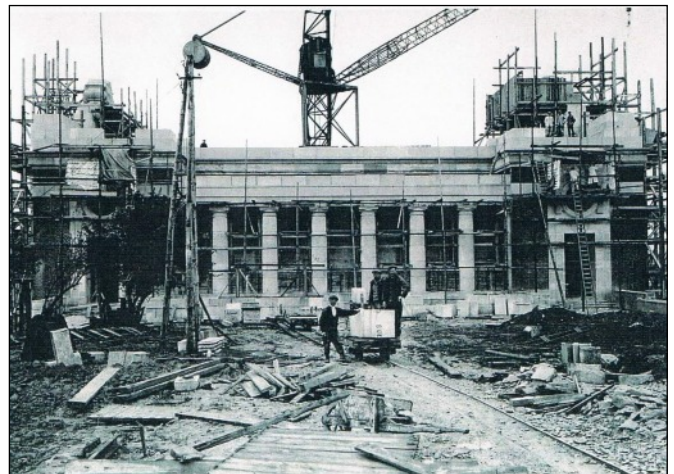
In *Between the Lines* No 75, I looked at the account of a journey along the Western Front, made by two 1st Buffs officers, M & R, in 1921. Since writing that piece, I have identified "R" as Major Grove Raines and, more speculatively, "M" as Lt-Colonel McDouall. Theirs was a factual account affected by their seniority and their doctrinal professionalism. In addition, they are ignoring the bulk of their readership focusing on their old comrades among the survivors of the 1st Battalion from 1914. It was



Green Court King's School Canterbury, Sydney Maiden, ink and watercolour, dated 1948-60, King's School Collection, used with permission



Temporary housing in Ypres, ruins of the Cloth Hall in distance [Discoveringbelgium.com website] - used with permission



Menin Gate under construction [Discoveringbelgium.com website] - used with permission

unnecessary to tell them what it had been like in Bois Grenier, Bailleul and Ypres; they knew. Where McDouall & Grove Raines were subsuming the personal *within* the regimental, Maiden was giving an account of a highly subjective pilgrimage in which the regimental is a constant, but background, theme.

If you have any comments or questions about this item, I can be contacted at [REDACTED]

John Drouot

Margate's War Shrine

My interest in War Shrines goes back at least 40 years began with my home town's War Shrine which, remarkably, still exists today in good condition. It is a fact of life that very few War Shrines around the country have survived as they were intended to be temporary memorials to those who had fallen during the Great War serving their 'King and Country.' Once the Armistice had been signed in 1918, towns and villages set about erecting permanent war memorials to replace the temporary war shrines. However, if one looks hard enough, it is still possible to locate original war shrines around the country. Today, many of them can be located simply by searching the War Memorials Online website. The War Shrine Movement began in August 1916 and spread rapidly throughout the country. Most of the War Shrines took the form of street shrines and were exposed to the elements. Margate's War Shrine, however, has always been protected from the weather although, in its early days, it was fixed to an outside wall of the Town Hall under an overhanging iron shelter. For as long as anyone can remember, Margate's War Shrine has been affixed to the staircase inside what is now Margate Museum in the Old Town Hall.

Margate's War Shrine started life as a triptych but soon had to be enlarged to accommodate the ever-

growing list of names of the fallen. The War Shrine was enlarged by the addition of an extra panel (referred to as a 'wing' in a later press report) which necessitated the re-positioning of the original three panels (see images below).

As time went on and the list of names grew even longer, it became necessary to construct a second War Shrine which took the original triptych form of the original War Shrine (see images below).

The history of Margate's War Shrine began when the Mayor (Alderman William Booth Reeve) wrote to the editor of the *Isle of Thanet Gazette* towards the end of January 1917 asking whether the local paper would be kind enough to announce that the War Shrine was being prepared by Messrs Paramor & Son and requesting names of those 'gallant men from Margate' who had laid down their lives for their King and Country. Over the following weeks, the Mayor would provide the list of names to the editor who would publish the ever-growing list and invite further names to be passed to the Mayor for inclusion on the War Shrine. It is believed that the cost of the War Shrine was met wholly by the Mayor.

All the superb lettering and artwork on the War Shrine was undertaken by Mr Duxbury, Headmaster at the Margate School of Art. □

JB

The first of the three images below is a digital depiction of how the original Roll of Honour triptych might have looked before the addition of the fourth panel. The second and third images show the War Shrine as it is today as two Roll of Honour boards. Apologies for the light reflection in the images but, when the photos were taken, it was unavoidable.

How the original War Shrine might have looked before the addition of the fourth panel (described in the local newspaper as a 'new wing'). Of course, when it was unveiled, it would have shown a relatively small number of names

How the original War Shrine (as enlarged to make a four-panel Roll of Honour) looks today

How the second War Shrine looks today



The following report is from the *Isle of Thanet Gazette* dated 28th April 1917:

MARGATE WAR SHRINE

UNVEILING CEREMONY

In gloriously fine weather, in the presence of a great crowd of spectators, and appropriately to the booming of distant guns, the hovering overhead of an aeroplane, and a ceremony in which both the military and civil population took part, the Shrine, to the memory of the Margate men who had sacrificed their lives for their country, was unveiled outside the Town Hall on Thursday afternoon. In the absence of the Mayoress, the Union Jack covering the board was drawn aside by the Mayor (Alderman W. B. Reeve), and added interest was given to the proceedings by the presence of a guard of honour, provided by a squad of the local Kent Volunteer Regiment, whose Band provided the music for the hymns used in the dedication ceremony. There were present, in addition to the mayor, most of the members of the Town Council, borough officials, and the Vicar of Margate (Rev. T Harrison), who conducted the short service.

The opening hymn was "O God, our help in ages past" followed by a prayer from the burial service and then Psalm xxiii and other prayers, concluding with the hymn "Rock of ages, cleft for me."

The Mayor, in carrying out the unveiling ceremony, said that he regretted to say that, owing to illness of the Mayoress, the duty had devolved upon him. Having drawn aside the Union Jack which veiled the board, the Mayor explained that the present shrine was but a temporary record of the names of those who had fallen in battle, or whose lives had been given, in

sacrifice, for their country. He trusted, he went on to say, that the names on the board would bring home to some people what sacrifices were being made for them and their homes and for their country. And, further, he hoped it would make people realize that the time had come when it should be realized that the German Empire should be put in its proper place in the world. Such a combination of world powers as was against the Hun should prove to them that the steps the Allies were taking would lead, not only to the reformation of Germany, but to the whole of the world. In conclusion, the Mayor said he hoped those who had been afflicted by acute losses would have their sorrow assuaged by the fact that every one whose name was on the board had not only laid down his life for his King and country, but had done something to re-model the world and bring forward that Christian spirit which he feared had been for so long dormant.

The proceedings were concluded by the singing of the national Anthem.

Appended is the list of names on the Shrine, which is as complete as far as it could be made:-

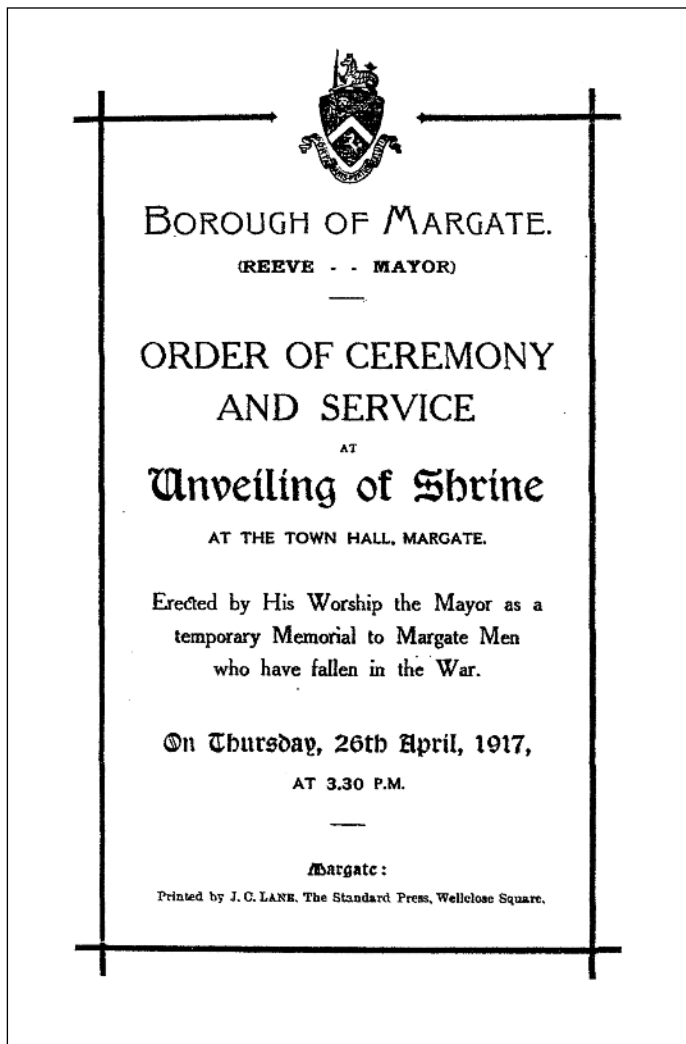
(There follows a complete list of all the 200 or so names shown on the Shrine at the time it was unveiled)

The shrine was designed and made by Paramor & Son, Eaton-road, Margate. Over the top are the arms of the borough with the Union Jack and the White Ensign on either side. Above the list of names, which are lettered in gold, is the motto "Dulce et Decorum est Pro Patria Mori."

In the above report, it is stated that the Shrine was 'outside the Town Hall'. This Edwardian postcard view shows Margate Town Hall with an iron canopy under which it is believed the temporary Margate Shrine was displayed from April 1917 until Margate's War Memorial in Trinity Square was erected in 1922 as the town's permanent memorial to its war dead of the Great War. Today, the War Shrine is displayed on the staircase of the Old Town Hall leading to the town's former Court Room.



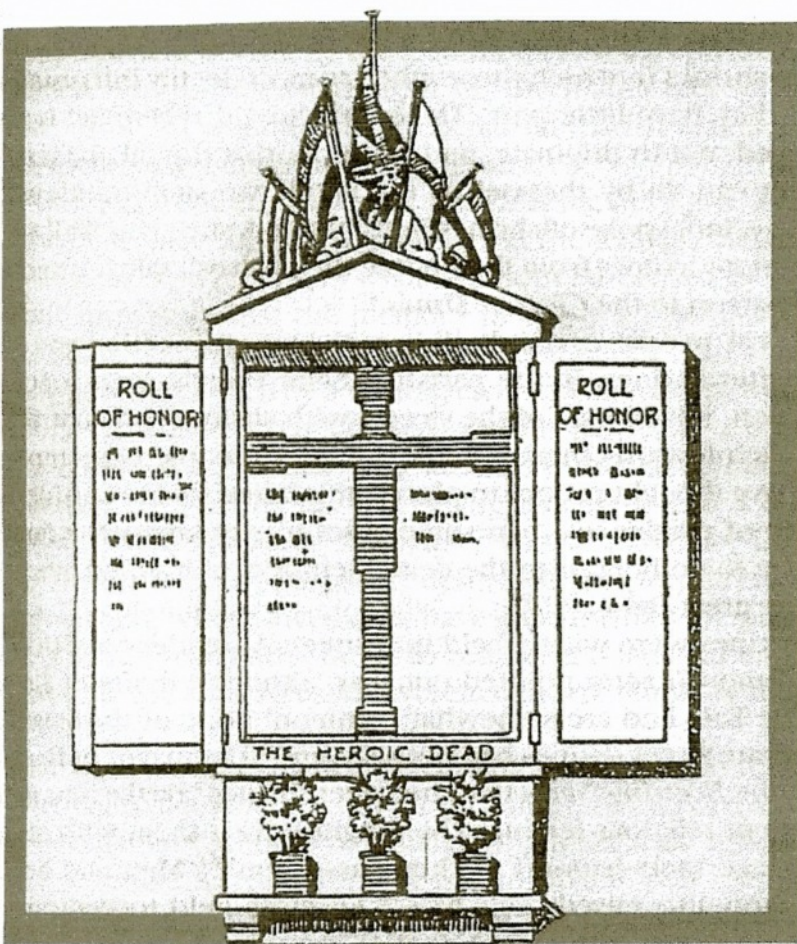
Courtesy of Richard Clements



Alderman William Dalby Reeve served as Mayor of Margate throughout the whole of the Great War. At the end of the war, he was awarded the MBE for his services to Margate during the war. He kept a scrapbook throughout the war in which he mounted all sorts of ephemera of local interest relating to the war. The scrapbook is a fascinating record. It also contains a handwritten list of names of men serving their country early in April 1918 to receive a copy of the 'Mothers Letter' from Queen Mary at that crucial time in the war (see page 12)



The two images above show, on the left the St Saviour's Church, Westgate-on-Sea War Shrine as it was found behind the church organ in June 2007 having been partly eaten by mice. The image on the right is a digitally-repaired image of the original War Shrine using Adobe Photoshop software. Sadly, since the War Shrine was found in 2007, and professionally framed immediately thereafter, it has suffered serious damage due to water penetration through the church wall

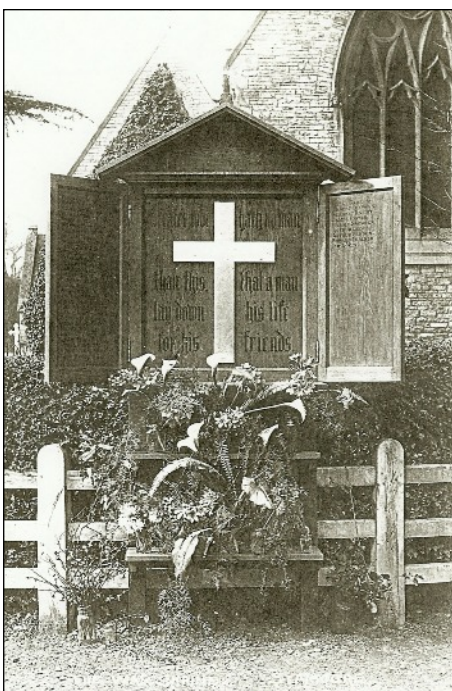


This design for a street shrine was commissioned by the *Evening News* in the autumn of 1916. The *Evening News* even decided to raise a fund to provide materials for shrines in poor areas. The war shrine movement was part of the Church of England's National Mission for Repentance and Hope. War shrines were a focus for members of the public to place floral tributes to the dead. The *East Kent Times* dated 7th July 1917 reported that a white metal trough had recently been fixed at the bottom of Margate's War Shrine and that it was daily filled with flowers by the relatives of the men who had 'joined the Great Majority'.



The War Memorial in the porch at St Laurence-in-Thamet Church. It can be seen that the design of the memorial is based on the *Evening News* suggested design for a war shrine. Perhaps this memorial replaced an original war shrine in the church of the same design.

The names of the fallen are listed alphabetically which suggests that the names were inscribed after the war. The names of soldiers are listed on both of the side panels and the names of sailors are listed below the cross in the centre of the memorial



◀ This war shrine was at Stanmore, Middlesex. It can be clearly seen to have been based on the *Evening News*' suggested design. The photograph shows that it stood outside a church, Note the large number of floral tributes

▶ The war shrine at Islington Green, London in memory of the fallen of Islington. It was presented to the people of Islington by Sir Charles Higham on 26th October 1918. This historically important war shrine was, sadly, demolished in 2006 and has now been replaced with a permanent war memorial of modern design



Photo: James Brazier

Queen Mary's Stirring Message to our Fighting Men - April 1918

Copies of Queen Mary's message (as below), delivered at that critical time in the history of the Great War, were presented to each of the mothers/wives of the fighting men from Margate. To obtain a copy of this letter, mothers/wives had to first register with the Mayoress of Margate (Mrs Edith Booth Reeve) providing their names and the name

and service details of their son(s)/husband. Copies of the letter were later issued for forwarding to their son(s)/husband. The register recording these details still exists and is a useful resource when researching names on Margate War Memorial, etc. It is possible that a similar approach was undertaken by other towns. □

The Queen's Stirring Message to our Fighting Men.

WINDSOR CASTLE.

To the Men of our Navy, Army, and Air Force.

I send this message to tell every man how much we, the women of the British Empire at home, watch and pray for you during the long hours of these days of stress and endurance.

Our pride in you is immeasurable, our hope unbounded, our trust absolute. You are fighting in the cause of Righteousness and Freedom, fighting to defend the children and women of our land from the horrors that have overtaken other countries, fighting for our very existence as a People at Home and Across the Seas. You are offering your all, you hold back nothing, and day by day you show a love so great that no man can have greater. We, on our part, send forth with full hearts and unfaltering will, the lives we hold most dear. We too are striving in all ways possible to make the War victorious. I know that I am expressing what is felt by thousands of wives and mothers when I say that we are determined to help one another in keeping your homes ready against your glad home-coming. In God's name we bless you, and by His help, we, too, will do our best.

MARY R.

26th April, 1918.

Presented by the Mayoress of Margate.

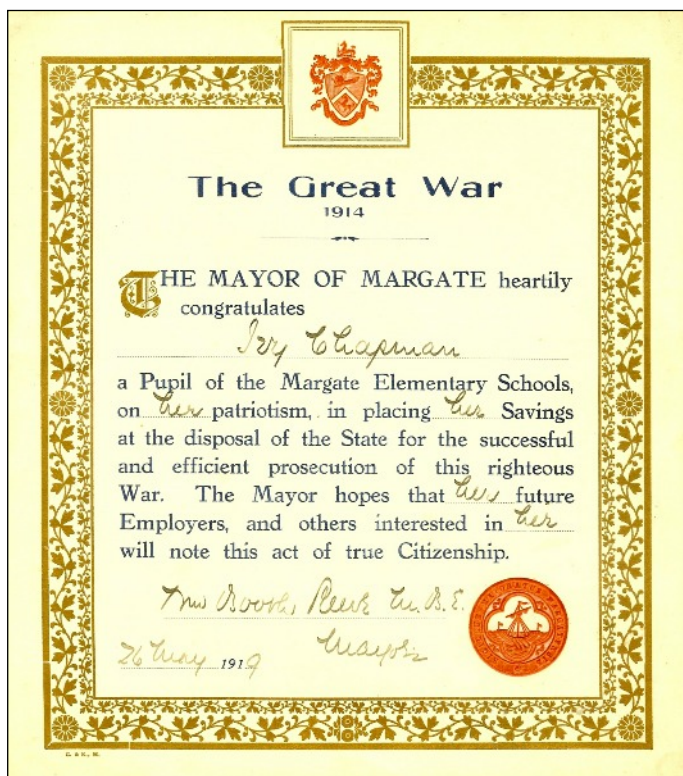
A Margate school-girl's Great War Certificates



These certificates were awarded to Margate school-girl Ivy Chapman who lived on Byron Avenue (now Byron Road) Margate. Ivy was born in 1909 and died, aged 91, in 2000. She kept these certificates from the day she was awarded each of them right up to her death in 2000. She remained a spinster throughout her life but, clearly, the memory of the war remained with her. The first certificate was awarded to her when she was only six years old and the final one when she was ten years old. She deserved to be proud of her contribution to the war effort! The Christmas 1915 certificate was awarded by The Overseas Club whose Patron was King George V.

JB

Certificate awarded to 6-year-old Ivy Chapman at Christmas 1915 for her contribution towards the Christmas Day Gifts 'from the school children of the Empire' to 'our brave sailors and soldiers fighting for honour, freedom and justice'



Certificate awarded to 10-year-old Ivy Chapman on 26 May 1919 personally signed by the Mayor of Margate in recognition of her contribution to the war savings campaign. Note the Mayor's reference to 'her future employers' noting Ivy Chapman's 'act of true Citizenship'. The 26th May 1919 was a Monday. It is believed that this certificate would otherwise have been awarded on Empire Day (24th May) but as that was a Saturday in 1919, the awarding of the certificates was delayed until the following Monday 26th May)



Certificate awarded to 10-year-old Ivy Chapman at the end of the Great War as a 'Memento of the Victorious ending of the Great World War, 1914-1918 marked by the Signing of Peace on 28th June 1919'. The Certificate is signed by the Mayor of Margate (Alderman William Booth Reeve) but the ink has faded making the handwriting on the certificate now difficult to read



◀ This Certificate was not awarded to Ivy Chapman but is included here as an example of the certificates that were awarded to school-children at Christmas 1916 by the Overseas Club

At Ramsgate, the Mayor, H. C. Child, presented a commemorative Peace Medal in 1919 to each of the town's school children. It is likely that other towns in east Kent similarly presented Peace souvenirs to their school children. Do any of our members know of any other similar instances in our area?

More depictions of 'The Hun'



A WWI comic postcard



French pin-cushion by Aristide de Ranieri



The Paul Manship Kultur Medal

▼ *The Paul Manship Kultur medallion in its presentation case*



Obverse



Reverse

From Smithsonian American Art Museum website:

"Paul Manship created uncharacteristically grim images for the obverse and reverse of this medal, which memorializes Germany's conquest of Belgium. "Kultur" was an idealization of German civilization, developed by the German state to justify acts of aggression under the imperial regime. On the obverse, Manship depicted a thick-necked kaiser wearing a "rosary" of skulls representing the nations he had defeated. On the reverse, a Teutonic soldier abducts a woman whose baby lies dead on the ground. This medal sold for ten dollars to help relief efforts during the First World War."

(Today's equivalent of ten US dollars in 1918 equates to around \$200 in today's prices)

St Dunstan's Trays and other St Dunstan's Memorabilia

Originally, known as the Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Hostel, with its first home in Bayswater Road, London, it became known as St Dunstan's after being relocated to a villa in Regent's Park. Today, the organisation is now called Blind Veterans UK carrying on the proud tradition of providing care for men and women blinded in the service of their country.



Advertisement in the *Worthing Gazette* dated 17 July 1929. Presumably, both Gilbert Boys and E. H. Cox Ltd were department stores in the **Worthing** area in the late 1920s

TEA TRAYS
These are beautiful trays with painted cane borders and strong wood base, plain or coloured. The colouring of the base has a genuine cellulose motor car finish and can be washed or cleaned at will. Unlike trays with glass base, these trays, if accidentally dropped, will not break. Prices: Plain from 2/- Coloured from 3/-.

OAK TRAYS
These trays are made with specially constructed base which will not crack or split. Handles are solid brass. Obtainable in either Jacobean finish or Fumed and Waxed. Prices from 5/9.

Wouldn't you like to keep a St. Dunstan's man busy?
and so help him to overcome his handicap.

A blinded man kept fully employed can be, and usually is, as happy as a sandboy, but if he be left in idleness with nothing to occupy his mind and hands—even if only for half an hour, can you realize what that would mean to you in similar circumstances? St. Dunstan's, who train men blinded in the War to make a variety of articles, and endeavour, through the usual trade channels to dispose of the goods they have made, appeal to you to help them to keep these sightless men busy, and by doing so, keep them independent. St. Dunstan's asks you to buy a tray.

These trays of St. Dunstan's are good trays — strong, well made, attractive and very good value. Will you buy one to-day?

ST. DUNSTAN'S TRAYS

Obtainable locally from:

FOLKESTONE: W. ALLSWORTH, 16 & 18, Guildhall Street, and Bouverie Road West, DAVIS & DAVIS Ltd., 137-139, Sandgate Road, F. C. NEATE, 19, Grace Hill, PINK'S STORES, High Street.	FOLKESTONE UPTON BROS., Ltd., Tontine Street. ASHFORD: LEE & SON, 4, 5, & 6, High Street. HYTHE: C. H. STEBBING Ltd. 61, High Street.
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FOLKESTONE HERALD, SATURDAY, MAY 11th, 1929.

Advertisements courtesy of the British Newspaper Archive



Two paper flag-day emblems that were sold on specific flag-days during the Great War to raise funds for the "brave men of St Dunstan's"



A men's brass-and-enamel button-hole St Dunstan's badge (Reg No 638232 - 1914) Made by Fattorini, Bolton



A ladies' diamante St Dunstan's pin-badges (with no markings on its back)



Note the egg-and-dart moulding around the four sides of the tray. Egg-and-dart is an ornamental device often carved in wood, stone, or plaster quarter-round ovolo mouldings, consisting of an egg-shaped object alternating with an element shaped like an arrow, anchor or dart. Some historians contend this ornamental device is supposed to represent the duality of life (the egg) and death (the arrow).

JB

These St Dunstan's Trays were made in various sizes and, today, can often be found at antique fairs or even car-boot sales

Some examples of Grimwade's 'Food Economy Ware'



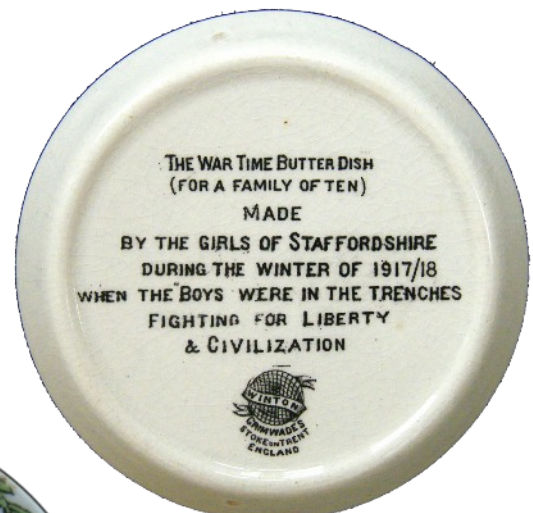
Food Economy Ware eggcup

DEDICATED TO THE PATRIOTIC FOWL

(No backstamp but believed to have been made by Grimwade's)



Backstamps found on 'Food Economy Ware'



In addition to the 'Batchelor's Butterdish and the 'Wartime Butter Dish (for a family of ten)' both shown above, Grimwade's also produced the 'Batchelor's Milk Jug' (just 1 3/4" tall - shown opposite)

"Made by the Girls.
Fired by the Girls.
Decorated by the Girls.
Packed by the Girls."

The China Dealer's : : War - time Opportunity

By the introduction of "Food Economy Ware," China Dealers who have a trade in small articles of ready sale now have an unparalleled opportunity. Each piece of this ware is indelibly inscribed with

A Special Message from the Prime Minister

"Economy Ware" is made in diminutive sizes by the girls of Staffordshire, and each piece bears the :: :: :: ::

Coat of Arms of Great Britain in Heraldic Colours

£5 Cases, well assorted, consisting of Milk Jugs, Butter Dishes, Sugar Basins, Bread and Butter Plates, Cheese Dishes, Porridge Saucers, Tea Caddies, Bread Baskets, &c., to retail at £8, will be sent carriage paid to any station in England on receipt of cheque or trade references.

Special Coats of Arms for £10 orders.

Attractive Show Cards FREE.

Price List on Application.

The manufacturers give a 1d. on each piece to the Y.M.C.A. fund for new butts.

MUGS "for the Patriotic Boys and Girls of England" are in great demand.

Also **EGG CUPS** with a tablet "Dedicated to the Patriotic Fowl."

COATS OF ARMS (in heraldic colours) done specially for any town or city for £10 orders.

All **REGIMENTAL ARMS** and **NAVAL BADGES** in heraldic colours will follow shortly. Orders can be placed now and will be executed first.

GRIMWADES Ltd.

Dept. 9, WINTON POTTERIES, STOKE-ON-TRENT.

London Showrooms: 13, St. Andrew Street, Holborn Circus, E.C.4.



Globe Teapot.



Bread and Butter Plate.



Milk Jugs, 3 sizes.



Open Butter Dish.

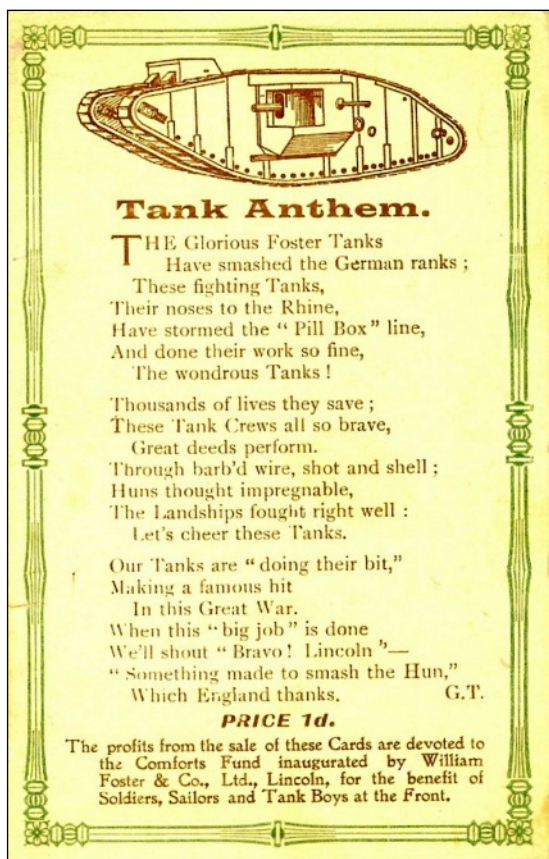


Sugar Basin.

Sample Box

containing Sugar Basin, Butter Dish, Tea Plate, and Milk Jug, sent post free on receipt of Postal Order for 4/-

Comforts for the Soldiers and Sailors



These three postcards illustrate the endeavours to ensure that our service personnel at the Front were provided with comforts during the Great War.

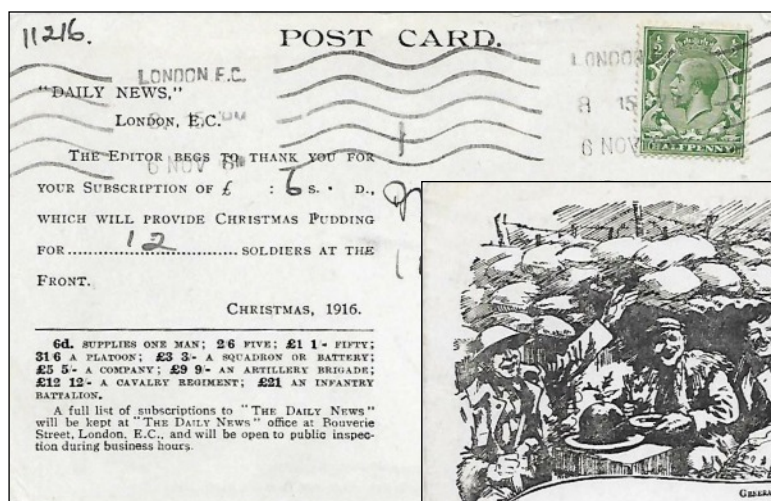
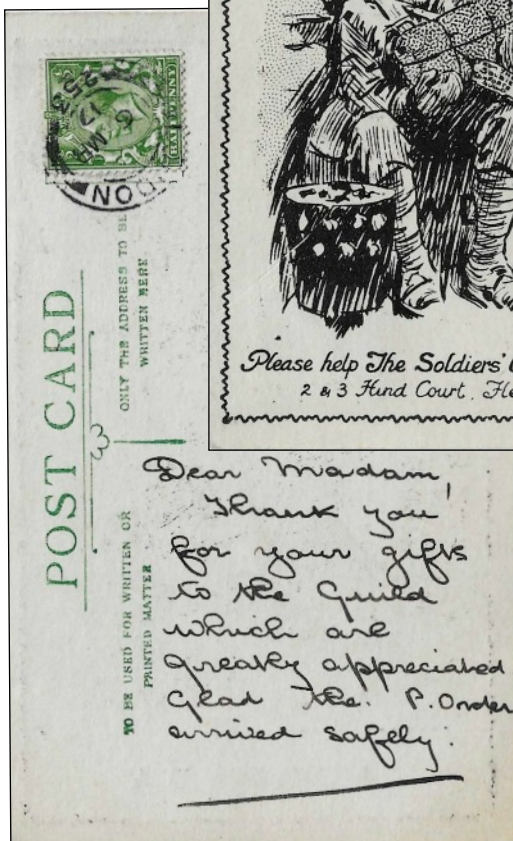


The hand-written message written on the back of the above postcard reads:

Dear May

This is a picture of a Tank created by Sir W Tritton, Managing Director of the Firm where Dad works. I thought you would like one. The anthem has been composed by one of their workmen and goes to the tune of the National Anthem.

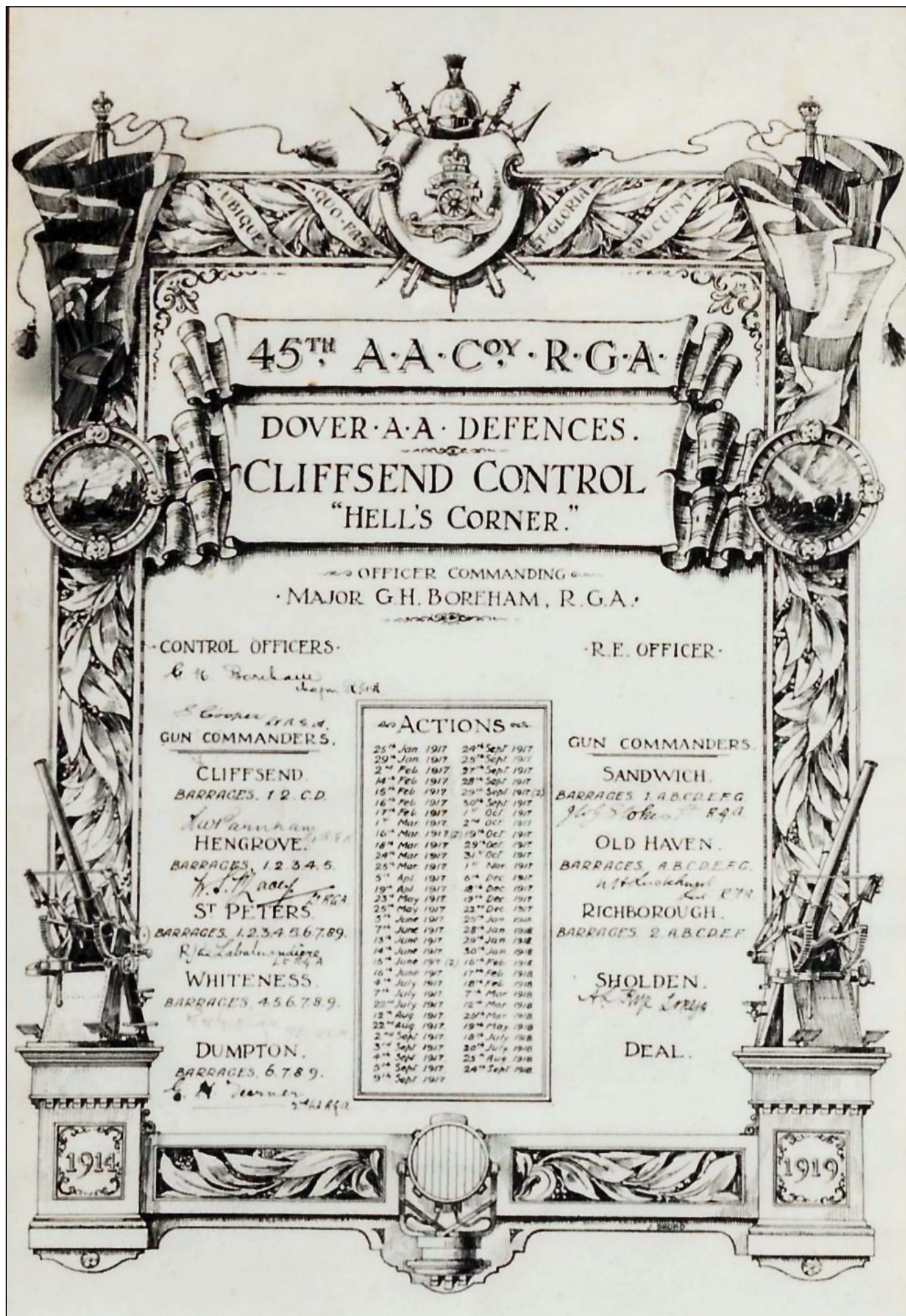
With love
Flo



The Daily News was a national daily newspaper in the United Kingdom published from 1846 to 1930 - Wikipedia



War Service Anti-Aircraft Company Certificate of local interest



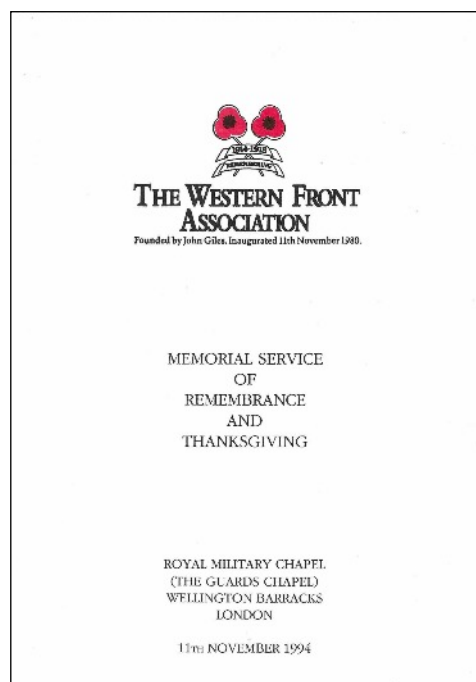
This certificate was kindly given to your editor by his very good friend, Richard Dunning, some 40 years ago

More photos from the archive



The WFA re-introduced the holding of a service of remembrance at the Cenotaph in Whitehall on Armistice Day in 1994.

Since that year, the numbers attending the WFA service at the Cenotaph on Armistice Day has increased each year.



▲ Left to right:

Mrs Teddy Noyes, Patron of The Old Contemptibles' Association; Rev'd K. J. Joyce, Chaplain to the Household Division; John Terraine, WFA President; and Tony Noyes, WFA Chairman
- 11th November 1994



► Left to right:
John Terraine, WFA President;
Mrs Margery Giles (widow of the WFA Founder, John Giles);
and Tony Noyes, WFA Chairman - standing outside the Guards' Chapel
- 11th November 1994

Photos: James Brazier

A personal tribute to Major Tonie Holt

It is with great sadness to report the death of Branch-member Major Tonie Holt on 5th September 2024, aged 91.

Tonie, together with his charming wife, Valmai, was a pioneer of battlefield touring having established their company 'Major and Mrs Holts Battlefield Tours' in 1977.

My first contact with the Holts was through their book *Picture Postcards of the Golden Age* (published 1971) and their subsequent book *Till the Boys Come Home* (first published 1977) when I won third prize in a national competition organised by the publishers of that book. Shortly afterwards, the Holts moved house to live in Woodnesborough. It was only a matter of time before contact with the Holts was made by John Giles (Founder of the WFA) who lived nearby at Ash. In 1981, the Holts invited John and his wife, Margery, together with myself and my first wife to a most memorable dinner at their home at Woodnesborough. The following year, I went on their tour to the American Civil War battlefields. It was a fantastic experience: everything about that tour was 'top notch'. Another of their early books was *In search of the Better 'Ole: a biography of Capt Bruce Bairnsfather* (published 1985). Indeed, I was very privileged to have been invited to attend the launch of that book at the National Army Museum when Enoch Powell MP interviewed an 'Old Bill' actor. It was a simply magical performance!



Tonie and Valmai Holt at Gettysburg leading their tour of the American Civil War battlefields in 1981



Tonie and Valmai Holt laying a wreath at Woodnesborough War Memorial on Friday, 11th November 2022

My interest in both WWI postcards and Bairnsfather collectables brought me even closer to the Holts. Their output in writing books was remarkable and that was before they even started writing their brilliant battlefield guidebooks!

I have always regarded myself as having been extremely lucky to have met the Holts nearly 45 years ago and to have kept in contact with them all those years. In September of last year, the Holts invited my wife, Sue, and I to join them for tea at their home. Tony was in great form that day despite his serious ill health. A little over a year later, Tonie sadly died after suffering a stroke. It was a great shock for all who knew him but especially so for Valmai and their family. Tonie and Valmai had been married for 66 years and they had worked as a great team throughout that time. They had given talks to a number of WFA branches over the years and their presentations were seamless: as one stopped speaking, the other one started without either missing a beat.

In 2014, they were both deservedly honoured by the Conseil General de la Somme with a Centenary award for their services to battlefield tourism.

Rest in peace, Tonie (*whose unusual name was his father's choice for reasons that no one now recalls*).

Future meetings:

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at The Hall, St Andrews United Reformed Church, Watling Street, Canterbury CT1 2UA

7:30pm start (hall open from 7:00pm)

2024

5 November

Viv Newman: 'Regina Diana - seductress, singer & spy'

3 December

Mark Connelly: 'Not so silent nights: the 1914 Christmas Truce'

2025

7 January

Tom Isitt: 'Riding in the Zone Rouge'

4 February

James Brazier: 'Trench Art'

4 March

Peter Hart: 'Flashbacks from the Front'

1 April

Simon Keable-Elliott: 'Robert Keable, utterly immoral WW1 Chaplain?'

6 May

Marietta Crichton Stewart: 'The Welsh Walter Mitty – life & adventures of a lieutenant, 6th Welsh'

3 June

Tony Bolton: 'Mobilisation – the 18 days, 5-22 August 1914'

All are welcome

WFA branches are entirely self-supporting. A donation towards the expenses of the meeting is very much appreciated

For further details, please contact:

Hazel Basford

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Founded by John Giles. Inaugurated 11th November 1980
Registered Charity No. 298365