



Quarter Three – September 2016



Creeping Barrage

News & Notes
from the Herts &
Beds Branch

UP NEXT:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016 AND MEMBERS' EVENING

**VENUE: ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL, SUN LANE (SPORTS HALL ROOM SP101),
HARPENDEN AL5 4TD**

DATE AND TIME: FRIDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 8:00PM

Following the AGM, Branch Regular, **Roger Yapp**, will present the "**The Man from the Bottom of My Garden**" which, as Roger says, is the story of Walter Owen who was Killed in Action, near Ginchy, on the Somme on 15th September 1916, almost a hundred years ago to the day. Walter was the first man researched by Abbots Langley's "Back to the Front" Great War Project. The Project has continued to research, record and remember over 700 men and women from the village who served in the Great War. The shortened version of this talk will concentrate on Walter's experiences in the weeks and days leading up to the action on the 15th September when the British Army unleashed its new secret weapon – the Tank.

DONATION AT THE DOOR £3.50

www.wfahertsandbeds.btck.co.uk

www.westernfrontassociation.com



Zone Call - Notes from Geoff Cunnington, Chairman and Branch Secretary



A warm post-summer welcome to you all. I hope you all found some well-earned rest and relaxation as well as time to appreciate the Somme commemorations at the beginning of July. I was fortunate to be successful in the national ballot to attend the ceremony at Thiepval. It was a most memorable day. As Branch Chairman, I was asked to summarise my personal thoughts and observations about the Somme centenary for the August edition of 'Bulletin':

Somme Thoughts

It was a case of "on with the poncho" rather than "over the top" for those of us attending the Somme commemorations at Thiepval on 1 July. The sombre grey clouds were in tune with the solemnity of the occasion until they broke, tearfully, towards the end of the ceremony. We then all fumbled furiously for the see-through showerproof plastic ponchos supplied by the event organisers to keep ourselves dry as the thousands of red and blue paper poppies and cornflowers cascaded down slowly from the walls of the memorial. Throughout, I recalled what an honour it was to witness this deeply moving and historic event having been successful in the national ballot and in doing so I was, unexpectedly, the representative for the Herts & Beds Branch at the Somme.

Both my grandfathers served on the Home Front in the Great War and so the Somme holds no directly personal associations for me. Nevertheless the day was indeed a memorable one filled with sights: (the overwhelming size of the Thiepval memorial; the visual impact of name after name after name; the children laying wreaths at the headstones) and sounds: (the clatter of metal shod guns, limbers and horseshoes of the RHA on the gravel pathway as they approached the memorial site with all the flurry and urgency of their forebears; the silence of the hundreds of people sitting in thought and contemplation). An unforgettable day which triggered many milestones in my own personal interest in the war.

The revisiting old favourites like Martin Middlebrook's "First Day of the Somme" and Geoff Dyer's "The Missing of the Somme" as well as showing a path to some potential new ones such as "In Parenthesis" by David Jones and W N Hodgson's "Before Action" – thank you BBC; how have the wonderful details of these works passed me by until now? And then there are the "Zero Hour Panoramas" by Jolyon Fenwick which bring a modern photographic perspective to the now benign landscapes of the Somme as annotated by those who were there – I commend them to you as a tongue-tied experience.

Our first Branch meeting following the summer break sees us holding our Annual General Meeting which will be followed by a presentation by Roger Yapp on the life and death of William Owen ('The Man from the Bottom of My Garden') who fell on the Somme almost exactly 100 hundred years' ago. Roger has undertaken extensive research in this topic and his talk will be well-worth listening to, I am sure. Our evening will run as follows:

Time	Event
20:00	Introduction and Annual General Meeting Agenda: (1) Minutes of 2015 AGM (2) Matters Arising (3) Chairman's Report (4) Treasurer's Report (5) Election of Officers: Chairman Treasurer Secretary Committee Members (6) Any Other Business
20:20	'The Man from the Bottom of My Garden' – Roger Yapp
21:00	Break for refreshments
21:20	'The Man from the Bottom of My Garden' – concludes and Q&A
21:45	What's Up Next for 2017
21:50	Meeting closes

At the time of this AGM, I make no apologies as Chairman for reiterating what I have said before on a number of occasions. I am acutely aware that if the Branch is to continue and to potentially flourish then we must have more involvement from you, the members. We need new ideas and new people who can commit to helping the Branch in any way that best suits their skills and interests. No one has come forward at present, but if you are interested in being a Committee member or assisting in the arrangements for meetings then please let me know.

Do remember to keep up with what is going on at the Centenary News website which gives all the up-to-date information on events over the coming months <http://www.centenarynews.com/>



And please don't forget our main event at Milton Keynes which is now only a few weeks' away. Book now to avoid disappointment.

BOOKING NOW - SEE PAGE 9

Joint Branch Seminar with Milton Keynes

23 October 2016

The Cruck Barn, Milton Keynes City Discovery Centre, Alston Drive, Bradwell Abbey MK13 9AP

Geoff Cunnington
September 2016

Previously at Herts & Beds 24 June 2016 'Those Who Served: Remembering First World War Nurses' - Dianne Yarwood



Branch Regular, Roger Yapp, writes:

In 2014 the Royal College of Nursing mounted an exhibition to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the start of the Great War. Based on the information researched for the exhibition Dianne Yarwood gave a short, but nevertheless interesting talk about the part played by nurses in the War, and the foundation of the College of Nursing.

In 1914 nurses were encouraged to join the British Military Service. They were mainly in the age range from 25 to 35, were usually well educated, and were expected to have trained for at least three years at an approved hospital. From the outset many ladies of good social standing were attracted to the Service, but as the War continued, this unofficial criteria was relaxed.

At the outset of the War there were three major branches of the Service. In 1914 there were only 297 nurses serving with the Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS). This was the primary nursing service supporting the complete British Army. By the end of 1914 some 2,200 temporary nurses had joined the QAIMNS Reserve, and the nursing service was swelled by 2,760 more nurses from Territorial Force Nursing Service (TFNS). In anticipation of a War the TFNS had been introduced as part of the Haldane reform of the Army in 1907/8, with the aim of providing a nursing service to support the newly formed Territorial Army. The TFNS nurses normally worked full time at hospitals throughout the country, but joined up in the same way as men joined the Territorial Reserve. By the end of the War the Nursing service comprised some 20,000 trained women nurses, 8,000 of whom joined the College of Nursing.

As part of the research for the 2014 exhibition Yvonne McEwen compiled a Roll of Honour, through checking the records of the College, the National Archives, Newspaper articles, and through searching the Web. Twelve members had died in Military Service – three from enemy

action, five from influenza or infection, one from cancer, two for other reasons, and one for whom the reason couldn't be consistently confirmed. One died in 1917 and the rest between March and November 1918. In total it is estimated that around 150 nurses died as a direct result of the War.

Dianne continued to recount some of the stories that had been discovered during the research. Jessie McRobbie served in Egypt, and was mentioned in despatches. Her letters had been found, and explained that she, like many who served, had been anxious to join, and to get abroad.

Staff Nurse Agnes Murdoch Climie was "Killed in Action" in November 1917 at the 58th Scottish General Hospital near St Omer, when two bombs fell on the site. Three nurses were killed and three more wounded, and 16 Other Ranks also died in the raid. The deaths caused uproar and outrage back in Britain.

In early 1918 HM Hospital Ship *Glenart Castle* was torpedoed in the Bristol Channel. She was clearly marked as a Hospital Ship, and was sailing at night with all of her lights on. Fortunately she was not carrying any wounded troops but nevertheless was attacked and sunk. During the War seven Hospital Ships were torpedoed.

Throughout the stories there was a constant theme of a desire for these women to go out and do their bit, and to be able to care for the gallant men at the Front. Sadly Dianne brought her interesting and informative talk to a close too soon but continued to take questions from the Members about researching Great War Nurses and Hospitals.

Roger Yapp, September 2016

Coming-Up at Herts & Beds - Future Presentations for 2016

14 October

‘The Angels of Pervyse: Elsie and Mairi Go To War’ - Diane Atkinson

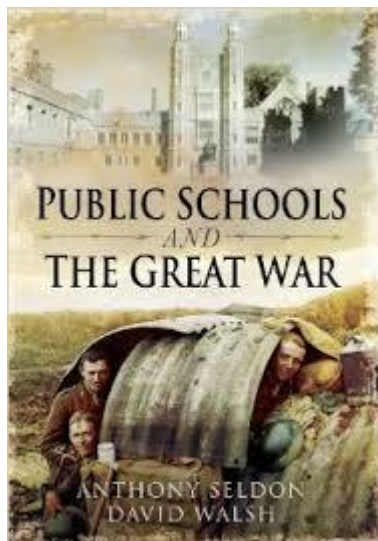


Elsie Knocker and Mairi Chisholm spent most of the War saving hundreds of soldiers' lives by giving basic first aid just a hundred yards from the German trenches at Pervyse. They received 17 medals for their bravery and became known as the 'Madonnas' and 'Angels of Pervyse': they are two of the iconic women of the Great War in the company of Edith Cavell and Mata Hari. This talk by **Diane Atkinson** will describe their lives, their works and the project to commemorate them. Diane taught history at secondary schools in London before moving to the Museum of London, where she worked as a lecturer and curator, specialising in women's history. At three o'clock in the afternoon of 22nd of November 2014, a life-size bronze sculpture of Elsie Knocker and Mairi Chisholm, and their little dog Shot, was unveiled in the garden of the Hotel Ariane in Ypres, a hundred years to the day since they started giving 'golden hour' treatment to Belgian soldiers in their dug-out in Pervyse ten miles away. Read more: <http://www.dianeatkinson.co.uk/>

11 November

Public Schools and the Great War

David Walsh will analyse the contribution of British public schools and their alumni to the war effort and examine the effect of the war on those institutions during the war itself and subsequently. David Walsh taught history at Tonbridge School in Kent, retiring as Deputy Head in 2009. He has subsequently written two books - 'A Duty to Serve: Tonbridge School and the 1939-45 War' (TMI 2011) and 'Public Schools and the Great War: A Generation Lost' (Pen and Sword 2013) with Anthony Seldon. He is a member of the WFA and occasionally takes groups of friends on battlefield trips.



16 December

The Great War – Rothamsted's Contribution

Professor Roger Plumb will describe the impact of the Great War on the work and the staff of Rothamsted Experimental Station in Harpenden. Rothamsted was well-positioned in 1914 to progress its research activities with the Board of Agriculture when war broke out and changed the dynamics of the organization as staff volunteered to serve and to adapt to changing wartime requirements. Professor Plumb will take us through all these events in some detail culminating in the notable Zeppelin raid of September 1916.

Presentations for 2017

20 January 2017

Emily Mayhew

Unsung Heroes – The Stretcher Bearers of World War One

An essential part of medical treatment in World War I was the teams of stretcher-bearers who were, for the first time, given basic first aid training and endorsement to give care to the injured. Dr. Emily Mayhew writes, that “the really important story was the idea of pushing medicine forward, towards the battle, so that you started to treat people as close to the front line, and as soon as they were wounded, as possible. Once I’d worked out that was happening it’s very easy to see how that relates to the way that we treat casualties today.” Emily argues that these stretcher bearers are direct ancestors of modern Combat Medical Technicians. Where once there would have been a team of stretcher bearers approaching a shell crater, there is now a Medical Emergency Response Team (MERT) flying out in helicopters to marines injured by IEDs or wounded in gunfire. The basic strategy remains the same.



Dr. Mayhew is a military medical historian specialising in the study of severe casualty, its infliction, treatment and long-term outcomes in 20th and 21st century warfare. She is historian in residence in the Department of Bioengineering, working primarily with the researchers and staff of The Royal British Legion Centre for Blast Injury Studies, and a Research Fellow in the Division of Surgery within the Department of Surgery and Cancer. She is based jointly in the Department of Bioengineering and at the Chelsea and Westminster campus

24 February 2017

Nigel Crompton

Munitions Factories in the Great War and Rather a Big Bang

This presentation includes an introduction to Ministry of Munitions and details of local factories local and the role of women in the factories. The second half of the talk covers munitions factory explosions and matters of health and safety.

Nigel Crompton is a past chairman of Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire WFA, and spent much of his working life in the Fire Service.

24 March 2017

Bill Fulton

Captain Albert Ball VC, RFC

Albert Ball was Britain's first air ace of the Great War. His loss in May 1917 was a huge blow to public morale.

Captain Albert Ball VC, DSO & two Bars, MC (14 August 1896 to 7 May 1917), was at the time of his death the UK's leading flying ace with 44 victories. Ball was raised in Nottingham and he joined the Sherwood Foresters on the outbreak of the First World War, being commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in October 1914. In 1915 he transferred to the RFC, joining No 13 Squadron in 1916. He was the first flying ace to become a British popular hero. In his relatively short fighting career he shot down 44 enemy aircraft. Ball died during the evening of 7 May 1917 during a dogfight in failing visibility; some mystery surrounds his death. Cecil Arthur Lewis was a participant in the action and describes it in his memoir 'Sagittarius Rising'.

Bill Fulton considers the service career of the 'baby faced killer' and will explain why there is some controversy and mystery surrounding his death.

28 April 2017

Dr. Jonathan Black

Charles Sargeant Jagger

Dr. Jonathan Black will relate the career of Charles Sargeant Jagger MC (1885-1934) including his Western Front experiences and those related to war memorials (including the one for Bedford in 1922). He was a First Lieutenant with the 2nd Worcesters, October 1917-April 1918 and took part in Third Ypres and Battle of Neuve Eglise (12-14 April 1918); it was for commanding a company during later that he was later awarded the MC and in the battle he was hit by a German machine gun bullet in the chest. In early autumn 1918 the Ministry of Info commissioned him to make low-relief *The First Battle of Ypres – The Worcesters at Gheluvelt* (ref to the battle in October 1914). Into 1919 on his own initiative he made low-relief *No-Man's-Land* inspired by his memories of Passchendaele. 1919-30: he made sculpture for a dozen war memorials in the UK and abroad for the Imperial War Graves Commission and nearly all reference the Western Front in some way.

Jonathan Black read History with History of Art at the University of Cambridge. Between 1997 and 2003, he obtained an MA and Ph.D. in History of Art from University College, London. His MA focused on the English Futurism of CRW Nevinson (1913-1916) while his Ph.D. explored the image of the British soldier, or 'Tommy', in the First World War Art of C.R.W. Nevinson, Eric Kennington, and Charles Sargeant Jagger.c 1915-1925. Jonathan has curated several exhibitions and his 2011 monograph, *The Face of Courage: Eric Kennington, Portraiture and the Second World War*, coincided with the opening of an exhibition with the same title at the Royal Air Force Museum. This exhibition comprised of 40 of Kennington's Second World War pastel drawings and lithographic prints. He is currently Senior Research Fellow in History of Art at Kingston University.

19 May 2017

Dr. Viv Newman

Nursing through shot, shell and shell-shock: medical women at the Front

Seeking to correct the myth that those who nursed overseas were all well-bred VADs, 'Nursing through Shot, Shell and Shell-shock' looks instead at the dedicated service of professional nurses and doctors as well as the volunteers. Historian and author, **Dr. Viv Newman** will focus is women who worked in some of the most horrific conditions in all theatres to succour the wounded and in so doing put their own lives, health and indeed mental health at significant risk. The first evacuation of a traumatised QAIMNS Staff Nurse occurred in early 1915; in the 1920s a TFNS matron was diagnosed as suffering from 'war nerves', yet few people today are aware that both professional and volunteer nurses also cracked under the strain of their service and that, to quote terminology used in one nurse's papers, 'the cause of her transport was shell-shock'. This talk focuses on a few of the War's many unsung nursing and medical heroines and explores the physical and emotional cost of their service.

Dr. Newman has taught women's war poetry in both academic and non-academic settings and speaks widely at history conferences (both national and international). She gives talks to a variety of audiences ranging from First World War devotees of organisations such as the Western Front Association as well as to Rotarians, Women's Institutes and U3A. Her work at the University of Essex includes supporting Humanities students with their academic writing.

23 June 2017

Julie Moore and Maggy Douglas

The St. Albans City Military Service Tribunal: Conscription, Conscience and Commerce

At more than 100 sittings, the city's tribunal considered applications for exemption from conscription from 1,050 men. Using the tribunal minute books and registers together with extensive reports in the local newspaper, this talk assesses how the tribunal dealt with the controversy of the city's 23 conscientious objectors as well as the hundreds of applications made by the city's large businesses. In particular it investigates the effect of the tribunal's decisions on the staple trades of the straw hat manufacturers, boot and shoe makers as well the large printing companies.

Julie Moore and **Maggy Douglas** are both members of the Home Front Research Group of the St Albans and Hertfordshire Architectural and Archaeological Society. The 21-strong group was formed in 2013 to consider the effects of the First World War on the social and economic development of St Albans. Their findings were published in 2016 by Hertfordshire Publications in [*St Albans: Life on the Home Front, 1914-1918*](#).

Julie is a member of the University of Hertfordshire's History Department and their 'Everyday Lives in War' First World War Engagement Centre. The Centre supports individuals, schools, community groups and local history societies uncover some of the less well-known stories from the First World War. She has a particular interest in the areas of food and farming, and has recently begun to research the experiences of conscientious objectors working on farms in Hertfordshire. Maggy was born and brought up in St Albans. She graduated in Business Studies and spent most of her working life in the City. She currently works part-time for the Hertfordshire library service in Harpenden and volunteers for other local organisations, such as the Abbey Theatre and Health Walks. Having served in the Territorial Army in her younger days, Maggy has enjoyed in particular investigating the development of the St Albans Volunteer Training Corps and its relationship with the City Tribunal.

22 September

Members' Evening and Annual General Meeting

20 October

To Be Confirmed

17 November

To Be Confirmed

15 December

Professor Mark Connelly

'Very Like England' – The 1920s and 1930s Commemorations of the Battle of the Somme

This talk will explore the key themes associated with the memory of the Battle of the Somme in the inter-war period, the controversy over the Thiepval memorial and how it came to have particular resonances for certain communities in Britain and the Empire.

Professor Mark Connelly was drawn into his History anorak lifestyle when, as a small boy, he became fascinated by ladybird history books. For him, the subject of History was all about castles, knights, Airfix kits (constructed with incredibly little skill and amazing amounts of glue) and Action Man Scorpion tanks. This obsession has been taken into adulthood and he now combines his interest in films, television and visual images with his interest in military history, this is reflected in many of his publications. Not content with keeping his interests to himself he now shares his passion for history with others, most notably his students and his family. As a result, he claims that his wife is now adept at spotting a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone or a war memorial in a misty churchyard from quite some distance away.



Quarter Three – September 2016

Booking Details for the Regional Seminar, 23 October 2016

The Western Front Association Milton Keynes and Herts & Beds Branches

REGIONAL SEMINAR

Sunday 23rd October 2016 9.30am – 4.30pm The Cruck Barn, City Discovery Centre, Bradwell Abbey, Milton Keynes, MK13 9AP

SPEAKERS:

Colin Ellender “Verdun”

Colin served for 35 years in the RAF and became interested in military history early in his service. At the age of 17 he was living in a 16 man room next to a 43 year old gentleman who had done the whole 6 years of the war serving in the Army. “Most of the people in the room ignored him, I found him very interesting.”

Verdun was the longest battle of the war (10 months) and produced 800,000 casualties. The C-in-C deliberately handicapped his Army commander by not informing him of his real intention. This talk reveals which one!

Phil Tomaselli “British Spies Behind German Lines”

Phil Tomaselli is a researcher and writer on military subjects, in particular the secret services and has been researching WW1 spies for over 20 years.

As well as the brave French and Belgian agents who reported on train and troop movements the talk looks at agents who worked out of neutral countries to obtain information from Germany itself. The gathering and use of intelligence is another one of the differences between WW1 and all previous conflicts.

Pete Starling “War is the Only Proper School of the Surgeon”

Pete Starling is a retired officer of the Royal Army Medical Corps and for 20 years was Director of the Army Medical Services Museum. He retired from that post in March 2014. Pete’s great interest is in the Crimean War and WW1, particularly the medical aspects of both wars.

Despite reforms of the Army Medical Services after the Boer War, by 1914 army surgeons were still very restricted in what they were prepared to carry out. Many cases were left to “let nature take its course” and surgeons were not prepared for the level of wound infection encountered. But young eager surgeons became willing to carry out operations that normally had a low success rate. This lecture will focus on this progress, including ground breaking work in the treatment of facial injuries.

John Chester “Prisoners of the Japanese”

John served 26 years in the RAF as an Air Traffic Controller, before leaving the RAF to become a professional gardener and then a mental nurse. He has a lifelong interest in military history and started the WFA Spalding & South Lincolnshire Branch in 1994. John was chairman for 10 years then stood down to serve on the National Executive Committee.

This talk takes a look at the prison camps in Japan where the garrison of the German colony of Tsingtao were held after their surrender in November 1914 until their repatriation in 1919/20. It looks at differences in the treatment of prisoners of war to that of the British 20 years later.

TICKET: £25.00. Ticket includes a buffet lunch (vegetarians catered for), plus tea/coffee on arrival and during breaks. Full directions and a map will be sent with ticket. Non-WFA members welcome. The venue has free parking, and excellent facilities for people with disabilities. Booksellers and stallholders who wish to attend are asked to call Jane Backhouse on 01234 750695.

FROM: Andrew Gould, 1 Drovers Way, Newton Longville, Milton Keynes, MK17 0HR. Please include booking form below with a **stamped addressed envelope** and cheque payable to **WFA Milton Keynes**. Queries, preferably by email, to **andrewgould1@btinternet.com** or telephone 01908 643669.

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BOOKING FORM – WFA SEMINAR SUNDAY 23rd OCTOBER 2016

Please sendticket(s). I enclose a cheque to **WFA Milton Keynes** for £ and **SAE**.

Name

Tel.no. (home or mobile) Email

Tail Spin

Have a look at.....

WATFORD PHILHARMONIC

Michael Cayton
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Jeanne Mann
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Butterworth
A Shropshire Lad

Massenet
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Bruch
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John Williams
Theme from 'Saving Private Ryan'

Mozart
Requiem K626

WATFORD COLOSSEUM

Watford Philharmonic Society presents

REMEMBRANCE

Reflections on the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme and featuring the Western Front Violin

Saturday 29th October 2016 7.30pm

Tickets: £19, £18, £16 Under 19s £5

Watford Philharmonic Society Box Office:
Tickets@btinternet.com 07546 112321
by post: 54 Beacon Way, Rickmansworth WD3 7PE

www.watfordcolosseum.co.uk
0845 0753 993 (plus £1.50 booking fee per ticket)

From Paul Foster who was a founder member of the WFA and Hon Secretary of the Association to John Giles following its foundation.



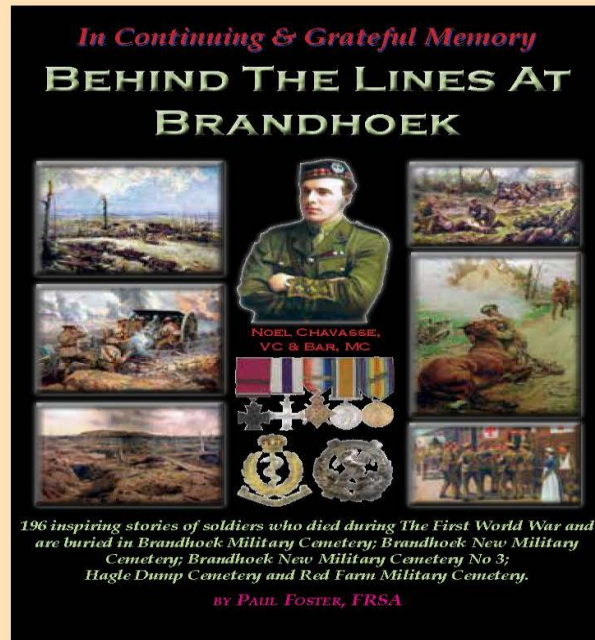
In Continuing & Grateful Memory **BEHIND THE LINES AT BRANDHOEK**

by Paul Foster, FRSA

196 inspiring stories of soldiers who died during The First World War and are buried in Brandhoek Military Cemetery; Brandhoek New Military Cemetery; Brandhoek New Military Cemetery No 3; Hagle Dump Cemetery and Red Farm Military Cemetery.

442 A4 pages that are profusely illustrated with contemporary pictures, photographs, drawings and maps — many in colour — the fascinating stories of the soldiers from the humble Private to General, Driver to Chaplain who served their King and Country who are buried in the cemeteries.

Follow their service from England to the Western Front where they gave their lives, the majority of them who died of wounds in the Casualty Clearing Stations around Brandhoek.



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Order on line visit: www.remembering1418.com

or by cheque payable to 'W P Foster' for £28.99 to: IC&GM, 15 Cress Way, Faversham, Kent ME13 7NH.

NEWLY UPDATED AND IMPROVED WEBSITE LAUNCHED
www.remembering1418.com

I have considerably improved and expanded my website that I hope you will use and enjoy.

There is a photo gallery of covering a number of interesting events that will continue to be expanded.

The Contacts & Museums section is considerably expanded providing much more information than before.

Take a look and let me know what you think — if you have something you think I should add something or spot an error, let me know.



Great War book news

The Hoarse Oaths of Fife

by Chris Moore

What happened to the babies?

September, 1915. Along the maze of trenches in France and Belgium a year of industrialised warfare has confounded Europe's moral certainties.

The British High Command, desperate for manpower, conscripts into the battle line some 130,000 Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims and Gurkhas of the Indian Army – an intoxicating novelty in the men-starved villages and towns where they are billeted alongside their kilted Scottish comrades.

On the German side of the Western Front, the white-skinned infants born of war are offered up for adoption. But what about those mixed race children begotten on the British side of the line?

Their fate is imagined as the climactic betrayal of Chris Moore's *The Hoarse Oaths Of Fife*, which has been shortlisted for the debut novel prize of the Historical Writers Association.

Quote from the judges: 'From Fife in the 1960s to Loos in World War 1, a wry and moving novel about fathers and sons that also meditates on war and race.'

For more information on the book access the author website: chrismoorebooks.com

For more information on the prize contact: admin@historicalwriters.org

For more from the publisher contact: helen@bookedpr.com



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We are very pleased to announce the start of a new talks series for 2016/17 as part of the Herts at War Project and wanted to take a moment to introduce it to you. We have worked hard over the last few months to engage some of the very best speakers in the subject of military history who will take part in our FREE series over the next 12 months. We are delighted to be welcoming the following speakers to Hertfordshire venues on the 3rd Wednesday of each month for a 7.30pm talk on a range of interesting subjects:

- Wednesday 21st September - **Professor Peter Doyle** - Kitchener's Mob
- Wednesday 19th October - **Alan Wakefield** - Salonika
- Wednesday 16th November - **Andy Robertshaw** - The attack on Beaumont Hamel
- Wednesday 14th December - **Jeremy Banning** - Life and Death in the La Boisselle Sector
- Wednesday 18th January - **Peter Barton** - The Somme - Both sides of the wire
- Wednesday 15th February - **Clive Harris** - Verdun
- Wednesday 15th March - **Richard Van Emden** - Meeting the Enemy
- Wednesday 19th April - **Peter Hart** - Air War over Arras
- Wednesday 17th May - **Mike St Maur Sheil** - Fields of Battle - Lands of Peace
- Wednesday 21st June - **Prof Gary Sheffield** - Gallipoli and the Western Front compared
- Wednesday 19th July - **Major Gordon Corrigan** - 3rd Ypres
- Wednesday 16th August - **Dan Hill** - The Hertfordshire Regiment in 1917
-

With such an impressive list of well-known military historians, we are sure these events will be very well attended indeed and we are proud to be able to host these events entirely free of charge. If you would like to attend any of the above talks to do please take a quick look at our website and simply click on the appropriate link for the talk you wish to attend and select the number of tickets you require. You can do so here:

<http://hertsatwar.co.uk/talks>

Further information on each of our speakers can also be found on the above page.

Venue: We are currently finalising our venue locations for the talks from November - August and cannot provide detail as yet but will do as soon as possible. Our talks for September and October will both be held at The Theatre, St Christopher School, Letchworth, Herts.

Of course the Herts at War project as a whole is dedicated to sharing our interest in history and furthering public understanding of the Great War within the county and of promoting remembrance, and we ask that you take a moment to share this information with any groups/individuals that you think may also be interested, all are welcome! For any media enquiries we are more than happy to provide quotes, images etc.

Thanks again for your continued support of the project which is very much appreciated!! We look forward to seeing you soon.

Kind Regards,

Dan Hill

for

Herts at War Team

Twitter: [herts_at_war](https://twitter.com/herts_at_war)

Website: www.hertsatwar.co.uk

A relief section of the war memorial in Lille photographed during the visit to the Somme.



BRANCH CONTACTS

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