



NEXT PRESENTATION: 'UNSUNG HEROES – THE STRETCHER BEARERS OF WORLD WAR ONE' -DR. EMILY MAYHEW VENUE: ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL, SUN LANE (SPORTS HALL ROOM SP101), HARPENDEN AL5 4TD

DATE AND TIME: FRIDAY, 20 JANUARY AT 8:00PM

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 causalities today." Emily argues that these stretcher bearers are direct ancestors of modern Combat Medical Technicians.

Dr. Mayhew of Imperial College, London, 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.

Quarter One – January 2017

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



A Happy New Year to you all and welcome to the first of our talks from the programme for 2017. This month we will focus the men who were indeed the 'unsung heroes' who risked their all to bring the wounded to safety in the heat and the aftermath of battle – the stretcher bearers. Dr Emily Mayhew (below) of Imperial College, London will take us through this fascinating story and will provide a modern perspective as well in explaining that 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 from the Great War remains the same today.



This month is also the time of year when we also take time to present the prizes to the winners of the St.George's School Trench Diary Competition. In the Christmas Term 2016, all Year 9 students were encouraged to write a diary based on their chosen fictitious character's experiences during the First World War. The top ten (listed below with their characters' names) were selected by the Year 9 history teachers and passed to the Branch's judging committee for final evaluation with the first three being eligible for a prize.

Megan BARTLEY	'David Baily'	Patrick KING	'John Andrew Smith'
Zoe BIRCH	'George Johnson'	Stephanie MOUNTAIN	'Alfred Jackson'
Ewan HARKNESS	'Paul Goals'	Caroline SHERLOCK	'James Walker'
Henry HUNTLEY	'John Sheffield'	Helena TAGG	'Daniel Luke Tagg'
Ollie JOHN	'John George Radford'		
Jonty KELLY	'Henry Cooms'		

The winners will be announced before the evening's talk begins. This year's selection of trench diaries is shown below.



This year also brings a number of anniversaries to commemorate 100 years' on from 1917. Once again, I encourage you all to continue to monitor forthcoming events at the Centenary News website http://www.centenarynews.com.

Those of you thinking of visiting the Passchendaele area during 2017 may be interested in this exhibition which caught my eye recently – the impact of the battle on the landscape which produced some iconic images from the war.



Thank you again for your interest in the Branch and I look forward to welcoming you at a meeting very soon. A warm welcome is always assured – we are not individual experts, just individuals with a wide range of interests in the Great War.

Best wishes,

Geoff Cunnington, January 2017

Military and Naval Publications: A Good Home Needed A recent clearout at home means that I have 20-30+ copies of each of the following which require re-housing free of charge: Military History Monthly WFA – Bulletin WFA – Stand To! Warships International Fleet Review Interested? Please contact me by email or telephone (as below) to arrange collection/delivery.

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Previously at Herts & Beds 16 December 2016 'The Great War - Rothamsted's Contribution' - Professor Roger Plumb



Branch regular, Roger Yapp, writes:

For the Christmas Branch Meeting we welcomed Professor Roger Plumb who explained the part played in the Great War by the local agricultural research station based at the south side of Harpenden at the Rothamsted estate. Fortunately an extensive archive was maintained by George Dunkley, a secretary at Rothamsted, until he was sent to the Front in 1917. At that point others took over this task. The archive included a great number of letters between those who were away serving and those who remained at the research station and Professor Plumb's talk included many references to these letters.

In the mid-nineteenth century John Bennet Lawes, the Lord of the Manor at Rothamsted, patented superphosphate fertiliser, and from this made his fortune. Two factories were established at Deptford (1842) and Barking (1857) and were very successful. However the decline of the agriculture industry in the late decades of the century led Lawes to sell his business for £ 300,000 in 1872. Several years later, in 1889, he used £ 100,000 of the proceeds to set up the Lawes Agricultural Trust. Lawes died in 1900 but the Trust continued and developed into the agricultural research station that we know today.

In 1912 twenty-seven scientific staff worked at Rothamsted. Three of these were women. In addition nine non-scientific staff were employed and two of these were women.

From the outset of the Great War in 1914 Rothamsted was viewed as an important resource. In the Second World War the establishment concentrated on methods to increase food production, and most of the staff were retained on "War Work", and were not enlisted into the services. However increasing food production was not the primary role for Rothamsted throughout the Great War.

Although some of the staff did serve in combat roles in the Great War, many of the scientific staff were directed to scientific roles at other establishments in the UK. The Royal Society intervened on behalf of several of the scientists, declaring that they were too important to be sent to serve in the trenches, and thirteen men were exempted and were sent to manage or organise other scientific work in the UK.

The staff at Rothamsted were mainly employed on relatively short term contracts, and when War broke out, whilst they were keen to "do their bit", they were very concerned as to what would happen if they enlisted. Early in the War the establishment announced that all positions would be kept open, and the amount of time remaining for a contract would continue from the end of the War. In addition it was announced that wherever possible, and if funds allowed, Army salaries would be topped up. Scientific and non-scientific support staff joined up from the outset. Virtually all of the scientific staff served in some capacity during the War. Many, being educated gentlemen sought a commission when they joined the Army, and coming from all over the country, served with a diverse number of regiments from the Gordon Highlanders to the Hertfordshire's. The non-scientific staff were mainly from the local area, and they joined more locally based regiments. Most eligible men had enlisted before conscription was introduced in 1916, however exemptions were applied for several of the workers that worked on the Rothamsted farms, and although many were granted an extension, in the end virtually all ended up in the Army. A list of those serving, or in reserved occupations was maintained throughout the War as part of the Rothamsted archive.

Professor Plumb continued to recount the stories of a number of the Rothamsted staff. Two of the scientific staff were "Killed in Action" relatively early in the War. Lieutenant Charles Martin, a bacteriologist, went to France in February 1915, and was killed at Polygon Wood on 2nd May 1915 serving with the Monmouthshire Regiment. Lieutenant Kenneth Lewin, a Protozoologist) joined the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry in September 1914, and was shot by a sniper whilst having breakfast near Ypres on 9th March 1916. Both men were included on the Rothamsted War Memorial, which is sited in the main building of the research station.

Gertrude Bates, who was the Director's Personal Secretary, volunteered as a nurse, but was rejected as being without nursing experience. She became the Secretary to the Senior Matron at Addenbrooke's Hospital at Cambridge and later in the War was accepted as a VAD nurse. She survived the War but didn't return to Rothamsted.

Many of the scientists, who were barred from serving abroad, were sent to munitions factories throughout the country, where they took on managerial or senior research roles. An A. Appleyard was sent to manage a munitions factory at Kings Lynn, where he developed a way to produce acetone from starch. Acetone was used in the manufacture of explosives and the new process produced seven tons of the product each week. Later in the War Appleyard was sent to manage an acetone factory in India, and after the War did not return to Rothamsted.

Professor Plumb concluded a well-researched and informative evening by answering a number of questions from the audience, and explained how the work of the establishment continued through to the Second World War and beyond.

And Also at Herts & Beds 11 November 2016 'Public Schools and the Great War'- David Walsh

A Personal Reflection by Andrew Gould, former Branch Chairman

I was interested to read Roger Yapp's review of the November talk on Public Schools in WW1, and was sorry that I could not attend that night. My own school, Berkhamsted, certainly made its contribution, with 232 old boys killed. I have no idea how many served, but given the statistic in the report it must have been in the region of a thousand. The names of the dead are on the school chapel wall, along with the year they left school. This shows that many must have died within a few years, or even months, of leaving. Two old boys were awarded the Victoria Cross, happily surviving the war. George Pearkes had emigrated to Canada before the war, and served in that country's forces. As an acting major his bravery at Passchendaele in October 1917 was recognised by the VC. He rose to be a major-general and lieutenant governor of British Columbia. Pearkes presented a sword to be awarded annually to the best cadet in the school CCF.



The other VC winner, Brett Cloutman, is rather less well known in the school, possibly because he finished his education at Bishop's Stortford College. Cloutman enlisted as a rifleman in 1914 in the London Regiment, and was commissioned the next year. He too was an acting major when on 6th November 1918 he swam a river under fire to disable charges the Germans had placed under a bridge. This was the last act to win the VC in the war. Both men served during WW2.



Richard Gould January 2017

Coming-Up at Herts & Beds - Presentations for 2017

24 February 2017 'Munitions Factories in the Great War and Rather a Big Bang' Nigel Crompton

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.





VICKERS' NAVAL CONSTRUCTION WORKS, BARROW.

GUN MOUNTING DEPT.

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. Hi 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 <u>St Albans: Life on the Home Front, 1914-1918</u>.

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 2017 Members' Evening and Annual General Meeting

20 October 2017

Gary Haines

John Singer Sargent's 'Gassed' and Popular Perceptions of Blinded Veterans

This talk investigates the representation of blinded veterans of the First World War in England. Two key works of literature - DH Lawrence's 'The Blind Man' and Vera Brittain's 'Testament of Youth' - will be discussed in relation to John Singer Sargent's famous oil painting 'Gassed', 1919.

Sargent's depiction of the sightless soldier shaped popular perceptions of those blinded in battle. 'Gassed' is a painting that has evolved into more than oil on canvas. It has become an icon of suffering. The work of St Dunstan's, now Blind Veterans UK, forms the conclusion of this discussion. They fought against misconceptions surrounding those blinded in war and enabled the blind to lead more self-sufficient lives.

Gary Haines is a freelance archivist, teacher, writer and curator. For the last three years, he has been performing research at Birkbeck College into cultural perceptions of the blinded British soldier.

17 November 2017

Steve Head

The Work of the Shorncliffe Trust: A Light in the Darkest Hour, WW1 Commemorations 2014-2018 and Beyond

The old training grounds at Shorncliffe in Kent encompass over 200 years of military, social and cultural history. The Shorncliffe Trust intends to tell the story of Shorncliffe (and the men and women who trained and lived there) from its earliest days defending Britain against invasion, to its role in the birth of the modern army through the role of Sir John Moore, its extension through the Victorian period to the Edwardian and the First and Second World war and beyond to the modern day role of The Brigade of Gurkhas. They aim to mark the centenary of the First World War, by securing the Shorncliffe Redoubt and begin the task of regenerating the site into a world class heritage and education centre. Steve Head will tell the story so far with particular emphasis on the Great War period and the special programme of remembrance which took place in 2016. http://shorncliffe-trust.org.uk/trust.html

Steve Head's role within the Shorncliffe Trust, as both Lead for Education and a Trustee, is to develop, promote and deliver the educational objectives of the charity which involves work closely with national and international education establishments, societies, charities, museums, historians and other interested parties. He has a particular interest in World War One having extensively researched several ancestors. During the day he teaches in the offender learning environment having gained his CertEd in 2011 and is currently studying part time for a BA in History at Birkbeck University of London.

15 December 2017

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 Common wealth War Graves Commission headstone or a war memorial in a misty churchyard from quite some distance away.

Tail Spin

Have a look at.....



Wednesday 18th January 2017 - Peter Barton: "The Somme - From both sides of the Wire"



Peter Barton is an historian and writer on First World War matters, and a film-maker and broadcaster producing and presenting historical documentaries for television and festivals. From 2002 to 2013, he was secretary of the All Party Parliamentary War Heritage Group. He works as a consultant with the French and Belgian institutes of Archaeology advising on First World War excavations planned and in progress, and has himself instigated several unique archaeological excavations on the Western Front, including the Vampire Dugout project in 2007, the quest for the Livens Large Gallery Flame Projector in 2010, and a four-year project at La Boisselle, Somme.

In the past he has organised reunions for First World War veterans, both in the UK and in France and Belgium. He instigated and designed the DCLI memorial unveiled by Harry Patch near Langemarck, Belgium in 2008, and also the Tunnellers Memorial in Givenchy, France (2010). He was historian for the Fromelles mass-grave project, where the remains of over 250 allied soldiers were recovered and reburied in a new cemetery. Peter's most recent publication, The Lost Legions of Fromelles, reflects his passion for unbiased history. It was the first book to look at a First World War action in a detailed, balanced manner using primary sources from the archives of all the belligerents with the object of seeking a better truth. It was awarded the Australian History Prize. To press and public acclaim, his latest television project, the BBC's Somme centenary series, followed this same approach.

Peter will be speaking at The Large Lecture Theatre (adjacent to Western Auditorium), University of Hertfordshire, De Havilland Campus, Herts, AL10 9EU. The talk will start at 7.30pm with doors open from 7pm. To book your FREE ticket or for further enquiries please visit the link below:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-somme-from-both-sides-of-the-wire-by-peter-barton-tickets-27215215442

Somme Battlefield Tour 2017 12-14 May 2017

Latymerians, **Taylor Downing** and **Jim Nicolson** (both 1971) will be taking a third group on their very popular three-day Tour of the Somme Battlefields from Friday 12 May, returning on the evening of Sunday 14 May 2017.

Taylor Downing is a best-selling historian and award winning television producer whose recent book *Breakdown: The Crisis of Shell Shock on the Somme* (Little, Brown 2016) received superb reviews. He regularly broadcasts on topics relating to the two world wars.

Jim Nicolson has been taking tour groups around the Somme for thirty years and knows every inch of the battlefield. His stories bring alive what many of those who fought in the battle had to live through. He runs the Hertfordshire Constabulary Great War Society.

As well as providing an overview of the Battle, the Tour takes in many points at which Latymerians fought and died on the Somme. Please email us at <u>latymeriansnetwork@latymer-upper.org</u> if you are interested.

Tour Details

The final cost of the Tour will depend upon the exact number taking part but the cost will include ferry travel, two nights bed and breakfast at the Holiday Inn Express in Arras, all transport to and from London in a luxury coach. Snack lunches and dinners in Arras are not included. A £20 per person contribution to the Latymer Upper School Bursary Fund will be included in the cost.

Estimated costs per person sharing a double room: £280-£320 Per person in a single room: £380-£420

Comments from Previous Tours

Taylor and Jim were ideal guides on this short but immensely interesting trip around the Somme battlefield. They put into context and then brought to life some of the extraordinary events that took place there in the summer and autumn of 1916. They were both very knowledgeable, and their insights were complementary. Taylor gave the strategic overview and historical background to the battle, whilst Jim shared his close topographical knowledge of the battlefield to bring to life what actually happened to the soldiers in specific actions. The result was a fascinating tour - informative, at times poignant, always sympathetic, full of anecdote and individual detail. And they were great company throughout. I commend the tour unreservedly.

Peter Winter, Headmaster at Latymer (2002-12) On the Tour in April 2014

Six months have passed since our tour of the Somme but the profound impressions that it made upon us remain as clearly etched in our minds as ever. Taylor's erudite talks from the history of the battle itself to fascinating topics such as battlefield medicine and photography combined powerfully with Jim's graveside accounts of the movingly personal stories of the men and boys who fell there. Couple that with readings of poetry and letters penned by those same men moments before their death, while skylarks sing overhead just as they did one hundred years ago amidst the horrors of the battlefield and you have a deeply moving experience in some corner of a foreign field that is forever England. Least we forget. Vaut le voyage.

William Audland

On the Tour in April 2016

I was one of the fortunate number who went on the Somme tour in April 2016 led by Taylor Downing and Jim Nicolson, both ex-Latymerians and distinguished experts on the Great War. With Taylor's and Jim's expert commentaries we could visualise the battle lines and the men's movements superimposed over what is now lush farmland and neat woodland. Taylor provided the overview and context with mini-lectures in the bus and on the battlefield, telling us about the Pals brigades, for example, and Jim gave details of points of the battle on the ground. He would lead us into one of the many graveyards, take us to a grave, pull out a photograph and tell us the story of that man, who he was, and how he came to be there. The battle in 1916 was actually filmed, so confident were the powers that be of a great victory. Taylor showed us an extract with the men nervously hiding in the 'sunken lane' near Beaumont Hamel, ready to go through the trees and advance down the slope towards the machine guns. The bus stopped and we were there – the same spot, and then a walk down the lane through the trees, with the counterpoint of going into the graveyard where many of those men are now buried.

This was history brought to life and a trip which will resonate with me forever.

Alan Denney On the April 2016 Tour

The Herts at War Project Needs You



CAN YOU HELP Commemorate Our Men?

We need help to:

- To find & photograph Hertfordshire war memorials?
- Research names provided, then copy & paste information into our Profile sheets?*1
- Research & add information from other sources such as databases or the census?*1 Help with any or all!

Lots of help available to get you started. For more information & details see www.hertsatwar.co.uk/researchoverview & contact: jontywild@hertsatwar.co.uk

*1 Needs Internet access

A new exhibition covering images of the British involvement in the war in Italy comes to the Estorick Collection (39A Canonbury Square, London N1 2AN) in North London.



And Finally......100 Years' Ago

Not quite the Premier League..... on board the Emperor of India.

