



## CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER BRANCH of THE WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

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### Welcome

The WFA will have a presence at the *Who Do You Think You Are?* event at the NEC, Birmingham, from 16 to 18 April. They would welcome any of our members who are interesting in coming along. Please let Jane Backhouse know if you are interested - [jane14.18@toucansurf.com](mailto:jane14.18@toucansurf.com) - and full details of the event are on the NEC website: [thenec.co.uk](http://thenec.co.uk).

Ken is always on the look out for more of your unwanted books to sell on behalf of the branch. So, if you have any surplus to requirements, please pass them on. Also, if you have any news or articles you would like to contribute to *The Sentinel*, please let Hilary know.

A reminder that the Anzac Parade and Service will be held on Sunday 26 April. The parade musters at 2.15pm in the playground of Leighterton Primary School and then marches to the cemetery, where there will be a service at 3pm, with poppy wreath-laying. For further details, please contact Helen and Dave Earle.

There are details of our Branch Tour in September, *Arras 1917*, together with application forms, available tonight. If you would like to join the tour, please get your application in as soon as possible. The numbers are limited and the places will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

Paul Cobb has drawn my attention to a series of WW1 centenary events during May at the Highworth Community Centre, The Dormers, Highworth, Wiltshire SN6 7PQ. A full programme can be found on their website: [www.highworthremembers.co.uk](http://www.highworthremembers.co.uk).

Gordon MacLachlan has just completed the translation of Blaise Cendrars' classic war memoir *La Main Coupée* and it is currently in production with a small not-for-profit publishing house in Brittany. The details are available from the publisher's website at [www.vagamundo.fr/publication18](http://www.vagamundo.fr/publication18).

*Peter*

### Future meetings

**Tuesday, 12 May 2015**

*The Battle of Verdun: 21 February-19 December 1916*

Colin Ellender

**National Star College at 7:30pm**

**Tuesday, 9 June 2015**

*The Easter Rising*

Paul Cobb

**National Star College at 7:30pm**

This battle was fought between the French and the Germans with no British involvement. This was the longest and, arguably, the bloodiest battle of the First World War. Verdun was surrounded by a ring of forts and should have been impregnable. Both sides fought themselves to a standstill over 10 months with over 800,000 casualties.



*Troops gathering before the attack*

As 1914 approached, Britain faced challenges posed by industrial unrest, the Suffragette movement and Home Rule in Ireland. In the case of the latter, there was an understanding that pursuit of Home Rule would wait until the war against Germany had been won but at Easter 1916 this changed.

This talk looks at the background to Home Rule and the events immediately before the uprising, the main characters of this tragedy and then a day by day of the struggle between the British Army and the rebels. The account uses many maps and photographs to illustrate the fighting and destruction of parts of the city of Dublin, and to guide visitors to the key locations today. It also considers, albeit briefly, if these events were a distraction for Britain from the fighting on the Western Front.

# 8540 Archibald Alexander Cornock

## 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Border Regiment

Archie Cornock was born at Wotton-under-Edge on 9 May 1889, the thirteenth of fourteen children born to Ruth and Charles Cornock.

He enlisted in the Army in 1906, when aged seventeen, and joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Border Regiment. He saw much overseas service prior to the Great War, in particular tours of duty in Burma and India. He married a girl from Carlisle, where the Border Regiment had its HQ, and was a noted boxer, winning many cups and medals in Regimental tournaments. At the outbreak of war he had risen to the rank of sergeant.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Borders arrived back from India in January 1915 and on 17 March 1915 sailed for Alexandria, arriving on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Here they trained for beach landings before sailing to the Greek island of Lemnos, arriving on 10 April. After further training at Mudros Bay, in scaling rope ladders and beach landings, the Battalion (part of 87 Brigade, 29 Division) sailed for the Gallipoli Peninsula on



24 April and landed on X Beach at 7.15am the following day. The landing met with little opposition but after the coast cliffs were scaled the Turkish opposition strengthened and little progress was made inland.

From the landing until 5 May 1915, the 1<sup>st</sup> Borders were located at either X, Y or Gully Beaches, in reserve or manning the front line facing the slopes of Achi Baba. Archie Cornock came through all this action unscathed.

On 14 May his Battalion was in reserve at X Beach when he was killed by a stray Turkish shell. He was buried locally but after the war his remains were never found and he is one of the many names on the Helles Memorial to the Missing. He is also commemorated on the Wotton-under-Edge War Memorial, along with two of his brothers.

*(Taken from First World War Heroes of Wotton-under-Edge by Bill Griffiths)*

## WFA news

The WFA's key events in 2015 are:

- 18 April  
*WFA Conference and AGM* in Salford
- 27 June  
*President's Conference* in Birmingham
- 19 September  
*Scotland in the Great War* in Dundee
- 26-27 September  
*Joint conference with the Gallipoli Association* in Birmingham

Full details are on the WFA website.

Sarah Gunn is the WFA's new Office Administrator looking after the WFA's finances and membership matters, amongst other duties. You can reach Sarah by email via her contact form on the WFA website. Postal and telephone contact details are below.

Also, please visit the WFA's Centenary website - [www.firstworldwarcentenary.co.uk](http://www.firstworldwarcentenary.co.uk) - to keep up to date with Centenary news and events.

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### Branch Website

[www.cgwfa.org.uk](http://www.cgwfa.org.uk)

*"When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today."*