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Welcome

After the deluge of events commemorating the anniversary of the beginning of the war last year, 2015 has, in my opinion, been less well catered for. However, there is an interesting talk at Malvern Theatre, Grange Road, Malvern WR14 3HB on Wednesday 15 July at 7.30pm. Entitled *WW1- Fields of Battle, Lands of Peace 1914-18*. This is an illustrated talk by the award-winning professional photographer Mike St Maur Sheil; tickets are £12.50, obtainable from the box office (Tel: 01684 892277) with proceeds going to ABF - The Soldiers' Charity.

Michael has spent the past eight years documenting the battlefields of the First World War as they are today and, together with the late Professor Richard Holmes, he conceived the open-air photographic exhibition *Fields of Battle, Lands of Peace 14-18* to enable the subject of the First World War to be introduced to the wider public who would never normally visit a museum or art gallery. It opened in Paris

in 2014 and was seen by 1.2 million people; it attracted a further 2.5 million visitors whilst on display in St James's Park, London.

The evening will take the audience on a world tour, from familiar battlefields to the lesser-known fronts such as Palestine and East Africa, all captured in photographs which Professor Sir Hew Strachan has described as "*works of art in their own right*". Michael is also a member of the British Commission for Military History and a respected battlefield guide with an almost unrivalled knowledge of the "battlescapes" of the Great War. If that is not enough to encourage you along, there will an auction of one of the ceramic poppies from the Tower of London.

To sign off, a repeat request please for articles for *The Sentinel*. The latest edition is packed full of fascinating and insightful articles, but we are already looking for material for the next publication. Long or short, we would love your involvement!

Peter

Future meetings

Tuesday, 14 July 2015

Injustice or justifiable? WW1 Executed Soldiers
Dr John Sutton

National Star College at 7:30pm

This talk re-examines the evidence and the rationale why over 300 British soldiers were executed for cowardice and desertion during the Great War by focusing on the Court Martial system and why there was a mass pardon in 2007.



The Shot at Dawn Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum was modelled on 17-year-old Private Herbert Burden, who lied about his age to enlist in the armed forces and was later shot for desertion in 1915.

Tuesday, 11 August 2015

*The Amazing Diaries of
Sister Edith Appleton OBE RRC*
Dick Robinson

National Star College at 7:30pm

Edith Appleton was Dick's great aunt. She served in the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve in Northern France throughout the Great War, often near the Front. She wrote an amazing daily journal which details with compassion all the horrors of the 'war to end wars', including the first use of poison gas and the terrible cost of battles such as Ypres, but she also records what life was like for nurses and how she spent her time off-duty.

Dick tells Edith's extraordinary story of bravery and dedication which won her the Military OBE, the Royal Red Cross and the Belgian Queen Elisabeth medal among others. *A Nurse at the Front: The First World War Diaries of Sister Edith Appleton* was published in 2012 and this talk includes extracts from the diaries read by Lisa Robinson.

Private James Stanley Young 303170 Manchester Regiment

James Stanley Young (known as Stanley or Stan) was born in 1889, the son of Thomas and Fanny Young of Church Road, Cinderford. Stanley Young spent some of his childhood in Tamworth before the family returned to Cinderford. He attended Double View Secondary School in the town and afterwards took up employment in a local colliery. He was an outstanding rugby player, playing for Cinderford, Cheltenham, and Gloucester before he left to work in the coal mines of Abertillery and continue his playing career there.



Warrington. Stanley gave up coal mining and became a grocer as well as playing for Warrington. He made his debut for Warrington on 29 November 1913 and made a total of 60 appearances for the club, as a half back, between 1913 and 1915, scoring two tries.

He joined the Army in Warrington on 6 October 1916 as Gunner 161530 Royal Field Artillery, before transferring to the Manchester Regiment as Private 303170.

Stanley Young was killed in action on 18 April 1918, aged 29 years, whilst attached to 127th Light Trench Mortar

It was from Abertillery that he was signed to play professional rugby league for Warrington in 1913. Before leaving Abertillery he married Rosaline Elizabeth Wood and the newly-married couple set up home in Stockton Heath,

Battery. He left a widow and three children. He was buried at Philasophe British Cemetery, Mazigarbe. He is also remembered on Cinderford town war memorial.

Eric Nicholls

ANZAC Day Parade



The Australian High Commissioner who read the lesson during the service

The Anzac Day Parade took place on 26 April at Leighterton. The parade to the cemetery was followed by a service and wreath laying. Whilst the roll of honour was read, children placed sprigs of rosemary on the headstones of the members of the Australian Flying Corps buried in the cemetery. [There is a full report in the June issue of *The Sentinel*.]



Helen Earle laid a poppy wreath on behalf of the branch

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