



CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER BRANCH of THE WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

Number 106

August 2015

Welcome

Our talk next month is about the Salvation Army in the Great War with reference to the American 'Doughnut Girls'. This inspired one of our members, Linda Hart, to drop me a line and suggest that for the meeting we provide complimentary doughnuts to attendees in honour of the work of the 'Doughnut Girls'. This, in my opinion, is a wonderful idea and one which I am happy to endorse. The reason for mentioning this is not so much the treat in store next month, but more that I was delighted to receive the suggestion from Linda. Suggestions, inputs and recommendations like Linda's are what make a branch truly interactive and inclusive. This is something that I want to encourage and request that if you ever have suggestions for events, speakers, trips or anything that would be of value or interest to our members you drop me a line. I look forward to hearing from you!

There will be a talk at the National Archives on Tuesday 8 September from 2-3pm entitled

Over the Top; a foul, a blurry foul: the first football charge of the First World War. Part of Britain's folk memory of WWI is of long lines of Tommies bravely going over the top, resolutely kicking and passing a football as they walked into a hail of machine gun fire. Iain Adams of the International Football Institute looks at what actually happened when the London Irish Rifles performed the first football charge at the Battle of Loos on 25 September 1915.

Finally, a couple of events in the Cheltenham Literature Festival in October which may be of interest. On 2 October Pat Barker, author of *The Regeneration Trilogy*, is in conversation with Anthony Beevor. On 8 October *Gallipoli: Australia's Western Front*. Novelist Rachel Billington, Professor of Australian Studies at King's College London, Carl Bridge and Peter Hart evaluate the mythology surrounding the campaign, its impact on WWI and its relevance to multicultural Australia today.

Peter

Future meetings

Tuesday, 8 September 2015

Under Two Flags :
The Salvation Army in World War I
John Stanyard

National Star College at 7:30pm

This talk covers the activities of the Salvation Army during 1914-1918 with particular reference to ambulance work, rest huts and the American doughnut girls.

It also includes stories about Salvationists in action in the trenches fighting for their country.



Tuesday, 13 October 2015

Breaking the Hindenburg Line: The Guards Division and Canadian Corps at the Canal du Nord September 1918
Professor Peter Simkins MBE

National Star College at 7:30pm

In this talk, Peter will describe the part played by the British Guards Division and the Canadian Corps in the operations at the Canal du Nord, near Cambrai, at the end of September 1918, and will discuss the key contributions of some of the Corps, divisional, brigade and battalion commanders involved, as well as those who won the VC in these key actions.



Canadian Combat Engineers building a bridge across the Canal du Nord

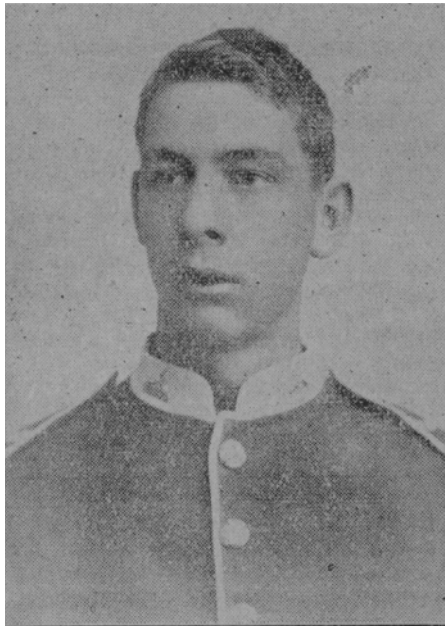
Corporal Alfred Thomas Fortey (7498)

1st Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment

Alfred Thomas Fortey was born in Gloucester in 1884, the son of William and Mary Jane Fortey. His mother died when he was six years of age and his father later remarried.

He worked as a labourer for Mr James Byard, builder, and also served, pre-war, in the Gloucestershire Regiment (although the record of his service has not survived).

He later moved to Cinderford and in 1911 married Charlotte Annie Rudge. The couple lived with her parents at 2 Church Road, Cinderford and they had one daughter. Alfred worked as a builder's labourer.



On the outbreak of war, as a reservist, he was recalled to the Gloucestershire Regiment, and joined the 1st Battalion in France on 27 August 1914.

He was killed in action on 22 September 1916, aged 32 years, and was buried at Flatiron Copse Cemetery, Mametz, Somme.

Although no family information is recorded in the cemetery register, his father William and stepmother Jane lived at 20 Morpeth Road, Gloucester.

Corporal Alfred Thomas Fortey is remembered on Cinderford town war memorial.

Eric Nicholls

Gallipoli and the Western Front

The Gallipoli Centenary Conference *Gallipoli and the Western Front* takes place in central London at the Army & Navy Club and the Union Jack Club on 25, 26 and 27 September. Demand for tickets will be high and places will be allocated on a strictly first come, first served basis.

The conference includes:

- *The Great War through the Magic Lantern* Kevin Varty
- *The Dardanelles: the centrepiece of British Imperial Strategy in 1915?* Professor Eric Grove
- *They know practically nothing: the Australian Imperial Force and the experience of inter-theatre learning between Gallipoli and the Western Front, 1915-16* Aimee Fox-Godden
- *Major-General Brudenell White: from Gallipoli to the Western Front, the making of an Australian Staff Officer* Professor Gary Sheffield

- *Gallipoli and Flanders: the challenge of mixed terrain in 1915* Professor Peter Doyle
- *The Royal Naval Division at the Battles of Krithia and Gavrelle* Clive Harris
- *Kelly's War: the war diary of Frederick Kelly 1914-16* Jon Cooksey & Graham McKechnie
- Gala dinner with after-dinner speaker
- *An Irish Army? The Irish soldier at war in 1915* Lar Joye
- *The challenge. Developing trench warfare weapons for the Western Front and Gallipoli* John Sneddon
- *The interconnectedness of all things. Supplying the British Army on Gallipoli and the Western Front* Rob Thompson
- *The consequences of the military failures of 1915* Professor Stephen Badsey
- *The Dardanelles Disaster in Soldiers' Words and Photographs* Richard Van Emden

Full details are on the WFA website:
www.westernfrontassociation.com

Contact details



The Western Front Association
BM Box 1914
London
WC1N 3XX

0207 118 1914

office@westernfrontassociation.com

www.westernfrontassociation.com

Cheltenham & Gloucester Branch President

Professor Peter Simkins MBE FRHistS

Branch Chairman

Peter Gill

2 Queensholme, Pittville Circus Road, Cheltenham GL52 2QE

01242 587 776 • chairman@cgwfa.org.uk

Branch Treasurer & Newsletter Editor

Hilary Jennings

4 St Stephen's Road, Cheltenham GL51 3AA

01242 243 927 • newsletter@cgwfa.org.uk

Branch Website

www.cgwfa.org.uk

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