



CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER BRANCH of THE WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

Number 107

September 2015

Welcome

I hate to be the one to mention it, but Christmas, and most importantly our Members' Evening, will soon be upon us and hence my annual request for speakers. I already have two volunteers to deliver ten-minute talks and so am looking for two or three more. Anything Great War related - indeed the more varied the subjects the more entertaining and interesting it tends to be. This meeting is a prime opportunity for those perhaps to throw their hat into the ring for the first time as a speaker, so please, if you are at all inclined, but feel a little nervous, take the plunge and volunteer!

I frequently receive emails that are directed to me as Chairman relating to requests for assistance in researching various topics pertaining to the Great War. More often than not these are from local people researching members of their family who served in the war, but are not by any means restricted to these. My knowledge is neither wide enough nor in depth

enough to cover most of these requests, so I tend to send enquiries in the direction of those that I guess can assist better. However, it has occurred to me that I would like to deal with these requests a bit more efficiently and the way in which I feel I can do this is if I build a simple database of those that are a) interested in helping and b) have a specialist knowledge or interest. Therefore I wondered if you could help? Perhaps if you have an interest in family research or the Gloucester Regiment or Gallipoli or a particular corps etc etc you could let me know. I'll put the database together and then if a request comes in that marries up I can send people in exactly the right direction.

A final brief mention - should anyone be interested, there is a new play being performed in the Studio at Cheltenham's Everyman Theatre next month (October 21 & 22) entitled *Meet Tommy Atkins*.

Peter

Future meetings

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

Tuesday, 10 November 2015

*Twenty One Miles of Open Sea:
The RFC goes to War, August 1914*
Dave Rowland

National Star College at 7:30pm

When the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) crossed to France in August 1914 to take its place alongside the BEF, the military authorities mainly saw the aeroplane as a platform for reconnaissance. In itself that was something of a 'visionary' step forward from the 1910 statement by the then professional head of the army who said that military aviation was 'a useless and expensive fad'.

As they flew their flimsy, unreliable, unarmed and unforgiving machines from these shores, the men of the RFC were about to open a whole new chapter in the history of the British at war.

This talk looks at the formation of the RFC, only a short while before hostilities started, and then a more detailed description of the people and aircraft that went to France in the summer of 1914, as part of this new 'Aerial Service'.

Lieutenant George Henry James Daubeney 6th Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment

Lieutenant Daubeney was born on 5 July 1887, the son of Henry Elias and Eliza Hudson Daubeney of Balcarras, Charlton Kings. He was at Cheltenham College between 1901 and 1903 but nothing further is known of his activities until he received a commission as a Lieutenant in the 6th (Reserve) Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment. In February 1915 he was posted to France, being attached to the 2nd Battalion and was killed on 26 September 1915, the second day of the Battle of Loos, age 28.



other battalions of the improvised brigade in support, the troops of the 7th Division made several vain attempts to retake their lost positions. The 2nd Worcesters were ordered up to the front lines and at about 5pm, with bayonets fixed, attacked the enemy. Subjected to a hail of machine gun and rifle fire the battalion suffered many casualties.

The survivors of the 2nd Worcesters held their ground opposite the enemy's line during the remaining hours of daylight, keeping up a steady fire and throwing up as much cover as possible with the small entrenching tools they carried in their

packs. As a result of this engagement the battalion lost 13 officers and 300 other ranks.

Lieutenant Daubeney is buried in Vermelles British Cemetery and commemorated on the Charlton Kings War Memorial.

(Taken from Leaving All that was Dear - Cheltenham and the Great War by J Devereux and G Sacker)

In the early hours of the 26 September the 2nd Worcesters were ordered to strengthen the 7th Division, as part of an improvised Brigade, for an attack on the fortified village of Cite St Elie. As the battalion made its way south, the enemy made a strong counter attack against the 7th Division positions and captured an area known as 'The Quarries'. With the Worcesters and the

WFA merchandise

The WFA has recently commissioned, and taken delivery of, a new stock of lapel badges.



These are going to be made available to all members via their Branded Goods project and

will also form part of the new members' welcome pack. We are able to order a supply to be sold at branch meetings. The cost of the badge is £2.50, £1 of which will be donated to our Gloucestershire War Graves Project. We have one here for you to see and if you would like a badge please let Hilary know.

You will find the full range of WFA merchandise on their website: www.westernfrontassociation.com, then click on 'About' and then "Shop".

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."