



## CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER BRANCH of THE WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

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### Welcome

A reminder that our AGM this year will be on Thursday 19 November at 7.30pm and everyone is welcome. If you would like to attend, please let me know and I will forward the venue details.

As usual, next month is our Members' Meeting and I am still on the lookout for one more speaker, so if you feel so inclined and able to present a ten-minute talk, please let me know. Also, at that meeting we shall be holding our usual raffle - so do bring some extra pennies along and if you have anything suitable for a raffle prize then we would be most grateful!

The story of Talbot House, the home from home created for British soldiers by Tubby Clayton behind the lines in Belgium 100 years ago, is told at a London exhibition - *Talbot House: An Oasis in a World Gone Crazy*. A plain wooden hut forms the centre-piece of this tribute to Tubby Clayton. He set about writing his memoirs in the hut during the dramatic last

months of the Great War when the German advance of spring 1918 forced the evacuation of Poperinge. The hut, which belongs to Talbot House, together with a range of soldiers' personal effects, has been brought to London for the exhibition. A selection of Tubby Clayton's letters are also on display. He had a long association with the City of London after the First World War as Vicar of All Hallows by the Tower, the City's oldest church. The exhibition runs until 8 January 2016 at the Guildhall Library, Aldermanbury, London EC2V 7HH.

There is a lecture at the University of Wolverhampton on Wednesday 9 December entitled *Toothless Lions: The Royal Artillery and the Firepower Crisis of 1915*. It will be held in the Main Lecture Theatre MC001, from 5.30pm - 7pm. Admission is free but you are encouraged to register your details in advance with Dr Phylomena Badsey - [p.badsey@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:p.badsey@wlv.ac.uk).

*Peter*

### Future meetings

**Tuesday, 8 December 2015**  
*Members' Evening*  
**National Star College at 7:30pm**

For our December meeting we will draw on the expertise and knowledge of our branch members. We aim to have five ten-minute presentations and if you would like to take part, please let Peter know as soon as possible.

There will also be a Christmas Raffle so if you have a prize you would like to donate it would be greatly appreciated.

#### **2016 Programme**

Our programme of talks for 2016 is now complete and a full list will be available at the December meeting. You will also find a list on our website - [www.cgwfa.org.uk](http://www.cgwfa.org.uk) - and the WFA website.

Our thanks to Brian Ward and Andy Hinks who have once again put together an interesting programme with a great mix of topics.

**Tuesday, 12 January 2016**  
*Captured by the Germans:*  
*Prisoners of War in the Great War*  
Graham Adams  
**National Star College at 7:30pm**

Almost 175,000 British and Dominion private soldiers and NCOs were captured by the Germans in the Great War. Supported by some unpublished photographs, this talk will take a look at a range of aspects which affected these men when in captivity, including treaties and conventions, camp organisation and activities, working parties, the treatment of sick and injured, repatriation and the tremendous growth of UK-run support services.



# Major Thomas Philip Dorington

## 1<sup>st</sup> (Royal) Dragoons

Thomas Dorington was born on 22 May 1877, the third son of Major General and Mrs R Temple Godman, of Highden, Pulborough, Sussex. He adopted the surname of Dorington in 1913, upon inheriting the estate of Lypiatt Park, near Stroud, from a cousin and god-father, Sir John Dorington, Bart. He was never to live there and following his death the estate was sold by his executors in 1919. However, the *Stroud News* reported a memorial service for him was held at Bisley Church on 29 November 1914.

Dorington was a career Army officer. He was educated at Harrow School and gazetted as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 1<sup>st</sup> (Royal) Dragoons on 7 April 1897. He was promoted to Lieutenant in July 1899, to Captain in January 1905 and Major on 31 October 1914. He served with distinction in the South African War and was Adjutant to the

Imperial Yeomanry for a short time in early 1908, prior to becoming Adjutant to the Territorial Force between April 1908 and September 1911.



The 1<sup>st</sup> (Royal) Dragoons landed in Belgium on 7 October 1914 and became part of 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade, within 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Division, commanded by Major-General Julian Byng. Almost at once this unit was involved in heavy fighting in the Ypres Salient, during the First Battle of Ypres, principally located just south of the Menin Road.

Thomas Dorington was killed in action on 12 November 1914 as the battle reached its conclusion. He was aged 37. His body was recovered and is buried in Ypres Town Cemetery. The London Gazette of 7 February 1915 posthumously recorded that he was Mentioned in Despatches.

*Graham Adams*

## Cheltenham War Memorial



A service was held at Cheltenham War Memorial in September to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Loos when 44 men from Cheltenham lost their lives. At the ceremony two paving stones were unveiled to remember the two Cheltonians who were awarded the highest military honour, the Victoria Cross - Captain Arthur Kilby and Captain Anketell Read.

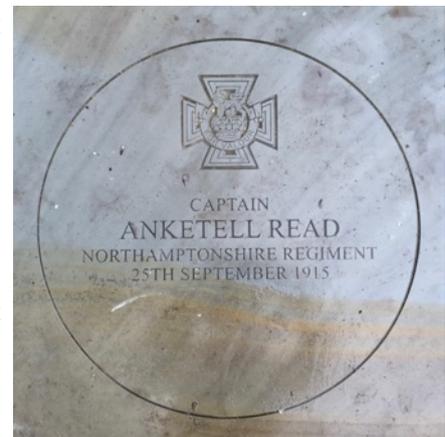


Image credit: Edward Fletcher

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