



CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER BRANCH of THE WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

Number 110

December 2015

Welcome

Our December meeting is always one that I look forward to, not just because of the high quality mini-talks that our own members present but also because it allows us some time to mingle and savour the friendship that our branch has given us. This year, we are a little restricted as to what refreshments we can bring in and provide, but I hope you will join me in enjoying a small treat or two.

I also hope that you will participate in our raffle and if you have £1 left perhaps grab one of our Christmas quiz sheets to take home and do over Christmas. The quiz sheets are written as if the reader is a 'Tommy' enjoying Christmas 1915 in the trenches - so the answers will not always be the most obvious ones that come to mind. Both the raffle and the quiz sheets are important fundraisers for the branch - our finances are not in a critical position, but we do need to raise more funds month on month.

At our AGM last month it was also decided that we would raise the suggested donation for branch meetings to £3.50 from £3 and in the new year I shall announce an extra 'social' date for the branch where we will be holding an auction. The auction will be open to all and we hope that it will give people an opportunity to sell some of their unwanted Great War items - with a small commission (10%) going to the branch.

Please, before you go, grab your programme (or a handful to pass around to your friends or to pop in to local libraries or TICs) for next year. Once again Brian Ward and Andy Hinks have done an excellent job of booking a varied and interesting selection of talks.

So, lots to look forward to for 2016 which will also be (in October) the year we celebrate our tenth birthday, but meantime, may I wish you a very happy Christmas and of course a healthy and happy 2016.
Peter

Future meetings

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 Supported by some unpublished photographs, this talk will take a look at a range of aspects which affected these men when in captivity, including treaties and conventions, camp organisation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.



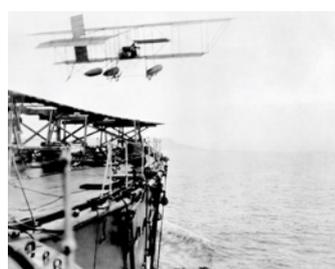
Tuesday, 9 February 2016

The Royal Naval Air Service
Phil Tomaselli

National Star College at 7:30pm

This talk is about the early Royal Naval Air Service pioneers who first flew off ships, developed the first proper bombers, shot down the first Zeppelin, hunted German cruisers in East Africa and flew fighters over the trenches alongside the Royal Flying Corps.

Phil has written extensively on military and family history and he has made a special study of the Western Front. He has published many articles on aspects of army and air force history.



Lance Corporal Wilfred Taylor (23678) 8th Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment

Wilfred Taylor was born in Cinderford in 1897, the eldest son of William, a coal miner, and Lucy Taylor of High Street, Cinderford.

After leaving Double View Secondary School he was apprenticed to a grocer. He later moved to Hatfield in Hertfordshire to take up employment with the Star Tea Company. It was in Hatfield that he enlisted, being posted to the 8th Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment.



Lance Corporal Wilfred Taylor was killed in action at the Quadrilateral in the Battle of Flers-Courcelette on Friday, 15 September 1916, aged 19 years.

He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. He is also remembered on the Cinderford town war memorial, and the memorial at Cinderford Baptist Church where he attended the Sunday School.

Eric Nicholls

Other news

When the Army expanded rapidly at the start of the Great War a way to accommodate the mass of soldiers was to build camps with wooden huts. Many of these still exist but are falling into ruin, being pulled down and destroyed or just ignored. Taff Gillingham of the Suffolk Branch has a project under way to set up a heritage site consisting of 11 WWI huts. Each hut will have its history documented. Donations, financial or materials, are always welcome as are volunteers for those with relevant skills; carpentry, painting, gardening etc. Some info, including contact details are available on the website www.greatwarhuts.org. You can also follow their progress on their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/greatwarhuts/>

Most of us grew up with the work of E H Shepherd. He was best known for his drawings for *Winnie the Pooh* and *The Wind in the Willows*, and his regular work for *Punch* magazine. He also produced a substantial body of work while serving as an officer in the Royal Artillery in the First World War. The exhibition *E H Shepherd: An Illustrator's War* is the first to

explore Shepard's illustrations drawn in the trenches on the Western Front and in Italy, and includes over a hundred original artworks - many never seen before. The exhibition is at the House of Illustration, 2 Granary Square, King's Cross, London N1C 4BH and runs until 26 January 2016. www.houseofillustration.org.uk

A collection of stories about the home front of World War One is brought back to life in this free, interactive BBC ebook. The experiences of people and communities across the UK and Ireland are depicted using digital technology, archival film and recordings, photographs and documents from the Imperial War Museum and a host of other museums, archives and individuals. You can download the book to iPad, Kindle or Android via www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01nhwgx. There is also an option to download a pdf copy of the book.

Dan Snow recently presented a daily series on Radio 4, *Voices of the First World War*, using the sound archive of the Imperial War Museum. These programmes are available as podcasts via www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03t7p9l.

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