



## CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER BRANCH of THE WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

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### Welcome

I don't know how many of you use our website ([www.cgwfa.org.uk](http://www.cgwfa.org.uk)) but if you don't, or if only rarely, do keep an eye on it. We are gradually updating the pages and there is plenty of useful information that you may find interesting. Of course in the first place it has the *Meetings* page which lets you know about forthcoming talks. On the *Branch Trips* page there is both information and application forms for this year's trip in September and write-ups of all our other branch trips. The *Newsletter* page is being modified so that you can download any recent newsletter that you may be missing and on the *Remembering* page we are similarly in the process of modification. Here, listed in alphabetical order, are all the men that we have remembered during our branch meetings - for each person there is a link to the write-up that we gave in the corresponding newsletter. Our *War Graves Project* page has been updated with the current state of play with grave sponsors and our *Branch Membership* page now lists all the articles that have appeared in *The Sentinel*

over the years - should you require any of those articles, just drop us a line and we can forward a pdf. Do take a look - it's there for your benefit.

A reminder that the Fifth President's Conference takes place on Saturday 4 June at the Tally Ho Conference Centre, Birmingham. Full details can be found on the WFA website.

To mark the anniversary of the Great War, Pen and Sword Books have teamed up with a rose producer to breed a new rose called *Tommy's Rose*. Before the poppy became the symbol of remembrance, the rose was the traditional flower of remembrance. The WFA want to re-trace that theme and encourage people to plant the rose in their garden to remember soldiers from the Great War. You can order a rose via the WFA website and for every order placed a donation will be made to the WFA. *Tommy's Rose* will also be planted in the Flanders Field Memorial Garden at Wellington Barracks, at the National Memorial Arboretum and at the Thiepval Museum Garden on the Somme. **Peter**

### Future meetings

**Tuesday, 14 June 2016**

*Top Secret Boffins in World War One*  
Dr David Rogers

**National Star College at 7:30pm**

**Tuesday, 12 July 2016**

*Guns at Passchendaele 1917*  
Peter Hart

**National Star College at 7:30pm**

Many new and potentially ground-breaking technologies are developed during wartime, World War One being no exception; the introduction of aeroplanes, submarines and tanks being just three of them. Yet there were also issues needing resolution behind the scenes including the search for new foods and the need to introduce rationing - the list of issues to resolve must have been daunting.

*Top Secret British Boffins in World War One* examines some of these activities, concentrating on the activities of the Fellows of the Royal Society whose scientific acumen, knowledge and skills were vital to solving seemingly intractable problems. Drawing from previously unpublished documents there are some remarkable examples of co-operation and effort often to tight deadlines using the utmost discretion.

On 31 July 1917 British troops began their attempt to break out of the Ypres Salient. The ensuing battle encompassed some of the most wretched conditions endured by any of the belligerent armies, and came to epitomise the futility and pathos of the whole of the First World War.

Peter has worked as the Oral Historian of the Imperial War Museum since 1981 and is the author of several books on the Great War.



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## 79360 Corporal Wintour Maurice Adams 3<sup>rd</sup> Tunnelling Company Canadian Engineers

Wintour Maurice Adams was born in Cinderford on 14 December 1889, the son of Hubert and Maria Adams. After attending Double View Secondary School he found employment in one of the local collieries.

In 1912 he emigrated to Canada where he was employed on the Canadian Pacific Railway. He enlisted in the Canadian Army on 18 November 1914 at Lethbridge, Alberta. His coal mining experience resulting in him being assigned to a Tunnelling Company.

He was killed in action at St Eloi, Belgium on 28 November 1916 and was buried in Berks Cemetery Extension beside the Ploegsteert Memorial. He was 27 years of age.

He is remembered on the Cinderford Town War Memorial and on his former school's memorial.



*Eric Nicholls*

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## Verdun 100 - "Ils ne passeront pas"

To mark the centenary of the Great War's longest (and arguably most bloody) battle, and to mark the tenth anniversary of the formation of the Cheltenham & Gloucester Branch of the WFA, the 2016 branch tour will be to the battlefield of Verdun. The tour will be from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of September

Our lead guide this year (as well as our driver!) will be Dr Bruce Cherry, with Bob Brunson taking the role of second guide. Bruce knows the area well, has guided many tours there, and knows of several places off the normal tourist trail that are worthwhile visiting. Our itinerary will encompass all the 'must-sees' of the Verdun area including the forts, ossuary, tunnels and command posts, memorials and museums. If time permits we will include relevant visits en-route to and from Verdun to break up what will be quite a long journey.

Regular attendees should note that this will be a departure from our usual visit to the British

sector of the Western Front and there are a few changes from the usual routine. Firstly, although the tour will still cover four days, due to the distance involved and the driving hours, we will be staying at two hotels. The first will be Le Tulipier in the Argonne Forest where we will stay for two nights, bed and breakfast. On the Saturday night we will move to Rheims where we will stay at the Golden Tulip. Please note that this will be a quick overnight stop only, sharing rooms, and with breakfast obtained at a local boulangerie before we leave or en-route. Pick up and drop off will be at Cheltenham as normal, although we may be later returning on the Sunday evening.

Full details of the itinerary and joining instructions will be sent out in due course once the recce is done.

There are application forms available tonight. Please get your application in early as places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

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### Branch Website

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