



CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER BRANCH of THE WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

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Welcome

A couple of requests this month. Firstly, as I have previously mentioned, we shall be holding a fundraising auction of Great War related items at our October meeting (which coincides with our tenth anniversary) and are very much looking for lots. If you have anything that you no longer want but don't want simply to get rid of, please consider us selling it on your behalf. The branch will just take 15% of the selling price to go towards branch funds, the rest will be yours. You can even have a reserve price and there will be no other associated costs. However, we do need information on items as soon as possible as we will be putting a catalogue together. Do let me know if you have anything. There is also a change of venue as we will be holding the meeting at **The Aviator at Gloucestershire Airport**. Further details and directions will be in the next newsletter.

I am also after volunteers for our ten minute members' presentations at our Christmas

Meeting. If you feel that you would like to put your name down, please let me know. As always this is an informal meeting in which we very much welcome short talks on any Great War related subject. New presenters are very much welcome!

The Worcestershire & Herefordshire Branch are hosting their autumn conference *1916 100 Years On* at the University of Worcester, Henwick Grove, Worcester WR2 6AJ, on Saturday 15 October. The speakers are: Alastair Fraser - *Ghosts on the Somme*; Alan Wakefield - *Crisis at Kut: December 1915-April 1916* and Nick Beeching - *Custom made to mass production: the officers of the Worcesters*. The conference runs from 10.30am to 4.30pm and tickets are on sale now at £20 per delegate, which includes a buffet lunch, by phone 01905 774797 or email whb.wfa@hotmail.co.uk. There is a designated car park at £2 per vehicle (payable on site). Full details are on our display boards. **Peter**

Future meetings

Tuesday, 13 September 2016

*Fighting Spirit: Patrolling and Raiding with
the West Yorks 1917-18*
Fraser Skirrow

National Star College at 7:30pm

This talk examines the development of patrolling and raiding in a West Yorkshire battalion. It looks at the effect on fighting abilities using contemporary maps and Royal Flying Corps recce photos, and features examples of real patrol experiences.



An observer of the Royal Flying Corps in a BE2c reconnaissance aircraft demonstrating a C-type aerial reconnaissance camera fixed to the side of the fuselage

Tuesday, 11 October 2016

Bullets, Bombs and Poison Gas
Dr David Rogers

The Aviator, Gloucestershire Airport

If you issue four bullets per day to each soldier he will have been issued 28 bullets in a full week. So therefore a million soldiers will need 28 million in any given week - that is a lot of bullets and that is just for a million soldiers. Add to that ordnance for the many field guns, howitzers etc, food for men and animals, aviation fuel for the aircraft etc, and all of a sudden there is a lot needing transportation to the Front. *Bullets, Bombs and Poison Gas* explores this supply chain.



240140 Sergeant Richard Compton Jackson MM 1/5th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment

Richard Compton Jackson was born in Gloucester in 1895, the only son of a father of the same name, a commercial traveller, and his wife Mary Eliza. At the time of the 1911 Census Richard (junior) was at school and the family lived at Rose Villa, Lightpill, Stroud.

Unfortunately Richard's service record has not survived but it is known that he had enlisted as a Territorial and his number, 1628, indicates that he was likely to have joined the 1/5th Glosters prior to the start of the Great War. He went to France with the battalion on 29 March 1915 and over the next two years or so achieved promotion to Sergeant and with the re-numbering of those serving in Territorial units in 1917, he was given the number 240140.

According to a report in the *Stroud News*,



Sergeant Jackson was severely wounded in the head on 17 August 1917. On this date the 1/5 Glosters were part of 145 Brigade. 48 (South Midland) Division and engaged in the Battle of Langemark, one of the actions of the Third Ypres offensive. He was captured by the Germans, who dressed his wound. During the night he escaped back to the British lines but died eight days later, on 25 August. He was aged 22 and had been on active service for three years.

He had been awarded the Military Medal in November 1916 and the *Stroud News* reported that he was being recommended for the Distinguished Conduct Medal, although this does not appear to have been awarded. Sergeant Jackson is buried at Mendingham Military Cemetery, near Ypres.

Graham Adams

Whistle for the Somme

Helen & Dave Earle wrote: *Our commemorations started at our local war memorial, in King's Stanley at about 07:25, with a few words from our local vicar and at 07:27 an impressive rocket was launched, which captured everyone's attention. We then held a three minute silence and at 07:30 whistles from 1916 were blown by a train enthusiast, a young girl from our local school, and Dave plus other people present who wished to mark the occasion. A poem was read and Helen also gave a short account of our only soldier who lost his life on the Somme. Wreaths were laid, followed by the Eulogy and a few prayers. We had approximately 40 people present, which was wonderful to see, as we are a small village in the Cotswolds. A couple visiting from America kindly brought doughnuts, which were very welcome to go with the "tots of rum" provided by our local Co-op.*

We know that many other parishes in our district also took part in a similar way. At Minchinhampton the local dustmen blocked the road, held up the

traffic and took part in the commemoration at their war memorial.

Other branch members took part in this commemoration and their quotes and pictures can be found on our display board.

We are very grateful to Dave Earle whose initiative this was, and Peter received this letter of appreciation: *Thank you for the poster and please thank Dave Earle, who had the idea for Whistle for the Somme. On Friday 1 July at 11:00, in the small village of Tutbury, East Staffordshire, we had the rededication of our War Memorial after £16,000 of conservation.*

However, prior to that we had a Whistle for the Somme event at 07:30. A simple and moving moment which added greatly to the day of commemoration. We know that there was also a Whistle event in Burton-on-Trent and Chesterfield and I suspect hundreds of others. Thank you Dave.

*Rick Nuth, Chairman,
Tutbury War Memorials Preservation Committee*

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