



CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER BRANCH of THE WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

Number 121

November 2016

Welcome

What a thoroughly enjoyable tenth anniversary of the branch celebration we had last month! Thank you to everyone who attended and helped and apologies to those who didn't get the information of the change of venue and turned up at the Star College only to find it rather quiet. As well as an excellent talk from Dr David Rogers, we were indebted to Helen Earle for a superb cake and to all those who gave auction lots, raffle prizes and who bought raffle tickets. It was a very successful week all round for the branch as on Sunday Bob Brunsdon took those of us who wanted to join him on an excellent tour of some of the city of Gloucester's military history sites of interest. From the combination of the raffle, the auction and Bob's walk we raised a total of £401 for branch funds - an excellent and much needed injection!

Later this month we have our AGM - details of which are in this newsletter. May I remind you that everyone is welcome at this meeting, just let myself or Hilary know beforehand. And may I also say that we are constantly in need of more volunteers to assist with the running of the branch. We are indebted to a small number of individuals who allow the branch to exist - without them it would simply fold, so more help is always welcome.



Our celebration cake



Some members enjoying Bob's Military Heritage Walk

Finally a note about our December Meeting. As always this is your meeting when we ask for short, ten minute talks on any Great War related subject. We currently have space for another two talks, so if you feel so inclined, please do put your hat into the ring. Also, we shall be having a Christmas raffle, so anything that you can donate is very welcome.

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Peter

Future events

Monday, 21 November at 7.30pm

Our AGM this year will be on 21 November and everyone is welcome. If you would like to attend, please let Peter know. We do need to have an idea of numbers to book a suitable venue.

Tuesday, 13 December
Members' Evening

National Star College at 7:30pm

For this meeting we will draw on the expertise and knowledge of our 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.

Tuesday, 10 January 2017

The Royal Artillery 1914-1915
Vern Littley

National Star College at 7:30pm

Vern's talk covers the period from Le Cateau through to the end of 1915 when the gunners start to change in regard to direct/indirect fire, understanding weather, doctrine, intelligence, barrages and size etc. He also reviews how the Royal Artillery looked in 1914 and influences/developments from the Boer War onwards, and sets the scene for 1916 and subsequent battles.

2017 Programme

Our programme of talks for 2017 will be available at the December meeting. Our thanks to Brian Ward and Andy Hinks for arranging another varied and interesting programme.

Captain Hugh Jones MC 13th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment

Hugh Jones was born at Lydney on 21 December 1888 and educated at Wycliffe College, Stonehouse. Here he excelled at cricket and football and was voted the house prize for 'gentlemanliness and kindness' by his fellow students. Upon completing education he spent a year with a shipping office in Bristol, before joining his father's ship owning and builders' merchants business at Lydney.

He enlisted on 26 September 1914, initially in the 12th (Bristol's Own) Battalion of the Glosters but soon applied for a commission in the 13th Battalion (Forest of Dean Pioneers). Having been appointed Second Lieutenant on 28 February 1915, he was promoted to Lieutenant in the following May and was made Captain in August of the same year.

On 4 March 1916 he arrived in France and later that year saw action during the Somme Offensive. In September he was awarded the Military Cross for an action of which a fellow Captain wrote: *Hugh was in charge of the company one night, when the Germans put up a*



terrific gas shell barrage. Some of his men having lost their way in their gas helmets, Hugh got out of the trench at very great risk and by flashing his torch and pushing and pulling them along, he got them all back to the trench with only two fatalities. Then he walked over the open to an artillery dugout and brought back stretchers.

In July 1917, whilst in the Ypres Salient, Hugh suffered a slight wound but was badly injured in the thigh and leg by machine gun bullets at Maricourt on 27 March 1918. After several months of healing and convalescence he was able to return to his unit only to be struck down with influenza in late October. He was evacuated to Fort Pitt Military Hospital,

Chatham, where he died of pneumonia on 10 November 1918. He was buried in St Mary's Churchyard, Lydney.

In July 1914 Hugh had made his County Cricket debut for Gloucestershire at Worcester. Chronologically he was the last first class cricketer to die in the Great War.

Graham Adams

Other news

To mark the centenary of the end of the Battle of the Somme, the IWM and Somme100 FILM present the extraordinary film *The Battle of the Somme*, accompanied live by the BBC Concert Orchestra performing the acclaimed score by Laura Rossi. It will be shown on Friday 18 November at 7:30pm at the Royal Festival Hall and the screening is preceded by a talk by IWM's Senior Curator Dr Toby Haggith and composer Laura Rossi. Tickets are £15 and are available via the IWM website: www.iwm.org.uk

A Paul Nash exhibition is now on at Tate Britain. Featuring a lifetime's work from his

earliest drawings through to his iconic Second World War paintings, this exhibition reveals Nash's importance to British modern art in the most significant show of his work for a generation. www.tate.org.uk

The 2017 WFA Calendar is now available. It includes high quality, modern images of scenes from the Western Front specially selected from the work of a number of superb Western Front photographers. The calendar is A4 size when folded and opens out to A3, and costs £10 (including P&P). Further details on the WFA website: www.westernfrontassociation.com

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