



CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER BRANCH of THE WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

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Welcome!

As the year begins to come to a close we are delighted that we have our calendar of events already available. Once again we have an excellent list of speakers arranged for next year (thanks as always to Brian Ward and Andy Hinks) so do pick up a leaflet and feel free to take a handful for friends, relatives or to drop into local libraries or schools etc.

A reminder that our AGM this year is on Tuesday 21 November at 7.30pm and everyone is welcome. If you would like to attend, please let me know as we do need to have an idea of numbers to book a suitable venue.

Next month will of course be our Christmas Meeting. Please note that once again we will be at The Aviator Inn at Gloucestershire Airport. As well as our wonderful selection of branch speakers giving short presentations there will be a buffet (priced at £5 per head so please let us know asap if you plan to take that up) and rather than a raffle, this year there will be a Christmas

Lucky Dip! Donations for the latter are warmly welcomed as indeed, as always, are book donations to be sold on behalf of the branch.

The WFA 2018 Calendar is now on sale. It includes high quality, modern images of scenes from the Western Front. The calendar is A4 size when folded, opening out to A3, and costs £10 (including p&p). You can order by post or online at www.westernfrontassociation.com.

The Historic England Archive in Swindon is offering a free behind the scenes tour from 2pm to 3.30pm on Monday 20 November. They are also hosting a couple of free evening talks. *The Aerial Photographic Collections held by the Historic England Archive* on Tuesday 21 November from 6pm to 8pm and *The History of Aerial Photography, from the Victorians to Modern Technology* on Thursday 23 November from 6pm to 8pm. You will find full details on their website: www.historicengland.org.uk.

Peter

Future events

Tuesday, 12 December
Members' Evening

The Aviator Inn, Gloucestershire Airport
7pm - 10pm

Please join us at The Aviator Inn at Gloucestershire Airport for our Christmas meeting. We will have six ten-minute presentations during the evening as we draw on the expertise and knowledge of our members.

There will be a buffet available and tickets at £5 are available tonight.

There will also be a Lucky Dip so anything you can donate will be very welcome.

For directions to The Aviator Inn, please visit their website: www.theaviatorglos.co.uk.

Our 2018 Programme is available tonight and you can find details on our website. Our thanks to Brian and Andy for another excellent mix of talks for next year.

Tuesday, 9 January 2018
A Prisoner at Holzminden
Ian Gumm

National Star College at 7.30pm

As a young boy Ian grew up with the stories of the daring deeds and escapes by the soldiers, sailors and airmen of the Second World War. What appears to be relatively unknown, however, are the stories relating to those captured during the First World War. Many of the Officers and men captured in the First World War, just like their counterparts some 20 or so years later, did not meekly enter captivity after they became a Prisoner of War. Many attempted to escape, some managed to make it back to their own country to rejoin the battle once again, whilst others were recaptured and returned to be unwilling guests of His Imperial Majesty Kaiser Wilhelm II. Ian's talk is about one such escape made by 29 British officers from the Holzminden Officer Prisoner of War Camp in Hanover, Germany.

Captain Edward Hampton Moss 10th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment

Edward Moss was born in Yokohama on 13 August 1878. He was the son of C D Moss, a member of the Diplomatic Corps, and Mrs E J Moss, who later lived at Sussex House, Pittville, Cheltenham.

Edward attended Cheltenham College as a day boy between January 1893 and April 1895, where he was a member of their Cadet Force. After completing his education, he joined the Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank and became the Manager of their branch in Malacca, one of the trading centres in the British Crown Colony of Straits Settlements (Singapore was another).

Upon the outbreak of war, he was granted a year's furlough from the bank and on 14 September 1914 enlisted at Cheltenham Drill Hall into the 2nd Public Schools Battalion, which became the 19th Royal Fusiliers. He was aged 36 at the time but, perhaps fearing he would be considered too old, he stated his age as 30.

He was commissioned into the 10th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment on 23 December 1914 and went to France with the battalion on 8 August 1915. On 11 September he was promoted to Temporary Captain.



The 10th Glosters, formed part of 1 Brigade, 1st Division and at 6.30am on 25 September 1915, the opening day of the Battle of Loos, they went into action south of Bois Carre, attacking the German Front Line to the west of the Loos - La Bassee Road. Despite being badly affected by the British gas blowing back into their trenches and intense German artillery and machine gun fire the battalion took the German Front Line and parties of men even reached the third supporting line. However, the advance was at great cost - 459 casualties in all.

What happened to Captain Moss is uncertain. There were reports that he had been wounded, suffered a direct hit by a shell and that he had been taken prisoner (which turned out to be false). He was never seen again and an identifiable body never recovered. Consequently, he is commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Dud Corner and also on the Malacca War Memorial and the Singapore Cenotaph.

By way of another Gloucestershire link, in 1921 a faculty was granted for the placement of a memorial tablet to both Edward and his father, inside South Cerney Parish Church.

Graham Adams

2018 - dates for your diary

21 April: WFA Spring Conference and AGM at the offices of Norton Rose Fulbright at 3 More London Riverside, London SE1 2AQ.

2 June: Seventh WFA President's Conference at the Tally Ho Club, Edgbaston. Speakers confirmed are Jonathan Boff, Jim Beach, Alison Hine and Chris Baker plus Gary Sheffield and John Bourne will join the panel discussion.

7 July: Third WFA York Conference.

27/28 October: The British Commission for Military History and the WFA are organising a two day conference in central London on the Hundred Days' campaigns of the First World War.

We will let you know further details when they become available.

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