



CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER BRANCH of THE WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

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Welcome!

We heard last week that Peter Caddick-Adams is unable to be with us tonight due to ill health; we wish him well. We are very grateful that Nicolas Wheatley has stepped in to save the day. His talk tonight is *The Repatriation of the Unknown Warrior*. Please also note that because of Nicolas stepping into the breach tonight we have had to rejig a couple of the talks and speakers for the autumn period - please therefore keep an eye on our website for full and updated details.

Our thanks also go out tonight to Dave Gargett for running the 'Unwanted Christmas Present' auction - do support him by getting involved in the event. Any extra pennies are valuable to the branch and all bids are welcome, so don't feel bashful!

There are still places on our Branch Tour *British Forces in Italy 1917-1918*. The tour will be from 12 to 16 September and based in Asiago. There are details available tonight and if you are interested please let Hilary know as soon as possible - treasurer@cgwfa.org.uk.

For those who receive copies of *The Sentinel* we would like to know if you would prefer to receive it in electronic form as a PDF. If so, please let Hilary know - newsletter@cgwfa.org.uk.

A reminder that the WFA Spring Conference and AGM is on 21 April at the London offices of Norton Rose Fulbright. The talks are: *George V in the Great War* by Alex Churchill; *Veteran contributions to the shaping of the Imperial War Museum* by Catherine Long and *The Zeebrugge Raid 1918* by Clive Harris. You will find full details on the WFA website.

Also on the WFA website is a series of podcasts entitled *Mentioned in Dispatches*. They cover subjects as diverse as *The AEF in WW1*; *The Canadians on the Somme*; *The 8th Lincolns at Loos*; *Dr Harold Giddes and Plastic Surgery*; *Shellshock and Women in Britain and Europe during The Great War*. The link to these podcasts is on the WFA Home page. **Peter**

Future events

Tuesday, 13 March

Commemorative Art Medals of WWI
Mike Cerrino
National Star College at 7.30pm

Mike's light-hearted talk looks at the fascinating history of rare cast-metal Great War commemorative medals, privately produced in Germany, Austria, Hungary and France. These are very different to military medals and some, such as the Lusitania Medal, became famous in their own right.



The Lusitania Medallion

Tuesday, 10 April

British Official Film & Photography on the Western Front
Professor Stephen Badsey
National Star College at 7.30pm

Stephen will present a slide show of the work of the official cameramen and some of their famous images.

Stephen is a Military Historian and a Co-Director of the First World War Research Group at the University of Wolverhampton, together with Professor Gary Sheffield.



Second Lieutenant Bertram Brooks-Carrington, British official cameraman, 1917

5117 Private Albert Ross Callaghan 54th Battalion, Australian Infantry

Private Callaghan signed his Attestation papers as 'Ross Callaghan', so presumably that was the Christian name by which he was known.

Ross Callaghan was born in Sydney, New South Wales in 1887. When he attested he was living in the Surry Hills locality of Sydney and his occupation was a tailor. He gave his next of kin as his mother, Emily Jane Callaghan of Victoria Street, Kogarah, NSW.

His attestation, at Kiama, NSW, was on 23 December 1915 and his first posting was to the 12th Re-enforcement of 17th Battalion, Australian Infantry. Prior to transferring to the 13th Re-enforcement, 17th Battalion, on 27 April 1916, he spent about six weeks at Signal School. On 3 June 1916 he embarked from Sydney, on board HMAT *Kyarra* destined for the UK. Following arrival in early July he departed for France on 30 September 1916 and arrived at the 2nd Australian Division Base Depot at Etaples on 2 October 1916.

On 12 October 1916 he joined the 54th Battalion, Australian Infantry in the field. The Battalion was part of the Australian 5th Division. In early 1917 the battalion was in action during the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line and in the Battle of Polygon Wood, between 26 September and 3 October. On



11 October, one year on from his joining 54th Battalion, Private Callaghan was granted ten days' leave from France, returning to his unit on 21 October 1917.

A further one month's leave in the UK followed on 9 March 1918 and eight days after returning to his unit he was wounded in action on 17 April 1918, whilst in action during the second phase of the German Spring Offensive. He had suffered severely from the effects of mustard gas poisoning and after passing through 12th Casualty Clearing Station he was put on an ambulance train and taken to the 9th General Hospital at Rouen, being admitted on 19 April. On the 21 April he crossed the Channel to the UK on board the Hospital Ship *G Tully Castle*.

He was taken to Suffolk Hall Voluntary Aid Despatch Hospital, Lypiatt Road, Cheltenham. This hospital was a former school, staffed by volunteers of No 26 Gloucestershire VAD. Here he died as a consequence of mustard gas poisoning on 7.15am on 26 April 1918. He was aged 29. His burial followed on 29 April 1918 at 4.30pm. It was a full military funeral with the firing party and bugler provided by Gloucester Volunteer Regiment. Some Australian patients from local hospitals attended. A CWGC headstone now marks his grave.

Graham Adams

Gloucestershire War Graves Project

A key element of the Branch's Gloucestershire War Graves Project is the annual placement of remembrance poppy crosses on the county's Great War related war graves. We currently cover about 500 graves, which involves about 60 people making placements. Due to a mobility problem the individual who has covered the six

graves at Berkeley Cemetery and the three at Stone (All Saints) Churchyard has had to stand down.

Would anyone reading this like to take his place? If so, Graham Adams - email: wargraves@cgwfa.org.uk - would be pleased to hear from you.

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