



CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER BRANCH of THE WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

Number 137

March 2018

Welcome!

As you know we have had to re-arrange our talks for September and October. In September, Paul Cobb will talk about Sir John Monash - one of Australia's most celebrated military figures - and Graham Adams' talk *Prime Ministers at the Front* will now be in October.

The parking charges at the National Archives in Kew will change from 3 April. The new charges are £2.50 for up to two hours; £4.50 for up to four hours and £7 for over four hours.

On 14 March at 7.30pm Richard Osgood, the Senior Archaeologist with the MOD, will give a talk entitled *Last March of the Tanks* about the archaeology of the WW1 Battle of Bullecourt. The talk is at Bingham Hall, King Street, Cirencester GL7 1JT and entry is free.

On 11 April the Cheltenham Civic Society will present their awards followed by a talk by Adrian Barlow on *The architecture of*

remembrance: war memorials of the First World War. The evening starts at 6pm at Chapel Arts, Knapp Road, Cheltenham GL50 3QQ.

The Bristol Branch of the Historical Association's April talk is *The Experience of British and Anzac troops at Gallipoli, 1915-16* by Professor Gary Sheffield. The talk is on 18 April at the Coutts Lecture Theatre, 3rd Floor, Wills Memorial Building, Queens Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 1RJ at 7.30pm. Further details can be obtained from Mary Feerick at maryfeerick58@gmail.com.

The ANZAC Day Parade and Service at Lighterton will take place on Sunday 22 April. The parade will form up at 2.30pm and then march to the cemetery for a service at 3pm. We are very grateful to Helen and Dave Earle who will lay a wreath on behalf of the branch during the service.

Peter

Future events

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*

Tuesday, 8 May

Malta in the Great War

Bill Fulton

National Star College at 7.30pm

Malta is usually associated with the Second World War (as 'The George Cross Island') but there are many strands to her role in the Great War, ranging from the Gallipoli and Salonika campaigns through naval, aeronautical and civilian aspects to present day memorials. Bill's fully illustrated talk will shed light on some fascinating stories from that period.



Malta Harbour 1915

Second Lieutenant Henry Norman Groves Dann 55 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps

Norman Dann was born on 9 June 1898 at Chalford, near Stroud. His parents were Henry Charles and Marie Dann of The Beeches, Thrupp, near Stroud. Mr Dann senior was a director of an umbrella and walking stick manufacturing company.

Norman was educated at Wycliffe College and Berkhamsted School, Hertfordshire where he was a private in the OTC. Afterwards he worked as a clerk in his father's business before he attested for military service, for the duration of the war, on 31 July 1916, aged 18 years and 11 days.

Initially he joined the 28th (London) Regiment (Artists' Rifles), as a Private (8168) but on 6 September 1916 joined 1 Officer Cadet Battalion at Denham, Buckinghamshire with a view to joining the Royal Flying Corps (RFC). From Denham he moved to Oxford on 11 November 1916 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the RFC on 27 January 1917.

He then served at a number of locations in the UK and France and was appointed Flying Officer on 12 June 1917 and on 10 July 1917 began his familiarisation training on the DH4 bomber, having previously flown BE2s. He spent the periods 18 July to 16 August in the UK and was



with 51 Training Squadron flying the DH4 until 7 September 1917.

On 8 September 1917 he was posted to 55 Squadron, RFC, which had taken delivery of the Airco DH4 two seater bi-plane day bomber in January 1917. In March the squadron was based at Fienvillers (south west of Doullens) and on 31 May of that year had moved to Boisdingham, near St Omer.

The *Gloucestershire Chronicle* of 29 September 1917 described what happened to Second Lieutenant Dann on 15 September 1917: *Returning from a bombing raid (he) missed his landing and went on again. His engine failed to pick up and in turning the machine got out of control and crashed to earth. Both he and his observer were killed on the spot.*

The War Office, in a letter to his father on 18 September 1917, stated that Dann was brought dead into No 10 Stationery Hospital, St Omer, having died of extensive burns, the result of an aeroplane accident. The observer was Second Lieutenant Frank Ridgway Brotherhood and the aircraft flown was DH4 Reg No B3962. Both airmen are buried at Longuenesse (St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery.

Graham Adams

The Sentinel

If you would prefer to receive your copy of *The Sentinel* in electronic form (PDF) please let Hilary know - newsletter@cgwfa.org.uk

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