



CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER BRANCH of THE WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

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Welcome!

I sincerely hope that you are not too concerned with the threat of the coronavirus, however I have been asked by the National Star College to inform all at our meetings of the following information in order to safeguard as a priority the vulnerable young people that attend the college. Please read and digest.

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Information for Visitors & Users of National Star facilities

With a small number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 now in Gloucestershire, we need to ensure that National Star takes all appropriate measures to help prevent the spread of the virus. Like other residential educational settings we are following the relevant advice issued by the Government which can be found here - www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-social-or-community-care-and-residential-settings-on-covid-19. This guidance is very clear and covers a range of issues that you may want to know more about. This advice goes into a lot of detail about how to help prevent the spread of the virus and there are two general principles

that all visitors to National Star should follow: (1) Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the bin. (2) Wash your hands frequently, with soap and water or by using alcohol sanitiser if hand washing facilities are unavailable.

Given the potential vulnerabilities of students and residents at National Star, please ensure you follow all guidelines carefully.

If you have recently visited any of the countries or regions listed on current government advice on countries severely affected by COVID-19, please ensure that that you follow the current government guidance. An up-to-date list of these countries can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas-with-implications-for-returning-travellers-or-visitors-arriving-in-the-uk

If you show any relevant symptoms please do not enter National Star premises.

Peter

Future branch events

Tuesday, 14 April

The Omnibus on the Western Front
Roy Larkin

National Star College at 7.30pm



Roy will talk about how the London omnibus found its way on to the Western Front and its role when it arrived there.

Tuesday, 12 May

Clearing the Dead 1919-1939
Peter Hodgkinson

National Star College at 7.30pm

There is currently considerable interest in battlefield archaeology. Between the wars, however, a process similar to modern archaeology was carried out to attempt to unearth the missing and bury them properly in Imperial War Graves Commission cemeteries. How was this done? Who did it? What were their experiences?



Captain James Travers Blount Dinwiddie

1st Battalion, Border Regiment

James Travers Blount Dinwiddie was born on 25 April 1891 at Dumfries, Scotland. He was the son of James Blount and Agnes-Ellen Dinwiddie.

Prior to the war he was educated at Elizabeth College, Guernsey, followed by Pembroke College, Oxford, where he gained an honours degree in law. He was a keen rower and captain of the college boat club.

According to a report in the *Gloucester Journal* of 18 September 1915, at the outbreak of the Great War he was serving with the Transvaal Scottish and was in action in what was German South West Africa (now Namibia).

He returned to the UK in the autumn of 1914 and joined the 1st Battalion, Border Regiment. He was promoted to Lieutenant on 3 November 1914 and on 17 March 1915 he sailed with the battalion (87 Brigade, 29 Division), from Avonmouth, to join the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. After arriving in Alexandria on 28 March, the battalion arrived at Mudros on 12 April, in readiness for the Gallipoli landings.

The 1st Borders landed on X Beach, in the Helles area, on 25 April 1915. The landing was barely opposed but once attempts were made to break out Turkish resistance soon stiffened: James suffered a gun shot wound to the buttock on 28 April 1915 and was evacuated to Mudros for treatment.



He returned to duty at the end of June and on 10 August 1915 took over as the officer commanding 'D' Company, having been promoted to Captain.

The British had landed at Suvla Bay, on 6 August 1915, in an effort to outflank the Turkish forces further south. Due to initial inertia little progress was made and on 17 August 29 Division was brought in as reinforcement. On 21 August the Division was given the task of attacking Scimitar Hill (also known as Hill 70) from Chocolate Hill. The attack featured a series of charges by various units and during one of these Captain Dinwiddie received a serious gun shot

wound to the chest. All the officers of 'D' Company were wounded in that battle.

He was immediately evacuated to Mudros and on 23 August embarked for England aboard HMHS *Arcadian*. Upon arrival he was admitted to the Empire Hospital, Vincent Square, Westminster in London, where he died at 8pm on 13 September 1915, age 24: a result of complications and an infection relating to his wounds. Posthumously he was Mentioned in Despatches, in the London Gazette of 28 January 1916.

His funeral was held at Amberley Church at 3pm on Thursday, 16 September 1915. He was buried in the churchyard; his grave being marked by a stone cross.

(Research by Graham Adams for our GWGP)

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