



## CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER BRANCH of THE WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

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### Welcome!

I don't have to state the obvious that it has been yet another strange and disruptive year for the branch, but I must say how delighted I am that we have been able to hold some meetings and that we have got to the point of our Christmas meeting. Who can tell what next year will be like, but we move forward with plans and good intentions.

Apart from the excellent programme of speakers that Andy Hinks has put together for next year, we are planning a summer barbeque, a day trip or two to relevant sites of interest in this country and hopefully a co-ordinated trip abroad. Even if just some of these are fulfilled then 2022 will be a good and exciting year for the branch and I sincerely hope that you enjoy the journey with us. The calendar of speakers is now available so please pick up a copy for yourself and any further copies for friends or

family that may also be interested, also feel free to take any that you can distribute into local libraries or similar venues - it is as important as ever to let people know about our branch and our meetings.

Tonight you will enjoy four talks by members  
*Adrian Carton de Wiart who commanded the 8<sup>th</sup> Glosters on the Somme* by Len Evans  
*Conscription in the NZEF* by Paul Cobb  
*Switzerland in World War One* by Ian Goodridge  
*Big Push* by Adrian Smith

and I hope you will enjoy the complimentary mince pies and bucks fizz - fruit juice also available! Raffle tickets are also on sale with all proceeds going towards branch funds.

May I wish you most sincerely the happiest and safest of Christmases and I look forward to seeing you next year.

*Peter*

### Future branch events

**Tuesday, 11 January**

*Clearing the Dead 1919-1939*

Peter Hodgkinson

**The Ed Shed 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 IWGC cemeteries. How was this done? Who did it? What were their experiences?



**Tuesday, 8 February**

*Gloucester and the City's Reaction to the Armistice in 1918*

Tony Conder

**The Ed Shed at 7.30pm**

Tony's talk covers the immediate days after the Armistice and then the next couple of years to look at how civilian life and the returning troops inter-related. He looks at homes fit for heroes, how the immediate Armistice was celebrated and the lack of harmony between the civil authority and those who had fought.



## Acting Serjeant Henry (Harry) Bartlett (R4/066429) Army Service Corps

Harry Bartlett was born in early 1877 at Banbury, Oxfordshire.

He married Janet Beezly at Coln St Alwyns, Gloucestershire on 8 August 1904, when employed as a groom. The couple had six children. According to the 1911 Census the family lived at The Common, Staplefield, Crawley, Sussex, where Harry was employed as a coachman.

Harry attested for military service on 9 March 1915. At the time he was living at Gorse Hill, near Swindon. He was posted to the Army Service Corps at the Army Remount camp at Shirehampton, near Bristol, on 12 March 1915 and was assigned to Remount 'E' Squadron, made up of older men. He was quickly made up from Driver to Acting Serjeant; probably a reflection of his civilian occupation, as he had no previous military service.

After just over a month at Shirehampton, he embarked from Avonmouth on 15 April 1915, arriving at Alexandria, Egypt on 27 April. He remained in Alexandria until 18 July 1916, when he sailed for Salonika, on the HMT *Kentucky* arriving 22 July. In Salonika he joined the 42<sup>nd</sup> Remount Section and he was to stay with that unit for the remainder of his Army service.

On 15 September 1916 he was admitted to 29 General Hospital with malaria (of which there was a high incidence on the Salonika front) and did not rejoin his unit until 23<sup>rd</sup> of that month.

During his time in Salonika Harry was twice Mentioned in Despatches.



Harry returned to the UK from Salonika on 2 June 1919, via Taranto on the HMT *Danube* and was discharged into the Reserve on 20 June 1919.

Upon his return to the UK Harry was diagnosed with pulmonary tuberculosis and application was made for an Army disability pension, which was granted but he was not to benefit from it for long, as he died on 7 November 1919, aged 44.

Harry Bartlett was buried in Somerford Keynes (All Saints) Churchyard, where a standard CWGC headstone now marks his grave.

**Graham Adams**

(from the Gloucestershire War Graves Project biographical archive)

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