



CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER BRANCH of THE WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

Number 175

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Welcome!

We will be holding our AGM on the evening of Tuesday 15 November commencing at 7.30pm. The venue is to be confirmed, but all WFA members - whether branch members or not - are welcome to attend. However, so that we can cater accordingly please let me know as soon as possible if you are able to join us.

At the Executive Committee meeting of the WFA on Saturday 3 September it was agreed that any branch wishing to send members to the Cenotaph this year will be eligible to claim up to £200 towards the cost of transport. All members should feel that they are entitled and welcome to take part in the 11am Commemoration at the Cenotaph and the Service at the Guards Chapel which follows. The financial contribution is intended to encourage the widest possible attendance by members. All members are invited. The full details of the Service are published on the inside of the back cover of the latest *Stand To!*

The following events, which are free with museum entry, are at The Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum:

The Irish Soldier in the British Army runs until 21 September. The exhibition looks at the six Irish Regiments who served the Crown.

Falklands at 40 Exhibition from 8 October to 7 December. Discover the story of the Islanders whose lives were altered by the Falklands War. This special display pays homage to the brave souls of the British Task Force, but also showcases the optimism and vibrancy of a community with a thriving future.

Napoleonic Day on 25 September from 10am to 4pm. Come and meet the troops from the 28th Regiment of Foot who defeated Napoleon and get a guided tour of the museum galleries to find out about the only English Regiment Wellington personally named after Waterloo.

Peter

Future branch events

Tuesday, 11 October

The 'Spanish Flu' Pandemic 1917-1919

Dr Jane Orr

The Ed Shed at 7.30pm

An explanation of the epidemiology of the pandemic and a discussion of its effect on the progress of the war effort in 1918. Home front and public health issues will also be covered, with comparisons made to the Coronavirus pandemic 100 years later.



Tuesday, 8 November

*The Empire Strikes Back:
The Battles of Trekkopje & Gibeon 1915*
James White
The Ed Shed at 7.30pm

For most of the campaign in South West Africa the German Schutztruppe spent their time retreating but on two notable occasions they took to the offensive. With modern day battlefield photographs this is the tale of the two battles, one of which saw Rolls Royce armoured cars going into action.



Tuesday, 15 November

Cheltenham & Gloucester Branch AGM
Venue: TBC at 7.30pm

Captain Kenneth Algernon Brooke-Murray

15th Squadron, Royal Flying Corps

Kenneth Algernon Brooke-Murray was born in Bengal, India on 8 March 1892. He was the only child of Henry Brooke-Murray, a Major in the Indian Army and his wife Kate May. The family came to live at 7 Painswick Lawn, Cheltenham. Kenneth was educated at Cheltenham College and entered the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst in September 1910. He was gazetted as an officer in the Army Service Corps in 1911.

At the outbreak of the Great War he went to France with 19th Brigade and saw action at Mons, the Marne, Ypres and Armentieres. From April to June 1915 he was adjutant of the Advanced Horse Transport and from July to October of that year was Staff Captain at GHQ. From November 1915 to April 1916 he was Embarkation Officer at Marseilles before being assigned to a Divisional Ammunition Park.

In July 1916 he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps, retaining his rank of Captain and was posted to 15 Squadron at Marieux, as an Observer. On 16 September he was the Observer in a BE2c aircraft on artillery spotting operations over Miraumont, during the Somme Offensive. His machine was attacked by three German fighters and was forced to land. Although his pilot was unhurt, Captain Brooke-Murray was wounded in the leg. He was transferred to a Base Hospital at Boulogne,

where he died of his wounds on 23 September, aged 24.

Captain Kenneth Algernon Brooke-Murray is buried in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery and is commemorated on the Cheltenham War Memorial. His original wooden grave marker hangs on the wall of St Stephen's Church, Cheltenham.

Graham Adams



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