



CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER BRANCH of THE WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

Number 178

December 2022

Welcome!

As another year draws to a close it's the perfect opportunity to reflect on what I think has been another very successful twelve months for the branch. Andy Hinks yet again excelled with organising a superb selection of speakers and subjects - I'm sure even the speaker who neglected to turn up would have been brilliant! And he has similarly put together a stellar programme for next year - this has now been updated onto our website and you can pick up a programme for the whole year at tonight's and subsequent meetings. If you feel that you have friends or family that would be interested in joining us, or you can distribute to local libraries, doctor surgeries, pubs or similar, then please talk a handful of the programmes - we do need to keep spreading the word.

At our meeting tonight we have four talks:
Images of the Western Front - Soisson to Kilometer Zero by Ian Goodridge

A brief history of the 7th Battalion Gloucesters and RGH in Gallipoli by Len Evans

Phrenetic Phonetics - the Tribulations of a WW1 Signaller by Bob Brunsdon

Armenia - the Yerevan Genocide Memorial by Paul Haigh

At the risk of sounding like a nag and repeating myself, we are in dire need of more volunteers for our committee. Due to retirements we now have responsibilities falling on the shoulders of a reducing number of individuals. So, if you can help as treasurer, membership secretary or merchandise officer then please put your name forward. The branch needs you!

A reminder that the WFA's 2023 calendar is now available. It features images of battlefields depicting points of interest in France, Belgium and Italy. The sales of the calendar assists the WFA to continue its work and it is available via the WFA e-shop or by phone on 0207 118 1914.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, prosperous and warm 2023.

Peter

Future branch events

Tuesday, 10 January

*The Doughboys 1917-18:
The American Experience in WW1*
Mike Sheil

The Ed Shed at 7.30pm

Mike's talk is based upon the American battlefields of WW1. He will give a battlefield guides perspective of the American Expeditionary Force's war effort on the Western Front. Mike is an accredited member of the Guild of Battlefield Guides, a member of the British Commission for Military History and a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.



Tuesday, 14 February

*Missing - Died - Survived:
The Senior Brothers and the Great War*
Guy Senior

The Ed Shed at 7.30pm

The story of three brothers who fought on the Western Front. Joseph, Walter and George Senior were all born in the Yorkshire town of Wakefield and educated at Wakefield Grammar School. Joseph served with the West Yorkshire Regiment; he would later volunteer for the Royal Flying Corps and saw action over the Ypres battlefield as an observer. Walter also served with the West Yorkshire Regiment taking part in the Battle of the Somme, leading his men on a daring raid of The Triangle in the Thiepval sector. George served with the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was later attached to the Sherwood Foresters. Only one would come home.

Master at Arms Colin Jones (173923)

Royal Navy - HMS Hampshire

Colin Jones was born in Gloucester on 24 January 1878. He was one of four children born to Edward and Elizabeth Jones. He joined the Royal Navy as a Boy Entrant in June 1893 and served in a succession of warships during the Victorian and Edwardian eras. He was given the rank of Ordinary Seaman in January 1896, committing to serve for a minimum of twelve years. Promotion to Able Seaman followed a year later and to Leading Seaman in January 1902 and to Petty Officer in April 1903.

In 1908 he became a Ship's Corporal, thereby becoming an assistant to the Master at Arms in his duties. During his time with the Navy he no doubt travelled to many parts of the Empire. His transfer to HMS *Hampshire* came in January 1914 and his appointment as the ship's Master at Arms occurred on 2 November 1914. He remained with the *Hampshire* for the remainder of his career.

HMS *Hampshire* was a Devonshire Class armoured cruiser, completed in July 1905. It had seen service in the China Station and the Mediterranean before joining the Grand Fleet at Scapa Flow in late 1914. As part of the 2nd Cruiser Squadron, it was present at the Battle of Jutland but was barely involved in any action.

On 5 June 1916 *Hampshire* was given sailing orders to carry Lord Kitchener, the Secretary of State for War and his staff, to Arkhangelsk, Russia on a diplomatic mission. The cruiser left



Scapa Flow at 16.45 and after about an hour was joined by two destroyers.

Due to bad weather and heavy seas, it was decided to route the ships through the Pentland Firth and round the western side of Orkney. The escorting destroyers struggled to maintain station in the conditions and were ordered back to Scapa Flow, the risk of submarine attack being considered very low. *Hampshire* was about a mile and a half off the mainland of Orkney, near Marwick Head, when, at 19.40 an explosion occurred, causing the ship to heel to starboard. The ship was holed between the bow and bridge and immediately started to sink and fifteen minutes later went down by the

bow. It had struck one of several mines laid by the German submarine U-75 on 27/28 May 1916.

A total of 735 crew members went down with the ship, including Master at Arms Colin Jones and 14 passengers, notably Lord Kitchener and his entourage. Only 12 of the crew survived and were washed ashore on Carly floats.

Master at Arms Colin Jones was aged 38 and unmarried. He is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. At the time of the Great War Colin's father was living in the Tredworth area of the city (his mother had died in 1907) and he died almost exactly one month after Colin's death.

Graham Adams

Contact details

Cheltenham & Gloucester Branch President

Professor Peter Simkins MBE FRHistS

Branch Chairman

Peter Gill

Pen Y Bryn, Bull's Hill, Walford,

Ross-on-Wye HR9 5RH

07702 253 638 • chairman@cgwfa.org.uk

Branch Treasurer & Newsletter Editor

Hilary Jennings

4 St Stephen's Road, Cheltenham GL51 3AA

01242 243 927 • newsletter@cgwfa.org.uk

Website

www.cgwfa.org.uk

Facebook

[Cheltenham & Gloucester Branch of the Western Front Association](#)

Twitter

[@CGWFA](#)

The Western Front Association

BM Box 1914,

London WC1N 3XX

0207 118 1914

membership@westernfrontassociation.com

www.westernfrontassociation.com



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