



## CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER BRANCH of THE WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

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### Welcome!

Adrian Smith has taken the initiative on behalf of the branch to arrange a free 'pop-up' military research event at The Folk on Saturday 22 April from 11am to 2pm. This is primarily to encourage and help anyone who may wish to find out more about any ancestors who served in the First World War and will also serve as a publicity event for the branch. Do feel free to drop in if you would like help with your own research, to lend moral support or to help with research ... there will be refreshments on sale in the Folk Café!

On Wednesday June 28 Len Evans has very kindly offered to host a special branch visit to The Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum. This will be a real behind the scenes and personal visit not normally available to the public. We will be meeting at the museum at 7.30pm and the charge per person will be £4. If you would like to join us then please let me know - we will need numbers beforehand to know who and how many to expect.

Simon Cook who runs our Gloucestershire War Graves Project has asked me to mention that we have unfortunately had three adopters drop out over the last 12 months and thus we are looking for volunteers to take up the slack. There are four crosses - one in each of Baunton, Daglingworth, Edgeworth and Sapperton that now need someone new to place them in November, also fourteen crosses in Great Barrington, Great Rissington, Guiting Power, Oddington, Temple Guiting, Turkdean, Whittington and Wyck Rissington and three crosses in Upton St Leonards. If you feel that you can help for what is not a great time commitment - just a few minutes or so once a year - then please let me or Simon know.

The WFA 11<sup>th</sup> President's Conference: *1913 Expectations Meet the Realities of War* is on 20 May from 9.45am to 4.30pm at the Tally Ho! Conference & Banqueting Centre, Birmingham. Full details can be found on the WFA website.

*Peter*

### Future branch events

**Tuesday, 9 May**

*Who Killed Captain Duncan Martin?*

Ross Beadle

**The Ed Shed at 7.30pm**



Plasticine models, poets, 'lions led by donkeys' ... and all of that. This talk revisits the attack of 20th Brigade on the first day of the Somme and includes some fascinating overlay pictures by Jonathan Porter.

**Tuesday, 13 June**

*Foch, Pétain and the Poilus:  
The French War Effort 1914-18*

Martin Alexander

**The Ed Shed at 7.30pm**

The Western Front ran mostly through France and was mostly held by French armies. In March 1918 Foch became the Allied supreme commander. We shall explore the roles of Joffre who saved France on the Marne in 1914 and Pétain who rallied wobbling French soldiers after the 1917 mutinies, and consider the troops too. With Paris secure, offensives were repeatedly mounted to 'boot the Boches out of France' and we shall probe why they were essential. At the close of 1918, France was liberated. But 1,390,000 French soldiers died in the effort, a price that mortgaged the nation and its strategic mindset for the rest of the 20th Century

# Captain Edward Job Millin

## C Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry

Job Millin (as he was known) was born at Ampney St Peter, near Cirencester in 1879. He was one of eight sons born to John Millin (who died when Job was eight) and his wife Louisa.

Job was a career soldier, who had joined the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (KOYLI) in 1899 and had served in the South African War, where he was mentioned in despatches.

When war broke out in August 1914 he was serving with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the KOYLI and based in Dublin. The battalion was quickly re-deployed to France on 16 August and was part of 13 Brigade, 5 Division. Once in France it saw almost continuous action during the remainder of 1914. Job was now a Colour Serjeant and reportedly in August 1914, after an order to withdraw had been given, he ensured that an ammunition wagon was rescued and brought back to the British lines; an action for which he was awarded the Medal Militaire by the French Government. He suffered a head wound at this time, which necessitated treatment back in Britain and he did not return to France until 2 June 1915. Prior to this he had been commissioned into the 2nd KOYLI as a Second Lieutenant on 9 May.

In December 1915 the 2nd KOYLI transferred to 97 Brigade, 32 Division. As a Regular Army battalion its job was to 'stiffen' the fighting



qualities of its companion battalions from the Highland Light Infantry, which were 'New Army'.

On 1 July 1916, 97 Brigade was detailed to capture the Leipzig Salient and then join up with other units and to advance on Mouquet Farm. Between the salient and farm lay the German stronghold of the Wundt Werk. Despite artillery fire being switched onto the stronghold the advancing troops found themselves pinned down by intense fire from the Wundt Werk and enfilade fire from Thiepval to the north and

another German strongpoint, the Nordwerk to the south, which meant that reserves could not make progress forward. The Leipzig Salient had been captured but the gain meant little whilst Thiepval, Wundt Werk and Nordwerk remained in German hands.

Job Millin, now a Temporary Captain, was one of five officers and 69 other ranks killed that day: 32 Division lost 3,949 killed, wounded or missing. Job's body was never recovered and he is named on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme. However, some researchers believe that he is the unknown officer of the KOYLI buried in nearby Blighty Valley Cemetery. He is also commemorated on a brass tablet inside Ampney St Peter Church.

Job had married in 1916 and left behind a widow and two children.

*Graham Adams*

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