



CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER BRANCH of THE WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

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Welcome!

These are desperately sad times that we find ourselves living in and I know that all our hearts and minds go out to the people of Ukraine in their dreadful plight. As we remember one of Gloucestershire's fallen of the Great War tonight, and for subsequent evenings whilst the war exists, I would ask that we include in our thoughts all those that are lost, bereaved, displaced and otherwise suffering in this current war. At the core of the Western Front Association we remember those of all nationalities who were caught up in the extraordinary times of the First World War. I believe it is fitting that in these times we can also consider all those that have innocently been engulfed in the current circumstances.

On matters pertaining to our specific subject, I received a request for help from Rhod Tibbles who writes: *My grandfather, William George Tibbles, served with the Gloucestershire Regiment on The Somme, and is one of those portrayed in*

the artwork depicting a scene from a French Town in WW1, which was commissioned for Cheltenham Remembers WW1 Centenary celebrations, which is now in Norwich. My grandfather was a hero and served in the 1/5th Gloucestershire Regiment.

My brother and I are in our early 70s and we would like to get hold of a copy/print of the picture, to keep with mementoes of my parents. Can you help please? I have tried unsuccessfully to contact the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum.

If you can offer any help or advice, please get in touch with me and I'll forward to Rhod.

There are various WFA online events taking place in March the first of which is *Creating cinematic war memorials: the First World War battle reconstructions of British Instructional Films, 1921-1931* by Professor Mark Connelly. For full details visit the WFA website.

Peter

Future branch events

Tuesday, 12 April

A Neutral View of the War?
The work of cartoonist Louis Raemaekers
Michael O'Brien
The Ed Shed at 7.30pm

During the First World War, Dutch editorial cartoonist Louis Raemaekers was a fierce critic of the German invasion of Belgium and France. He played a key role in Allied propaganda with his internationally acclaimed war cartoons. In 1917, Raemaekers travelled across the United States in order to persuade Americans to support intervention in the war.



Tuesday, 10 May

Fusille pour l'Exemple
The 740 French 'Shot at Dawn'
John Reid
The Ed Shed at 7.30pm

After the shame of 1871, and the humiliating failure of Plan XVII in August 1914, the French General Staff blamed their troops. Joffre removed any form of legal safeguard or political control from the system of military justice. The result was arbitrary injustice, whereby over 477 soldiers were shot by April 1916 when political supervision was restored.



Lance Corporal George Ingram (18519) 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards

George Ingram was born on 6 August 1891 at Shorncote (situated halfway between Kemble and South Cerney).

After leaving school he worked as a farm labourer and on 1 May 1912, he joined the Gloucestershire Constabulary, as a Constable and was given the Warrant No 3997: four months later he was posted to the Stow Division and later transferred to the Gloucester Division.

On 7 September 1914 he resigned from the police force, to allow him to voluntarily enlist in the Army. He was posted to the 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards and was allocated the number 18519.

He was posted to France on 24 May 1915 as part of a replacement draft to cover losses sustained in an attack near to Le Touret on 18 May 1915.

Later that year, on 20 August, the battalion became part of 1st Guards Brigade, Guards Division. In mid-October the battalion took part in an action to capture German positions at the Hohenzollern Redoubt, near to Loos. It is believed that George Ingram came through this unscathed and was later promoted to Lance Corporal.

It is known that George Ingram was wounded during the Battle of the Somme but in the absence of a surviving Service Record it is not possible to identify the specific action.



On 15 September the 2nd Grenadiers took part in an attack on the village of Ginchy, acting as a support battalion, following up on an assault by another Guards' battalion and passing through the village.

On 24 September the battalion went into trenches near to the Ginchy-Lesboeuvs Road and at 12.35 pm on the 25th they attacked. The assault was held up by uncut wire hidden in fields of crops, undamaged by the supporting barrage and four of the battalion's officers went forward to cut

gaps: three were killed in the process and one wounded. However, the gaps created enabled the assault to take place. It would appear likely that Lance Corporal Ingram was wounded in either one of these actions.

George was sent back to England and admitted to Southmead Hospital, Bristol, where he died of his wounds on 14 October 1916, aged 25. He was buried in Kemble Church churchyard, where a standard CWGC headstone marks his grave. He is also commemorated on the Kemble War Memorial and on the Roll of Honour of men of the Gloucester Police Division who served in the Great War of 1914-1918.

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."