

RESERVE FORCES' AND CADETS' ASSOCIATIONS

FIRST WORLD WAR COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE



A MEMBER OF THE 2ND OXON AND BUCKS LIGHT INFANTRY
WRITES HOME FROM THE FRONT

Wolverton Express – 20 November 1914



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Chief Executive's Foreword

Air Vice Marshall Paul Luker CB OBE AFC DL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE RFCA



Long before the world woke up to the war to come, in 1906 the recently appointed Secretary for War, Richard Haldane, set about a major reform of the British Army. He was, in part, influenced in this work by his cabinet colleague Sir Edward Grey who persuaded him of the necessity of being able to support France in countering the expansionist ambitions of Germany in a continental European conflict.

In the face of the Army's return from an unpopular expeditionary campaign in South Africa and a decision to reduce Army funding by some 10% (£2.6M at 1905 values!), Haldane embarked on an enormously ambitious programme of change. Included amongst this work was a determination to revitalise and reshape the nation's volunteer forces. By 1908 he had created a Territorial Force (the forerunner of the Territorial Army) composed of 14 Infantry Divisions and 14 mounted Yeomanry Brigades.

At the same time Haldane created County, later Territorial, Associations to raise, train and sustain the Territorial Force. In the face of a much reduced budget he needed to find additional means to fund the Territorial Force and the authority, resources and commitment of the 'Shires' made this possible. Placed under the control of the Lord Lieutenant and drawing in membership from local land-owners, businessmen and councils, as well as Territorial Force commanding officers, the County Associations set about their task with some vigour.

In less than a decade Haldane's and Grey's prescience was to become a major factor in first holding and ultimately prevailing against their European adversaries in World War I. At the outset, largely because of Lord Kitchener's opposition to any reliance on a Territorial Force (which had volunteered only for Home Service and which theoretically could not be compelled to mobilise on overseas duties), Haldane's creation was not put to best use. Instead, an ad hoc alternative - Kitchener's New Army - provided a source of under-trained and ill-equipped battalions which were subordinated to Regular Regiments. But soon after opposition evaporated and the Territorial Force came into its own, operating as self-contained units and formations, rather than merely augmenting other casualty-depleted regiments with individual replacements.

What follows in this booklet, tells that story through the accounts of many of the men who made up the Territorial Force. Their stories carry common themes: selflessness, loyalty, bravery, doggedness, comradeship and - for many - sacrifice. At their heart they were soldiers in a citizen army - an ethos that strongly prevails with today's volunteer reservists.

As the size of the Armed Forces continues to shrink it increasingly falls to our Cadet Forces to act as the custodians of their history. It is both reassuring and uplifting to read the stories here of how our cadets have taken this responsibility to heart and how comprehensively and sympathetically they have commemorated the outbreak of war. This centenary has touched a huge number of people and the cadets' example, recounted here, will doubtless give many others the encouragement to research and remember their own family involvement in the war.

One hundred year's on, the core tenets of Haldane's philosophy also continue in the Reserve Forces and Cadets Associations, the successors of the County Associations. While no longer charged with raising and training the Reserves, we nevertheless still provide much of the support necessary to sustain volunteer units, often widely dispersed and distant from their parent Services. Over time the Association role has expanded to encompass support to the Royal Navy Reserve, The Royal Marine Reserve, The Army Reserve and the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, as well as the community and school cadet forces of the three Services. As it did at the inception of the County Associations, this support still draws heavily on a network of volunteer members who offer their time and energy to ensure that our Reserves and Cadets prosper. In large part it is down to their efforts that we are able to connect with local government, communities, charities, schools, business and civic bodies in order to enhance this essential support.

So it is that Haldane's vision continues today - a vision which still seeks to use a citizen army to help secure the nation; a vision which recognises the value of the volunteer, whether in uniform or in a supporting role; and a vision which offers opportunity and comradeship across a lifetime. If this booklet stirs such feelings in you, the reader, then please remember that the vision is a reality for many who choose to serve and support: we are still growing the Reserves and the Cadets and this continues to call for volunteers to carry forward a tradition which served us so well one hundred years ago. My special thanks to Fred Hughes at South East RFCA for co-ordinating this commemorative issue.



www.gov.uk/government/organisations/reserve-forces-and-cadets-associations



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World War 1 Timeline

1914

28 JUNE
Assassination of Franz Ferdinand

The Balkan states of Bosnia and Herzegovina, had been annexed from Turkey and taken into the Austro-Hungarian Empire. This was strongly resented by many Serbs and Croats and a nationalist group, The Black Hand, was formed. Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, and his wife, had decided to inspect Austro-Hungarian troops in Bosnia. The date chosen for the inspection was a national day in Bosnia. The Black Hand supplied a group of students with weapons for an assassination attempt to mark the occasion. A Serbian nationalist student, Gavrilo Princip, assassinated the Austrian Archduke Ferdinand and his wife, when their open car stopped at a corner on its way out of the town.

28 JULY
Austria declared war on Serbia

The Austrian government blamed the Serbian government for the assassination of Franz Ferdinand and his wife and declared war on Serbia. Although Russia was allied with Serbia, Germany did not believe that she would mobilise and offered to support Austria if necessary. However, Russia did mobilise and, through their alliance with France, called on the French to mobilise.

1 AUG
Germany declared war on Russia

Germany declared war on Russia.

3 AUG
Germany declared war on France

Germany declared war on France. German troops poured into Belgium as directed under the Schlieffen Plan, drawn up in 1905. The British foreign secretary, Sir Edward Grey, sent an ultimatum to Germany demanding their withdrawal from the neutral Belgium.

4 AUG
British declaration of war

Germany did not withdraw from Belgium and Britain declared war on Germany.

AUG
Battle of Tannenberg

The Russian army marched into Prussia. However, because of the differences in railway gauge between Russia and Prussia it was difficult for the Russians to get supplies through to their men. The Germans, on the other hand, used their railway system to surround the Russian Second army at Tannenberg before it's commander could realise what was happening. The ensuing battle was a heavy defeat for the Russians with thousands of men killed and 125,000 taken prisoner. Although the Germans won the battle, 13,000 men were killed.



13 AUG
Japan declared war on Germany

Japan declared war on Germany through her alliance with Great Britain, signed in 1902

SEPT
Battle of Masurian Lakes

Having defeated the Russian Second army, the Germans turned their attention to the Russian First army at Masurian Lakes. Although the Germans were unable to defeat the army completely, over 100,000 Russians were taken prisoner.

29 OCT
Turkey

Turkey entered the war on the side of the central powers and gave help to a German naval bombardment of Russia.

2 NOV
Russia declared war on Turkey

Because of the help given by Turkey to the German attack of Russia, Russia declared war on Turkey.

5 NOV
Britain and France declared war on Turkey

Britain and France, Russia's allies, declared war on Turkey, because of the help given to the German attack on Russia.

LATE 1914
Early stages of the war



The German advance through Belgium to France did not go as smoothly as the Germans had hoped. The Belgians put up a good fight destroying railway lines to slow the transport of German supplies. Despite a French counter-attack that saw the deaths of many Frenchmen on the battlefields at Ardennes, the Germans continued to march into France. They were eventually halted by the allies at the river Marne. British troops had advanced from the northern coast of France to the Belgian town of Mons. Although they initially held off the Germans, they were soon forced to retreat. The British lost a huge number of men at the first battle of Ypres. By Christmas, all hopes that the war would be over had gone and the holiday saw men of both sides digging themselves into the trenches of the Western Front.

DEC
Zeppelins

The first Zeppelins appeared over the English coast.





1915

7 MAY	Lusitania sunk
23 MAY	Italy
2 APRIL	Second Battle of Ypres
FEB	Zeppelin bombing
FEB	Dardenelles
APR - AUG	Dardenelles/ Gallipoli
AFTER FEB	Winston Churchill resigns
APRIL	Zeppelins

There outraged protests from the United States at the German U-boat campaign, when the Lusitania, which had many American passengers aboard, was sunk. The Germans moderated their U-boat campaign.

Italy entered the war on the side of the Allies.

Poison gas was used for the first time during this battle. The gas, fired by the Germans claimed many British casualties.

Zeppelin airships dropped bombs on Yarmouth.

The Russians appealed for help from Britain and France to beat off an attack by the Turkish. The British navy responded by attacking Turkish forts in the Dardenelles.

Despite the loss of several ships to mines, the British successfully landed a number of marines in the Gallipoli region of the Dardenelles. Unfortunately the success was not followed up and the mission was a failure.

Winston Churchill, critical of the Dardenelles campaign, resigned his post as First Lord of the Admiralty. He rejoined the army as a battalion commander.

The use of airships by the Germans increased. Zeppelins began attacking London. They were also used for naval reconnaissance, to attack London and smaller balloons were used for reconnaissance along the Western Front. They were only stopped when the introduction of aeroplanes shot them down.

1916



EARLY 1916	Winston Churchill
APRIL	Romania enter the war
31 MAY	Battle of Jutland
1 JUNE	Battle of Jutland
28 NOV	First Aeroplane raid
DEC	Lloyd George Prime Minister
FEB - NOV	Battle of Verdun

Winston Churchill served in Belgium as lieutenant colonel of the Royal Scots Fusiliers.

Romania joined the war on the side of the Allies. But within a few months was occupied by Germans and Austrians.

This was the only truly large-scale naval battle of the war. German forces, confined to port by a British naval blockade, came out in the hope of splitting the British fleet and destroying it ship by ship. However, the British admiral, Beatty, aware that the German tactics were the same as those used by Nelson at Trafalgar, sent a smaller force to lure the German's into the range of Admiral Jellicoe's main fleet. Although Beatty's idea worked, the exchange of fire was brief and the German's withdrew.

The British and German naval forces met again but the battle was inconclusive. The German ships did a great deal of damage to British ships before once again withdrawing and the British Admiral Jellicoe decided not to give chase. Although British losses were heavier than the German, the battle had alarmed both the Kaiser and the German Admiral Scheer and they decided to keep their fleet consigned to harbour for the remainder of the war.

The first German air raid on London took place. The Germans hoped that by making raids on London and the South East, the British Air Force would be forced into protecting the home front rather than attacking the German air force.

Lloyd George became Prime Minister of the war time coalition. His war cabinet, unlike that of his predecessor, met every day. However, there was considerable disagreement among the members of the Cabinet, especially between Lloyd George and his war secretary, Sir Douglas Haig. Lloyd George suspected Haig of squandering life needlessly and was suspicious of his demands for more men and freedom of action in the field.

The Germans mounted an attack on the French at Verdun designed to 'bleed the French dry'. Although the fighting continued for nine months, the battle was inconclusive. Casualties were enormous on both sides with the Germans losing 430,000 men and the French 540,000.





World War 1 Timeline



1 JULY - NOV	Battle of the Somme	The battle was preceded by a week long artillery bombardment of the German line which was supposed to destroy the barbed wire defences placed along the German line but only actually succeeded in making no mans land a mess of mud and craters. The five month long battle saw the deaths of 420,000 British soldiers (60,000 on the first day), 200,000 French soldiers and 500,000 German soldiers all for a total land gain of just 25 miles.	
1917	New war commander	Lloyd George, who had never trusted his war minister's ability to direct the war, persuaded the Cabinet to appoint the French General Nivelle as supreme war commander over Haig's head. Haig was assured that the appointment was for one operation only and that if he felt the British army was being misused by the Frenchman he could appeal to the British government.	
	W. Front Passchendale	The operation commanded by the French General, Nivelle, went wrong and caused the loss of many French soldiers. Haig protested to the British government and advocated trying his own scheme for a breakthrough. At the resulting battle of Passchendale, Haig broke his promise to call off the battle if the first stage failed because he did not want to lose face with the government.	
1917	Churchill Minister of Munitions	Following the heavy defeat at Passchendale, Lloyd George decided that he wanted Churchill in the Cabinet. Churchill was duly appointed Minister of Munitions.	
1917	Reinforcements sent to Italy	The Italians had lost many men trying to hold the line between Italy and the Central Powers. British and French reinforcements were sent to hold the line.	
EARLY 1917	German U-boat campaign	In Germany, orders were given to step up the U-boat campaign. All allied or neutral ships were to be sunk on sight and in one month almost a million tons of shipping was sunk. Neutral countries became reluctant to ship goods to Britain and Lloyd George ordered all ships carrying provisions to Britain to be given a convoy.	
6 APRIL	USA declares war on Germany	The United States of America declared war on Germany in response to the sinking, by German U boats, of US ships.	
NOV	W. Front Cambrai	The British took a large force of tanks across the barbed wire and machine gun posts at Cambrai.	
DEC	Treaty of Brest-Litovsk	Following the successful revolution by the Bolsheviks, the Russians signed an Armistice with Germany at Brest-Litovsk. The terms of the treaty were harsh: Russia had to surrender Poland, the Ukraine and other regions. They had to stop all Socialist propaganda directed at Germany and pay 300 million roubles for the repatriation of Russian prisoners.	
1918	RAF formed	The Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service were merged to form the Royal Air Force.	
	8 - 11 AUG	Battle of Amiens	The British general, Haig, ordered the attack of the German sector at Amiens. At the same time the news came through that the allies had broken through from Salonika and forced Bulgaria to sue for peace.
	MID OCT	Allies recover France and Belgium	The allies had taken almost all of German-occupied France and part of Belgium.
	30 OCT	ARMISTICE with Turkey	The allies had successfully pushed the Turkish army back and the Turks were forced to ask for an armistice. The terms of the armistice treaty allowed the allies access to the Dardenelles.
	EARLY NOV	Hindenberg line collapsed	By the beginning of November the allies had pushed the Germans back beyond the Hindenberg line.
	9 NOV	Kaiser abdicated	Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated.
	11 NOV	Armistice signed	At 11 am, in the French town of Redonthe, the Armistice was signed bringing the war to an end.





Life in the Trenches

Life in the trenches during the First World War took many forms, and varied widely from sector to sector and from front to front.

Undoubtedly, it was entirely unexpected for those eager thousands who signed up for war in August 1914.



A WAR OF MOVEMENT?

Indeed, the Great War - a phrase coined even before it had begun - was expected to be a relatively short affair and, as with most wars, one of great movement. The First World War was typified however by its lack of movement, the years of stalemate exemplified on the Western Front from autumn 1914 until spring 1918.

Not that there wasn't movement at all on the Western Front during 1914-18; the war began dramatically with sweeping advances by the Germans through Belgium and France en route for Paris. However stalemate - and trench warfare soon set in - and the expected war of movement wasn't restored until towards the close of the war, although the line rippled as successes were achieved at a local level. (Click here to view brief film footage of German soldiers preparing trenches in France in 1914.)

So what was life actually like for the men serving tours of duty in the line, be they front line, support or reserve trenches?

RAT INFESTATION

Rats in their millions infested trenches. There were two main types, the brown and the black rat. Both were despised but the brown rat was especially feared. Gorging themselves on human remains (grotesquely disfiguring them by eating their eyes and liver) they could grow to the size of a cat.

Men, exasperated and afraid of these rats (which would even scamper across their faces in the dark), would attempt to rid the trenches of them by various methods: gunfire, with the bayonet, and even by clubbing them to death.

It was futile however: a single rat couple could produce up to 900

offspring in a year, spreading infection and contaminating food. The rat problem remained for the duration of the war (although many veteran soldiers swore that rats sensed impending heavy enemy shellfire and consequently disappeared from view).

FROGS, LICE AND WORSE

Rats were by no means the only source of infection and nuisance. Lice were a never-ending problem, breeding in the seams of filthy clothing and causing men to itch unceasingly.

Even when clothing was periodically washed and deloused, lice eggs invariably remained hidden in the seams; within a few hours of the clothes being re-worn the body heat generated would cause the eggs to hatch.

Lice caused Trench Fever, a particularly painful disease that

DAILY DEATH IN THE TRENCHES

Death was a constant companion to those serving in the line, even when no raid or attack was launched or defended against. In busy sectors the constant shellfire directed by the enemy brought random death, whether their victims were lounging in a trench or lying in a dugout (many men were buried as a consequence of such large shell-bursts).

Similarly, novices were cautioned against their natural inclination to peer over the parapet of the trench into No Man's Land.

Many men died on their first day in the trenches as a consequence of a precisely aimed sniper's bullet.

It has been estimated that up to one third of Allied casualties on the Western Front were actually

sustained in the trenches. Aside from enemy injuries, disease wrought a heavy toll.





Life in the Trenches

began suddenly with severe pain followed by high fever. Recovery - away from the trenches - took up to twelve weeks. Lice were not actually identified as the culprit of Trench Fever until 1918.

Frogs by the score were found in shell holes covered in water; they were also found in the base of trenches. Slugs and horned beetles crowded the sides of the trench.

Many men chose to shave their heads entirely to avoid another prevalent scourge: nits.

Trench Foot was another medical condition peculiar to trench life. It was a fungal infection of the feet caused by cold, wet and unsanitary trench conditions. It could turn gangrenous and result in amputation. Trench Foot was more of a problem at the start of trench warfare; as conditions improved in 1915 it rapidly faded, although a trickle of cases continued throughout the war.

THE TRENCH CYCLE

Typically, a battalion would be expected to serve a spell in

the front line. This would be followed by a stint spent in support, and then in reserve lines. A period of rest would follow - generally short in duration - before the whole cycle of trench duty would start afresh.

In reality the cycle was determined by the necessities of the situation. Even while at rest men might find themselves tasked with duties that placed them in the line of fire.

Others would spend far longer in the front line than usual, usually in the more 'busy' sectors.

As an example - and the numbers varied widely - a man might expect in a year to spend some 70 days in the front line, with another 30 in nearby support trenches. A further 120 might be spent in reserve. Only 70 days might be spent at rest. The amount of leave varied, with perhaps two weeks being granted during the year.

STAND TO AND THE MORNING HATE

The daily routine of life in the

Many men chose to shave their heads entirely to avoid another prevalent scourge: nits.

trenches began with the morning 'stand to'. An hour before dawn everyone was roused from slumber by the company orderly officer and sergeant and ordered to climb up on the fire step to guard against a dawn raid by the enemy, bayonets fixed.

This policy of stand to was adopted by both sides, and despite the knowledge that each side prepared itself for raids or attacks timed at dawn, many were actually carried out at this time.



Accompanying stand to, as the light grew, was the daily ritual often termed the 'morning hate'.

Both sides would often relieve the tension of the early hours with machine gun fire, shelling and small arms fire, directed into the mist to their front: this made doubly sure of safety at dawn.

INSPECTION AND CHORES

With breakfast over the men would be inspected by either the company or platoon commander. Once this had been completed NCOs would assign daily chores to each man (except those who had been excused duty for a variety of reasons).

Example - and necessary - daily chores included the refilling of sandbags, the repair of the duckboards on



RUM, RIFLES AND THE BREAKFAST TRUCE

With stand to over, in some areas rum might then be issued to the men. They would then attend to the cleaning of their rifle equipment, which was followed by its inspection by officers.

Breakfast would next be served. In essentially every area of the line at some time or other each side would adopt an unofficial

truce while breakfast was served and eaten. This truce often extended to the wagons which delivered such sustenance.

Truces such as these seldom lasted long; invariably a senior officer would hear of its existence and quickly stamp it out. Nevertheless it persisted throughout the war, and was more prevalent in quieter sectors of the line.





Life in the Trenches

the floor of the trench and the draining of trenches.

Particularly following heavy rainfall, trenches could quickly accumulate muddy water, making life ever more miserable for its occupants as the walls of the trench rapidly became misshapen and were prone to collapse.

Pumping equipment was available for the draining of trenches; men would also be assigned to the repair of the trench itself, still others would be assigned to the preparation of latrines.

DAILY BOREDOM

Given that each side's front line was constantly under watch by snipers and look-outs during daylight, movement was logically restricted until night fell. Thus, once men had concluded their assigned tasks they were free to attend to more personal matters, such as the reading and writing of letters home.

Meals were also prepared. Sleep was snatched wherever possible - although it was seldom that men were allowed sufficient time to grab more than a few minutes rest before they were detailed to another task.

DUSK: STAND TO, SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE

With the onset of dusk the morning ritual of stand to was repeated, again to guard against a surprise attack launched as light fell.

This over, the trenches became a hive of activity. Supply and maintenance activities could be undertaken, although danger invariably accompanied these as the enemy would be alert for such movement. Men would be sent to the rear lines to fetch rations and water (click here to view film footage of British soldiers receiving rations in 1914).

Other men would be assigned sentry duty on the fire step. Generally men would be expected to provide sentry duty for up to two hours. Any longer



and there was a real risk of men falling asleep on duty - for which the penalty was death by firing squad.

PATROLLING NO MAN'S LAND

Patrols would often be sent out into No Man's Land. Some men would be tasked with repairing or adding barbed wire to the front line. Others however would go out to assigned listening posts, hoping to pick up valuable information from the enemy lines.

Sometimes enemy patrols would meet in No Man's Land. They were then faced with the option of hurrying on their separate ways or else engaging in hand to hand fighting.

They could not afford to use their handguns while patrolling in No Man's Land, for fear of the machine gun fire it would inevitably attract, deadly to all members of the patrol.

RELIEVING MEN AT THE FRONT

Men were relieved front-line duty at night-time too. Relieving units would wind their weary way through numerous lines of communications trenches, weighed down with equipment and trench stores (such as shovels, picks, corrugated iron, duckboards, etc.). The process of relieving a line could take several frustrating hours.

...AND THE SMELL

Finally, no overview of trench life can avoid the aspect that instantly struck

visitors to the lines: the appalling reek given off by numerous conflicting sources.

Rotting carcasses lay around in their thousands. For example, approximately 200,000 men were killed on the Somme battlefields, many of which lay in shallow graves.

Overflowing latrines would similarly give off a most offensive stench.

Men who had not been afforded the luxury of a bath in weeks or months would offer the pervading odour of dried sweat. The feet were generally accepted to give off the worst odour.

Trenches would also smell of creosol or chloride of lime, used to stave off the constant threat of disease and infection.

Add to this the smell of cordite, the lingering odour of poison gas, rotting sandbags, stagnant mud, cigarette smoke and cooking food... yet men grew used to it, while it thoroughly overcame first-time visitors to the front.





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Above: A typical room at Le Marotte Hotel, Amiens, one of our accommodations.

Top: Officers of 12th Division and Royal Engineers at Cutlibert Crater near Arras, April 1917.

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Moments of reflection 100 years on - Argyll Cadets visit WW1 battlefields



Cdt SSgt Sarah Laird and Cdt Cpl Cathryn Spencer from A & SH Bn ACF at the 51st Highland Division Memorial



On 7 April 2014, from detachments across the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Battalion ACF area, 36 cadets and 8 adults gathered to cross the Channel for an incredibly moving and memorable experience visiting the World War 1 battlefields of northern France.

The trip began with a long coach and ferry journey across the Channel, then a few introductory visits – Duds Corner Cemetery, Notre Dame de Lorette French Cemetery and Vimy Ridge. A day was then spent in the Ypres salient, concluding with the unforgettable experience of parading at the Menin Gate. One more full day was spent in and around the Somme, before the long journey home.

The trip was summed up by the youngest cadet on the tour, Lucy Hawkes, 14, of Alloa who said "The tour has been really good. It was really emotional knowing that all the troops died for us and I'm grateful that I got to lay a wreath at the Thiepval memorial. It was one of the best things that I will ever do in my life and I'm really grateful that I got picked to go."

By the end of the trip, no one was unmoved at the realisation of the horrors of the War and by the sea of headstones marking those laid to rest in the cemeteries, particularly the number bearing only the words 'Soldier of the Great War - Known unto God'. Cadet Lance Corporal Aidan Halstvedt, 15, of Denny said "The thing that's struck me the most is realising that there's a body under each gravestone." and Cadet Lance Corporal John Anderson of Vale of Leven said " My memory of the battlefield tour was not what I saw but what I could feel."

Commandant, Colonel Brian Hume said "Nothing can replace actually walking the ground to begin to understand the horrors of what really happened and, in having the chance to do this, the cadets have gained a better understanding and truer picture of the First World War. The experience will remain with them for a long time to come. We would all like to give a huge thanks to those who helped with the fundraising effort that made this highly moving and memorable trip possible."

The group found the museum visits fascinating, particularly learning about life in the trenches at Vimy Ridge, Yorkshire Trench, Paschendaele and Ulster Tower. Cameron Addison, 17, of Alva said "I've enjoyed walking through the trenches and realising how close the two Armies were to each other."

Cadet Corporal Cathryn Spencer, 17, of Alloa, played the pipes at the Menin Gate Last Post ceremony, the memorial to the 51st Highland Division and at the Thiepval Memorial, and said "I felt the battlefield tour was amazing. It was very emotional. When I played my pipes at the Menin Gate I was incredibly nervous but whilst playing and after it I felt a little pride in myself for getting through it. The most emotional part was when I was piping at Thiepval as it is the memorial for the lost soldiers and as I was playing I was looking at the names and thinking about how many of them there are and thinking about all their friends and families."



The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders ACF Cadets at the firing post, Poperinge



2nd Battalion the Highlanders Battlefield Study 2014



On 11 October 2014, 41 cadets and 18 adult volunteers from across the North East of Scotland and Shetland boarded a coach to take them to the battlefields of France and Belgium as part of Operation REFLECT. Commandant Colonel Dave Chapman helped organise the trip and explained the rationale behind it:

"With this being 100 years since the start of the Great War, I thought that we needed to mark this in some way that would impact on all of us in 2nd Battalion The Highlanders Army Cadet Force. This year has seen both the Cadets and Adult Volunteers eagerly busy themselves with raising funds; in particular, Cadet Under Officer Emily Reid, who threw herself into fundraising and planning the event."

After an 18 hour trip, the weary travellers arrived at the first study site in Huchenville, the site of a World War II battle of 51 Highland Division. Now a corn field, the cadets were tasked to survey the land and compare WWI, WWII and modern tactics for the attempt to capture Hedgehog Wood. Travelling on to Franlau, the group were challenged to identify the local school that had been used as the base of operations. After a long day the Cadets saw their first war graves in the yard of a church still bearing its bullet holes.

Day Two found the group in St Pierre-de-Vigiers, where the Black Watch had defended the British Expeditionary Force. The guest speaker, Brigadier Charles Grant, spoke with passion of the sacrifices made. Padre, Major Tommy Bryson, delivered a service commemorating the fallen in the St-Valery-en-Caux cathedral. In what was a very emotional afternoon for the Cadets, two of the Cadets laid wreaths, but every Cadet was given the opportunity to write a message on a cross and lay it at the grave of a fallen soldier.

The following day was spent in and around the Somme, with a visit to the Lochnagar Crater, a vast blemish on the peaceful landscape. It enabled the Cadets to visualise just a little of the scale of the fighting. Following the crater, the group moved to the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, which dominates the local skyline. The last visit of the day was to the



Brigadier Charles Grant educates the group of Cadets from 2 Highlanders Battalion ACF about the sacrifices

Newfoundland Memorial Park; this area preserves the trenches, giving the Cadets a strong impression of just how close and cramped conditions would have been.

The final full day of the trip was organised by the Senior Cadets who took the group to the Fambourg d'Amiens cemetery where they were able to spend some time reflecting upon what they had seen and the sacrifices that had been made

Cadet Lance Corporal Callum Hopkins of Vittoria Company said, "[the trip was] really, really fun. It was one of the most incredible experiences of my life to see the cemeteries; it was really interesting to learn about all the things that people did to allow us to now live the way we live"

Cadet Jake Thain also of Vittoria Company summed up the trip, "I think it was a really great experience getting to visit all the battlefields and also getting to meet new people. I learned about all the different tactics back then and it was interesting to see how these have changed with modern technologies. It was an eye opener that all the graves were just everywhere, just so many of them."



2 Highlanders Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland ACF pose for a group shot



Craiglockhart Hospital, Edinburgh - "Dottyville"



IMAGE COURTESY OF EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY

Craiglockhart Hospital, originally a hydropathic spa, was used between 1916 and 1919 as a military psychiatric hospital for the treatment of shell-shocked officers returning from the Western Front.

It has a place in military, medical and literary history for its 28 month duration as a "shell shock" hospital.

Shell shock was a term used during World War One to describe a condition that left soldiers with a range of symptoms, including blindness, for which there was no obvious physical cause.

By the end of World War One, around 80,000 had been treated for this, but the real numbers of those affected could have been as high as 325,000. Craiglockhart's small staff of doctors and nurses treated somewhere between 1,500 and 1,800 patients.

Craiglockhart was instrumental in the developing treatment of shell shock victims, and helped to shape future attitudes to mental illness.

A variety of treatments were used at Craiglockhart. The most well know of the doctors there, Dr. Rivers favoured the "talking cure" of Sigmund Freud, while Dr. Brock favoured the "occupation cure", by keeping the patients active.

It is the best known of the shell shock hospitals largely because two of the best known poets of World War One, Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen, met and were treated here in 1917.

Their friendship led to some of the most evocative war poetry ever written, altering the perception of war. Owen also edited *The Hydra*, the hospital magazine for patients and staff, to which he and Sassoon contributed poems.

The widespread incidence of shell shock was a key element in changing the mental health care system at the time. As it affected healthy young men, soldiers that were seen as the nation's heroes, it showed that mental illness could affect anyone. Also the experience with shell shock victims seemed to show that early treatment prevented the development of more severe mental illness later on. With a strong movement for reform, in 1930 the Mental Treatment Act came into effect, paving the way for more enlightened approaches to mental health and rehabilitation for soldiers, and the general public.

The Hospital featured in the 1991 book "Regeneration" by Pat Barker – and the 1997 film adaptation, about the relationship between Dr. Rivers and Siegfried Sassoon.

The building now houses the Business School of Edinburgh Napier University, where the War Poets Collection is available for consultation.

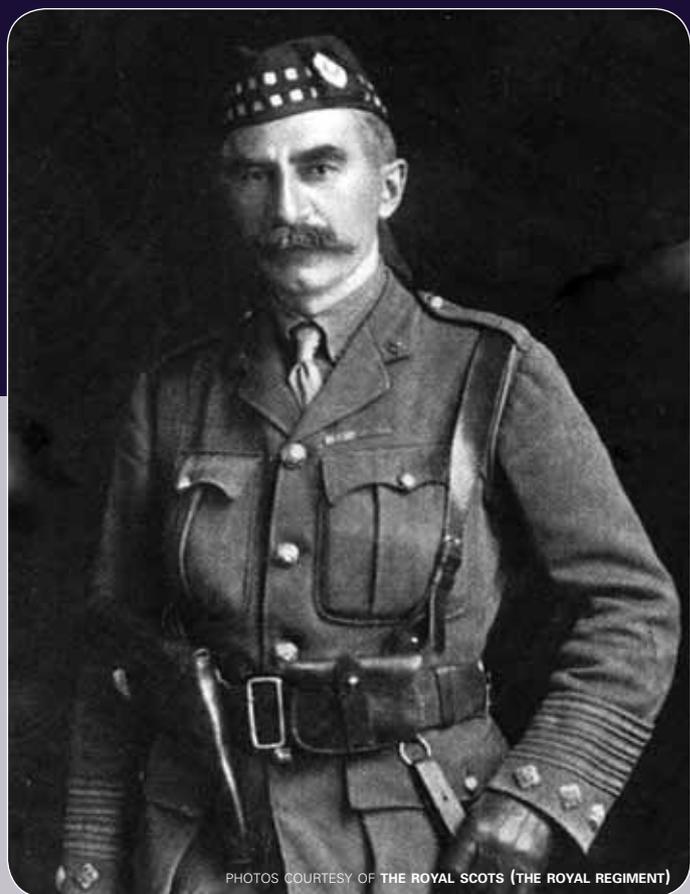


IMAGE COURTESY OF EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY



McCrae's Battalion – something of a legend

Following Great Britain's declaration of war against Germany in August 1914, the lack of manpower became an issue that would raise resentment towards those men still at home that hadn't volunteered for their country. Those who hadn't volunteered were labelled as shirkers by critics, with particular vitriol aimed at footballers, as the game was still being played despite the onset of war.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE ROYAL SCOTS (THE ROYAL REGIMENT)

Scottish football was in the middle of an impressive peak; with Heart of Midlothian, an Edinburgh club, beginning the season with eight straight victories. But increasing pressure from organisations such as the League of White Feathers, and the rise of the "Pal's Battalions" in England, as well as letters in the press, meant that something had to break. Footballers were being labelled as cowards and a "moral scourge" by critics, amid pointed calls to consider renaming the club the "White Feathers of Midlothian."

Against this background of rising anger, on the 19th of November, Sir George McCrae, a well-known local figure, announced that he had volunteered for active service and the following morning *The Scotsman* reported that the War Office had accepted his offer to raise and command a battalion in the field, stating he anticipated it would not

take more than seven days before a full complement was secured.

On November 25, 1914, sixteen players from the Edinburgh club became the first recruits for Sir George McCrae's battalion, the 16th Royal Scots, the oldest infantry regiment in the army. A call from the club's manager led to around 500 of the team's supporters following their example.

At least 30 professional footballers enlisted, including players from Falkirk, Dunfermline, Hibernian and Raith Rovers as well as Hearts.

Within two and a half weeks, Sir George had recruited a total of 1400 men to his battalion.

Hearts continued to maintain their position at the top of the First Division despite the players undergoing military training.

Seven of the club's first team players would go on to lose their lives during the war. One member of the battalion, Jim Davie, who played rugby for Daniel Stewart's, was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry on the first day of the Somme, and Finlay MacRae from Inverness, who kept goal for Scotland's international hockey team, was awarded two Military Medals before he was killed in action at Hargicourt in August 1917.

The battalion as a whole suffered 229 casualties on the first day of the battle of the Somme, with another 347 wounded.

A memorial cairn was constructed in the village of Contalmaison on the Somme.

In October 2014, the battalion was inducted in to the Scottish Football Hall of Fame.





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A smiling man with a shoulder injury wearing a sling. The man is shirtless, showing a black sling on his right shoulder. He has a friendly expression and is looking towards the camera. The background is a plain, light color.

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North of England RFCA



Like the rest of Great Britain, the North East of England contributed significantly to WW1. Men and boys from every walk of life and from every village, town or borough throughout our region rushed to join the Royal Navy, the Army, and the Flying Corps but especially The Northumberland Fusiliers and the Durham Light Infantry, all eager to do 'their bit'. Maj Chris Lawton, The Rifles Regimental County Secretary, Durham, has provided the following brief insight into the contribution and sacrifices made by the Durham Light Infantry alone.

THE DURHAM LIGHT INFANTRY - WORLD WAR ONE

During its long history, The Durham Light Infantry's (DLI) contribution to the defence of our nation has been extra-ordinary and its contribution to "The Great War" remarkable. Within the County of Durham, 37 Battalions were raised and involved in every major battle of WW1, winning 15 Battle Honours and 6 Victoria Crosses.

The Regiment, fighting at the "Front" from the very beginning, and with many successes, paid a huge price and records show **12,006** NCOs and other ranks, and **494** Officers were killed in action and many more wounded, gassed or recorded missing in action; throughout the whole of the County of Durham there wasn't a

family not affected.

18 DLI battalions served on the Western Front; the 12th, 13th and 20th battalions fought in Italy; 2 battalions fought in Macedonia and in Archangel and the 1st Regular battalion remained in India. In fact every major battle of the "Great War" involved DLI Battalions."

DLI WW1 BATTLE HONOURS 1914-1918

Aisne 1914, Ypres 1915, Hooge 1915, Loos 1915, Somme 1916, Arras 1917, Messines 1917, Ypres 1917, Somme 1918, Arras 1918, Lys 1918, Aisne 1918, Hindenburg Line 1918, Ypres 1918, Sambre 1918.

DLI VICTORIA CROSSES

Thomas Kenny VC
Roland B Bradford VC
Michael W Heaviside VC
Frederick Youens VC
Arthur M Lascelles VC
Thomas Young VC

		1914-1918
Pte 13th DLI	4 Nov 15	Age 33
T/Lt. Col. 9th DLI	1 Oct 16	Age 24
Pte 15th DLI	6 May 17	Age 36
T/2Lt 13th DLI	7 July 17	Age 21
A/Capt 3rd DLI	3 Dec 17	Age 37
Pte 9th DLI	25-31 Mar 18	Age 23

DURHAM ACF PRIVILEGED TO PLANT POPPIES AT THE TOWER OF LONDON

Durham Army Cadet Force had the privilege of planting ceramic poppies at the Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red at the Tower of London, marking one hundred years since the first full day of Britain's involvement in the First World War.



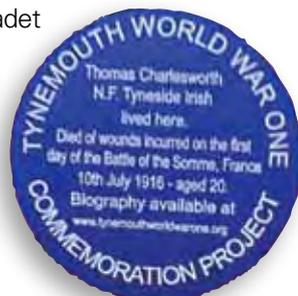
Operation Reflect
 Second Lieutenant Thomas Charlesworth, Northumberland Fusiliers, Tyneside Irish. **Northumbria ACF** cadets paraded in Tynemouth to mark the unveiling of a blue commemorative sign to mark the sacrifice of 2Lt Thomas Charlesworth of the Northumberland Fusiliers, Tyneside Irish.

Operation Reflect: Local Heroes Project
 As part of the national remembrance of the sacrifices made during World

War One all Army Cadet units and Combined Cadet Forces were asked to participate in a Local Heroes Project (LHP).

Cadets Commence Operation Reflect Northumbria ACF

joined their colleagues in the Air Training Corps, Royal Marine and Sea Cadets in remembering the sacrifices made 100 years ago with the outbreak of the First World War.





Cleveland Cadets commemorate Centenary of Hartlepool World War One bombardment



Cleveland Army Cadet Force was among Regular, Reserve and Cadet Forces, Veterans, local schoolchildren and Hartlepool residents who commemorated the lives lost during the bombardment of the town by the German High Seas Fleet 100 years ago. The Lord Lieutenant of Durham, Sue Snowdon, was among those who laid wreaths as the sun rose to the tune of the Last Post, sounded at the exact time the shells began to fall, with local schoolchildren releasing balloons for each of the 37 children killed during the raid, when more than 1000 shells fell on the town.



Throughout the North of England RFCA region our Reserves and Cadets have been commemorating WW1 in various ways:

■ 5RRF Support Launch of Newcastle Battalion World War One Book

LCpl Richie Pill and Fus Jonathan Carr from X Company 5RRF assisted the Newcastle Fusiliers Association Branch at the Launch of the Book: Newcastle Battalion of World War One. The battalion took its name from their home town and was also known locally as the "Newcastle Commercials" due to the first recruits coming from the commercial sector of Newcastle.

■ Northumbria ACF's Call to Arms.

The Tyneside Scottish 100 Operation Reflect journey continued with cadets from Heaton Manor and Kingston Park Detachments visiting Beamish Museum participating in a specially arranged educational World War One 'call to arms' re-enactment day.

■ Cadets Commemorate World War One at Thropton Village Hall

On Sunday 3rd August 2014, Air Cadets from Durham/ Northumberland Wing and Army Cadets from Northumbria ACF took part in a parade to rededicate the village hall in Thropton, near Rothbury in Northumberland.

■ Northumbria Cadets at Seghill War Memorial Parade

As part of their contribution to the national commemoration of the First World War (Operation Reflect), Cramlington and Blyth Detachments of Northumbria ACF were invited to attend the unveiling and dedication of the new war memorial in Seghill.

 Further details of all the events listed can be found on our website.

■ The Arsenal Economy

25 October 2014 to 25 June 2015

Location: Discovery Museum

Attendance: Free Admission - No Pre-Booking Required

Explores the role of the Newcastle armaments industry.

www.twmuseums.org.uk/laing-art-gallery/latest/news/first-world-war-project-secures-heritage-lottery-fund-support

■ World War One Exhibition North Tyneside

31 July 2014 to 26 April 2015

Location: Segedunum Roman Fort

Attendance: Free Admission - No Pre-Booking Required

An exhibition focusing on the key role played by local industry in supporting the war effort.

www.twmuseums.org.uk/segedunum-roman-fort/visiting-us



First World War soldiers laid to rest 100 years on

BY PENNY VEALE 15 (NE) BRIGADE

The remains of fifteen First World War soldiers, confirmed to be soldiers belonging to the York and Lancaster Regiment, were discovered during construction work near Beaucamp Ligny in 2009.

The soldiers, many of whom were reservists, were finally laid to rest in Commonwealth War Graves Commission Y Farm Cemetery. Eleven of the 15 soldiers were successfully identified following an extensive identification project conducted by the Historic Casualty Section of the Ministry of Defence Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC).

Soldiers from 4th Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (4 YORKS) performed the ceremonial duties, providing a bearer party and firing party watched by surviving relatives and local French townsfolk. A Reservist Battalion, the soldiers took time off from their civilian jobs to take part in the service. Those in the bearer party included a fireman, barman, an accountant and a gas fitter.



"It was a great honour to take part in the ceremony and it provided an opportunity for us to pay our respects to our fallen," said Lieutenant Colonel Ian Hallam, Commanding Officer of 4 YORKS.

"It was even more poignant for my soldiers due to the county and regional links they shared - all my soldiers were from the same towns and cities as the fallen soldiers." It does not matter how long it takes to identify those killed in action as today clearly demonstrates. We are committed to ensuring they are given the dignified burial they deserve."

The fallen soldiers were all members of the 2nd Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment who encountered an enemy force in the small hamlet of Beaucamp Ligny, west of Lille on 18 October 1914. The Battalion suffered substantial casualties with 93 wounded and 34 killed in action. The Yorkshire Regiment is one of the modern day counterparts of the Battalion.

First World War soldiers were given a true Yorkshire send off last November when they were laid to rest by Army reservists from The Yorkshire Regiment at a special ceremony in Northern France.



Amanda Edwards, the great granddaughter of Private John Brameld attended the ceremony. She said: "It has been one of the best days of my life even though it has been a sad day. I feel so sad for his wife and children, that they have gone to their graves never having known he had been found. Today has been a privilege."

West Yorkshire Reserves and Cadets commemorate the First World War

The 100th year since the start of the First World War was marked by a large military parade in Leeds which marched through the city to a special commemoration service.

Hundreds of shoppers and onlookers watched the parade and commemoration organised by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, Dr Ingrid Roscoe which involved over 500 reserves, veterans and military cadets who are based or recruit within West Yorkshire. There was also representation from 14 bereaved families who hold the Elizabeth Cross and from injured service personnel.

"The parade and church service is being held in recognition of the suffering of an entire generation of men, women and children whose lives were destroyed or blighted by the terrible war that began 100 years ago this coming week," said Dr Roscoe.

Led by the Band of The Yorkshire Regiment, the parade marched into Millennium Square where the troops, veterans and cadets were inspected by six dignitaries - Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Councillor David Congreve, the High



Hull Pals' Battalions Honoured with Blue Plaque

The Hull Pals' Battalions of World War One were honoured with a blue plaque last November at Wenlock Barracks in Hull – the same barracks the 'pals' first signed up at on 1st September 1914.

Still the home of a volunteer army reservist squadron, now 250 Medical Squadron, the barracks hosted a special ceremony as part of the squadron's Remembrance Day service, with the Lord Mayor of Hull officially handing over the plaque.

One of many battalions across the country, the Hull Pals was comprised of several battalions of men who were friends, neighbours and work colleges who joined up in order to serve alongside each other rather than being placed arbitrarily in other battalions. The first Hull Pals' battalion would become known as the 10th (Hull) Battalion of the East Yorkshire Regiment and within a few days of a recruitment advert appearing in the local paper, over a thousand men came forward to sign up. Described in his book 'The Hull Pals' by David Bilton, this first battalion was made up of the upper end working class and lower middle classes, such as clerks and teachers, and was nicknamed the 'Commercials'.



Private Robinson, who in his civilian life works as a foster carer, said: "It's sobering to hear of the number of volunteers who crowded this very barracks almost exactly 100 years ago to support the war effort. It's hard, and quite humbling, to imagine the many hundreds of men queuing along Anlaby Road keen to go to war and defend their country."

"Hearing of the Hull Pals through the documentary I took part in was certainly a big part of my decision to volunteer for the modern day Reserve Forces, which are now just as instrumental a part of our country's defence as it was 100 years ago. It was one of the best decisions I've ever made – the Reserve Forces provide such a great range of roles, experiences and new skills, not to mention friends which I'm sure I'll have for the rest of my life."

Major Ruth Pollendine, Officer Commanding of 250 Medical Squadron added: "As we mark the centenary commemoration of the start of the First World War, I can think of no better time to unveil a plaque which specifically remembers the sacrifice paid by so many people of Hull who joined the Hull Pals. It's a privilege to be serving at that very Barracks which so many flocked to in order to help serve their country."



Sheriff of West Yorkshire, the Honourable Mrs Charles Dent and three senior military officers from the region, Brigadier Charlie Herbert, Lieutenant Colonel Jon Dowd and Group Captain David Cooper.

The senior military representative, Brigadier Charlie Herbert, Commander of 4th Mechanized Brigade in Catterick said: "Many soldiers from West Yorkshire were lost during the First World War and many more were seriously injured. One hundred years on we can see the magnitude of these sacrifices and know the scale of this historic event. It is only fitting that the Armed Forces past and present and their affiliated organisations remember those soldiers that fell and pay their respects."



PHOTOS BY SERGEANT BRIAN GAMBLE RLC



North West Territorials at War



by **Major Ian Riley TD**,
Hon Secretary of the
Liverpool Scottish Museum

The Liverpool Scottish
at King's Park Camp,
Edinburgh, August/
September 1914

NW RFCA and the other RFCAs around the country continue to play a critical role facilitating, supporting and promoting the Volunteer Reserve Forces in the regions. But what did the voluntary Armed Forces look like in 1914, and what was their story during the First World War? NW RFCA's Volunteer magazine, with historian Ian Riley, is charting the history of the Territorials in the North West and their journey through war a century ago.

The Territorial Force (TF) was formed in 1908 and run by the newly formed civilian Territorial Associations, now the RFCAs. 100 years ago the North West volunteers of the Territorial Force lived, worked and trained in much the same way as today's Reservists juggle their day jobs and family commitments with the necessary training and deployment that comes with serving. However, in 1914 the outbreak of the First World War would see mobilisation on an unprecedented scale.



The Liverpool Scottish range hut at Altcar Training Camp (still standing by C Range)

Today's Reservist would recognise the routine of a Territorial in 1914: evening drills, weekend camps, the musketry test, annual camp and other courses for specialist skills. On Merseyside, Territorials could travel to Altcar Training Camp by train after work where they would shoot in the evening, eat and then perhaps stay overnight in their unit hut, some of which still stand at Altcar today. Territorial recruits were building the same skills as their regular Army counterparts – just like today's Army Reservists.

Lance-Sergeant David Marples of the **Liverpool Scottish** was in his mid-twenties when war broke out in 1914. Schooled at Calday Grange Grammar on the Wirral, he joined the Territorials in 1910. The war was to take him to early fighting in Belgium in November 1914, promotion to Company Sergeant Major in 1915 and a return to the Front in 1917 where he was awarded the Military Cross at Ypres. On 2 August 1914, while most of Europe was already mobilizing, Marples' Battalion was on its way to camp and a rude awakening, as he recorded in his diary:

 **2ND AUGUST:**

Left Lime Street Station 1:30 amidst great doubt as to ... mobilisation. Arrived at Hornby Camp [Lancaster] at 5:30 pm ... turned in at about 11:00 pm, amidst great rumours about the war and Germany's actions. [3 August]: Roused at 4:00 am with orders to strike camp, ... entrained for Liverpool at 11:30 am ... Germany now at war with France, Belgium and Russia. Spent evening at [West Kirby], and gave an account of my shortest camp.

The Territorial Force was signed-up for home defence only, but whole units enthusiastically volunteered for overseas service. On 18 August 1914, the Liverpool Scottish departed by train for Edinburgh with the rest of the South Lancashire Brigade to form part of the Forth Defences. Within ten weeks, they would be on the muddy, wintery battlefield of Flanders. By the end of 1914, some 36 British Territorial units were in France and Belgium with another 23 scheduled to sail in February.

The Liverpool Scottish and the 1/6th Bn The Cheshire Regiment from Stockport landed in France in November 1914. They had been re-equipped at the last moment, and sailed on 1st November from Southampton aboard the *SS Maidan*.

Lionel Ferguson, of the Liverpool Cotton Exchange, kept at home by family bereavement, saw a half-battalion leave Tunbridge by train:

 **1ST NOVEMBER**

I will ever remember that fine sight - 500 of Liverpool's best nearly all six foot high, the very best our City could produce. I stood at the salute while they passed but saw few as my eyes would keep filling with tears; most were singing, a few were crying. It was a fine but very, very sad moment. The station was closed to the public but just before departure, the order was given to admit the families. Those who were unable to find their boys were nearly frantic, a Mrs. Ferguson of Formby imploring me to find her boy. I did but the poor lad refused to look out, he was crying on the seat of his carriage.



On arrival in France, lessons were soon learnt. The Territorials' first sight of a BEF company, unshaven, battle-stained and muddied, was a shock but they noticed 'Every man's rifle was absolutely spotless, not a bad illustration for civilian soldiers of the distinction between the superficial and the essential'.

The transition to the front line was sudden. The battalion went to trenches near Kemmel Hill, south of Ypres. Captain Arthur Twentyman, 'Y' Company commander, was the first casualty.

The regimental historian (Major McGilchrist) witnessed the incident:



Liverpool Scottish soldiers near Kemmel Hill near Ypres gather, dressed to keep out the bitter cold of the 1914/15 winter

29TH NOVEMBER

Only 35 yards to the enemy ... our parapet was repaired at night but ... not strong and Twentyman realised that if it did not hold, we would be enfiladed by the Germans ... the sniper was close and when it was light ... he went down through the trench to a dump to get a jam-tin bomb. He came back over the open instead of up the trench thinking a thin hedge would screen him; he was seen and shot down. 30th November (McKinnell): Poor Twentyman was our first casualty. It was a terrible business to get him out. However they will manage to get the wounded out, I don't know.

8TH DECEMBER

(Private Sam Moulton, Transport Section): Cooking own breakfast when shells came over and burst in front ... all the dirt came over ... moved further back on road. Paraded 7 pm at HQ, light marching order - in reserve to the Lincolns who were attacking - lying flat in field for 7 hours - pitch dark - thought we were for it when ordered to cut down the wire fencing in front. Nothing doing!

At home, a Ladies' Committee tirelessly knitted and collected socks, cap-comforters and cardigans. Great effort went towards making Christmas comfortable.

25TH DECEMBER

(Moulton): Three very welcome parcels from home - a real treat - a fine feast at night - mail arrived just after midday on a wagon - greeted with loud cheers. A real Father Christmas ... horses instead of reindeer, what did that matter? Every man also received a gilt box from Princess Mary - containing a pipe - tobacco ... lucky to be out of the line for Christmas and we made the best of it.

Sam's gilt 'Gift Box' is still with the Liverpool Scottish, currently on display in NW RFCA HQ, engraved with the names of everywhere he served from 1914 to 1918.



Princess Mary, daughter of King George V was the real inspiration behind the half a million embossed brass Christmas gift boxes went to sailors and soldiers on active service, paid for by public donations of about £150,000

The Liverpool Scottish entered the front line at the end of November 1914, with 855 soldiers. By 31st January 1915, following terrible weather, total strength had fallen to 370. Casualties were mainly 'sickness'; only about thirty men were killed or wounded.

The journey of the North West Territorial Forces through the battlefields of World War I and home again will continue over the coming years in the Volunteer magazine. Visit www.nwrfca.org.uk for more information.

In 1914, **42 East Lancashire division**, a predecessor of today's 42 Inf Bde & HQ North West comprising many volunteer units which continue to exist as Army Reserve units, was preparing to mobilise for war.



1920's cigarette cards displaying information about 42 East Lancashire Division



The full dress officer's tunic of the original 8th (Scottish) Volunteer Battalion of the King's (Liverpool) Regiment



A soldier of the Liverpool Scottish stoking an improvised brazier with his bayonet during the bitter winter of 1914/15 at Kemmel near Ypres



Smartly dressed new recruits, possibly in Sefton Park (Liverpool) in late 1914





The Victory Services Club has been supporting the Armed Forces for over a century. The Club's founder, Major Arthur Haggard, was devoted to the betterment of his fellow soldiers and had a great empathy for them as he lost his 24 year old son, Lancelot, in October 1917 on the Western Front.

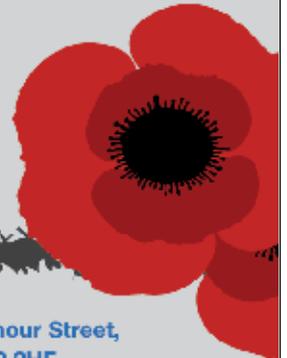
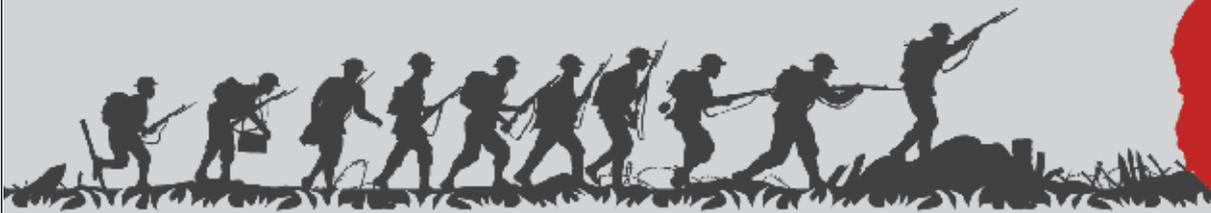
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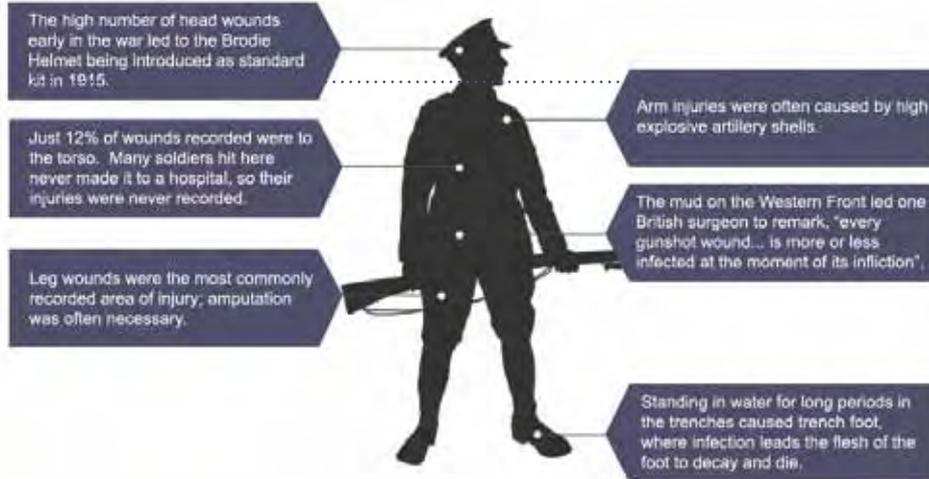
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How did WW1 change the way we treat war injuries today?

HOW WERE SOLDIERS INJURED IN WW1?



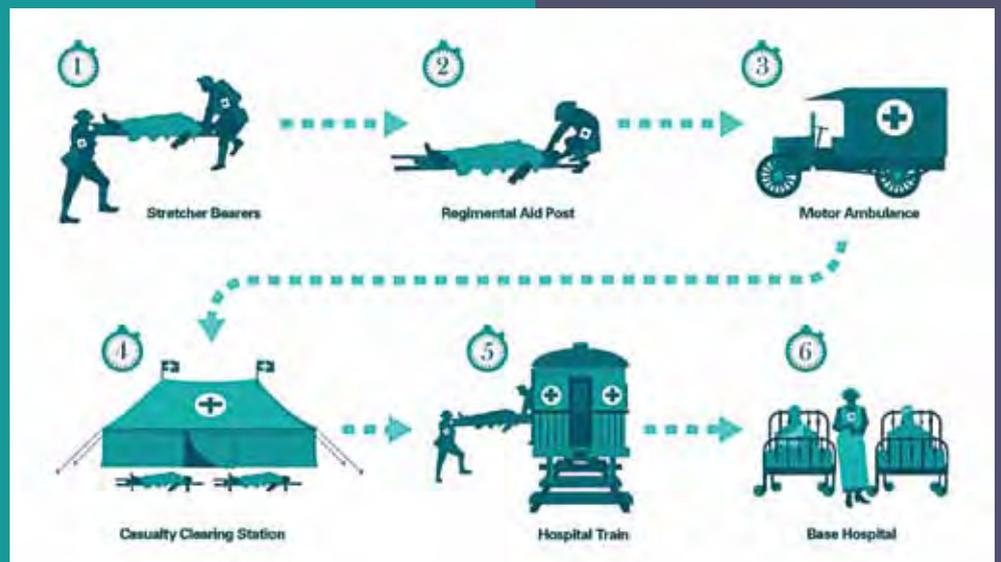
A WAR UNLIKE ANY BEFORE

WORLD WAR ONE WAS FOUGHT ON A SCALE THAT HAD NEVER BEEN EXPERIENCED BEFORE.

At the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, the main infantry weapon was the muzzle-loading musket, which fired up to four shots a minute. At the Battle of the Somme, just over a century later, machine gunners could fire off 600 rounds a minute. High velocity rounds wreaked havoc in the body, twisting tissue and splintering bone. Fighting on farmland fertilised by manure meant that wounds quickly became infected; gangrene was rife. Faced with this challenge, new equipment and techniques were invented that, across four years of fighting, would end up saving thousands of lives.

THE PATH TO TREATMENT

This journey would have been familiar to many wounded soldiers, though the actual route taken would have varied. In quiet periods, a wounded soldier could be evacuated from battlefield to base hospital in less than 24 hours.



INSIDE A WORLD WAR ONE HOSPITAL

Conditions in a World War One hospital were tough. The men and women working there had to provide care for terrible injuries without much of the basic materials and equipment that are taken for granted today.



Treating casualties on the frontline today



MEDICAL INNOVATION IN WORLD WAR ONE

The wounds inflicted on millions of soldiers drove the development of new medical techniques and inventions.

■ Giving and storing blood

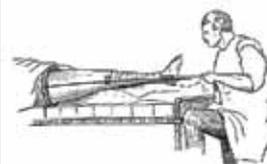
The British Army began the routine use of blood transfusion in treating wounded soldiers. Blood was transferred directly from one person to another. But it was a US Army doctor, Captain Oswald Robertson, who realised the need to stockpile blood before casualties arrived. He established the first blood bank on the Western Front in 1917, using sodium citrate to prevent the blood from coagulating and becoming unusable. Blood was kept on ice for up to 28 days and then transported to casualty clearing stations for use in life-saving surgery where it was needed most.



*First World War blood transfusion apparatus.**

■ Technological innovation

Innovations developed in the First World War had a massive impact on survival rates – such as the Thomas splint, named after pioneering Welsh surgeon Hugh Owen Thomas, which secured a broken leg. At the beginning of the war 80% of all soldiers with a broken femur died. By 1916, 80 % of soldiers with this injury survived.



*The Thomas splint introduced in 1916.**

■ Speed of treatment

From January 1915 the British military medical machine moved closer to the front line. Casualty clearing stations were now better equipped and, crucially, more surgeons were closer to the battlefield. There were now fewer delays in administering potentially life-saving treatment. Soldiers with wounds that would have been fatal were now more likely to survive.

* Pictures courtesy of Getty Images and Wellcome Images.

Key developments still in use today

What does modern treatment owe to the First World War?

Professor Christine Hallett of the University of Manchester explains how modern medicine continues to be influenced by advancements made during World War One.

■ Shock treatment of wounds

Blood is now routinely used in hospitals throughout the world, with stockpiles that can be called upon when required. In the military, the Medical Emergency Response Team is able to give wounded soldiers blood on the ground, helping to prevent deaths from shock. Developments in wound shock treatment in the First World War - from the use of saline, through direct donor-to-patient blood transfusion and the development of techniques to store blood - have helped shape much of modern practise.

■ Antiseptic wound treatment

Today, heavily infected wounds are rarely seen thanks to the discovery of antibiotics in 1928 and their widespread adoption throughout the 1940's. However, our understanding of the treatment of wounds owes much to the experimentation with antiseptics seen in the First World War. The Carrel-Dakin technique, which delivered sodium hypochlorite directly to damaged tissue in deep wound-beds, came to be viewed as best-practice. A British version of Dakin's Solution, known as EUSOL (Edinburgh University Solution of Lime) continued to be used to treat wounds until the late twentieth century.

■ Containing infection

Cleanliness and hygiene are key weapons in preventing the spread of infection in both army accommodation and military hospitals. Soldiers living in the squalid conditions of the First World War trenches were susceptible to a range of infections, including typhus fever carried by lice. The treatment of so-called trench fever extended our understanding of how to break the spread of such infections, with the more hygienic practises adopted in First World War base hospitals helping to structure modern approaches.

■ Post-traumatic stress disorder

The modern military has a much more detailed knowledge of psychological trauma, or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Patients benefit from a wide range of approaches, including Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT). During World War One, some thought 'shell-shock' was a physical condition, caused by the percussion of shell-blast on the brain tissue; others saw it as essentially an acute form of psychological distress. These controversies fed into the work of the psychoanalytic movement in the early twentieth century, which can be viewed as the forerunner of CBT.





Dadorchuddio cofeb I'r Cymry yn Fflandrys

Ar 16 Awst 2014, cododd cadetiaid o Gymru'r faner yn Fflandrys, Gwlad Belg, wrth ddadorchuddio cofeb i gofio'r Cymry, yn ddynion a merched, a fu farw yn y Rhyfel Mawr.

Mynychodd tua 1,000 o bobl y gwasanaeth ym mhentref Langemark yn Fflandrys. Ers 2011, mae'r Grŵp Ymgyrchu dros Gofeb y Cymry yn Fflandrys wedi ymgyrchu am gofeb barhaol ac wedi codi dros £100,000 gyda chymorth Llywodraeth Cymru.

Bu farw tua 40,000 o Gymry, yn ddynion a merched, yn y Rhyfel Mawr rhwng 1914 a 1918. Cyn y seremoni ar 16 Awst, nid oedd man ymgynnull i ymwelwyr o Gymru a oedd am dalu teyrnged yn Fflandrys a'r unig fannau a oedd yn anrhydeddu'r rhai a wasanaethodd oedd y cerrig beddau unigol, a rheiny ar wasgar ar draws sawl mynwent.

Mae'r gofeb wedi'i gwneud o bedair carreg las Pennant a gludwyd o chwarel Craig yr Hesg ym Mhontypridd, sy'n dal draig goch efydd 8 troedfedd. Cynlluniwyd y gofeb gan yr arlunydd o Gymru, Lee Odishow, ac fe'i gwelir ar Pilkem Ridge, nepell o'r man y lladdwyd y bardd Hedd Wyn ym 1917.

Meddai Prif Weinidog Cymru, Carwyn Jones, a fynychodd y gwasanaeth a'r dadorchuddiad: "Mae'r gofeb hon yn ffrwyth blynyddoedd lawer o waith diflino gan unigolion ymroddgar yn Fflandrys ac wrth gwrs yng Nghymru.

"Eleni rydym yn nodi canmlwyddiant y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf. Mae'n amserol ein bod yn dadorchuddio'r gofeb nawr, fel arwydd o barch, ac i gofio'r holl Gymry a wynebodd erchylltra yma nad oes modd i ni ei ddirnad. Oherwydd yr aberth a wnaethant a'r rhyddid y brwydrwyd amdano, rhaid i ninnau barhau i dalu teyrnged iddyn nhw heddiw.

"Llongyfarchiadau i bawb sydd wedi bod ynghlwm wrth yr ymgyrch bwysig hon. Mae'r gofeb drawiadol hon yn fodd i'n hatgoffa bod angen parhau i ymdrechu i sicrhau heddwch yn ein hoes ni."

Cafodd pridd ei gasglu o gopaon Eryri, Pen y Fan ac o'r Ysgwrn, cartref y bardd Hedd Wyn, a'i osod ar waelod y gofeb fel rhan o'r seremoni gyflwyno. Gosododd y Prif Weinidog hefyd dorch gyda neges wedi'i hysgrifennu â llaw ar ran pobl Cymru.

Roedd y seremoni gyflwyno a dadorchuddio yn benllanw i flynyddoedd lawer o ymgyrchu a chodi arian gan Grŵp Ymgyrchu dros Gofeb y Cymry yn Fflandrys, er mwyn codi cofeb barhaol i gofio am wasanaeth y Cymry yn ystod y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf.

Welsh memorial unveiled in Flanders

On 16 August 2014, army cadets from Wales raised the flag in Flanders, Belgium as a monument was unveiled to honour the Welsh men and women who died in World War One.

Around 1,000 people attended the service at the village of Langemark in Flanders. Since 2011, the Welsh Memorial in Flanders Group have campaigned for a lasting monument and fund raised over £100,000 with support from the Welsh government.

Approximately 40,000 Welsh men and women died in World War One from 1914 to 1918. Prior to the ceremony on 16 August, there was no gathering place for Welsh visitors wishing to pay their respects in Flanders and the only sites to mark those who served were just individual grave stones spread out in a number of cemeteries.

The monument is made of four Welsh blue pennant stones transported from Craig yr Hesg quarry in Pontypridd, South

Wales and surmounted by an 8ft tall red bronze dragon, designed by Welsh artist Lee Odishow. The monument can be found on Pilkem Ridge, a short distance from where the Welsh poet Hedd Wyn was killed in 1917.

The First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones attended the service and unveiled the memorial. He said: "This memorial is the result of many years of hard work by dedicated individuals both in Flanders and of course in Wales.



"This year we mark the centenary of the start of the First World War. It is timely that we should be unveiling this memorial now, as a mark of respect and remembrance for all those from Wales who faced unimaginable adversity here. The sacrifices they made and the freedom for which they strived for is why we must continue to pay tribute today.

"I congratulate all involved in this very important campaign. This impressive monument is testament to the enduring need to continue to strive for peace in our own time."

Soil was gathered from the summits of Snowdon, Pen y Fan and the home of Welsh Poet Hedd Wyn, Yr Ysgwrn, and was placed at the base of the memorial as part of the dedication ceremony. The First Minister also laid a wreath with a hand-written message on behalf of the people of Wales.

The dedication and unveiling ceremony is the culmination of several years campaigning and fundraising by the Welsh Memorial in Flanders Campaign Group for a lasting memorial to the services of Welsh men and women during the First World War.



Cadets across Wales Commemorate Remembrance Day



Committed Cadets across Wales have been very active in their efforts to raise money for the Poppy Appeal and awareness of the centenary year of the start of World War One.

Fundraising in Newport was launched by Mayor Cllr Matthew Evans who bought the first poppy from Cadet Morgan Jones, aged 13, of the Band of Gwent and Powys ACF. The Gwent Poppy Appeal raised £280,000 for the

squadrons across North Wales, and those from 1918 Squadron ATC and 1557 (Friars School) Squadron ATC were busy throughout the towns of Ruthin and Bangor. Cadets took part in awareness and fund raising activities in their communities, promoting the importance of paying tribute to those who have served in conflicts. Air Cadets from 2364 (Welshpool) Squadron ATC in Powys collected donations from shoppers in their town.

Company attended the unveiling of a new war memorial. Petty Officer Cadet Tom Hughes read out the names of those who lost their lives in WW1 and Cadet Sergeant Rhys Shaw read out names of those who died during WW2

Army Cadets also paid their respects to the fallen at the battlefields of Belgium. 44 Cadets and six Adult Volunteers from all detachments of Gwent and Powys Army Cadet



RBL in 2013 and expects to increase the total for 2014.

In Port Talbot, Sea Cadets sold poppies and collected spare change from shoppers in the town and supermarkets, with Able Cadet Scott Lambert, filling two poppy tins on his own.

No 2 Welsh Wing Air Cadets has

In addition to fundraising, Cadets also commemorated the memories of those who served in conflicts around the world. 70 Air Cadets from Squadrons in No. 1 Welsh Wing took a tour of Europe, visiting war memorials and battlefields in Ypres, Belgium and France.

In Fishguard West Wales, Cadets from E Squadron and G (Welsh Guards)

Force travelled to the Flemish town of Ypres to take part in the Annual Passchendaele Parade.

On Remembrance Day, the group attended the Menin Gate war memorial. The site unveiled in 1927 is dedicated to the 54,896 British and Commonwealth soldiers who lost their lives in the Ypres Salient, the area of some of WW1's biggest battles.



Hedd Wyn (Welsh for Blessed Peace) was born **Ellis Humphrey Evans** on a farm in the Trawsfynydd area of Meirionydd in North Wales. He took a great interest in poetry from an early age and was an enthusiastic competitor in the Eisteddfodau. He had just six years of formal schooling before joining his father on the farm at 14, working largely as a shepherd. In 1916 he was conscripted to join the Royal

Welch Fusiliers, becoming one of 280,000 Welshmen who fought in the First World War. He sailed to France and was sent to the front in June 1917. Within a month he was killed in the Battle of Pilken Ridge at Passchendaele.

That year the National Eisteddfod was held in Birkenhead,

and at the charing of the bard ceremony the winning poem was named as Yr Arwr (The Hero), written under the nom-de-plume of Fleur-de-Lis. But when the pseudonym of the winning poet was announced, it was discovered that Fleur-de-Lis was Hedd Wyn, who had been killed six weeks earlier. The chair was draped with a black cloth, and the assembled audience was grief-stricken.

Hedd Wyn's poems were turbulent and emotional, often dwelling on the horror of war, among them one simply entitled 'Rhyfel' (War). In two lines it sums up the terror of battle in the trenches during The Great War: "With the cries of the boys filling the air/and their blood mixed with the rain".

The 1992 film Hedd Wyn, scripted by Alan Llwyd and directed by Paul Turner won several awards and was nominated as best Foreign Film at the 1993 Oscars. Hedd Wyn continues to represent a lost generation that could have further enriched our literature and national life had they been spared.



“Harry’s War”

During the First World War, millions of British soldiers were mobilised to fight for their country. The village of Claines in Worcestershire was one of the many small countryside communities that saw their men deployed to war, and during the First World War twenty eight young men from Claines lost their lives. This is the story of one soldier who was lucky enough to return and live a full life.

Harry Sansome was born in 1892 in Claines, Worcestershire, and was the youngest of six children. In January 1911, at the age of 18, he signed up to join the Worcestershire Yeomanry for four years.

Historically the Worcestershire Yeomanry had been a local militia regiment and was still a volunteer regiment under the patronage of Lord Dudley of Witley Court. Members had to provide their own horses, attend an annual training camp, and take part in regular drill and cavalry sessions. Following Great Britain’s declaration of war on Germany, the fun of the summer camps and drills was soon replaced by war when the Yeomanry was mobilised on 4th August 1914.

In April 1915 the regiment embarked for Egypt, as part of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, with Harry aboard the ‘*Saturnia*’. The regiment went on to enter the August offensive, trying to gain ground after the valiant Anzac



Harry Sansome
PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN SANSOME

Whilst at Camp Mena in Alexandria he was given the chance to re-engage. By this time his older brother Jack was also serving, and as Harry was required home on the farm he declined this option. On 15th January 1916 Harry embarked for England on the Transport Ship, “*Manitou*”.

Harry arrived back in Worcester on 14th February 1916 and became a volunteer with the special constabulary in Worcester. He was present for the return of his regiment to Worcester at the end of the war. Out of all of the men from their regiment, only two officers, sixteen men and twenty-one horses remained from the many that had set out in August 1914. They had gone on to win battle honours in Palestine and were engaged in the last ever British Cavalry charge at Huj.

After his service Harry went on to live a long and healthy life in Claines with his wife and children, and contributed to village life through the church, farming and music. He ended his days peacefully with his family at his birthplace, Oak Farm, in 1982 aged 89.

Harry’s grandson Andrew Milton followed in his footsteps and joined The Queen’s Own Hussars in 1983. This later amalgamated and became The Queen’s Royal Hussars. Andrew left The Queen’s Royal Hussars in March 2005 as a Warrant Officer 2nd Class and joined 37 Signal Regiment (Volunteers) as a Non Regular Permanent Staff Squadron Quarter Master Sergeant. He served with Coventry 96 Signal Squadron until 2010 and then moved to Redditch with 54 Support Signal Squadron which, under FR2020 Royal Signals restructuring, has taken on the title of The Queen’s Own Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry.

To mark the centenary SSgt Milton and his son Daniel, along with other relatives, will re-trace his grandfather’s footsteps and visit the Turkish Peninsula in his memory on the 21st August

battles in April and May had resulted in stagnation.

The plan was to attack the Turkish position at Suvla Bay, and in August 1915 the bombardment began with the regiment advancing up Chocolate Hill where they soon came under heavy artillery fire. They had no cover and ran through shrapnel until they reached a place of safety. Sixteen of the regiment didn’t make it that far and Harry was wounded by shrapnel in his right calf. The next day Harry was transferred through 14 Casualty Clearing Stations back to Mudros, arriving in hospital on the 30th August. With such a delay he was lucky to keep his leg.

Before returning back to his regiment he was promoted to acting Corporal at the start of October, and discharged as fit for duty several days later. He returned across the sea to Gallipoli, arriving on the 21st October, two months after leaving the peninsula. One can only imagine with what trepidation he returned, having already experienced action which resulted in injury.

On 31st October the regiment sailed to Mudros, and Harry was confirmed as Corporal that same day. That was the last the regiment saw of Gallipoli and it was entirely evacuated in January 1916, with 44,000 allied lives lost and 97,000 wounded.

Having signed up for four years duty, Harry’s term had by now expired.



SSgt Milton and his son, Daniel
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WORCESTER NEWS



2015, exactly 100 years after Harry was wounded.

The full story of Harry Sansome came to light through research undertaken by Andrew Milton's cousin, Geoff Sansome (Harry's grandson) and John Sansome (Harry's great grandson). Together they pieced together Harry's past, revealing his fascinating military career and experiences of the war.

To read more about Harry's story, visit www.clainesfriends.org.uk/Harryswar



Men of Claines Choir - 1915. Lance Corporal Harry Sansome, centre
PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN SANSOME

CCF Cadets recreate 1915 OTC photograph

To mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War and as a tribute to the hundreds of 'Salopians' (Shrewsbury School pupils and staff) who went to war, Shrewsbury School CCF Cadets have recreated a photograph of members of the school's Officer Training Corps. Cadets from the CCF, which replaced the OTC in 1936, recreated a photograph of the OTC practising a mock charge down a nearby hill on a Field Day in 1915.

The boys pictured in the 1915 photo were aged 16 to 18 and would have gone on to fight in World War One, serving as Junior Officers. Casualty rates as a Junior Officer were higher than any other rank in the Army. One in five boys at Shrewsbury School were killed, with a similar number losing their lives from many other public schools. One of the boys pictured has been identified as John Henderson who survived the war after serving in the Royal Navy.

Cadet Staff Sergeant Oliver Pattison-Appleton (who takes centre stage in the recreated photograph) said "This was a good chance to gain an insight into the history of our CCF, the sort of training Salopians did at the time of WW1, and a stark reminder of what happened to many after their time in the Shrewsbury School OTC. For

all of us it was a chance to be a part of Shrewsbury history."

Lieutenant Colonel Nick David commented on the event "We have good contacts with RAF Shawbury and I made the request to their Station Commander, Group Captain Alastair Smith, who was very supportive. Arrangements were put in place to fly the pupils out from school and land on the Lawley (the

hill where we thought the original event took place)".

Group Captain Alastair Smith said "I am delighted that RAF Shawbury and the Defence Helicopter Flying School were able to play a part in this commemorative photograph, by providing an air experience flight for the cadets in a 60 Squadron Griffin helicopter and reaffirm our support for the cadet forces."



Field Day 1915 ▼
PHOTO COURTESY OF SHREWSBURY SCHOOL ARCHIVE



Shrewsbury School CCF recreate a moment from history ▼

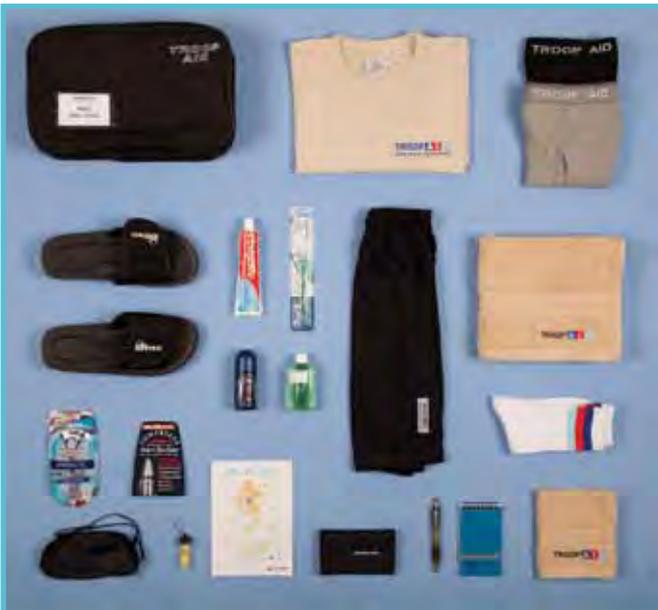


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Commemorating World War One in Nottinghamshire



EAST MIDLANDS
RESERVE FORCES AND CADETS ASSOCIATION

A major exhibition is being organised in the county to mark one hundred years since the outbreak of the Great War exploring the experiences of the people of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire at home and in the trenches.

Trent to Trenches is a countywide programme of events and activities developed by hundreds of organisations and volunteers in partnership with Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Experience Nottinghamshire to commemorate 100 years since the start of The Great War.



Factory workers with filled shells, National Shell-Filling Factory No 6, Chilwell, 1915-18; photo courtesy of MOD Chilwell, Nottingham

East Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets Association has been an active supporter of the initiative from the start, facilitating Cadet support and participation in some of the Trent to Trenches activities.

Trent to Trenches

Using powerful visual images, diaries, letters and artefacts, the exhibition will highlight how the conflict of The Great War (1914-1918) was a catalyst for huge social and economic change in the communities of Nottinghamshire.

Organised by Nottingham City Museums and Galleries, with research made possible by a large team of volunteers, *Trent to Trenches* is part of the First World War Centenary Partnership, led by the Imperial War Museums (IWM).

Also included in the Trent to Trenches exhibition:

- A new magazine made by artists and local people and inspired by the *Wipers Times*, the irreverent newspaper printed in the trenches by soldiers from The Sherwood Foresters regiment.
- *Eleven – Eleven – Eleven*, an



Trent to Trenches Exhibition
Nottingham Castle Museum
and Art Gallery

exciting oral histories project in which volunteers have worked with Nottingham's culturally diverse communities to capture their Great War stories for *Trench to Trenches*.

As well as the exhibition at Nottingham Castle Museum, visitors to Nottinghamshire can also look forward to a 'Fields of Battle' open air exhibition – located in the City Centre, making its first public appearance outside London.

For more information, follow our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/NottmMuseumVolunteers

Getting the wheels in motion to commemorate World War One



Three Army Reservists completed a 350 mile cycling tour across the former battlefields on the Western Front in France and Belgium to raise funds for a military charity.

Sergeant Daniel Waterfield, aged 29, from Borrowash, Lance Corporal Joshua Carlisle, aged 24, from Duffield and Damien Richmond, aged 27, from Chilwell, trained hard to ensure they were prepared for this challenge.

Each of the Reservists serve with 350 Field Squadron, 33 Engineer Regiment (EOD), Royal Engineers based at the Army Reserve Centre, Swiney Way, Chilwell in Nottingham.

Speaking ahead of the charity cycle, Daniel Waterfield said: "We have been



Remembering times past: Cadets visit World War One battlefields



EAST MIDLANDS
RESERVE FORCES AND CADETS ASSOCIATION

More than 40 Cadets and 15 adult volunteers from Nottinghamshire Army Cadet Force (ACF) and Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland (LNR) ACF marked the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War by visiting a number of former battlefields in France and Belgium.

Nottinghamshire's Cadets, who took part in the event were from the county's ACF Corps of Drums, and played a variety of instruments at memorial sites throughout the visit.

LNR's Cadets attending the event were also from the Corps of Drums and had been rehearsing the ACF music syllabus over a number of months to prepare for this occasion.

Cadets from Nottinghamshire ACF, LNR ACF and other ACF detachments across the country, who were also taking part in the visit, came together to rehearse their performances on Saturday 28 June at the Cadet Training Centre on Swiney Way, Toton, Nottingham.

Before departing for Europe, Colonel Phil Watson, Commandant at LNR ACF, said: "LNR's Corps of Drums will accompany Nottinghamshire ACF for this unique opportunity to not only draw the five different Drum Detachments together in LNR but to work with other



counties and launch Op REFLECT (the ACFs Commemorations of the 100th Anniversary of WW1) in style.

"As the newly appointed Commandant I wanted to draw our Drum Detachments, which are spread across Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland, together and enable them to perform as a single band for the first time since Cadet 150. There can be a no more iconic place than to play in Ypres, the Cloth Hall and march to the Menin Gate during this anniversary year. It is an experience our Cadets will remember for the rest of their lives!"

Major Steve Greaves from Nottinghamshire ACF said: "This visit is really significant as it allows each of us to reflect on times past, as well as giving Cadets the opportunity to learn more about the First World War. There will be around 100 people taking part in the event in total – this will include

Cadets, adult volunteers and other guests.

"The Cadet musicians will be playing at the Menin Gate 'Memorial to the Missing' war memorial in Ypres, Belgium, something everyone is going to remember for a long time."

Cadet Sergeant Major Lucy Hoyes, aged 17, from Nottinghamshire ACF's Ruddington Detachment, said: "I am really looking forward to taking part in the battlefield tour of France and Belgium. This is something I and other musicians from Nottinghamshire ACF have been rehearsing for over a number of months and can't wait to play our instruments in a variety of locations during the trip."

Nottinghamshire ACF has previously organised visits to France and Belgium, but this year's event has been planned to tie in with local centenary events.

training as much as we can, fitting cycling around work and our other commitments.

"We are raising money for the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF), otherwise known as the Soldiers Charity, a charity that is close to all our hearts."

Reflecting on how the team prepared for the cycling tour Daniel continued: "Since April the three of us have competed in various events including the Derby 10K, Ramathon, 100 mile Cycle Live Nottingham and the Foremarke Triathlon together with our own training in the Peak District in order to enhance our fitness and gain experience on the bikes."

The Reservists wanted to mark the

centenary of the outbreak of Great War so decided that raising vital funds for charity was a positive way to do this.

Daniel continued: "The three of us have wanted to visit the former battlefields for some time and for me personally it will be a reflective time as I had three distant relatives killed during the Great War which makes me realise how fortunate I am to have come back unscathed from my own experiences in Afghanistan."

The route started at the Horse Guards in London on 4 August 2014 before cycling through Kent, crossing the channel and then following the length of the British and Commonwealth section of the Western Front from Nieuwpoort in Belgium and finishing in Compiègne near Paris four days later.

Collectively the Reservists taking part in this challenge have served over 25 years in the Army Reserve.

Damien returned from serving in Afghanistan as part of the Royal Engineer works group in the capital Kabul in March this year. Daniel also recently returned from a six month tour of Afghanistan where he was part of the British Provisional Reconstruction team based in Helmand Province.

Before this magazine went to print, Daniel, Josh and Damien had raised £3,600 for the ABF.

To find out more about the Army Reserve visit: www.army.mod.uk



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**Lifelong support
for our Forces
and their families**

Bristol Army Reservists commemorate their heroic WW1 forebears

Bristol-based Reservists of 93 (North Somerset Yeomanry) Support Squadron, 39 Signal Regiment, gathered in the chapel at historic Tyntesfield House to commemorate one of the earliest actions by Territorials in the First World War.

Bristol-based Reservists of 93 (North Somerset Yeomanry) Support Squadron, 39 Signal Regiment, gathered in the chapel at historic Tyntesfield House to commemorate one of the earliest actions by Territorials in the First World War.

It was an heroic and successful stand at Zillebeke by the North Somerset Yeomanry, called up to hold front-line trenches near Ypres on 15-18 November 1914. But it was costly, too.

Like the Army Reservists of 93 Squadron who proudly bear their name today, the North Somerset Yeomanry were raised in and around Bristol, Bath and Weston-super-Mare and also in surrounding market towns and villages.

A Squadron (Bath) bore the brunt of the first attack on 16 November, suffering heavy losses under 12 hours of bombardment, and were then relieved by B Squadron (Weston-super-Mare). Shelling resumed next morning and intensified through the day.

In the early afternoon the Yeomanry fought off a massed charge by the Germans who attacked again at 4pm. Despite superior numbers, the enemy was forced finally to abandon their assault.

The Officer Commanding B Squadron, Captain Frederick Liebhart, was among those killed, as was Sergeant Alf Cleall, vice-chairman of Bath Rugby Club. Sergeant Cleall's grave was never found and his name is inscribed on the Menin Gate in Ypres.

The final toll was three officers and 22 NCOs and other ranks. Three

were recorded as 'missing' and 39 wounded out of a total of 64 casualties from '200 rifles'.

The commemorative service, with hymns, prayers and readings, was led by the Chaplain, the Venerable David Sutch TD, who was Squadron Honorary Colonel 2003-2008. Major Andy Morris, Officer Commanding 93 (NSY) Support Squadron, read extracts from the NSY's War Diary and also from a letter by a survivor recounting the heroism and fatal wounding of Sergeant Cleall, who was posthumously mentioned in despatches.

A feature of the commemoration was a WW1 post box brought back after the war by survivors and inscribed with the names of comrades who fell in battle. In recent years it had stood barely noticed in an Army Reserve Centre in Taunton.

The Squadron has historic connections with Tyntesfield through the Gibbs family who established the house and its estate, now owned by the National Trust.

93 (NSY) Support Squadron today provides vital trades and skills in support of 39 Signal Regiment, which trains and deploys high-readiness Reserves in the event of national emergencies.



Sergeant Alf Cleall: posthumous mention in despatches.

► FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT 93 (NSY) SUPPORT SQUADRON CALL 01985 223723 OR TO FIND OUT ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE TA VISIT WWW.ARMY.MOD.UK/join/20237.aspx.



Major Andy Morris, 93 (North Somerset Yeomanry) Support Squadron, reading from extracts of the NSY War Diary



Cadets' mark centenary of Ode to Remembrance on Cornish clifftop



Cornwall ACF chaplain, Reverend Alen McCulloch, with Rev Diane Powell, Chaplain to Padstow Sea Cadets, with Cadets on the clifftop at Pentire Head, Cornwall.

Army and Sea Cadets gathered on a spectacular Cornish clifftop on 21 September 2014 to mark exactly 100 years since the publication of a poem whose fourth verse has become synonymous with Remembrance:

**THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD, AS
WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD:
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM,
NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN.
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE
SUN AND IN THE MORNING
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.**

More than a dozen members of the Bodmin and Wadebridge Platoons of Lucknow Company, Cornwall Army Cadet Force, were led in a commemoration service by their Chaplain, Rev Alen McCulloch, along with Rev Diane Powell, Chaplain to Padstow Sea Cadets, who were also represented.

'For the fallen' was composed by the war poet Laurence Binyon while sitting on the cliffs at Polzeath in Cornwall. Binyon was prompted to write the poem as news came through of the first British casualties on the Western Front.

It was first published in The Times of 21 September 1914 and those famous four lines are now recited at

Remembrance ceremonies all over the world.

In 2001, a commemorative plaque was installed on the clifftop at Pentire Point, above the town of Polzeath.

As a former Army and Royal Navy chaplain, Rev McCulloch had spoken those famous words at Remembrance ceremonies all over the world – from Belize to Camp Bastion.

During the half-term break he accompanied a party of Cornwall ACF Cadets, officers and adult instructors on a battlefield tour of Flanders and Northern France, including visits to the Menin Gate and the Memorial to the Missing on the Somme at Thiepval.



RFCA for Greater London



Walter Carter
WW1 SOLDIER'S TALE



GL RFCA, David Noble Associates and the London Borough of Wandsworth have launched an exciting new initiative, utilising social media, called **WW1: A Soldier's Tale**.

This innovative, not-for-profit project brings to life The Great War by telling the story of Walter Carter, a Territorial Force soldier from Battersea, throughout WW1. The war is seen through his eyes and those of his family and friends via the use of Facebook, Twitter and a blog. 'Posts' will cover life in the military and on the Home Front one hundred years to the day as Walter and his family and friends would have experienced it.

Launched in June 2014 at the Army Reserve Centre in Battersea – the same place Walter would have attended for training 100 years ago as a member of The London Regiment – the project has attracted the attention of TV, press and radio, including ITV News and the British Forces Broadcasting Service. It has also been promoted widely to schools and libraries as a learning resource.



“

When I launched the government's First World War programme in October 2012, I set out our key themes of remembrance, youth and education. This project fits well with those themes and I hope it will do much to engage and educate young people about the important events of the First World War.

DAVID CAMERON, PRIME MINISTER

”

THE MAIN AIMS OF THE PROJECT ARE:

- To capture the imagination of young people using a medium they know, understand and use; that will make it feel more recent and more relevant
- To provide teachers with a welcome starting point to get pupils thinking about and seeing WW1 from different perspectives
- To research and provide relevant links to collections, archives, museums and other resources which can provide more detailed information
- To encourage people to think about issues relevant today i.e. the role of the Reserves, the effect of the Great War on communities, the role of women, the impact on Service families, the badly injured – but in a balanced way which includes lighter moments
- To paint, through the differing opinions and experiences of our characters, a broad picture of life at the time: social, economic, political and cultural
- To reflect the impact of the conflict on other countries and nationalities including Australia, New Zealand, Canada and other Foreign and Commonwealth countries.

We encourage you to visit our website and social media pages and to Like, Share and Retweet to help tell 'A Soldier's Tale':

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STEPPING FORWARD

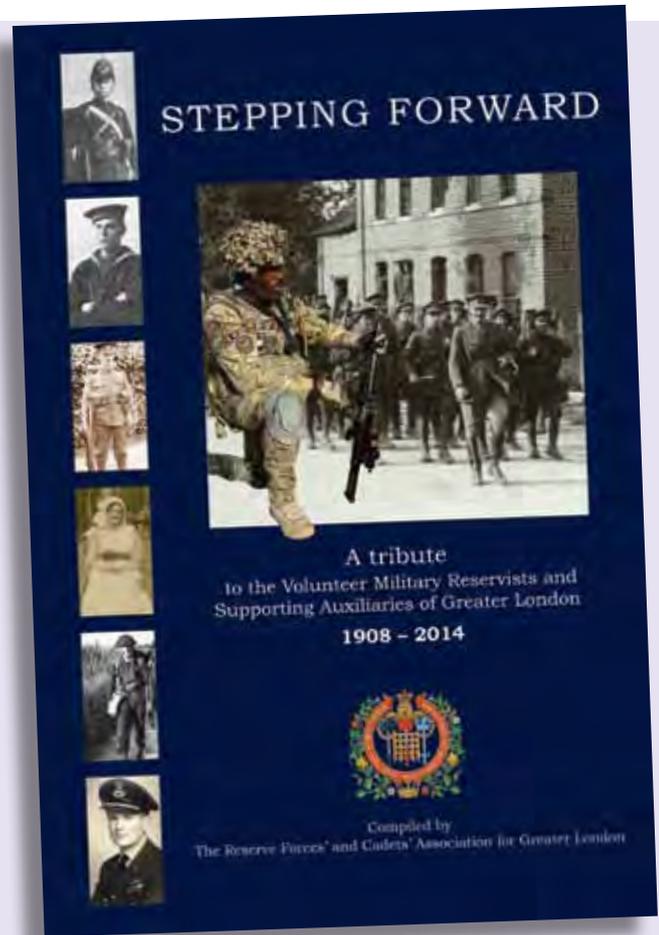
Compiled by GL RFCA, *Stepping Forward* documents the record of the Volunteer Reserve Forces from Greater London from 1908 to the present day. It is a comprehensive and detailed reference guide to the lineages and linkages of London's Reserve Force units.

Originally the brainchild of the former head of the British Army, Field Marshal Sir John Chapple, the book was first published in 2008 as a simple guide to Titles and Battle Honours of the Territorial Army in Greater London since 1908. This new and revised edition now includes details of all Reserve unit lineages within London, and contains historical listings of Reserve Forces Centres, the locations of Colours and the locations of memorials to the fallen. The book is published in a format that, we hope, will encourage attention from both old and young, who are keen to find out more about the volunteer military heritage within Greater London.

On 28 June 2014, the centenary of the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand – the trigger which led to the outbreak of WW1 – GL RFCA held a Solemn Drumhead Service of Remembrance at The Royal Hospital Chelsea after which the Field Marshal presented a special leather-bound edition of *Stepping Forward* to HM The Queen.

Stepping Forward will be presented to every London Borough and Livery Company, with a copy given to every library in London. *Stepping Forward* is also published as a website, ensuring the information compiled in the book is available to all.

www.steppingforwardlondon.org



REMEMBER WW1: Active Commemoration

Remember WW1 is a not-for profit campaign to inspire and support active commemoration through volunteer activity throughout the UK during the centenary of WW1. GL RFCA sits on its National Advisory Board.



Remember WW1 aims to engage people across the three themes of service, sacrifice and society. It aims to inspire and encourage individuals, families, schools, communities and companies to access knowledge about WW1 and reflect on the sacrifices made, service undertaken and impact on society at large. The campaign will encourage people to consider what service means today and to collectively give (sacrifice) their time or knowledge in their communities in order to have a positive impact on society today. Reflection will lead to collective action.

Remember WW1 will support volunteering by highlighting opportunities to get involved and enabling people to showcase their commemoration activities.

Let us mobilise for the good of today in honour of all those affected 100 years ago.

Make your #pledge
#ActiveCommemoration
#Doyourbit



A Centenary of Local Maritime History



The Port of Felixstowe in Suffolk is Britain's busiest container port and one of the largest in Europe. EA RFCA explores the local connections the port and surrounding naval bases had during the outbreak of the Great War.

Today, The Port of Felixstowe is responsible for 40% of Britain's containerised trade and is ranked the 35th busiest in the world and Europe's sixth busiest. It welcomes over 4,000 ships each year and provides some of the deepest water close to the open sea of any European port.

On 5th August 1913, Felixstowe was commissioned as a base for Naval Hydro-Aeroplanes under the command of Captain C.E. Risk. It became the Royal Naval Air Station (RNAS) Felixstowe soon after the outbreak of World War One with seaplanes developed and tested there, including the Felixstowe Porte and the Felixstowe Fury. One seaplane was dispatched to Clacton to carry out patrols.

Just across the River Orwell from the Port of Felixstowe is Harwich Harbour in Essex, a base for the Harwich Naval Force during the War, and HMS Amphion in 1914.

An active-class scout cruiser of the Royal Navy, HMS Amphion was the first Royal Navy Ship to be sunk just 36 hours into the conflict on 6th August 1914. Having set off from Harwich on a routine search patrol on 5th August 1914, she was called into action alongside two destroyers when a German mine-layer, the Königin Luise masquerading as a hospital ship, was spotted dropping mines off the Haven ports. One of the destroyers was sent to destroy the German ship and is credited with firing the first shot of World War One. With a crew of 100, 46 were rescued and taken on board HMS Amphion.

On her way back to Harwich, HMS Amphion struck a mine at 0630hrs laid by the Königin Luise and began to sink. The accompanying destroyers took off her surviving crew and prisoners. The sea current carried HMS Amphion back into the minefield and just three minutes after the last boatload of survivors had left, she again struck the same row of mines and exploded, with debris striking the rescue boats and destroyers.

This tragic sequence of events resulted in 149 Commonwealth sailors being

killed. Some historical records state the first British casualty of WW1 was Private John Parr in Belgium on 21st August 1914 but it is likely the HMS Amphion tragedy caused the first casualties of the Great War. Eight sailors, four British and four German, who died during the combat, were carried to Shotley Barracks in Suffolk before being buried together with full honours of war at the Naval Churchyard.

HMS Ganges was established at Shotley in 1905 and later became a stone frigate of the Royal Navy. In 1916, Shotley began to have its first experiences of air raids by Zeppelins in the days before there were trenches or air raid defences and at first the only precaution which could be taken was to march the boys down the main road and into the fields. One boy described it as:

"We were never allowed to undress at night, only remove shoes. When the warning went, on went our shoes, and we grabbed a very dark blanket issued for the occasion. We were then marched towards Ipswich and told to lie down in the open fields, frequently on soaking grass. After the raid had passed over, we marched back and were often rewarded with half a tin of salmon for breakfast."

Fortunately, only four small bombs fell inside the establishment, causing little damage. By that time a proper system of trenches had been installed on the foreshore.

For local towns such as Shotley, Felixstowe and Harwich, these events are now part of history. Much of East Anglia's heritage is a reflection of the events of the First World War. With a Naval past spanning over 100 years, the sailors and soldiers who gave their lives during the war will never be forgotten.

As one of the most supportive employers in the region with a large number of reservists working there,



the modern Port of Felixstowe has continued to support the Defence of the UK. Employers from the port have been involved in a number of regional and national SaBRE campaigns including Exercise Executive Stretch in 2007 and 2008 which involved a weekend of training for reservists to tackle a series of leadership challenges, planning exercises and physical activities in teams.

Reservists from the Port took part in Uniform to Work Day on 27th June 2012 which was an ideal opportunity to promote the work of the Reserve Forces and the fundamental role they play in both the military and civilian world.

DID YOU KNOW...

- The Port of Felixstowe is the largest employer of Reservists in East Anglia
- HMS Amphion was the first ship of the Royal Navy to have sunk in the Great War.
- Of those who died, four sailors were buried at Shotley, the bodies of others were sent to their home or villages for burial, or went down with the ship. Some could not be identified because of the seriousness of their injuries.



Then and now: Medics in the First World War



EA RFCA looks back 100 years at the medical innovations developed during World War One and the important characters who left behind a legacy.

Between 1914 and 1918, the world's most powerful industrial nations faced each other on the battlefield. With new weapons unleashed on millions of men, injuries arose that were never seen before and treatment in the initial stages of the war was basic. Almost 25 million soldiers were either killed or wounded and the work of the medical services was vital in the recovery of many injured servicemen.

The British Army's medical services were initially unprepared for this new type of war. Infection prone conditions in the trenches lead to the common case of trench foot and left injured soldiers in danger of tetanus and gangrene. One of the most common injuries were leg wounds usually after being shot and movement to the treatment station often caused ripping of the bones and muscles and a huge loss of blood. In 1914 the mortality rate for these types of injuries was around 80 per cent but with the invention of the Thomas Splint, a metal frame to hold and protect the wounded leg, by 1916 a patients' chances of survival was up to 82 per cent.

In modern wars such as the current conflict in Afghanistan, the dangers to soldiers are not that dissimilar to those that were faced in WW1: bullets and shrapnel. Whilst gunshot wounds are still frequently seen on injured soldiers, explosion-related injuries are now the most common injury. The primary



blast of explosive devices in conflicts these days has the capacity to injure multiple victims simultaneously, causing catastrophic trauma.

A local nurse who has left behind a legacy after her bravery and courage in WW1 was Edith Cavell, a parson's daughter from Swardston in Norfolk. She is celebrated for saving the lives of soldiers in Brussels from both sides as she and her Belgian and French colleagues helped over 200 Allied soldiers escape from German-occupied Belgium.

With an impressive nursing career beginning when she was accepted for training at the Royal London Hospital, Edith received the Maidstone Medal in 1897 for helping to save the lives of 1568 patients during an epidemic of typhoid fever. In 1914 when the war broke out, Edith insisted on leaving her home of Norfolk to return to Belgium and support the nursing team and the college she set up there.

In August 1915, Edith was betrayed and arrested. She openly admitted her role in helping the allied soldiers, was found guilty of 'assisting men to the enemy' by a German military court and shot by firing squad on October 12th 1915, aged 49. Today her body is buried in Norwich Cathedral, which holds a graveside service every October on the anniversary of her death.

Medical developments and nurses like Edith Cavell have contributed a legacy after WW1. The Cavell Nurses' Trust

established in 1917 now supports the UK's 650,000 registered nurses, midwives and healthcare assistants, an inspiring foundation.

Formed in 1983, 254 (Medical) Regiment operates today and is an Army Reserve Medical Regiment with one of their detachments, 160 Squadron, located in the home town of Edith Cavell. 254 specialises in providing the very highest standards of emergency medicine and healthcare for soldiers on operations with the Regimental Headquarters and 163 Support Squadron in Cambridge, along with three more squadrons in East Anglia.

Today reservists at 254 (Medical) Regiment have served on operations in Iraq, Bosnia, Cyprus and Afghanistan alongside their Regular counterparts, providing vital medical care to troops and civilians alike.



FACTS

- October 2015 will be the centenary of Edith Cavell's death.
- Regimental Medical Officers (RMO) were unarmed and usually exposed to shellfire and other hazards on the frontline. 740 British RMOs were killed during WW1.
- In 1917 funds raised by two national newspapers in memory of Edith Cavell were dedicated to the creation of at least six rest homes for nurses around England.



Northern Ireland Cadets honour the fallen of World War 1



It was a trip that brought the history books to life and gave Northern Ireland Cadets an insight into World War 1 in the year of its centenary. A five day tour of the battlefields, graveyards and memorials of Belgium and France made a huge impression on the teenagers - a unique journey into the past to pay their respects and find out more about a conflict which shaped the modern world.



The pilgrimage, planned and organised by Colonel David McCleery OBE, Chairman of the Army Cadet Force Association Northern Ireland, brought together Cadets from the Army Cadet Force, Combined Cadet Force, Sea Cadet Corps and Air Training Corps for a battlefield tour which brought school history lessons to life in the most poignant manner possible.

The five days of 'Exercise Mons 100' started at the sites where the first and last contact between the British and German armies occurred and took in the Somme area with its particular resonance for the Northern Irish Cadets, given the high toll which the Battle of the Somme took on the lives of Ulstermen one hundred years ago. The first day of the Somme offensive was the bloodiest in the history of the British Army. Between 7.30am and midnight over 19,000 men died and more than 60,000 lay injured.

The two minute silence brought a tear to almost every eye as the Cadet's Padre Jack Moore voiced the sombre words of the Exhortation;

'They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning,

We will remember them.'

Many men from Northern Ireland lost their lives during the Somme offensive. The 36th (Ulster) Division, the 16th (Irish) Division and the 1st Battalion of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers were among those units who suffered the heaviest of casualties.

The young people visited many of the battlefields they had learned about in history lessons and paid respects at cemeteries and memorials which commemorate the losses. They themselves also became part of the ongoing memorial at the world famous Menin Gate. In front of 1,200 hushed onlookers, the uniformed Cadets and their Adult Instructors paraded and had the honour of being part of a ceremony which is conducted at 8.00pm every night of every year, with a representative from each Cadet unit, the ACF, ATC, CCF and SCC forming the wreath-laying party.



The trip also touched several of the cadets on a personal level, as they had relatives who had fought in World War 1 and they were able to pay their respects.....

► **Sergeant Jodie Spence**

(pictured right) from Londonderry took on the sombre family duty of paying respects at the memorial at Pozieres. Her relative, **Company Sergeant Major Robert Hamilton**, died a hero's death nearby but his body was never identified and his name is now amongst those of 14,656 soldiers with no known grave listed on the Pozieres Memorial.



▼ A moment of reflection at Mill Road Cemetery in Thiepval for **Cadet Sergeant Dale Atkinson** (below) from Lisneal ACF Detachment as he lays a cross in tribute to the memory of his family member, **Lance Corporal Donald McGowan** of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers - killed in action on July 1st 1916.



▼ **Cadet Lieutenant Rachel Switzer**

took on the sombre family duty of paying respects to the memory of her Great Uncle, **William Holland** at the memorial at Pozieres. William was in his early 20's when he joined the 9th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, known as the 'Tyrone

Volunteers' in late 1916 or early 1917. He became a member of one of the Battalion's Lewis Gun teams and saw much action before he was reported missing on 19 March 1918. His body was never identified and his name is now amongst those of 14,656 soldiers with no known grave listed on the Pozieres Memorial.



To sum up the trip, Colonel McCleery said, "This was a superb experience for both Cadets and Adult Instructors and I think we were all painfully aware during our visit that many of those who sacrificed their lives were not much older than our own Cadets. That

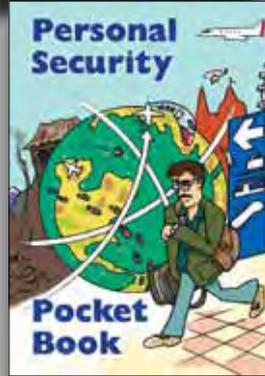
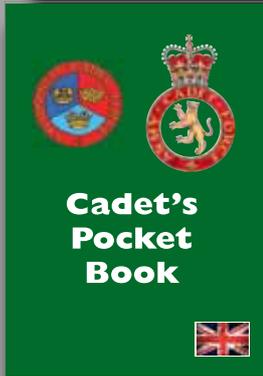
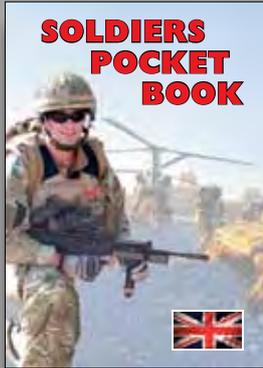
sense of connection gave a genuine poignancy to Exercise Mons 100 and several of our tour party were able to add a further dimension by visiting family graves.

"The programme gave each of us a

very personal understanding of how World War 1 impacted not only on the Somme/Ypres area, but on Europe as a whole. It is a trip which will long live in our memories and an enriching experience which I heartily recommend to other Cadets and their leaders."



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Remembrance

Why the Poppy?



In late 1914, the fields of Northern France and Flanders were once again ripped open as World War One raged through Europe's heart. Once the conflict was over the poppy was one of the only plants to grow on the otherwise barren battlefields.

The poppy has a long association with Remembrance Day. But how did the distinctive red flower become such a potent symbol of our remembrance of the sacrifices made in past wars?

Scarlet corn poppies (popover *rheas*) grow naturally in conditions of disturbed earth throughout Western Europe. The destruction brought by the Napoleonic wars of the early 19th Century transformed bare land into fields of blood red poppies, growing around the bodies of the fallen soldiers.

The significance of the poppy as a lasting memorial symbol to the fallen was realised by the Canadian surgeon John McCrae in his poem *In Flanders Fields*. The poppy came to represent the immeasurable sacrifice made by his comrades and quickly became a lasting memorial to those who died in World War One and later conflicts. It was adopted by The Royal British Legion as the symbol for their Poppy Appeal, in aid of those serving in the British Armed Forces, after its formation in 1921.

THE WHITE POPPY

The White Poppy was first introduced by the Women's Co-operative Guild in 1933 and was intended as a lasting symbol for peace and an end to all wars.

Worn on Armistice Day, now Remembrance Sunday, the White Poppy was produced by the Co-operative Wholesale Society because the Royal British Legion had refused to be associated with its manufacture.

While the White Poppy was never intended to offend the memory of those who died in the Great War, many veterans felt that its significance undermined their contribution and the lasting meaning of the red poppy. Such was the seriousness of this issue that some women lost their jobs in the 1930s for wearing white poppies. The White Poppy Appeal is now run by the Peace Pledge Union.

■ THE CENOTAPH

The Cenotaph in Whitehall, London has played host to the Remembrance Service for the past nine decades. But how did the monument become such an indelible part of the UK's commemoration of those who lost their lives in past conflicts?

Originally intended as a small part of the Peace Day events of July 1919, The Cenotaph was designed and built by Edwin Lutyens at the request of the then Prime Minister Lloyd George.

The Cenotaph - which literally means Empty Tomb in Greek - was initially a wood and plaster construction intended for the first anniversary of the Armistice in 1919. At its unveiling the base of the monument was spontaneously covered in wreaths to the dead and missing from The Great

War. Such was the extent of public enthusiasm for the construction it was decided that The Cenotaph should become a permanent and lasting memorial.

The Cenotaph, made from Portland stone, was unveiled in 1920. The inscription reads simply "The Glorious Dead".

On the Sunday nearest to 11 November at 11am each year, a Remembrance Service is held at the Cenotaph to commemorate British and Commonwealth servicemen and women who died in the two World Wars and later conflicts. The monarch, religious leaders, politicians, representatives of state and the armed and auxiliary forces, gather to pay respect to those who gave their lives defending others.



The service has changed little since it was first introduced in 1921, hymns are sung, prayers are said and a two minute silence is observed. Official wreaths are laid on the steps of The Cenotaph. The ceremony ends with a march past of war veterans; a poignant gesture of respect for their fallen comrades.

Services of Remembrance are held at war memorials and cenotaphs throughout Britain and the Commonwealth nations. While the style and size of these memorials vary considerably from place to place, an exact replica of Lutyens' Cenotaph stands proudly in London, Canada.



TWO MINUTE SILENCE

At 11am on each Remembrance Sunday a two minute silence is observed at war memorials and other public spaces across the UK. The silence is meant as a tribute to those who lost their lives fighting for their country - but what is the significance of that date and time?



On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918 the guns of Europe fell silent. After four years of bitter fighting, The Great War was finally over. The Armistice was signed at 5am in a railway carriage in the Forest of Compiègne, France on November 11, 1918. Six hours later, at 11am, the war ended.

The first Remembrance Day was conducted in 1919 throughout Britain and the Commonwealth. Originally called Armistice Day, it commemorated the end of hostilities the previous year. It came to symbolise the end of the war and provide an opportunity to remember those who had died.

In a letter published in the London Evening News on 8 May 1919, an Australian journalist, Edward George

Honey, had proposed a respectful silence to remember those who had given their lives in the First World War. This was brought to the attention of King George V and on 7 November 1919, the King issued a proclamation which called for a two minute silence:

"All locomotion should cease, so that, in perfect stillness, the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead."

After the end of the Second World War in 1945 Armistice Day became Remembrance Day to include all those who had fallen in the two World Wars and other conflicts.

Since 1919, on the second Sunday of November, otherwise known as Remembrance Sunday, a two minute silence

After four years of bitter fighting, The Great War was finally over.



has been observed at 11am at war memorials, cenotaphs, religious services and shopping centres throughout the country.

The Royal Family, along with leading politicians and religious leaders gather at The Cenotaph in Whitehall, London for a service and all branches of the civilian and military services are represented in ceremonies throughout Britain and the Commonwealth.





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Maidstone:	11 - 22 May	Larkhill:	11 - 22 May
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Aldershot:	27 Apr - 01 May	Tidworth:	15 - 19 Jun

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