



# UP THE LINE"

THE LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE  
BRANCH OF THE WESTERN FRONT  
ASSOCIATION

## November 2011

### CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Good Evening. I do not need to tell you that this month's meeting falls on Armistice Day. Prior to our speaker, we shall be holding a short ceremony in the main hall.

Of course, this day has become embedded into the nation's psyche. It allows us to reflect on the sacrifice made by all those people nearly one hundred years ago. It also enables us to commemorate all subsequent human losses, which is sadly still continuing.

Ann and I attended the recent seminar at Milton Keynes. The speakers Andy Robertshaw and Martin Brown are known to a much wider audience. David Cohen will be talking to us in 2013 and I was able to talk to Jon Cooksey, the editor of 'Stand To'. It was a very enjoyable day.

I was pleased to revisit the Manchester memorials walk. With expert architectural information provided by Phil Hamer, a small, but select, group spent a pleasant autumnal afternoon in the city centre.

The WFA is keen for local branches to plan ahead to the centenary of the start of the Great War. I have made contact with Stockport Council, but their response was one of having it all in hand. I am asking you, as members, to think of any projects we may be able to carry out, not only in terms of 1914, but as an ongoing remembrance throughout the whole period of the conflict.



I am pleased to welcome Terry Dean from the Lancashire North Branch. Terry has been actively involved in bringing home the remains of Sir Gilbert Mackereth KCMG MC. You may recall that Sir Gilbert's grave in Spain had been in danger of being removed by the authorities. Due to a concerted effort, his

ashes were due to be scattered at the Fusiliers' old property in Bury earlier today. This story is covered in the WFA Bulletin (91) just published, see pages 12/13.

Terry is going to talk about the personal stories of various men who commanded battalions during WW1.

Next month sees the final talk of the year and will be followed by the annual hot pot supper.

**Terry Jackson, Chairman.**

## LAST MONTHS TALK

Former soldier Vern Littlely talked to the branch about his experiences in Iraq. Vern is a battlefield guide and his absorbing presentation brought to light the changes that have occurred to the Basra War Cemetery and the Basra Memorial.



It was Vern's personal experiences and his exhaustive collection of photographs that made this lecture one that can only be really appreciated by seeing it in person.

Vern expanded on how, as a soldier, whilst taking interest in both the Cemetery and the Memorial, he had to be careful for the safety of his men.

Unfortunately, the cemetery has suffered substantial damage. Vern showed a very poignant image of an Iraqi interpreter struggling to piece together a shattered headstone so he could read the inscription.

There was a startling effect as a photograph of the Memorial in its original central position in 1929 and in its new position some 32 kilometres away. The whole monument had been dismantled and reassembled, (albeit somewhat haphazardly) in the desert.

It was poignant to reflect that the Indian Troops and Turks had been buried unrecorded in their own cemetery. The nearest comparison one can make is the mass burials of Germans on the Western Front.

The lecture was most moving and in the current circumstances, showed how our current role had changed from almost a century ago. **Ed**





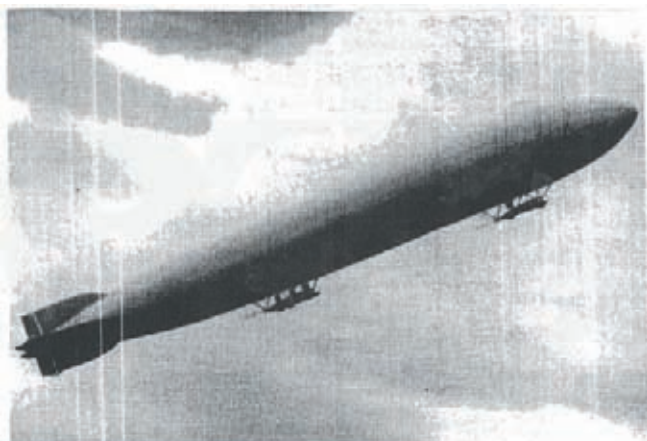
# ZEPPELIN OVER BOLTON



Kurt Frankenburg, Commander of L21

The threat of airship raids on Britain probably emerged as retaliation against raids by the RFC on the Zeppelin sheds at Friedrichshafen in November 1914. The Kaiser allowed attacks to commence, subject to restrictions on potential targets. From January 1915 the English mainland became subject to attack.

An assault aimed at Liverpool on 31st. January 1916, which in fact hit Birmingham, was used to justify more attacks. One of the three airships was L21. With a new commander, Kurt Frankenburg, it set off on 25th. September 1916 from Nordholz. It was then one of six.



L21 in flight, from a painting by D O Cooper

L21 crossed the coast at Sutton-on-Sea near Skegness. Its route took it past Lincoln, Sheffield and Huddersfield. Over Bacup at 11.55pm it idled in order to check its position. In a series of attacks, bombs were dropped on Newchurch, Rawtenstall, Holcombe, Ramsbottom and Greenmount, with no loss of life except for a few chickens.

L21 headed towards industrial Bolton, hitting a park in Astley Bridge. It attacked the mills in Halliwell, but only succeeded in dropping bombs onto streets. Some minor damage was caused as it flew on. It subsequently circled the town centre in an anti-clockwise direction. It passed Queens Park and the large gasometers. As it continued, its incendiaries set fire to the Corporation Yard Stables at Wellington Street and a nearby house. Here the Fire Brigade soon extinguished the blaze.

The next salvo of five bombs caused the most fatalities and destruction of the night. Six houses, 58-66 Kirk Street, suffered the worst damage and it was here that all the thirteen fatalities occurred.

The damage to houses was substantial and survivors were fed and housed in Flash Street Special School. The airship then continued to circle the town dropping bombs and incendiaries causing some damage to mills and factories. It then aimed a bomb at the Hick Hargreaves Soho Iron Works, then producing munitions. It missed and passed through the roof of Trinity Church. Further damage was caused to a local solicitors and a fruit warehouse before its last bomb was dropped on Mealhouse Lane. L21 left



The Bolton raid. Bomb damage to the rear of houses in Kirk Street.

Bolton at heading eastwards, finally dropping a bomb near Bolton Abbey, Skipton. It left the mainland near Whitby just after 3am.

The raid of L21 was subsequently revenged on 28th. November 1916 when it was shot down off Lowestoft. (There is some question as to which of the pilots, Flt-Lts Cadbury, Fane, or Pulling, fired the fatal rounds).

Thanks to Phil Hamer for this account. Phil wishes to credit Bolton Museum, Bolton Local History Library and 'Zeppelin over Lancashire' by Peter J. C. Smith. Ed.



The Bolton raid. The southern end of Kirk Street, looking towards Derby Street, showing the complete destruction of Nos. 58 to 66.



# EDALE MEMORIAL

Having a free day, I decided to walk Kinder Edge, something I had not done for a long time. On a brisk autumn morning, I negotiated Williams Clough which was in spate. After chatting to four Duke of Edinburgh Award students on their way to Crowden, the view from the edge reminded me of that from Vimy Ridge.

An invigorating stroll to Kinder Downfall was only interrupted by a low flying helicopter with a German registration. I later discovered it was helping move limestone on the fells, as part of a water management project.

After skipping down the aptly named Jacob's ladder, I arrived in Edale Village. With some time to wait for my train, I visited the parish church and noticed a memorial. On it are inscribed the names of parishioners who fell in both World Wars. The inscriptions also included their units, so I decided to research them.



The memorial is headed by two brothers, Edward Frederick and Archibald Dimock, sons of Robert and Phillipa Montagu-Brown who lived at the Old Parsonage, Edale. Robert was a solicitor in Sheffield.

Edward was 2nd. Lt, 1st Bn. Hertfordshires and died of wounds on 8th. January 1918, aged 34. He was

married to Constance of 'Kentons', Tilehurst, Reading. He is buried in Duhallows ADS, Boezing.

Archibald was Captain in the King's Own Royal Lancashires. He died on 23rd. October 1916 age 22. He is remembered on Thiepval Memorial.

Major Thomas Lawrence Jowitt was a career soldier. He served in 5Bn. Highland Light Infantry. Son of Albert and Caroline of Sheffield, he was killed aged 46 on 17th. July 1915. Strangely the battalion history for Gallipoli does not mention him on that date. He was married to Clara Muriel Lockwood Marsh (formerly Jowitt) of Hockering Gate, Woking. (Did she remarry?). He is buried in East Murdos, Lemnos.



Corporal George Alfred Lowe served with 10 Bn. King's Own Yorkshire L I He died 7th. March 1919, aged 27. He was the son of Annie of Barber Booth, Edale and husband of Winifred Lowe of the village. He is buried in the church graveyard with a CWGC headstone

Lance Cpl Stephen Edward Lowe. 2Bn. Manchester Regiment Age 34, he was KIA 10th. July 1916 (Thiepval). He is the brother of George Alfred.

Guardsman Fred Marrison served in 3Bn Grenadier Guards. Son of Samuel and Frances Hannah, Barber Booth, he died 18th. December 1919 aged 27. He is buried in Cologne Southern Cemetery.

Pte W Robins, 2nd Bn. Lancashire Fusiliers. He died on 23rd. October 1916, age unknown. (Thiepval)

Pte C Robinson, 2nd Bn. Royal Scots. He was KIA 26th. September 1917, age unknown (Thiepval)

Pte Robert Ernest Robinson, 8 Bn. North Staffordshires. He died 18th. November 1916. He was the son of Mrs A Robinson, 17 Hope Road, Sheffield. (Thiepval) It is stated that his brother Charles also fell, but there are no further details to link him to the above.



Major Jowitt is 6th from left, middle row.



Captain Wood on left of photo. Driver Shirt is cross headstone set back at right. Cpl. Lowe is CWGC headstone at rear near wall and tree.

Pte Thomas Henry Rowbottom 1Bn Border Regiment, he died age 26, 21st. November 1917. He was the son of Thomas and Alice, Rose Cottage, Edale. He is buried in Fins New British Cemetery, Sorel-le-Grand.

Willis Phillips Shirt, Driver, ASC 187 HTC 22 Divisional Train. Died age 23 18th. July 1915. He was the son of George William and Helen, 'The Lee', Edale. Buried in the churchyard, with a stone cross headstone.

Pte Leslie John Smith. 3Bn Grenadier Guards, KIA between 14th-17th September 1916. Age unknown. Buried in Guards Cemetery, Les Boeufs.

Captain Samuel Watts. 2Bn Manchester Regiment. (Attached 96TM Battery). He died age 25, 28th. October 1918. Born in Manchester, he was the son of Samuel and Mary of Victoria Park and Edale House. Educated at Manchester Grammar and Corpus Christi, Oxford, he is buried in the family vault at the Church of the Upper Room Congregational Church Cemetery, Didsbury Road, Stockport.

There is one WW2 name. Flight Sgt Engineer Alan Tym. Aged 20. He died 12th March 1944. One of the crew of a Short Stirling, all buried at Nujac-sur-Mer, France. He was the son of Arthur and Martha, of Edale. The aircraft, one of four had been sent to lay mines off the French coast. Three others completed the mission, but the fourth, piloted by Flt Sgt Keith Allen RAAF, crashed in poor weather near Nujac.

There is one soldier from the Great War also buried at Edale, whose name is not on the church memorial. He is Captain Wilfred Wood, 118 Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, Died 15th. March 1919. Inside the church is a small plaque indicating that his mother and father, Frederick

and Lillie were from Edale. Wilfred had been gassed at St. Quentin on 21st. March 1918 and subsequently died at Manchester Military Hospital. His headstone also states that his wife Gertrude died 26th. February 1919 is interred at St. Mark's Church in Worsley.

Inside the church is also a roll of honour whereby local men were encouraged to sign their name to show they had enlisted. It would be interesting to spend more time looking at the names.

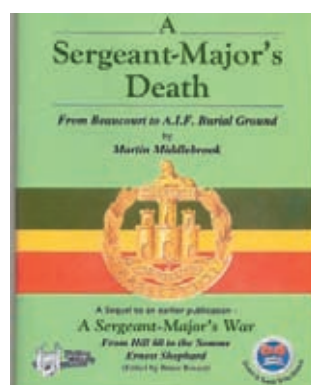
The church is set with a stunning backdrop of the fells. *Ed.*



*\*Since writing the article further information from local sources has come to light. I shall research them further for the next issue of UTL.*

*Terry Jackson*

### MARTIN MIDDLEBROOK – BOOK FOR POPPY APPEAL



Martin has sent details of this new publication. It has been published with the help of the Dorsetshire Regiment Museum and & South Wilts WFA. All proceeds will go to the RBL Poppy Appeal. Copies can be obtained from Martin Middlebrook, 10 Twynning Manor, Tewkesbury GL20 6DB. £6.00 inc P&P.

### A Sergeant-Major's Death From Beaucourt to A.I.F. Burial Ground

After a long period of service as a sergeant-major in the 1st Battalion of the Dorsetshire Regiment, Ernest Shephard was commissioned and posted to another battalion of the regiment. Almost immediately, in January 1917, he had to lead a company in an attack in which it became isolated and surrounded. Shephard and thirty nine of his men were killed; most of the remainder became prisoners.

The remains of a few of the dead were not discovered until more than eight years later. Ernest Shephard, and those few others who were found, were then reburied in a British cemetery seven miles away. The remainder possibly still lie under a field just outside a village on the Somme battlefield.

Not only is this told in detail, but the author has added two further subjects which are seemingly only of a peripheral connection to the main story but contain much new material for those interested in the minutiae of the Western Front.

He describes the unusual background of the cemetery in which Shephard was buried and he answers the question of why his battalion, from a southern county, was serving in a division of otherwise completely northern infantry. So, this book is really three stories under one title.

### NEXT ISSUE

Copy, Word docs, pictures, jpegs, cuttings etc. by 25th November please to the Editor, Terry Jackson, 4 Scalot Close, New Mills, SK22 3BX.

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Email: jackson.terence1@sky.com

**Chairman:** Terry Jackson MA BA (Hons) MRICS

**Secretary:** Position Available/Volunteer needed

**Venue:** The Armoury (TA Centre),

Greek Street, Stockport, SK3 8AX.

Meeting on the second friday of every month. 7.30 for 8.00pm.



1914-1918  
REMEMBERING

### Lancs. & Cheshire Branch Diary

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|-----------|--|
| Dec. 9th  | PETER SIMKINS -<br>Retribution & Redemption 35th<br>(Bantam Div) |
| Jan. 13th | JIM BEACH, Sir Cuthbert Hedlam<br>& the First World War          |
| Feb. 10th | Peter Hart, Butte de Warlencourt,<br>November 1916               |