

THE WAR GRAVES PHOTOGRAPHIC PROJECT

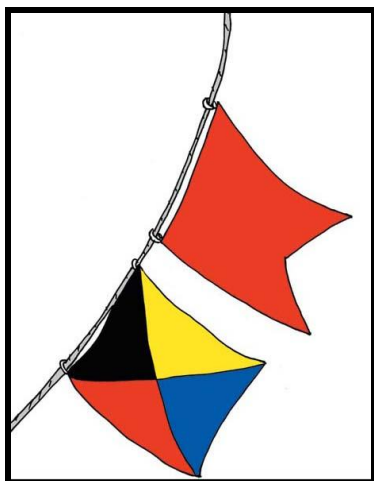


In Association
with the CWGC



News from the Front line

July 2013



Bravo Zulu is a Naval signal, normally hoisted to a yardarm in the form of two flags as illustrated on the left. When seen it relays the signal "Well Done" and was normally used after a Naval engagement (battle as opposed to pre-nuptials, although nowadays probably in the latter as well).

During my time in the Senior Service it was more commonly sent via a signal to congratulate anyone that had achieved some recognition for doing something outstanding (perhaps I never got one?) but I think that now is the time to award a 'BZ' to everyone that has been involved in The War Graves Photographic Project because our work has now had the ultimate recognition by the President of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent.

The full Commendation is reproduced on page two of this newsletter which highlights what we have achieved as an organisation in supporting the work and aims of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

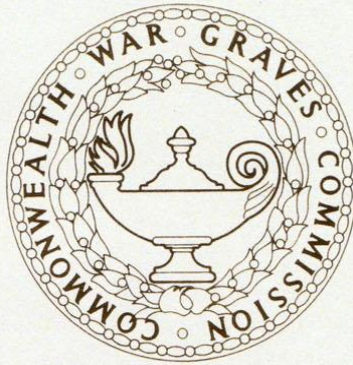
Sandra and I were extremely privileged to be invited to St James Palace in London on May 23rd to receive the award from The Duke of Kent accompanied by Nigel Haines of the CWGC.

It was a proud moment for us all having taken the project, supported by our volunteer network, from the early days to what it is now with a substantial archive of over 1.75 million images of war graves and memorials. All in time for the 100th anniversary of WW1 commencing next year.

If the tradition was still upheld I'd signal "Splice the mainbrace". Well done.

Steve Rogers





COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION
PRESIDENT'S COMMENDATION

The War Graves Photographic Project volunteers

The War Graves Photographic Project is hereby awarded the President's Commendation for an outstanding contribution to the work and aims of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The award will be presented to Mr Steve Rogers, project Co-ordinator, on behalf of all volunteers.

The Project's volunteers have proactively taken photographs of over 1.5 million graves and memorial inscriptions in the Commission's care and continue to provide thousands of these photographs to members of the public each year many of them next-of-kin unable to travel to visit the grave or memorial in person.

Images have also been provided to the Commission for use on our website and in verifying records against the commemoration in situ. They have been instrumental in improving the Commission's services to the public.

The Project's work has become a vital component of our on-going efforts to serve the public and to commemorate the fallen.

*For an outstanding, practical contribution to the work of the Commission, the President's Commendation is awarded to
The War Graves Photographic Project volunteers.*

ANZAC by name ANZAC by Nature

Since the last newsletter which went out at the beginning of April we have transited through ANZAC day on the 25th April when our Commonwealth friends from Down Under commemorate their war dead. It is good to hear that like our November 11th the day is becoming more popular over the years thus ensuring that the memories of our war dead are not forgotten.

April is always busy for us in the run up to ANZAC Day and a few days after fulfilling requests to those that are thinking of their relations that have paid the ultimate sacrifice. In the case of Gary Pinder, whose uncle is buried in Tobruk, his family must have been so proud of the association of Australian and New Zealand Forces that they named his uncle ANZAC Joseph Pinder.

ANZAC JOSEPH PINDER



Due to our popularity in the southern hemisphere we have been inundated with articles from that part of the world so this particular issue of the newsletter is dedicated to the ANZAC Forces.

Mates in Tobruk: Humanity in the Desert - by Tony and Sue Wege

During our searches of cemeteries here in South Australia for TWGPP we, like most volunteers, find fascinating hints as to stories untold. We found such an untold story on the headstone of a soldier buried in the Ceduna cemetery, South Australia.

Ceduna, a town of about 4000 people is situated on the coast at the eastern end of the Great Australian Bight, some 850 kilometres west of Adelaide. It is quite a remote place, the last town of any size until Norseman in Western Australia is reached, another 1200 kilometres further west across the enormous empty expanse of the Nullarbor Plain.



'During a battle at Tobruk on 3rd August 1941 This soldier saved my life. RIP- Art Trewartha'

The cemetery at Ceduna is quite an interesting place for TWGPP field workers. There are four graves of RAAF airmen killed in January 1942 when their Hudson light bomber crashed on take off from the local airstrip. We also found one soldier who survived the horrors of being a Japanese PoW only to die still a young man in 1949 from the effects of that experience. We found another tragic death in the form of a RAAF bomber pilot who flew Lancasters with 156 Squadron RAF over Europe. He won the DFC and returned home to Ceduna at war's end only to die of disease in March 1946 at just 24 years of age. Then we came across this slowly weathering headstone.

What moved Art Trewartha to affix his own private recognition to the headstone of his mate Fred Yendall 48 years after the incident? What were the circumstances of the incident?

Fred Yendall was one of four brothers from the Ceduna district of South Australia to volunteer to join the Australian Army and to serve overseas in WW2. All were sent to the South Australian raised 2/43rd Battalion and all four were shipped overseas in 1940. They found themselves inside the fortress port of Tobruk, Libya in August 1941. Also there with him in the same 2/43rd Battalion was fellow Ceduna soldier, Sydney Arthur (Art) Trewartha. At this time, August 1941, Tobruk was surrounded by German and Italian forces. The defending garrison at that time comprised 25,000 soldiers from Australia, Britain and India. They included Pte Fred Yendall and Pte Arthur (Art) Trewartha from far away Ceduna South Australia.

On the evening of 2nd August 1941, a significant attack was launched by the 2/43rd Bn in the south west sector of the perimeter to try to wrest away from the Germans several defensive positions. A hard fought battle broke out which went all night. During this fighting, "B" Company of the 2/43rd Bn including Fred and Art, attacked a German machine gun post called "R7". During the fighting Art Trewartha took several hits to his body and fell, bleeding profusely, his left leg broken by shrapnel. He couldn't move. His mate Fred Yendall crawled across to him and using what dressings he had managed to staunch any blood loss. All this time the pair were under constant machine gun and mortar fire. Fred managed to drag then carry Art into dead ground, hump him across his own back then, somehow without either of them being hit, managed to get to waiting ambulances and eventually to hospital.

The end of this battle was a little different. As dawn broke, the Germans in R7 still held out. Around it, dozens of dead and wounded German and Australian soldiers lay on the desert sands. The 2/43rd Bn "B" Company suffered 80% casualties in this attack - killed, captured and wounded. Amongst the dead were two Ceduna soldiers, Art's brother in law Pte L N Kloeden and a mate, Pte M J Denton. It was carnage. Then unbelievably, a wonderful thing happened.

As the sun rose and daylight began flooding the desert in a golden haze, both Australian and German medical officers around R7 put up the Red Cross flag. Both sides respected it – the shooting ceased immediately. Medical officers and ambulances from both German and Australian then emerged from their foxholes and began moving amongst both sides' dead and wounded who were mixed in all together so ferocious was the fighting. Both sides medical officers did what they had to do. The wounded were given first aid by German and Australian doctors regardless of what side the man was on and his side's stretcher bearers were allowed safe passage to take them back to either German or Australian lines for treatment. Similarly the dead were recovered by either side and sent to their respective trench lines for later burial. This truce which lasted five hours enabled a badly wounded Art Trewartha to be brought back by ambulance to his battalion's aid post, free of any enemy gunfire, later to be evacuated to Tobruk then on the RN destroyer *HMS Hotspur* to arrive at Alexandria and the hospitals there.

Art fully recovered from his wounds after a long hospital stay and both men returned to Australia in March 1943 with the Australian 9th Division of which the 2/43rd Battalion was part. They went on to fight other battles with the 2/43rd in New Guinea and both miraculously survived fighting a new enemy. But a simple metal plate affixed to a headstone in a remote South Australian cemetery hints at a silent story not only of unselfish mateship under terrible conditions, but also amid the hell of battle, of compassion and chivalry from soldiers both German and Australian. These soldiers, regardless of their side, were when it is all said and done, simply good people doing with as much humanity as could be allowed under the horrific circumstances, good things.

Forty eight years after this incident on the sands of the desert at Tobruk, Art Trewartha attached a simple metal plate to the concrete of the headstone of his mate, Fred Yendall, at the Ceduna cemetery. A simple enough gesture but it reflects the bond of mateship between two men honed on the field of battle that went from that terrible day in August 1941, through the decades until the time came for Fred to leave Art and pass into the world beyond.

Cemetery Update – By Steve Rogers

I have been asked to give a cemetery update in this Newsletter which is probably easier to do by those yet to complete than those completed.

We still need to capture cemeteries in the following countries:

Lebanon : Beirut – Tripoli – Sidon

Israel: Gaza – Dier El Belah

Pakistan: Karachi

Papua New Guinea: Lae – Rabaul

Indonesia: Ambon

Belize: Belize City –Fort George

Iraq: All sites once re-erected

African continent – various in Botswana, Somalia, Algeria, Cameroon, South Africa, Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Of course, revisits to update the archive are an ongoing process throughout the world and proving popular with new volunteers that want to get involved with the project.

The re-engraving process by the CWGC is continuing in France and Belgium as a pre-requisite to the forthcoming 100th anniversary. A number of cemeteries have been started but some of the larger ones like Etaples and Lijssenthoek will be done over the four year period.

At present we await a new programme of re-engraving to co-ordinate this so that revisits are not wasted effort.



Original image and after a revisit



CWGC Open Day – Brookwood Cemetery – Surrey

Save the Date

Saturday 13th July 2013, 10am - 4pm



Brookwood Military Cemetery



Come and see how the Commonwealth War Graves Commission remembers the 5,000 servicemen and women buried and commemorated in the UK's largest Commonwealth war cemetery. Free Entry and refreshments

Where to find us :
Brookwood Military Cemetery, Dawney Hill, Pirbright, Working, Surrey GU24 OJB

The main entrance to the cemetery is clearly signposted on the A324 from the village of Pirbright. There is a direct train service from Waterloo to Brookwood Station from which there is an entrance to the cemetery

Albert George Powley & Arnold Frederick Crawshaw Lijssenthoek Cemetery – By Shirley Powley

In 2002 when my son Bill Powley visited the Cemetery at Lijssenthoek in Belgium, he was looking at the graves of two soldiers who lay side by side. Bill had a blood link to both of them - Albert George Powley who died in January 1919 and Arnold F Crawshaw who died in February 1919. It is not known if Albert and Arnold knew each other, however they both died as a result the war.

My great uncle Arnold Crawshaw (born in Sheffield) is buried at Ljissenthoek in Belgium. I visited there in 1996 and again in 2002 - the first time on my birthday, and I always feel my mother is especially near then. I only had the one afternoon left and I had had a really difficult time finding out where the cemetery was. However, it all fell into place - and I was driven out there from a place called Poperinge.

When we arrived we located Uncle Arnold's grave. His regiment was the Yorks and Lancs. Then I saw that he was buried beside an A. Powley of the Norfolk Regiment.

I was really moved by this, and wondered if there was any connection with my husband's Powleys. I didn't ever come across any mention of him in the family tree, so I didn't do any extra searching.

When I got home a month or so later, I decided - "who will I look for tonight?"

I clicked on to my Norfolk file and found an old 2004 email from a man looking for a Powley/Green connection in Holme Hale in the Necton region of Norfolk. I had kept it for future reference I suppose in case I ever found a connection with those names.



I answered the Email, hoping he was still at the same address. He was, and in one of his emails following, he said that he was trying to link up a Canadian branch as well, and that a Canadian soldier, James William Powley, (whose photo appears on a Canadian war casualty site) was very like his wife's grandfather - **Albert George Powley** of Norfolk) who had also died and was buried in Belgium.

James William Powley 19 Oct 1844 – 3 Sep 1916 was killed near Monquet Farm, La Boisselle, Somme Region of France from injuries received on the battlefield. His body was not recovered.

I could almost feel the hairs on the back of my neck prickling. I wrote back straight away and asked if Albert George Powley was buried at Ljissenthoek ---and, of course, he was!!

So that means that when my son visited Lijssenthoek in 2000 he was looking at the side-by-side graves of two soldiers - and he had the same blood in his veins as both of them - but from different sides of the family. They may have known one another, or not - they both died after the war - Albert George Powley in January, 1919, and my uncle in the February.

My eldest child was born in December, 1956, so it took almost 38 years for someone to be born who was related to both these young men.

Albert George Powley died in January 1919 an Army Field Hospital of burns received during a fire at 112 Royal Garrison Heavy Battery, RGA Barracks near Ypres. A Court of Enquiry was held and it was found that Albert was carrying out his duties at the time of the fire. He died at an Army Field Hospital age 32.

Arnold Frederick Crawshaw died in Hospital on 11th February 1919 from wounds received in action aged 30.

Revisit to The National Memorial Arboretum



Back in 2009 TWGPP had a day out at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire to meet volunteers and brief on progress of the Project. It is hoped to conduct a similar day in 2014 to coincide with the start of the 100th anniversary commemorations and as the arboretum is constantly changing it would be worth a revisit.

It is proposed we conduct this visit on 5th July 2014 but to make it feasible and for Pauline to start making preparations we would like to know potential numbers that might be interested in attending. If you are interested could you please let Pauline know on pauline@twgpp.org by Friday 19th July.

Only a Private – George Robert Aitken – By Patricia Bond (great niece)

Whilst researching my indigenous great grandmother “Princess Carlo” I discovered that she was formally from the Eidsvold area but was removed to “Barambah” in 1910 now known as Cherbourg, Queensland, Australia. Prior to my grandmother’s removal she had eight children; George was one of three boys and five girls.

During my research I had contacted the Eidsvold Council seeking information of the “Carlo” family and was directed to a man called “Jim Stewart” who was part of a group of people who formed the Eidsvold and District Historical Society collecting history of the World War 1 Soldiers.

Jim had a list of soldiers from the area and one in particular had the name “George Robert Aitken” on his personal history card his mother’s name being “Princess Carlo”. I told Jim I knew of “Princess Carlo” and that she was my great grandmother. This is how it all began; I came upon my lost great uncle George, brother to my grandmother Nellie Williams nee Carlo.

I talked about this at length with Jim and found that George’s name was not on the Honour Board in Eidsvold and at the time I gave Jim permission to access my Great Uncle’s records from Veterans Affairs. Private George Aitken was shown on the Roll of Honour in Canberra as being killed in Action on the 19th October 1917 but the Queensland Death Register did not record his death until the beginning of 1922, over four years after he was killed.

Following months of research and evidence Jim arranged a meeting between me and my extended family. We came to a conclusion that the evidence gathered by both Jim and myself confirmed “George Robert Aitken” was definitely the son of Princess Carlo and had been adopted by the Hampson family (white Catholics) in Eidsvold.

When he was a teen George went droving with his brother, Dennis Hampson, the white biological child of the family who was five years older. They ended up in Cloncurry and enlisted there in April 1916. George Robert Aitken was a mixed race Aborigine and therefore not eligible to sign up for the Army. However, since he was of very light skin colour and obviously told no-one about his heritage he was allowed to enlist at the same time as Dennis.

Both men joined the 52nd battalion (later 47th) and sailed from Brisbane on 19th September 1916 and arrived in Plymouth, England on 19th December.

George’s army records indicate that he proceeded overseas to France on 2nd July 1917, marched in 3rd July 1917, taken on strength 22nd July 1917. Killed in action Belgium 19th October 1917. This was six days after Dennis Hampson was taken Prisoner of war. George was confirmed Killed in action by the Australian Army HQ at Melbourne on 20th May 1918 after his adoptive mother Lily Hampson made contact with the offices after a request for information about the blood relatives of George.

George's battlefield Will addressed to his brother Dennis reads as follows:

" Just a little story of our friendship. Well Den I can safely say that we are only true mates there are in the world. That;s a big word to say. Well if I get knocked you can have anything you can find on me that is any use to you, and my allotted money is to be left to Mrs J Hampson. Show this to one of the heads, Don't forget. Signed Only a Private GR Aitken No 2376

This will is completed by the following statement:

Goodbye old man and good luck to you wishing you all sort of luck to pull through this war. We have been the very best of mates and the only thing I wish is that we meet over the other side of the world if there's such a place. I don't think I will ever forget you Den and I will think of you when I am dead. I never used to say much to you when we used to knock about together. I was very funny like that . any body that like me never say much to. Goodbye old man, good luck"

George Aitken – Commemorated on Menin Gate



In 2006 following conversations and meetings, both families agreed to hold a memorial service for both George and their great uncle Dennis Hampson, George's adopted brother. Following the Anzac march we met on the 25th April 2006 Anzac Day Memorial Eidsvold Shire Hall. We then proceeded to Rawbelle Station North of Monto to the Hampson family property. On arrival at the property the large group of family members met to gather for a memorial service where both Dennis and George were raised. On the property we were shown the graves of both Dennis Hampson and his mother Mrs Hampson. Both graves have head stones and are both fenced in with a small gate. Both families brought photos of the two soldiers, Dennis and George, and had placed the photos in glass frames on Dennis's head stone before proceeding to the gathering about 20 metres away under a huge oak tree.

The service commenced with "Jim Stewart's" introduction and said he would always remember this Anzac Day as a very special day, and it certainly was an emotional release for him to tell the story and have members of both families present. Jim said he felt the spirit of the two soldiers as he spoke to the families and the playing of the Last Post out on country was a magical moment.

Following Jim's speech he introduced me and asked me to come forward to acknowledge my Great Uncle, his adopted brother and our families both white and black. This day was such a beautiful day the sun was warm, the air was still, there was no breeze or wind, it was just silence. Everyone was poised as I spoke. During my acknowledgement a strange thing occurred, two small wurley winds came from the ground less than ten feet from the left of me. They were both short and swiveled around each other for maybe up to a minute, both wurley winds continued to move towards the grave sites situated just behind me. Both moved together to the gate of Dennis's grave site, they circled as they moved in through the white gate and one moved around the head stone to one side of Dennis's grave and the other stayed opposite the other. As this occurred everyone in the group was startled, as I turned I could see what was happening, both photo's of the two soldiers' slammed very heavily down on Dennis's head stone (a very loud bang) and the moment was silent, one wurley wind began to move back out through the gate and the other followed around the head stone and back out through the gate, they seem to be following each other. Both wurley winds continued back to the site where they began, circled for a moment before joining as one and proceeded up into the air before disappearing into the sky. Following this occurrence the group proceeded to the grave site of Dennis where we picked up the photos of both soldiers to place them up again. Neither frame, glass nor photo was damaged from the loud bang.

P.S. I am not superstitious but I believe at this moment I felt the spirit of both soldier's presence and so did our families. I also felt the spirit of my great uncle returned to celebrate the unity of both his families.

Captain PV Tanner RFC



We are often asked at TWGPP that why, when given so much evidence of a burial site, there are still so many names on memorials commemorating those who have no known grave. An example was forwarded to us recently enquiring if there was a grave on a spot where Captain PV Turner of the RFC crashed?

Missing

With reference to you letter of the 17th April 1919 addressed to the Air Ministry concerning Captain PV Turner 79th Squadron Royal Flying Corps, I am directed to inform you that information has been received at the Royal Air Force Headquarters, France that the remains of a machine, the type and number of which cannot be identified, have been found at a place the reference of which on the map is "sheet 62.D.F.190.6.4". This would be about 21 Miles south west of Albert.

The machine has an unmarked grave near it and on the grave under a shell case was found a letter which, judging by the contents, was addressed to Captain PV Tanner 79th Squadron. It has not been definitely established that Captain Tanner is buried in this grave but details have been forwarded to the Director General of Graves Registration and Enquiries in France with a view of Graves Registration to identifying the remains when exhumation takes place.

I am to state that whilst the finding of this grave cannot at present be definitely accepted as evidence of the death of Captain Tanner, yet it is feared that, in view of the fact that no news of him has been received since he was reported missing on 27th March that it will ultimately prove to be so....

One can only guess that Captain Tanner was either never exhumed or his identification was never confirmed albeit a letter addressed to him which presumably fell from his flying jacket was found at the site as his name remains on Arras Flying services memorial as one with no known grave.

Sergeant Robert Roberts M.M. – Brian Walker

This soldier enlisted in the A.I.F. 8 Field Ambulance on the 9th April 1915. He was born in the Parish of Goodooga near the town of Brewarrina, N.S.W., stated his age as 25 and occupation shearer. He was 5 feet 9 and three quarter inches in height, complexion fair, hair brown, and eyes described as a 'good blue'. He had a tattoo mark on his left forearm. He was married.

For his gallantry in the field during May 1917, the following recommendation was made:

Sgt. Robert Roberts 6603, 8th Australian Field Ambulance, 1st A.N.Z.A.C. Corps, 5th Australian Division
Date of recommendation 19.5.1917 by Colonel W.W. Hearne

At 1a.m. near Bullecourt on the 14th May a man was lying wounded in the German Barrage of H.E. and gas – Sgt Roberts at once got together and led a squad of three men through the barrage and assisted in carrying the patient into a place of safety thereby saving the man's life at the risk of his own, as the man's gas helmet was destroyed. Throughout the night of the 14/15th May this N.C.O., regardless of his own safety, was untiring in his efforts to stimulate the stretcher bearers under him in the execution of their duty, thereby materially assisting the evacuation of the wounded from a particularly dangerous zone.

He showed pluck, coolness and initiative of a high order, this N.C.O. was Mentioned in Despatches 8.12.16. Awarded M.M. London Gazette 18/7/1917

On the 16th October 1917 Roberts was gassed near Ypres. He was moved to the Casualty Clearing Station and then to the Ambulance Train. The next day he was transferred to the 53rd General Hospital, Boulogne and died on the 24th October, 1917.

Roberts SN6603, A.I.F. 8th Field Ambulance, Died of wounds 24/10/1917, Gas shell septicaemia, cardiac failure.

Statement from the O.C. No. 53 General Hospital

Sergeant Roberts was admitted to this hospital on 17/10/1917 suffering from the effects of Mustard Gas Poisoning. On admission he was suffering from severe bronchitis, with a quick and feeble pulse. There were severe wounds on the arms, legs, back, hips and groins, and to a lesser extent on the face and chest. His eyes were also very markedly affected. A note sent with him showed at the Casualty Clearing Station vomiting had been severe.

For the first five days the condition of the patient gave rise to no undue anxiety but on the sixth day his respiration became more hurried and his pulse irregular and feeble. There were no fresh signs of chest trouble. In spite of stimulation the pulse became worse and he died on the 24th October 1917 of cardiac failure, the primary cause being septic absorption from the large surfaces affected by burns. He was buried in Wimereux Cemetery which is about a mile from this Hospital. The number of his grave is 2252 and the name of the officiating Clergyman is R.W.W. Traill.

The circumstances of his wounding by gas were unusual and tragic.

The following is a statement made by Lance Corporal L. Townsend, 6753, 8th Field Ambulance: *Informant knew Roberts. About 16th October 1917 the 8th Field Ambulance was working near the Hooge Crater, east of Ypres. At nightfall Roberts picked up an old overcoat and put it over him for warmth. It turned out that this overcoat had been saturated with gas, and next morning Roberts was taken to the Casualty Clearing Station in an unconscious condition. Informant did not see him after his removal. Roberts appeared to be about 30 years of age, medium height and build, fair complexion.*

His kit was returned to his wife Margaret some time later in 1918: 2 Discs, wallet, letters, photos, notebook, 3 safety razors, 6 razors, metal cigarette case, small box, whistle and lanyard, 12 coins, one mark note, M.M. ribbon. During W.W.I a large number of men enlisted in the A.I.F. under assumed names, for reasons mainly known only to them. Robert Roberts was an alias. His real name, his birth name, was Austin Sylvester Lawrence. In April 1918 his wife wrote the following letter to the Army authorities.

Dear Sir

Could you give me any information regarding the property of my late husband who enlisted under the assumed name of Roberts and was killed in France on the 24th of October 1917. I would also like to know if the medal that he was awarded with would be forwarded on to me if you could let me have all particulars I would be very grateful.

The reason that he went away under an assumed name is because he had enlisted in 1915 and was in the 13th Battalion and whether he deserted or not, I don't know but when he enlisted the second time he took my maiden name and told me to still take that name. I will put his name that he enlisted under also his number so that there can be no mistakes.

I am yours truly

Margaret A Lawrence

R.I.P. Austin Sylvester Lawrence alias Robert Roberts.



After a bit of an investigation

We recently received a request for a photograph of a headstone from John Skakel in Canada:

"We have a web site for a project involved with making the grave sites of Chatham-Kent (Ontario) safe again, along with documenting them and saving all of that information photographically etc. In some ways it is very much like you are doing except in our case we have to find a lot of the buried monuments, and repair them and bring all back to life again, etc. It is often not easy work.

We would like to include a photograph of the John Christopher Weatherhouse headstone on to our web site. The one that you have posted now on your web site.



What we can give you is the location of a photograph of the monument in the shop of an old stone carver in England(?) carving that monument. It is only partly finished, but far enough along that we are pretty certain that is the monument that it is. We have that photograph of the monument being carved in the carver's shop posted now, and would like to have a photograph of it sitting there today. We have only just found out via the Imperial War Museum in England who the monument was for even though the photograph is so very many years old!

From IWM - "I have examined the photograph under a magnifying glass and I am quite certain that the engraver has not yet inscribed the name onto the stone. In spite of this I think I may have found out whom the grave stone belongs to. The references at the bottom of the marker provides information specific to the burial place of every individual and this can be cross referenced with the CWGC database:

I believe the markings at the bottom of the headstone say P3 RA C20 DOULCCE No.191. This is Plot 3, Row A, Column 20 in Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No. 1. No.191. Using the cemetery locator on the CWGC website and sorting by grave plot it has been possible to trace P3 RA C20 to Private John Christopher Weatherhead, Canadian Army Medical Corps Further information about Weatherhead can be found on line. I hope this has provided you with some useful information."

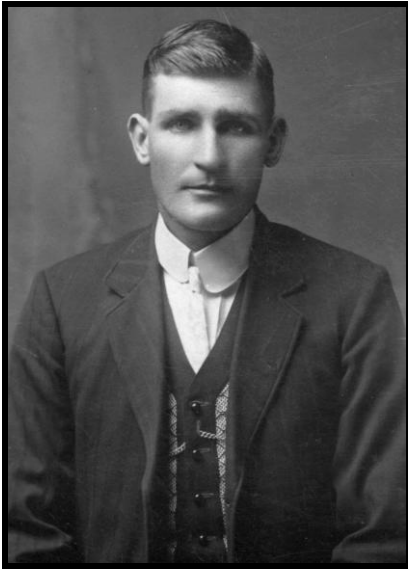
[Steve- given the fact that the photograph showed an engraver I guessed that the CWGC would hold an original copy so contacted them who kindly provided the attached above to be included in this article].



Bapaume Booby Trapped – Michael Hollyman

Before the Germans withdrew from Bapaume in France during WW1 they placed a hidden bomb in the Town Hall in the hope that it would be used as a headquarters by the advancing allied soldiers. Instead the building was used as a shelter for the troops and clerks of the 13th Light horse.

On the Western Front, Bapaume was a coveted position between the two strategically-important areas of Artois and Somme. The Germans occupied the town in 1914 and in the final eighteen months of the war it changed hands three times. In February 1917 the occupying German forces withdrew to the heavily-fortified Hindenburg Line several kilometres to the north; however prior to their withdrawal they destroyed any infrastructure (roads, bridges, railways, etc.) that could be of use to the advancing British Army.



Joseph Colmo

On 17 March 1917 Australian forces including the 13th Light Horse entered a Bapaume in ruins except for the Town Hall which remained surprisingly intact. They proceeded to use the building to receive officers and civilians who came to inspect the damage caused by the fighting. A week later a time bomb blew the building to pieces, killing thirty people. The dead included French politicians Raoul Briquet and Albert Tailliandier who were organizing financial support for the inhabitants of the region.

One of the Australian casualties was Trooper Joseph Colmo who had been presented with a pocket watch when he left his home town of Ouyen for the front. Joseph is buried in Bapaume Communal cemetery with others from explosion but recently a plaque has been erected on the town hall whose rebuilding was partly funded by the city of Sheffield after the war.

On 24 March 1918 the town once again fell into German hands, during Operation Michael, before being finally liberated by New Zealand troops on the 29 August 1918.

Geordie at War – Benwell at War – David Smith

During 2011-13 Staff from LookwideUK have managed a Heritage Lottery funded programme looking at the impact of conflict on the people and communities across the North East of England. The project covered the wider history of conflict from Roman times to the present day. Over 110 young people from schools, youth organisations and training organisations participated over an 18 month period. In addition 60 volunteers from a wide range of supporting organisations assisted in developing the Project.

As part of 'Geordie at War' all the groups contributed to the War Graves Photographic Project by taking photographs in two cemeteries in Gateshead and a small churchyard in Benwell. Benwell at War is a community project looking at the impact of war in one small part of Newcastle. In the local churchyard there are some 19 servicemen buried and a further 18 commemorated on family memorials. Over a period of 9 months one group of Year 10 students from All Saints Church of England College photographed all the headstones (now on the TWGPP website) and then carried out some detailed research into the individuals named.

The group were surprised that they could find lots of information about some of the men and on the other hand no information at all about others. There were moments of silence and quiet reflection when some of the stories were revealed. Many of the students involved in the photography said they had not thought that each headstone represented a person and that each had a story. During the course of their research the students visited local Regimental Museums and Archives. They also contacted 15 other Regimental Museums and Old Comrade organisations who were brilliant in providing any information they had.



LookwideUK is the development wing of Northumberland County Scouts. We work with dysfunctional young people who may have learning difficulties, on the verge of crime/excluded from school or have low esteem. We use Heritage programmes to engage young people in their local history by using a range of skills – photography, video photography, interviewing techniques, research, designing displays and heritage leaflets etc. www.lookwide.org.uk

On Yer Bike! – David Stacey

Jim Fisher has been assisting David and Jan Stacey in photographing Australian Vietnam War casualties headstones. He, along with other Australian 'Vets,' made a trip on their bikes through the States of Victoria and New South Wales and managed to get some sites for TWGPP en route. These were delivered to David and Jan via USB stick!

[Looks similar to my Honda 90 – Steve]



A Poem for Captain Gore

Frieda Murray sent in this poem that was written by Katherine Adams in memory of Captain Annesley E Charles St. G. Gore of the Gurkha Rifles who was killed in action on 26th June 1915 aged 29. He was the son of Lieutenant Colonel CW Gore of Donnybrook Dublin. Captain Gore now lies in St Vaast Post Military Cemetery, Richbourg- L'avoue.



*A well-worn coat, a pipe, his gun,
A letter written just before –
Resting now, the warfare done,
His cheery message no more.*

*He was a soldier, first and last;
You're thinking of his sunny smile,
Now that his gallant soul has passed,
And left you wearying, the while.*

*He always, always played the game;
He was so simple and so fine
He never thought of fame,
The deed he did was half divine.*

*He only knew the soldier's part,
He braved the awful shell to save
A black man, and his faithful heart
Is stilled deep in a glorious grave.*

Articles for the next Newsletter, due in October 2013
should be sent via e mail to steve@twgpp.org



THE WAR GRAVES
PHOTOGRAPHIC PROJECT