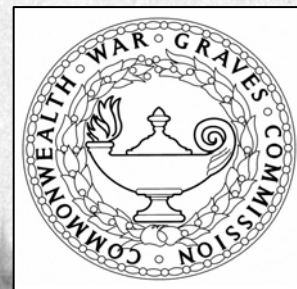


The War Graves Photographic Project

In association with
The CWGC
www.twgpp.org



News from the Front line

May 2008

Steve Rogers, Project Co-ordinator

ANZAC Day Special

Having recently returned from a 50th Birthday holiday in Thailand I realised that even when away from the project the subject of war graves always seems to come up in conversation. En route to an Elephant Safari we shared a truck back seat with an Australian couple (practice honeymoon) and inevitably ANZAC Day came up in conversation which was being commemorated on 25th April. On my return I find not only a mountain of mail on the doorstep but a number of e-mails from Duncan, our Australian Co-ord, and the Producer of the Australian 'Today' programme who wanted to highlight our project in a broadcast about 'ANZAC's' on the Western Front which was being broadcast on the 25th April. "Could I make it to Viller Brettoneux on Sunday?" A quick answer was 'no' and with Duncan in the relative South of France the logistics for him was a bit daunting, "Who have we got in the area?" Susan in Arras currently holidaying in Spain or Dave in Paris currently in Luxembourg! As always the calibre of our volunteers come to the fore and Dave, having just flown back from his business trip, promptly hired a car and as can be seen from his article saved the day for us. With volunteers like this and the help we get from all corners of the world it should make us all proud to be a part of The War Graves Photographic Project. Well done to all.

Photos submitted by Dave Lovell
and Susan Bamber



Over the top and down under. – Dave Lovell



'The surprise attack was launched in moonlight at 10pm without preliminary bombardment; spearheading the operation were the 13th and 15th Australian Brigades, supported by the British 54th Brigade. In darkness and confusion Australian infantry, displaying dash and brutal aggression, broke the German lines and, by early morning 25th April, forced the enemy out of all but the south-eastern corner of Villers-Bretonneux.' (© CWGC)

I got *my* call up on 16th April. When I reached Villers-Bretonneux the Aussies I met were dashing and friendly, but it was 90 years later.

Today the Australian Memorial and Cemetery bears witness to the “dash and brutal aggression” the men of the Australian Brigade showed. These were men who clearly did not count the cost, even though the cost was heavy: 610 headstones and another 10861 names on the memorial bear testimony to that cost. The headstones give some measure of their bravery, recognised in 30 Military Medals alone and countless more showing other decorations.

The wind was cold, the skies were grey, the ground was wet but I was pleased to be there. It's a relatively short drive from my temporary home in the East of Paris and, as I throttled the hire car across the plains of Picardie, my thoughts turned to my own family members who had witnessed first-hand the horrors of war. Thomas Aloisius Osborne, a great uncle, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5/7th Battalion the Hampshire Regiment, fought on the Somme 1916, the Somme again in 1918 and, before all that, had been a survivor of Gallipoli in 1915 for which he too was awarded the Military Medal. My grandfather, Frederick Wood RAF, was based at Serny in 1918, quite a bit further North and Arthur Lovell, my father, endured the Battle of Amiens 20th May 1940 Is that why I volunteer?

Mine was to be a more pleasant experience but challenging in its own way. The email had come from Steve: could I meet an Australian film crew from their 'Today' TV programme and do an interview about TWGPP? Well, how could I say no to Steve when he and so many others do so much? Had I reckoned on the consequences, I might have thought twice.

My yes was followed quickly with, 'Whilst you're there, any chance you could take the 600 we still require?'

A flurry of emails between coordinators, the TV Producer and myself and it was on.

The last words from Down Under were, 'Oh Dave, Mike here. Just setting off for our 30-hour journey to France, will ring you Saturday.' And so it became my weekend's endeavour.

Saturday was an early start, well early for a weekend. My wife was still in UK. I live and work in Paris; she shares her time between there and our UK home, so there was no reason not too. I've always favoured a recce if circumstances permit before stepping into the unknown and anyway the forecast was for better weather Saturday than Sunday. Better for the real challenge of six hundred; I'd never done anything like that many before. As I travelled North my spirits went South, the skies dropped and soon the rain too. Visibility was about 500 metres on arrival, but the Brasserie in the village looked a likely point of retreat.



And then logic kicked in. It could get worse, 600 will take all day, and tomorrow might be ten times worse. So on with the boots, on with the cagoule, up with the umbrella. Now, I've always been one for kneeling down - perhaps it's the religious upbringing – but, no, that's not going to work, not six hundred times!

Need a mass production approach. So tripod low, two-second delays; that should do it and it did, until the battery was flat. Thank goodness for brasseries, the coffee was good and the electricity came for free. The afternoon quickly approached and passed equally quickly. Battery flattened again and so I switched to my wife's camera. Now all our memory cards were full and my joints were decidedly aching but the good news? Only twenty to go!

And then it struck me no call from the Producer and it's 17.00 already. So a little dejectedly it's back to Paris, meet my wife off Eurostar and dine out. Well, it is Paris.

At 21.00 with joints feeling the benefit of lubrication from the odd beer and un verre du vin or three, the phone's jumping across the table.

'Oh, hi Dave, that you? It's Mike here. Dave where are you? It's awful noisy there'

'In my local Bistro, Mike. It's dinner time.'

'Oh yeah, sorry about that. There's been a change of plan... you know how it is... this comes up and then thatNo worries though, you still on for tomorrow?'

'Of course Mike, I grabbed 580 today but I need to go back for the remaining 20.'

'Amazing; you guys don't go easy, eh! OK, see you at the memorial then, 8.30 OK?'

'Yes sure Mike!'

Oh *****, that's another six o'clock alarm at the weekend and the wife but it was worth it.

The filming took an hour or so and it will probably only fill 30 seconds of airtime with the rest on the 'cutting room floor'. It was fun in a weird sort of way but very reminiscent of school exams and job interviews. Why do you think of all the best answers to questions when it is all over? I dunnow, so sorry, one and all, it's now way too late for a 're-take'.



Dave being interviewed by Mike Dalton of ABC TV

Of course, doing a headstone shoot four days before the 90th anniversary of ANZAC day at the Australian memorial isn't the best of timing for photography! I think I answered nearly as many questions as I took 'photos, many from relations, even more from countrymen of those who gave their all so many years ago. There was the 15 year-old, kneeling weeping at his great grandfather's grave, a 60 year-old moved to tears for the great uncle he never knew. It was my privilege to meet them, to hear their stories and to tell each of them a little of ours.

Editorial – Pauline Pedersen

One of the first headstones that Jim & I photographed was for Private R J Matthews of the 13th Battalion Australian Infantry, who died on 2nd January 1918. It was a CWGC headstone but stood alongside the graves of family members in the churchyard of St Lawrence, Alvechurch, Worcestershire. He was obviously a local lad so what was he doing serving in the Australian Infantry? There were a number of explanations we could think of but none we could prove at that time; we moved on, not only to the next name on our list but a few years down the line with the project.

A few weeks ago Private Matthews entered our consciousness again. We read in one of our family history magazines that The National Archives of Australia has digitised the service records of 376,000 Australian men and women who served in the First World War and made them available online free of charge as a gift to the nation (and thereby to the world).

The Australian Imperial Force Attestation Paper for Roland John Matthews on 11th July 1916 told us that he was a carpenter by trade: presumably no coincidence then that under Distinguishing Marks it stated 'top of left thumb missing'! But to answer our question of a few years earlier, he had most probably emigrated to Australia with his brother Frederick, or to join him there, as on enlistment he gave his brother's address in Temora, NSW.

There followed pages of Private Matthews' service record until he was recorded wounded in Belgium on 20th October 1917 and subsequently shipped to England, where he died in hospital at Whitstable, Kent.

But the page that surprised and interested us was the one headed 'Burial Report Regarding Funeral of Late'. It gave everything from whether the burial was in consecrated ground, who was taking the service, undertaker's name, condition and class of coffin (Good Polished Elm), names and addresses of those present at the funeral and the time of the event, 3.00pm.

The poignant paragraph was the Remarks of Interest to Next of Kin.

The deceased soldier was interred privately at Alvechurch Parish Churchyard, the funeral starting from the house of the Father of deceased. The remains were followed to the Church by relatives in mourning coaches. A service was conducted in the Church and at the graveside by Archdeacon Peile. A few wreaths from relatives were placed on the grave.

An oak cross will be erected by the A.I.F. London.

Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London, were represented at the funeral.

Dated 9th January 1918

It does not take much imagination to visualise that sad little procession on a January afternoon, ninety years ago.

All in all there were 36 pages relating to Private Matthews, only a few duplicated. We haven't dared look at any other of the records as we haven't time to get side-tracked again but you can check out this invaluable site at:

www.naa.gov.au/whats-on/online/feature-exhibits/gift.aspx

Sacred Heart School, New Zealand – Appreciation from the younger generation

Jim Pedersen as New Zealand Co-ordinator received an email from Callum Quin, a Year 8 student at Sacred Heart College in Auckland. The Year 8 English class had been given projects to research a Sacred Heart Old Boy who lost their lives in World War II. All they had been given was a photograph and the persons name, the rest was down to them.

Callum's 'Old Boy' was Sergeant Pilot David Leo Nola, and he had found out that he served in the RNZAF flying for the 75th Squadron. He died on 7th May 1941 and is buried at the Grimsby Cemetery Scartho Road, Lincolnshire, England, Section 116, Row J, No.5.



His research led him to our site on the internet and he was enquiring whether TWGPP could supply him with a picture of the headstone as that was one of the last pieces of information he needed.

Callum's request was forwarded to Steve who declared it one of the spookiest moments of the project as he had only, within the previous few minutes, uploaded the photograph of David Leo Nola's headstone from a CD he had just opened from Chris Cosgrove, having returned from holiday only the day before. What are the chances of that happening!

Needless to say Callum was delighted. Apparently the Year 8 projects were for the ANZAC memorial mass and then they will form part of the archive information about the school.

Another success story!

Thank You – Responses to Photographs being supplied by TWGPP

An Uncle I never met, a brother of my late Father, tears in my eyes. Thank you so much for your efforts, truly you are admired. Steve Johnston, Australia

Just to let you know you have made my wife's Grandmothers day as she has not known for 65 years what had happened to her brother. She practically raised him as they got older and became inseparable. Her parents were old school and did not share any information regarding Albert's death to her so she has been hollow for all these years not knowing how or where he died and if there was any record of his death. She now has closure for her brother Albert. Thanks again it is a great job being done by all involved! Jason Matthews - Australia

"I would like to Thank you very much for this picture and responding . I have just shown mom and she is very happy to see this. It is difficult but as you say it does close that door and gives her / us a feeling of solace. This was great! I certainly appreciate this and thank whoever did it for us. Mom would never be able to get there so you have made her very happy to see it. Once again- Thank-you very much!" Linda, USA

Many thanks for the photograph, your help with this and all the work that you do. The photograph I requested was for a very good friend who is now 86 years old. She is the sister of Stanley and until yesterday had believed he had been lost at sea in the channel during the Dunkirk evacuation. She had never imagined there was a grave for him. We were chatting and she told me that this bothered her which is why I decided to do an internet search to find out if there is a grave. Your work is still affecting the close families of those who died and this photograph will bring relief and closure for a lady who did not know what had happened to her brother's remains. Again many thanks Shirley

What an unexpected surprise. You have made my YEAR!!!! My family will also be delighted. I have a niece coming up on Sunday from Froxfield, near Petersfield and also a sister from Kent so they will be the first members of my family to see the photos. Again my thanks and I shall recommend your project whenever I can. Keep up the good work. Best wishes, Patrick

Firstly thank you so much for the photo, it was quite emotional to see it after so long. No one in my family has ever been to the grave or found out anything about my great uncle, but, with the added benefit of the internet things are becoming so much easier. I had hoped to get to the cemetery myself this year and I may well still get there as it will be the 90th anniversary of his death in July. I would like to convey my gratitude to you and the others that make this possible. Regards John G Barton

The search for Lt Col E.W. Hermon - Iain Smith



On 28th Jan 2008 Steve received an e-mail request from Melanie Haselden asking for a photograph of the headstone of Lt Col E.W. Hermon, 1st King Edwards Horse, commanding 24th (Tyneside Irish) Battalion who is buried in Roclincourt Military Cemetery, which is close to Arras. Mel is doing the photographs for a book being written by Lt Col Hermon's grand-daughter on the letters he wrote home in the Great War and they wanted a photograph of his headstone to go in the book. He was killed on the 9th April 1917 which was the first day of the Battle of Arras.

Roclincourt is a cemetery that TWGPP has not yet covered, however Steve knew I was going to the Somme with my wife Jen and our friend Liz who both help me in our work for the project for a few days early February and included me in on his reply to Mel, presumably in the hope I could help out.

This cemetery is close to the route I take when travelling down to Auchonvilliers to stay at "Ocean Villas" with Avril Williams whom, I'm sure, several of you will know. Following a flurry of e-mails between Steve, Mel and me it was agreed that I would take the photographs Mel had requested. Never the one to miss an opportunity Steve invited me to do the rest of Roclincourt at the same time if possible. However, as there are over 800 headstones in this cemetery and I was heading to Avril's to work for her this was going to be a bit outside our capability.

Travelling down on Friday the 8th we pulled off the motorway at the Vimy exit and headed towards Arras till we reached Roclincourt. The cemetery is well signposted by the CWGC and easy to find though down quite a narrow access road. The weather couldn't have been better with bright sunshine in the right direction to highlight the inscription on the headstone. I took several images of the headstone and the cemetery before Liz and I did the remainder of plot 1.

On arrival at Avril's we downloaded the photographs we had taken onto my laptop including the ones for Mel which we burnt onto a disk and sent them off when we returned to the UK. She was delighted with the results and is going to use one of the headstone and one of the cemetery in the book which will be published in September by Random House.

Website Development

As an ongoing process the website will be developed to enhance its use and display properties. With the designers, WeboK, we now have the facility to include an additional picture of the casualty if supplied and more information if submitted. A recent example can be seen on <http://www.twgpp.org/information.php?id=1150712> which was submitted by the family of Lt Tom Tanswell who was killed in Iraq on 27th October 2006 and was the first British officer to be buried in France since WW2. Please have a look at the link. If you have 'original' pictures that can be scanned for submission please feel to do so stating where the casualty is buried and any further information. No pictures from other sources please unless you have express permission to use them.



The Project at Westminster

As part of the continuing effort to raise the profile of the Project, Steve Rogers and David Ayling were invited to the House of Lords on Tuesday 11th March 2008 by Lord Faulkner of Worcester to conduct a presentation to highlight what we have set out to achieve as The War Graves Photographic Project. Lord Faulkner is the Chairman of the All Party War Graves and Battlefield Heritage group who have an interest in all matters relating to military history and the presentation was received well by those Lords, Ladies and MP's attending. Many of those present were surprised that we have achieved so much considering that we are purely a volunteer force. This emphasised the dedication that our volunteers have towards such an undertaking and belief in the project ethos.



On completion of the presentation a number of questions were asked about getting involved and the MP Edward O'Hara (Labour - Knowsley South) suggested an Early Day Motion being proposed in the House of Commons.

Early Day Motion – EDM 1230 WAR GRAVES PHOTOGRAPHIC PROJECT 19.03.2008

"That this House notes that the War Graves Photographic Project has been established to integrate the work being carried out by volunteers photographing designated war graves and memorials around the world; commends this work which provides an uncomplicated facility for families to obtain a photograph of a loved one's grave, including many families who have never had a chance to visit fallen relatives' graves, or who are researching family history; and congratulates the project coordinator, Steve Rogers, and his team, for their selfless dedication to this work, in the course of which they have now photographed over one million graves and memorial names, on an entirely voluntary basis."

This was publicised on 19th March 2008 on the Parliament website and has resulted in the signatures of over 61 MPs who believe that we are undertaking a worthwhile activity. For a full listing of MP's who have signed the motion please go to this link:

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=35457&SESSION=891>



Steve would like to express his thanks to Professor Peter Doyle, Keith Lockwood and Dave Lovell for arranging this opportunity to promote the project.

'All Party Group'

L-R. David Parker (CWGC), Baroness Golding, Lord Faulkner of Worcester, Peter Barton and Peter Doyle Co-Secretaries and Steve Rogers

Why I Volunteer - Dave Lovell

“Many of us can, sort of, hang around to see who was killed on that particular day, you know.”

These words, spoken by the man who provided first aid to men of 7th Battalion the Royal Sussex Regiment on 20th May 1940, kindle memories of my introduction to the seemingly endless sea of carefully hewn Portland stone which carpet so many plots in so many lands.

My father, Arthur Lovell, was just 21 when he and the men around him, each armed with a rifle, obeyed orders and tried in vain to resist the advance of a Panzer Division to the South West of Amiens, Northern France. In a matter of a few hours many were killed and many were taken prisoner; in the space of the following 5 years he found himself in more countries than in the rest of his life, his weight reduced from eleven stone to six but, more importantly, he learned to survive.

Memorial to the 7th Battalion



In 1980, survivors from the Battle of Amiens (1940) returned there to honour their fallen comrades and give thanks for their escape. Five years later they again returned on which occasion I was fortunate to travel with them, so starting a fascinating journey and rewarding experience. Over the following fifteen years, with my brother-in-law, we researched the brief history of 7th Battalion and its men. We identified the names and fate of 587 men who were probably in the Battalion, there being no nominal roll available and no on-line casualty list at CWGC. We visited nearly all of the 21 cemeteries where memorials and headstones commemorate their fallen and photographed each one. All in all, we took survivors back to Amiens for 5 commemorative trips. A brief summary is available at <http://www.7throyalsussex.org.uk>

Seven years after my first visit to Viroflay New Communal Cemetery, where a number of the men are buried, I returned, on Remembrance Sunday 2006. A Google search to remind me of its location revealed a photo request from New Zealand and so began my volunteering with TWGPP.



Having left a career at Ordnance Survey in 2006, I now live and work in Paris for an association which represents all of the mapping agencies of (geographical) Europe www.eurogeographics.org. I am therefore fortunate on many counts. Good Côte de Rhône is available from my local store for €3 a bottle and Champagne, straight from the ‘House’ at a mere €13, is delivered to my apartment door.

I was surprised to learn when I first ‘signed up’ that there are a number of CWGC cemeteries around Paris. These now provide an interesting stimulus to visit parts of the Paris hinterland to which I would probably otherwise not go. Travel around Europe at someone else’s expense also means that, whenever it is possible, some more photos are put ‘in the can’.

My interest in TWGPP and my connections with mapping have led me to support the CWGC in trying to record the Latitude and Longitude of all of their sites and to link these to Google Earth. In truth it was my ‘shoot’ at Milan War Cemetery which reminded me of the importance for so many reasons, of good geographical information. At the time the CWGC website suggested to *‘take tram 16 to the San Siro football Stadium. The road which runs past the stadium has local authority signs for Milan War Cemetery’*. It forgot to say it was a 2 mile walk from the stadium and, on the day I chose, the sun was high and the sun was hot! This photo session was also an important reminder of careful pre-planning. I hadn’t reckoned on the site gardener approaching me with the words ‘Che cosa state facendo?’ My best Italian response, which consisted of more pointing at my camera than words, produced the stalling response ‘Non è consentito! Avete bisogno del permesso da Roma.’

To be honest I felt that the request or at least what I imagined, to contact the Pontiff, was likely to be unsuccessful. Then to my amazement and great relief the gardener took out his mobile 'phone, made a few calls and handed me the 'phone to speak to Rome. Fortunately the kind lady spoke English and worked in the CWGC regional office. With permission granted I set about my task, only to be interrupted an hour or so later with the gardener slapping his ample stomach heartily and pronouncing clearly the word 'Breakfast?' I tried explaining that I had eaten well before leaving my hotel earlier in the day, it now being around midday, but he was having none of it. Off he shot only to return 20 minutes later with hot Pannini and Coke' for me. He was quite appalled by my suggestion that I should repay him explaining that he, his father and grandfather had looked after the cemetery and it was an honour to provide refreshment to me. And so I learned that not only did volunteering provide the impetus to visit places I would otherwise not go to but that I'd meet fascinating people and be moved to reflect on the sacrifices made by others to provide me with the freedom to live my life as I choose.

The long walk in the sun prompted me to consider how we might ensure other people's journeys, particularly in these days of in vehicle navigation, could be sure to have a more certain journey to their war grave destination. I've still got a long way to go with the ambition to have all the CWGC sites displayed on Google Earth but we are starting to make progress. An insight to the possibilities this offers can be seen at: <http://members.pcug.org.au/~pblair/auscem/auscemlist.php>.

If you know of similar web sites or can help in any other way please get in touch with me dlo@ntlworld.com and if you are visiting Paris I'd be happy to see you at a Bistro of my choosing and your expense!!

And so it was off to Oporto. This proved a real test for my 'sense of direction'; it turned out even people living within 100 metres of the CWGC burial plots knew not of its existence! In fairness it was behind a 15 ft high wall and there was no sign to indicate its existence, but in the course of my enquiries, I spoke with a professional photographer, a baker, a consultant in the adjoining hospital, not to mention a gate keeper and an antiques restorer. The latter, or to be more precise his 'petite' wife, told me the gate is never opened. However my increasingly 'angry' ringing of the rod-connected bell at the gate eventually saw me inside.

Lately I have been to Port of Spain on business, a location not to be recommended given the 400 murders a year on its streets, the 'liming' (Trinidadian for hanging out, drinking beer, putting the world to rights) and the local rum is exceedingly good though! Thanks to a recent CWGC field officer visit I had been informed in advance that I would need to get permission from the Brigadier General of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Forces. Fortunately he was busy the day I rang and so was able to easily get permission from the 'Commanding Officer. In typical Caribbean fashion the assurance that the gate would be unlocked for me 'just now' never materialized, but then I had been informed by a 'local' that the expression 'just now' could mean within the next 5 minutes, 5 hours or days! The warning not to enter was clear but you don't go all that way and give up because of a sign. The sun was high, the shadows deep, the camera ready and the shots were soon 'in the can'



My next trip is Lisbon and as I set off for this business trip I shall, as before, pack my camera alongside the clothes and accoutrements of mobile computing that business travel demands. With good weather and good fortune this will soon be completed. Later in the year I go to Greenland, Romania, Switzerland, Montenegro, Albania, Slovenia 'It's a tough life but someone has to do it!'

'Connexions'

Duncan Andrews, our Australian Co-ord, is in the fortunate position having retired to France albeit not in the region of any major battlefields!. Via his 'Ex- Pat' Newsletter '**Connexions**' he has managed to enrol a number of new volunteers throughout France. Should anyone living abroad have a similar publication that might find an article about the project to be of some interest please contact Steve.

How do we do that?

We occasionally get asked about the time taken to process the received photograph from receipt to getting it displayed on site so I thought I would take this opportunity to explain the process so that all volunteers have some idea of what is involved.

The data supplied from the CWGC has to be converted to an Excel Spreadsheet which suits our SQL database so we end up with a line per casualty something like:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|------|----|-------|--------|----------|------------|---------------------------|---------|--------|
| John Smith | Oxford Cemetery | Oxfordshire | England | Tate | RO | Edwin | D12345 | HMS Rose | Royal Navy | 21 st Jan 1940 | British | Tate_E |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|------|----|-------|--------|----------|------------|---------------------------|---------|--------|

On receipt of a CD or e mailed digital photograph they are downloaded to PC's and named if not done already so.

Each named photograph then has to be aligned to the line of the spreadsheet (**manually**) for each casualty.

The completed spreadsheet, including name, for the cemetery then has to be copied to the master spreadsheet for the country concerned to update the records. The sheet is then converted to CSV format. The spreadsheet is then loaded up to the site and the images are loaded up from their individual folders on the PC.

Sounds relatively easy but the time consuming aspect is the manually lining up of the casualty names against the lines on the spreadsheet. For example if we have a cemetery of 5000 graves but only receive 2000 images then we have to spend hours scrolling down the list and dragging the names to the lines. There is no easy way!!!

Multiply this by hundreds of cemeteries and thousands of casualties and it can be appreciated that this takes time, all of which is done after a full day in the office at our day jobs !!!

Totals 'Sitrep'

Website uploads continue albeit at slower pace now as the images have to be processed (see 'how do we do that'). 10,000 New Zealanders were uploaded on ANZAC Day. Canadians are programmed to go up next followed by South Africans, Germans and then Australians with the continual supply of British and other nations being 'piecemealed' through.

We are pleased to announce that Iran as a country has been completed which was one of those areas we did not expect to get access to so soon. This was due to Gail and Francis taking time out of archaeological studies!

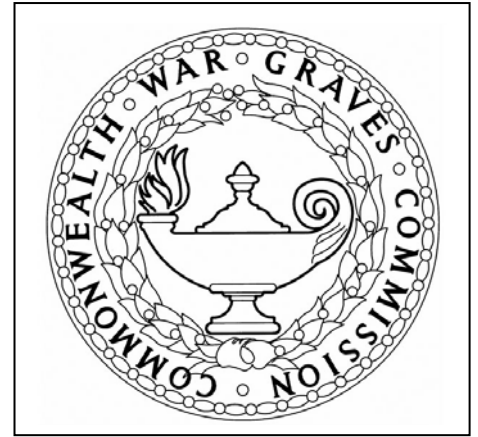
Praise Indeed!

There can be few of us who have not heard of, let alone used, **Major and Mrs Holt's Battlefield Guides**. Volunteer Phil Bournier forwarded a message he received from Tonie Holt who said 'We have squeezed into the manuscript for our next Ypres Guide due out later this year a brief reference to your splendid enterprise'.

Out of area help

The project, in conjunction with the CWGC, has now set up a procedure for fulfilling requests not currently held within the archive which is proving to be a valuable asset for both organisations. TWGPP will initially 'field' requests as there will be many held which are not currently displayed on site due to processing time. If it is found that we do not hold the image contact is made to the CWGC 'Out of Area' office who then engage a local representative to take the picture and forward to us for dispersal.

This is working well utilising the help of Erna in Belgium, Claudia in Italy, Pauline in France and Sue in UK who covers all other areas.



In conjunction with these personnel we have received many South African cemeteries from the SA CWGC office and also hope to receive some from Canada this year. We are also providing images to the Australian Veterans Agency with reciprocal help from them who are providing images from Borneo.

Date for your Diary – Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting has been arranged for Saturday, 1st November: venue Royal Air Force Museum, Cosford, Shifnal, Shropshire. Cost: £15 per person to include coffee on arrival.

The museum is accessible by road (ample free parking on site), rail or bus and there is a licensed restaurant and café. There will be time during the day to visit the museum and admission is free. See www.rafmuseum.org.

Further details and a booking form will be sent out later in the year but please note the date and make every effort to attend. Apart from anything else the meeting provides an opportunity to meet other volunteers and swap information and ideas. We look forward to seeing you at the RAF Museum, Cosford.

The War Graves Photographic Project is a voluntary organisation and can only achieve its aim of photographing all of the war graves around the world by voluntary action. If you feel that you would like to help us in this task, please contact us at:

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