



CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER BRANCH of THE WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

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Welcome!

As you will know we haven't been able to run a branch trip to the Western Front since before the pandemic. Our branch trips were expertly and painstakingly organised by Bob Brunsdon and for ten years we really were the envy of many branches to be able to offer such professional tours in-house. Due to a number of reasons the running of in-house tours is now out of the question. However, at our recent AGM it was noted that perhaps we could join organised tours such as those run by Battle Honours or work with another branch of the WFA or indeed another organisation altogether such as u3a.

In the first instance I would like to gauge possible interest for being a part of any future battlefield tour that we as a branch can be involved with. Please let me know if this might be of interest to you.

We are fortunate in as much as our branch is financially stable, but it is of great concern to me that we are in danger of collapse due to too

many jobs being done by too few people. We need to expand the responsibility base. We need you!

There is a separate list being distributed tonight and over the next few meetings detailing the roles we need filling - none of these positions or jobs are onerous or take up much time, but in the interests of the branch I would like them spread around as many individuals as possible. If you feel that you can offer the branch a few minutes of your time each month please consider taking on an active role and letting me know.

There are two exhibitions running at the moment at the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum. *The 28th Regiment in the West Indian Campaign* and the *Jack Russell Portrait Exhibition: Battle of Imjin River veterans*. The exhibitions are free with paid entry to the museum. Full details are on their website: www.soldiersofglos.com.

But above all may I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy 2024.

Peter

Future branch events

Tuesday, 9 January

*Starting from Rock Bottom:
the Staff of the New Army Divisions*

Dr Paul Harris

The Ed Shed at 7.30pm

Tuesday, 13 February

*British Conscientious Objectors during
the Great War*

Dr Lois Bibbings

The Ed Shed at 7.30pm

Despite their inauspicious beginnings, by the war's end many New Army divisions had proved their worth and demonstrated that an Allied victory would not have been achieved without them. It was a remarkable transformation but how was it achieved?



This talk is based on over thirty years research, and Lois has published and spoken extensively on the subject. It will be tailored to include material relevant to our branch.



Private Leonard Herbert Lambley (424259) 28th Battalion, (Northwest) Canadian Infantry

Leonard Herbert Lambley was born in Tetbury on 5 January 1890. He was one of twelve children born to William and Mary Eliza Lambley. His mother died in 1903 and left with a large family his father probably encouraged him to emigrate to Canada, which he did in August 1906, aged 17.

In 1910 he moved to Tacoma, in Washington State, USA and signalled his intention to become an American citizen.

He joined the US Infantry and after a year in San Diego, California he spent the next two in the Philippines. In March 1914 he returned to Canada and joined his brother Ernest in Kenora, Ontario, who had found work with the Canadian Pacific Railway.

On 12 February 1915 Leonard enlisted into the Canadian Army at Port-la-Prairie, Manitoba and on 4 September 1915 sailed for Europe as part of a reinforcement draft for the 45th Battalion. He would later transfer to the 28th Battalion, part of the 2nd Canadian Division. In January 1916 he embarked for France, joining the 28th Battalion in the field on the 21st of that month.



On 20 April 1916 he was admitted to 13th Stationery Hospital in Boulogne, having sustained a gunshot wound to his jaw, whilst in action at St Eloi in the Ypres Salient. He spent a period of convalescence in England before returning to France in July and re-joining his unit the following month.

September 1916 saw him in action on the Somme and on 15 September he suffered a severe gunshot

wound to his right leg, which was fractured in two places. After an initial stay in No 1 Canadian Hospital at Etaples he was sent to England and by 8 October was a patient in the Second Southern General Hospital, Bristol. Unfortunately, complications with his wounds set in and he died there on 4 January 1917.

Leonard was brought back to his birthplace for burial in Tetbury (St Saviour) Churchyard. He is commemorated on the town's war memorial and in the First World War Book of Remembrance housed in the Peace Tower of the Canadian Parliament Building in Ottawa.

Graham Adams

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"When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today."