



# CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER BRANCH of THE WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

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## Welcome!

Last month we held an EGM because of the forthcoming committee vacancies and the general lack of interest in branch members taking up the roles. I am delighted to say that a great deal of progress was made in the meeting and there is now in place a plan for a new chairman in Simon Shephard to be elected at our AGM, also the position of *Sentinel* editor has been taken over by Dave Gargett. We thought we had also secured a new treasurer to be elected at the AGM, but sadly for health reasons Philip Mellor will now have to forego this position for the time being. This does mean that at the AGM if no-one comes forward then the branch will be without a treasurer. Similarly we haven't filled the newsletter editor position, so likewise this will be empty by the end of the year.

If you are numerate and are reasonably computer literate and have a little time to spare, then please do consider putting your name forward.

The date of the AGM will be Tuesday 26 November at 7.30pm - venue to be decided. This will be the last (branch) AGM that I shall be officiating at and I would stress that anyone with an interest in the future of the branch and who is able to attend would be most heartily received. Do let me know if you can spend some time and I shall forward meeting details.

Finally, Christmas is on the way and we need some ten minute presentations. Would you be able to entertain us with a talk on any subject however vaguely associated with the Great War? If so, please let me know and I'll put your name down.

At the next meeting of the Nailsworth Society on 14 October there is a talk on *Fabian Ware of the War Graves Commission* by Maureen Anderson. It starts at 7.30pm at the Sawyer Hall, Christ Church, Newmarket Road, Nailsworth GL6 0DQ.

*Peter*

## Future branch events

**Tuesday, 12 November**  
*Haig and his Army Commanders*  
Professor Peter Simkins MBE FRHistS  
**The Ed Shed at 7.30pm**



Haig's principal subordinates on the Western Front were the commanders of the five Armies which formed the BEF in the field, from 1916 to 1918. Some were controversial figures. In this talk Peter discusses Haig's relationships with these officers and examines their respective contributions to the BEF's operations.

**Tuesday, 10 December**  
*Members' Evening*  
**The Ed Shed at 7.30pm**

For our December meeting we draw on the expertise and knowledge of our branch members. We will have a small selection of ten-minute length presentations on a Great War related subject of their choice.

After the presentations we hope you will stay to enjoy a glass of wine and a mince pie. Also, we will have our Christmas raffle and any prizes you can donate will be very welcome.

**Tuesday, 14 January 2025**  
*The Explosion in Halifax, Nova Scotia,*  
*December 1917*  
John Stanyard  
**The Ed Shed at 7.30pm**

# Lieutenant Walter Luke Landale

## Royal Navy, Submarine E.18

Walter Luke Landale was one of three sons born to Walter and Ethel Maud Landale. He was born at Chesham, Buckinghamshire on 8 December 1889. By 1911 the family home was The Hayes, Prestbury.

In May 1905, at the age of 16, Walter entered Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth as a Cadet. His first posting as a Midshipman came in September 1906 and thereafter until the summer of 1912 he served principally in the Mediterranean on various ships, rising to the rank of Lieutenant in 1911.

From July 1912 he trained on submarines and his first posting was in November 1914 to HM Submarine *D.4*. On 5 July 1915 he transferred to the brand new 'E' Class Submarine *E.18*, where he was one of two junior officers below the captain.

*E.18*'s initial deployment was on patrol duties in the North Sea. In September 1915 it was despatched to the Baltic Sea, to join a small flotilla of British and Russian submarines, operating out of Reval (now Tallin), Estonia. The flotilla was tasked with disrupting the iron ore shipments from Sweden to Germany.

There were a few minor encounters with the enemy before icy seas necessitated confinement to port in Tallin from January 1916 until late in the following April. On 26 May 1916 *E.18* torpedoed the German destroyer *V100*, blowing



off its bow. The last reported sighting of *E.18* was by a German U-boat on 1 June 1916. Nothing was heard from it after this date.

In October 2009 a Swedish survey vessel located the wreck of *E.18* off the Estonian island of Hiiuuaa, about 90 miles west of Reval. A remotely operated vehicle was sent down to photograph the wreck and this revealed damage and open hatches, a strong indicator that it had struck a mine, whilst travelling on the surface. The sinking probably occurred on 2 June 1916: the 11 June

shown in records is an administrative date when the vessel was finally declared 'lost'. The ship's company consisting of three British officers and twenty seven ratings, plus three Russians, one officer and two signallers, were all lost.

According to Lieutenant Landale's service record, in March 1916 he was awarded the Russian Order of St Anne, 3<sup>rd</sup> Class with Swords for his service in the Baltic.

Lieutenant Walter Luke Landale is commemorated, with all those who went down with *E.18*, on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. His name also features on the Cheltenham and Prestbury War Memorials and on the War Memorial Tablet inside St Mary's Church, Prestbury.

**Graham Adams**

(Photo taken from *Prestbury Remembers* website)

### Contact details

#### Cheltenham & Gloucester Branch President

Professor Peter Simkins MBE FRHistS

#### Branch Chairman

Peter Gill

Pen Y Bryn, Bull's Hill, Walford,

Ross-on-Wye HR9 5RH

07702 253 638 • [chairman@cgwfa.org.uk](mailto:chairman@cgwfa.org.uk)

#### Branch Treasurer & Newsletter Editor

Hilary Jennings

4 St Stephen's Road, Cheltenham GL51 3AA

01242 243 927 • [newsletter@cgwfa.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@cgwfa.org.uk)

#### Website

[www.cgwfa.co.uk](http://www.cgwfa.co.uk)

#### Facebook

[Cheltenham & Gloucester Branch of the Western Front Association](#)

#### Twitter

[@CGWFA](#)

#### The Western Front Association

BM Box 1914,

London WC1N 3XX

0207 118 1914

[membership@westernfrontassociation.com](mailto:membership@westernfrontassociation.com)

[www.westernfrontassociation.com](http://www.westernfrontassociation.com)



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