

	CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER BRANCH of THE WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION	
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Welcome!

Wow, what an amazing start to the New Year we have had as a Branch!

With 36 members and guests joining us for our January meeting it was one of our best attended for some time. As a result, we ran out of printed newsletters – note to self: print more!

More importantly, what a treat we had in Stephen Barker’s presentation on ‘Tommy’s Trench Humour.’ Stephen took us well beyond the usual discussions of *The Wipers Times*. He expanded our knowledge of both the style and content of the humour which was such an important element in maintaining the British Tommy’s morale. Equally interesting was his comparisons with the German approach to such humour, highlighting both the similarities and differences.

At the end of the evening, it was a great pleasure to learn that two of our guests had decided to join the Branch – so I would like to extend a very warm welcome to them.

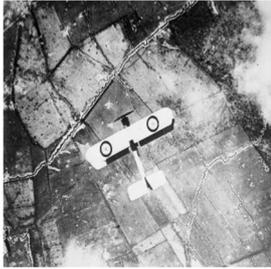
As many of you know the system I have to use to send out our Branch emails is, to say the least, sub-optimal. It requires me to send out multiple

emails to small batches of our membership and those with an interest in military history. There seems to have been a recent improvement to the background software it runs on. This now enables me to send larger batches but more importantly it also tells me which email addresses it has failed to deliver to. With this information I will now carry out an updating and cleansing exercise of our email lists. This will include attempts to contact some of you on an individual basis to confirm I have your current email address.

Following up on one of the AGM actions, Len has engaged with Matthew Holden at SOGM who has very kindly agreed to let us select photos from the museum’s collection for our new advertising banners. I am now working my way through some 2,500 FWW photos from which I will select a number of potential images. I will then work with a specialist military graphic designer to produce our new design. For those who might be interested all the museum’s collection can be accessed via their website under Research and then using the Collations dropdown.

<https://soldiersofglos.com/research/>

Simon

<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday 10 March</p> <p>The Development of Aeroplanes and their initial uses in 1914 and early 1915 Robin Goldsmith</p> <p>Robin charts the transition from early flying machines, through the formation of the Royal Flying Corps to the emerging roles of military aviation in the first year of the Great War.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">7.30pm Ed Shed</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday 14 April</p> <p>Three Days in the Great War Dr Derek Clayton</p> <p>This talk examines the performance of the 49th Division in set piece attacks on 3 September 1916 at Thiepval, 9 October 1917 at Poelcapelle and on 1 November 1918 at Valenciennes.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">7.30pm Ed Shed</p>
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“When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today”

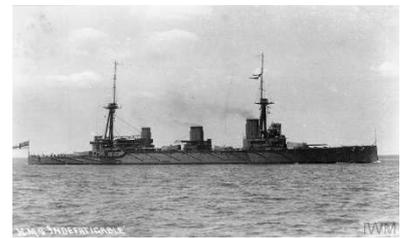
Lieutenant Commander Granville Murray-Browne Royal Navy - HMS Indefatigable

Granville Murray-Browne was born at Uley, Gloucestershire on 5 May 1885. He was one of eleven children born to the Reverend Charles Chapman Murray-Browne and his wife Marion Constance. Two of their children died in infancy.



In September 1900 Granville embarked on a naval career, when he entered Britannia Naval College at Dartmouth. After passing out of the college he became a midshipman in 1902 and went on to serve in a number of ships in the Edwardian Navy. In 1905 he was promoted to Sub-Lieutenant and to Lieutenant in December 1907. He saw service in the Channel and Mediterranean and in Ireland, before joining the cruiser HMS *Achilles* in June 1911. After two years he joined the battlecruiser HMS *Indefatigable*, as a Lieutenant: promotion to Lieutenant Commander followed on 15 December 1915.

HMS *Indefatigable* had been commissioned in February 1911 and was a fast, powerful capital ship, with a principal armament of eight twelve-inch guns, mounted in four turrets. At the start of the Great War, it was part of the 2nd Battlecruiser Squadron located in the Mediterranean and took part in the chase of the German battlecruiser *Goeben* and cruiser *Breslau* who sought sanctuary in Turkey. *Indefatigable* also bombarded some Turkish forts on the Gallipoli Peninsula before returning to the UK in February 1915, after which it conducted patrols in the North Sea.



The 31 May 1916 saw the only fleet action of the Great War. *Indefatigable* was one of the advance units of the British Grand Fleet as it converged on the comparable units of the German High Seas Fleet. At about 15:30 the battlecruisers of both sides started to exchange fire. *Indefatigable* was targeted by the SMS *Von der Tann* and at 16:00 was hit by two or three shells around the rear twelve-inch gun turret. It fell out of line and began sinking by the stern, listing to port. The ship's magazines exploded at 16:03, after sustaining more hits on the forecastle and front turret. The ship blew apart and an examination of the wreck in recent times indicates that it was blown in half just minutes into the engagement. All but three of the 1,019 strong ship's company died. This brought an end to Granville Murray-Browne's life, aged 31.

Granville's mother had died in 1912 and his father, now the Vicar of Hucclecote in Gloucester, was to receive a further shock inside two weeks, when the news came through that another son, Orde, had been killed in action, serving with the 14th Battalion, Canadian Army at Mount Sorrel in the Ypres Salient. The Reverend Murray-Browne died fifteen months later.

Granville Murray-Browne is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial and also on a Memorial Tablet inside St Philip & St James Church, Hucclecote.

Graham Adams

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