

	CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER BRANCH of THE WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION	
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Welcome!

As I am sure you are all aware our President, Peter, has reluctantly had to withdraw from the proposed Presidents' Panel that we were due to hold in September. In his place Andy has secured Dr Simon House who will be talking about the battle on 22 August 1914 in the Ardennes where the French lost more men dead than the British did on the first day of the Somme. More details are in the info box below.

At last month's meeting we put out our new banners and display boards which received favourable comments from all. I intend to write a short article for the next WFA Bulletin about our work in support of Gloucester's History Month.

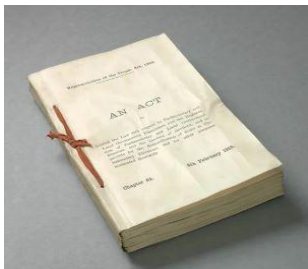
In domestic news I mentioned at last month's meeting that Ken is taking a break and so we are looking for someone to take over managing our book sales – please do let me know if you are interested.

Additionally, Paul has announced that he intends to step down as our Treasurer at the end of this financial year (which for us is November). Paul has done an amazing job in taking over the accounts. This has of course been helped by so many of you changing your direct debits etc., so that the treasurer's work is really concentrated into one small window around January rather than needing to be carried out throughout the year.

Paul has offered to carry out a complete handover and will be remaining in the Branch so he can always answer questions.

I would be extremely grateful if one of you would consider volunteering for this important post – if we are unable to fill it then it will be so much harder to manage the Branch.

Simon

Tuesday 11 August Winning the Vote in Wartime Dr Anna Muggeridge Anna provides insight into the journey and sometimes struggles towards a true democracy in Britain during the Great War. These efforts resulted in key amendments to the 'Representation of the People Act' 1918 and 1928 which incorporated the enfranchisement of women.  7.30pm Ed Shed	Tuesday 8 September 'Lost Opportunity: The Battle of the Ardennes, 22 August 1914' Dr Simon House On 22 August 1914, during the little-known Battle of the Ardennes, 27,000 French soldiers lost their lives and countless tens of thousands more were wounded or made prisoner. It was the bloodiest day in the whole history of the French Army. To cap France's poor performance, Joffre's men wasted golden opportunities to break through the German centre into open ground, with consequences that changed the path of the whole war.  7.30pm Ed Shed
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"When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today"

293608 STOKER 1ST CLASS HARRY TURNER
ROYAL NAVY - HMS GOOD HOPE

Harry Turner was born in Cheltenham on 20 February 1881 and had a twin brother, Edward, whose service careers were closely aligned. The Turner family lived in Brunswick Road, Cheltenham and the boys attended St. Paul's Practising School.

Prior to joining the Royal Navy on 21 October 1899 Harry was a collier and it was a natural progression to become a stoker, signing on for twelve years. Promotion to 1st Class rank followed in 1906, the same year in which he married.

As was common in the pre-war Navy, Harry saw service on several ships visiting many parts of the world. Notably he was in action during the Boxer Rebellion in China (1899-1901). His term of service ended in October 1911 and returning to civilian life he was employed at the Cheltenham Electricity Works, whilst joining the Royal Fleet Reserve.

In July 1914 war with Germany was seemingly imminent and Harry was recalled to the Navy and posted to HMS *Good Hope*, an armoured cruiser taken out of retirement and crewed mainly with Reservists.



Good Hope sailed from Plymouth on 6 August, as the flag ship of a small squadron of warships, under the command of Rear Admiral Sir Christopher Craddock. Its mission was to head for the southern Pacific to engage the German East Asia Squadron, which was disrupting British trade with India and the Antipodes. The German ships, under the command of Admiral Graf Maximilian von Spee, were more modern and better equipped.

On the late afternoon of 1 November, the two squadrons encountered each other off Coronel, Chile. Von Spee managed to manoeuvre his ships into position where his British opponents were silhouetted against the setting sun. His flagship, *SMS Scharnhorst*, destroyed one of *Good Hope*'s 9.2-inch guns with its third salvo and went on to hit her some 30 times. Just before 8 pm *Good Hope*'s magazines ignited, blowing off her bow and she sank immediately with no survivors of her ship's company of over 900.

Both Harry and twin brother Edward went down with the ship, along with Rear-Admiral Craddock. Harry left a widow, and three children, with another on the way. He is commemorated on the Cheltenham War Memorial and a memorial inside St. Paul's Church, Cheltenham.

(Photo taken from www.uniqlos.blog/specialcollections/WW1)

Cheltenham & Gloucester Branch Contact Details	
President: Professor Peter Simkins MBE FRHistS	Website: www.cgwfa.co.uk
Chairman: Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Simon Shephard MA Email: chairman@cgwfa.co.uk Mobile: 07818 720156 Address: Awre House, Awre Road, BLAKENEY, GL15 4AA	X (Twitter): @CGWFA Facebook: Cheltenham & Gloucester Branch of the Western Front Association
Newsletter Editor: Adrian Smith Email: newsletter@cgwfa.co.uk Mobile: 07557 325656	The Western Front Association BM Box 1914, London WC1N 3XX 0207 118 1914 membership@westernfrontassociation.com www.westernfrontassociation.com



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