

	CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER BRANCH of THE WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION	
	Number 222 August 2026	www.cgwfa.co.uk

Welcome!

As you will have noticed I have not put any of our 'for sale' books out this month. We have had very few 'new' second hand books and after several months of putting out the same offerings and almost none being sold, I have decided to take a break until we are able to offer a 'new' range of books. To help achieve this any donations of books that you have finished with and that others may find interesting would be most welcome.

As an aside I have donated one box of our books to the British Modern Military History Society for them to sell in order to help raise funds for their meetings. They were all books that we had offered for several months, and which were clearly not attractive to our members.

For those who support our Poppy Cross activities I thought I would let you know that they have been

ordered and that Simon will be here next month to distribute them.

As previously mentioned, we are looking for a new Treasurer to take over from Paul at the end of the year. This is a vital appointment, but not an onerous one, without which we cannot function as a branch. As one of the two signatories required for payments from our accounts, I cannot take on this role whilst remaining Chair.

As I say the role involves one or two hours work a month and manning the front desk to collect donations at our monthly meetings. It is essential that someone steps up and takes over from Paul. Please could I therefore, ask you to all consider whether you might be willing to take on this role.

Simon

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	Tuesday 13 October "Our Allies: the French" Anglo-French Cooperation in Practice: Bryn Hammond Liaison is essential to effective military operations in any collation of two or more military forces from different nations. This talk presents early research on what structures, organisations and methods existed to encourage cooperation between the French and Allied forces on the Western Front and how well these aids to co-operation performed and survived under the pressures of the war events. The particular focus will be 1918 in defence and attack when these structures and methods were under greatest stress. 7.30pm Ed Shed
--	---

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

13148 Company Sergeant Major Reginald Phillips MM 10th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment

In 1893 Albert Reginald Dent was born in Gloucester, the illegitimate son of Mary Anne Amelia ('Minnie') Dent, a farmer's daughter, and Charles Phillips. Five years later she married Charles Phillips and her son appears to have adopted his father's surname and his first name of Albert does not feature in surviving military records. For much of his life Reginald lived with his grandparents, Arthur and Elizabeth Dent, at Woodbridge Farm, Hartpury and he was employed on the farm.

Reginald enlisted in September 1914, joining Gloucestershire Regiment and posted to the 10th Battalion. He showed promise as a soldier and was soon promoted to Lance Corporal and went with the battalion to France on 9 August 1915, in readiness for participation in the Battle of Loos. The 10th Glosters, part of 1 Brigade, 1 Division were one of the lead units involved in the attack on the opening day, 25 September 1915, and had some success in breaking the German front line but lost 459 in casualties. Evidently Reginald Phillips came through this battle unscathed and was subsequently promoted to Sergeant and after showing further distinguished service was promoted to Company Sergeant Major (W02) in April 1916. He was recommended for a Military Medal, which was gazetted in September of that year.

In mid-August 1916 the 10th Glosters were located on the Somme, at Bazentin-le-Petit. According to a report in the *Gloucestershire Journal* of 16 September 1916 CSM Phillips was killed by a shell whilst on duty in the trenches. His company commander later wrote 'he was buried a little way behind our trenches and as a mark of respect the men of the company covered his grave with shell cases in a very artistic manner'. The CWGC records his death as 19 August and whilst there is no mention of Reginald's name in the battalion war diary there is reference to a shell falling on the battalion HQ and causing casualties. There is also a reference in the entry for 18 August of a shell which 'blew in a dug out in the support line'. CSM Phillips could have been a victim of either shell. His carefully marked grave must have been lost later, as his name is inscribed on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing.



Reginald Phillips was 22 when he died and engaged to be married. He was highly regarded by his comrades and well known in Hartpury, where he was seen as genial, hardworking, steady and reliable by all who knew him. He is commemorated on the Hartpury village war memorial.

Cheltenham & Gloucester Branch Contact Details

President: Professor Peter Simkins MBE FRHistS

Chairman:

Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Simon Shephard MA

Email: chairman@cgwfa.co.uk

Mobile: 07818 720156

Address: Awre House, Awre Road, BLAKENEY,
GL15 4AA

Newsletter Editor: Adrian Smith

Email: newsletter@cgwfa.co.uk

Mobile: 07557 325656

Website: www.cgwfa.co.uk

X (Twitter): @CGWFA

Facebook: Cheltenham & Gloucester Branch of
the Western Front Association

The Western Front Association

BM Box 1914,

London WC1N 3XX

0207 118 1914

membership@westernfrontassociation.com

www.westernfrontassociation.com



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