London Pride: The London Territorial Force in Peace and War,

# **1908-1921**

# (Version 53 –– 1 November 2024)

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"It was to be London's day out. They were to fight for the glory of the old town…They would show the stuff of London pride.”

Journalist Philip Gibbs on men of the 47th (London) Division which distinguished itself at Loos: "[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Synopsis and outline of chapters**

## Overview

This document aims to help with the planning of content for a publication of a pair of edited volumes of over 40 academic essays on all aspects of the County and City of London Territorial Force Associations and London Regiment from its formation in 1908 to its disembodiment in 1921/2.

For background on the project, see the website page https://kensingtons.org.uk/london-pride-the-london-regiment-in-peace-and-war-1908-1920/

This document aims to:

1. Set out proposed essays and their detail in the eight themed sections. This is to done to identify authors and help co-ordinate the commissioning, drafting and collation of content.

2. Place authors against possible articles to prevent duplication.

**Volume 1: Peacetime, Society and the Transition to War**

## Preface

### GARY SHEFFIELD

### Editors’ Introduction

### CHARLES FAIR, RICHARD HENDRY & TOM THORPE

## Part 1: Antecedents to and Establishment of the London TF

### Volunteer Antecedents of the London Territorials

### PROFESSOR IAN BECKETT

The chapter traces the evolution of the amateur military tradition in London - embracing the militia, volunteers and yeomanry - from the Mediaeval marching watches and the establishment of the Honourable Artillery Company to the eve of the formation of the London Regiment in 1908. Attention is paid to such aspects as the role of the London Trained Bands in the British Civil Wars, the imposition of the militia ballot between 1757 and 1831, the social role of the Victorian rifle volunteer movement, and the raising of the City Imperial Volunteers for service in the South African War.

### Establishing London’s County Territorial Associations

### Dr BILL MITCHINSON

This short chapter looks at how the TF Associations (TFA) for the City of London and County of London were established in 1907-1908. It looks at their composition, role, functioning and their relationships with the War Office. This chapter sets the scene for the two that follow.

### The Drill Halls of the London Territorial Force in 1914

### CHARLES FAIR

This chapter looks at the role and functions of the drill hall as part of the Territorial ‘way of life’ and identity. London units usually had one drill hall in contrast to a battalion in a rural county which would have several locations. The location and facilities of a drill hall could affect a unit’s ability to recruit and train. It assesses the geographical distribution of drill halls in 1914 and demonstrates how this had evolved organically and accidentally from those facilities used by the Volunteers. There was no plan, and the TFAs had to resolve issues such as ownership and funding of the properties they had inherited.

### Partial Failure or Qualified Success? Recruitment in the County of London Territorial Force 1908 – 1914

### CHARLES FAIR and RICHARD HENDRY

The peak strength of the County of London TF at almost 90% of establishment was reached in about March 1909 and that after this it gradually declined to a 73% of establishment shortly before the outbreak of war. This chapter studies the progress of recruiting in the County of London, the problems that the TFA faced, and the attempts it made to overcome these problems. It draws on the minutes and transcripts of the Recruitment Committee of County of London TFA from 1908 to 1914. It considers if in not reaching establishment the TF had failed, or whether it had achieved as much as could have been expected given the challenges of recruiting in London and the TF concept was vindicated by the rapid recruitment to establishment at the outbreak of war. Some comparisons will be drawn with the City of London TFA which was responsible for a smaller number of units, but which kept less detailed minutes about its recruiting challenges.

## Part 2: The social and economic background

### The Same But Different – The True Texture of the Territorial Battalions of the London Regiment

### STEPHEN MANNING and CHARLES FAIR

It is easy to assume that the battalions of the London Regiment were homogenous. After all, they all came from the same city. However, by examining several sources a richer, more nuanced picture emerges. Some battalions were socially exclusive and had an annual subscription. The medal rolls record those who were commissioned after serving overseas with London units and analysis of these data shows the relationship between the social exclusivity and number of commissions. Data on freemasons serving with London units, with some units even having their own lodges, further indicates the degree of social exclusivity. Data on religious affiliation from sources such as *The British Book of Jewry* adds further texture by showing that working class units that drew from the East End were not homogenous with working class units from other areas of the capital. The chapter concludes by proposing that the battalions of the London Regiment can be segmented into several groups which are broad indicators of social class.

### The London TF and London Schools in the Great War

### TIM HALSTEAD

Much has been written about the role of the Public Schools in providing cadets for the Officer Corps. Less well understood is the role of the Grammar Schools and their connections with specific regiments. This chapter examines the relationship between individual schools and the London TF. Using Rolls of Service issued both by both Public Schools and Grammar Schools in London and within commuting range, this chapter will analyse the strength of the connections between these schools and the London TF. Special attention will be given to the Grammar Schools to widen understanding of their role in the Great War.

### London Railwaymen and the London Territorials: The case of the Great Western Railway

### SANDRA GITTINS

This chapter takes the Great Western Railway (GWR) as a case study of a railway company running to and through London. Of a total company workforce in the GWR of 78,084 in 1914, the number of men who enlisted was 25,460 or 32.6%. These men served in the Navy, Airforce and Army, and on all Fronts, with 1,092 killed and 2,304 wounded or prisoners. A large number of the men were from the London stations and depots of the GWR such as Old Oak Common, Poplar, Smithfield, Wormwood Scrubs, and of course Paddington, and it is the men of these that will be studied. Enlistment into local regiments and battalions was well represented, but those from an engineering background, or railway working, were attracted to the Royal Engineers. This includes the General Manager of the GWR, Frank Potter, who served as a lieutenant-colonel in the ERSC. The chapter will thus contain an interesting cross section of stories and profiles of officers and men.

## Part 3: Recruitment, Expansion and Transition from Peace to War

### The London Irish at Peace and War 1908-1915

### STEPHEN SANDFORD

The London Irish Rifles was formed in 1859 as the 28th Middlesex (London Irish) Rifle Volunteer Corps from men having “a connection with Ireland by birth, marriage or property”. Doubts were soon being expressed, however, as to whether such criteria were being strictly applied, so that on the outbreak of war, the author and poet Patrick MacGill, could state the view that only he and the Colonel were the only real Irishmen in the battalion. This paper will examine the period from the creation of the Territorial Force battalion in 1908 until it first went overseas in March 1915. It will examine its recruitment, training, social and ethnic composition with particular reference to the officers and men who formed the original members of the 1/18th Battalion and the regiment’s wartime expansion. It will also examine its social and civic roles and its connections with Ireland. It will conclude with an assessment of the battalion’s performance in its first action at Loos.

### The men who sailed in the Australind: A Study of the 1st Battalion 28th London Regiment (Artists Rifles)

**MICHAEL ORR**

The 1st Battalion of the 28th London Regiment, better known as the Artists Rifles, embarked for France on the SS Australind on 26 October 1914. Unlike other Territorial Force battalions they were not rapidly allocated to a Regular Army infantry division but were kept as GHQ Troops until June 1917. As such the battalion provided the basis of the GHQ Officer School and the GHQ Machine Gun School, as well as producing men for a wide variety of specialist roles. 599 men out of an initial strength of 716 other ranks were commissioned and provided a vital element of the junior leadership of the regular units of the BEF in 1915. Two hundred and thirteen men who sailed on the Australind died as a result of the war.

The chapter will outline the battalion’s operations as part of the BEF but the main emphasis will be a study of the men themselves, analysing their social and educational backgrounds and their fates during the war.

### The Changing Character of the London Territorial Force 1914-18: The case of the 19th (County of London) Battalion, The London Regiment (St. Pancras)

### CHARLES FAIR

This chapter demonstrates how the 19th Londons (St Pancras), a working class battalion, became progressively ‘delocalised’ as the war progressed. It analyses the casualties of the two battalions using data from the CWGC and *Soldiers Died in the Great War*. In 1914 this battalion recruited predominantly from an area within a radius of about a mile from the drill hall in Camden High St. The composition in 1918, however, was very different with men drawn from all over the country, albeit with a strong London, rather than St Pancras, core. It demonstrates that the 2/19th which served in France, Salonika and Palestine had lower turnover of personnel and was better able to maintain its local roots. The analysis also demonstrates that the average age of men in the 1/19th decreased by about two years between 1915 and 1918.

### The London Territorials and the RFC

### JOHN DAVY

Like the rest of the Army, the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) expanded enormously during the First World War. In doing so, it needed to recruit highly-skilled mechanics and engineers, as well as the pilots and observers familiar from popular culture. Who were these men? The London Regiment, given its size and social variety, provides an ideal means to examine this question. The factories and technical schools of London provided a ready supply of the former, whilst few young gentlemen who felt the lure of the air did not have an address ‘in Town’. This chapter uses primary sources to provide statistical analysis of the men who joined the RFC via the London Regiment. It also discusses the likely impact of losing such men on the ‘donating’ battalions.

### Parliament, the London Regiment, and the question of Territorial Force transfers.

### Dr BILL MITCHINSON

Although not all members of the disbanded Volunteer movement were entirely enthused by the creation of the new auxiliary, there were inside the Houses of Parliament some former Volunteers who were anxious that the War Office should respect the new force’s eclecticism, its terms of service, and its character. Several former and current members of the London Regiment’s exclusive battalions sat as lords or MPs. These officers, as well as civilian members of the City and London Associations, kept a watchful eye on how the War Office dealt with the regiment’s units. They resented any moves to alter the status of their men, protested at the inequity of the scales and allowances by which they were paid and, also about what they perceived as the betrayal of the TF’s volunteers by transferring them to other than their chosen battalions. The War Office’s intent was to create a national army with a universal set of regulations and conditions. Many proponents of the Territorial Force believed that such a creation could only be achieved at the expense of the TF. To some, the very existence of the London Regiment, as well as that of the other four purely TF regiments, was at stake.

## Part 4: Morale, Motivation and Military Identity

### Theatre of War: An examination of the role of Concert Parties in the London Territorials

### STEPHEN MANNING

All four London divisions and three London battalions operated Concert Parties (CP) during the First World War. This chapter will have three components. A brief introduction will include contextual background including a brief overview of the history of music hall in the late Victorian and Edwardian eras. The second component will examine the **mobilisation** of CP. It will investigate the logistics of CP, the involvement of senior officers, the personnel of the troupes and the constituents of a ‘typical’ show. Finally, the third component will analyse the extent to which CP buttressed soldiers’ **morale**, engendered battalion and divisional *esprits de corps* and provided combatants with a ‘safe space’ to alleviate anxiety, frustration and boredom.

### Chaplains to the Soldiers of London

### REV. PETER HOWSON

The creation of the Territorial Force saw a massive change in the way spiritual care was provided to the new organisation. The old system of individual appointments based on local connections was replaced by a new central organisation. How this affected London, both in the years before 1914, and in the First World War, is the subject of this chapter. The new organisation allowed for the appointment of the first Jewish chaplain, and how Michael Adler and other chaplains served the need of their co-religionists in France and Flanders forms a theme of the chapter. The chapter will also explore the relationship of the London Regiment with Winnington-Ingram, a chaplain from his time as the Bishop of Stepney and then a member of the newly formed AChD within the TF. His promotion to CF1 and his decisions about whether to deploy in August 1914 illustrate aspects of chaplaincy in London. Finally, the chapter will explore the service of chaplains during the war including the chaplain to the 13th Battalion who died, aged 69, in 1916.

## Part 5: London Men’s experience of war

### *The Hazeley Wail, Fusilier Whispers* and *Bleatings*: An examination of the periodical publications produced by units of the London Territorial Force

### SARAH PATERSON

This paper explores the many and varied periodical publications produced by the London Regiment and other London Territorial Force units held at the Imperial War Museum. These range through runs of regimental magazines, hospital magazines, trench journals and old comrades association newsletters, and are an underutilised resource when researching the First World War. Produced in a particular place at a particular moment in time, they offer contemporary insight into the thoughts, concerns and humour of soldiers, nurses and veterans, and are particularly useful for less well documented units that were not on service in the front line.

### Alexander Paterson and the Bermondsey Battalion

### HARRY POTTER

An account, largely based on the diary and letters of prison reformer Alexander Paterson. It covers his varied military career, initially as a ‘gentleman ranker’ and subsequently as a commissioned officer in the Bermondsey Battalion. He fought at Loos and elsewhere, but as a result of wounds spent the latter half of the war as a lecturer at the Divisional School, defence counsel in courts martial, in Corps intelligence, and as the Battalion’s Sports and Recreation Officer for the Battalion. He was awarded a MC. He was asked by Major-General Gorringe to research the history of the Division, and contributed to Maude’s History. He was also involved with Talbot House, run by his friend from Bermondsey Settlement days, Tubby Clayton.

### Will the real Patrick MacGill please stand up? Changing perspectives on the experience of war in the writings of Rifleman No. 3008, a.k.a. “the navvy poet.”

### DAVID TAYLOR

Our perceptions and understanding of the Great War remain greatly influenced by the retrospective poetry and prose of predominantly middle-class officers. Patrick MacGill, well-known at the time for his autobiographical *Children of the Dead End*, offers a different, working-class, perspective. More importantly, his writings, both during and after the war, reveal the complex, dynamic and problematic way in which his memories and responses changed over time. This chapter considers MacGill’s better-known accounts of war – *The Amateur Army*, (1915), *The Red Horizon*, (1916), and *The Great Push*, (1916) – his largely-forgotten wartime writings – *The Brown Brethren*, (1917), *The Diggers*, (1918), and *The Dough Boys*, (1918) – and his neglected post-war works, the novel *Fear!* (1921), and the play, *Suspense*, (1930). The central argument is that for MacGill there was no single ‘memory’ of the war and no single ‘authentic’ account. This in turn raises important questions for our overall perceptions of the Great War.

### Henry Williamson, chronicler of nature and war

### DR JOHN AKEROYD

Henry Williamson, best known for *Tarka the Otter*, *Salar the Salmon* and other nature writing, also wrote novels about the First World War that incorporate narratives and descriptions of his experiences on the Western Front. This chapter examines the war books, especially earlier volumes of the 15-novel sequence *A Chronicle of Ancient Sunlight* (1951–69) and *The Patriot’s Progress* (1930), based on active service in the territorials as a private in the 5th Battalion, City of London Regiment of the London Rifle Brigade; and subsequently as a transport officer in 208 Company, the Machine Gun Corps, a period he also covered in *The Wet Flanders Plain* (1929). Williamson served throughout the War, although incapacitated by lengthy intervals of ill-health. Born in 1895 in Brockley, south London, and mobilized in August 1914, he took part in First Ypres and shortly after witnessed the Christmas Truce, which profoundly affected him. The two periods he spent at the front, notably formative experiences in the London Rifle Brigade alongside work colleagues and neighbours, were key influences on his writing. The impact of the First World War pervades both Williamson’s novels and his extensive non-fiction and journalism.

## Part 6: Researching London Men and Their Units

### Bringing John Smith back to life: a chance find and a Willesden man's experience of war

### CHRIS BAKER

Many enthusiasts and researchers, even seasoned academic ones, have tended toward the 'macro' - whether structural, institutional, operational or cultural - facets of the War and its immediately surrounding years. Yet the 'micro' or individual experiential aspects can contribute much to both knowledge and understanding. This chapter, focused on a (real) John Smith of north-west London, who served with 20th Battalion, London Regiment and lost his life on the Somme in 1916, will present a platform for wider application when researching London soldiers. In doing so, it will seek to promote legacy and avenues to commemoration and, more parochially, to 'keep the Londons' torch burning'.

## Bibliographical Note and Further Reading

**Contributors’ biographies (vol 1)**

**Dr John Akeroyd** is a botanist, writer and the Editor of the Henry Williamson Society Journal. After holding research positions at Trinity College, Dublin, and the University of Reading, he worked freelance as a botanical consultant, including co-founding *Plant Talk*, an international conservation magazine. He has collaborated for twenty years with British and Romanian colleagues to research and implement measures that conserve and enhance farmland biodiversity in Transylvania. He is the author of books, practical manuals, scientific papers and popular articles on plant conservation, taxonomy and evolution, although his interests now focus on English writing on farming, nature and the countryside.

**Chris Baker** is a former Chartered Engineer who became a professional military historian. He is the author of The Long, Long Trail website and (at time of writing) has five books published on the Great War. Much of Chris's work is in researching the lives of individual soldiers of the British Army, mainly for private clients but also for media including the "Who do you think you are?" TV series. He is a past Chairman of the WFA and holds BSc, MSc and MA degrees from the Universities of Nottingham and Birmingham.

**Professor Ian Beckett** retired as Professor of Military History from the University of Kent in 2015. A Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, he has held chairs in both the US and the UK. A past chairman of the Army Records Society, his publications include *Riflemen Form* (1985), *The Amateur Military Tradition, 1558-1945* (1991), *Territorials: A Century of Service* (2008), and (as editor), *Citizen Soldiers and the British Empire, 1837-1902* (2012).

**Jonathan Davy** served as a pilot in the Royal Air Force for 27 years before becoming a long-haul airline pilot. A Londoner by birth, he is fascinated by all aspects of the First World War and has been visiting the Western Front for over 30 years. Despite having a science-based education, chance enrolment in an Air Power MOOC in 2014 led to him undertake an MA in the History of Britain and the First World War at the University of Wolverhampton. He graduated with distinction in 2018, his dissertation examining the military effectiveness of the Royal Flying Corps in 1914.

**Charles Fair** has had a lifelong interest in the history of the British Army of the 1908-1945 era. His first book, *Marjorie's War: Four Families in the Great War 1914-1918*, was published in 2012 and is based on a family archive of 800 letters and 400 photographs by his grandmother and other family members. This includes letters by his grandfather who commanded 1/19th Londons after High Wood and a gunner officer who served in 47 Division RFA. He was the Haig Fellowship's 2009 Scholar for his essay on the social history of the working class 19th Londons. He was a third-generation Territorial officer and served in the infantry. His 'day job' is as a consultant and researcher on command and control (C2) issues for a UK defence contractor. He is an active member of the 19th London Old Comrades Association and has led several battlefield tours looking at the actions of 47 and 60 Divisions on the Western and Salonika Fronts. He is currently combining his personal and professional interests by writing his PhD on the selection and training of junior officers in the British Army of the Great War at the Dept of War Studies, KCL.

**Sandra Gittins** is a researcher and writer specialising on railways during the First World War, especially on the Western Front. She is the author of *The Great Western Railway in the First World War* (The History Press, 2010) and *Between the Coast and the Western Front: Transportation and Supply Behind the Trenches* (The History Press, 2014).

**Timothy Halstead** has written extensively about the role of the public schools in the Great War, as well as the development and role of the Officer Training Corps both before and during the Great War. His first book was *A School in Arms: Uppingham and the Great War* and since then *More than Victims of Horace: Public Schoolboys 1914-1918* has been published by Helion. He was educated at Uppingham and completed an MA in British First World War Studies at the University of Birmingham. He works as Data Protection Officer for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

**Derrick Harwood** is the Historian and Archivist for the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Greater London (RFCA-GL). He served for 38 years in the Territorial Army retiring in 1996. He worked for RFCA-GL as the Recruiting and Publicity Officer until retirement in 2005. Knowing his interest in the contribution of the Territorials in both world wars, he was asked to assist Field Marshal Sir John Chapel in updating and amending his book *Lineages and Battle Honours of London Reserve Forces 1908-2008*. This publication was mainly about preserving the history of these units with the major part dedicated to the London Regiment. With the amendments completed, he sought permission to increase the scope of the original publication by adding further chapters that would include information on all Reserve and Auxiliary force units within the Greater London area. The book was now retitled *Stepping Forward* published in 2018. His work now is mainly concerned with updating the Stepping Forward Website and research on enquiries concerning soldiers’ records on behalf of RFCA-GL. In 2017 he attended a degree course at Wolverhampton University on ‘Britain and the First World War’ He graduated with an MA 2019. He is President of the Middlesex Branch of the Queen’s Regimental Association.

**Richard Hendry** holds undergraduate and Masters degrees in Law, and, before opting for full-time leisure six years ago, spent his working life first as a legal academic and then as director of employment law and employee relations for a management consultancy. An independent scholar, he was awarded an MA in “The History of Britain in the First World War” (University of Wolverhampton) in 2018. He has a particular interest in the work and experiences of the London Regiment’s battalions and divisions on the Western Front during the Great War, but also enjoys examining many other aspects of that conflict and wider military history. A lifelong follower of, and a season-ticket holder at, Manchester United, he lives in Cheshire.

**The Rev Dr Peter Howson** was educated in London where his fist headmaster had been at TF camp in August 1914 and served with London units throughout the war. He introduced Peter to an interest in the history of the war. After a career as an army chaplain Dr Howson became involved in the study of army chaplaincy producing *Muddling Through: The Organisation of British Army Chaplaincy in World War One* (Helion 2013). Subsequently he has published studies of several chaplains who served during the war. He has also published on relations between the British authorities and the German churches after the Second World War.

**Stephen Manning** worked in financial services for 31 years before pivoting to a second career in primary education. Now retired, Stephen was awarded an MA in ‘The History of Britain in the First World War’ (University of Wolverhampton) in 2020. Stephen is a life-long south Londoner. His Great Uncle served in the 1/14th (County of London) Battalion (The London Scottish) and was taken prisoner at the Battle of Messines in October 1914. Stephen has a particular interest in the social history of the First World War (FWW), notably the factors affecting the morale, *esprits de corps* and camaraderie of NCOs and Other Ranks. In addition to studying the FWW, Stephen enjoys walking, travelling and watching most sports but particularly cricket.

**Dr Bill Mitchinson** is a retired lecturer of King’s College, London. He has a particular interest in the development and work of the Territorial Force. His book on the London Rifle Brigade, *Gentlemen and Officers*, was published by the Imperial War Museum in 1994. *Defending Albion*, the first of the trilogy on the TF, the Volunteer Training Corps, and the Volunteer Force, was joint runner-up for the 2005 Templer Prize. The other two books in the series, *England’s Last Hope*, and *The Territorial Force at War 1914-1916* were similarly widely well-received. Among his other books, *Of No Earthly Use*, an analysis of the performance and work of the Second Line Divisions on the Western Front, appeared in 2022. Bill taught for nearly two decades at the Joint Services Command and Staff College, Shrivenham. He continues to lead staff rides comprised of senior British and international officers to the battlefields of the First and Second World Wars.

**Michael Orr** lectured at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst between 1969 and 2004 in the Department of War Studies and the Soviet Studies Research Centre. From 2004 to 2010 he was Secretary General of the British Commission for Military History. He is currently editing the letters and journals of Lieutenant ‘Bill’ Haine VC MC for publication in 2024.

**Sarah Paterson** has extensive experience working at the Imperial War Museum, initially as a Librarian and more recently as a Curator in the First World War Team. She loves to spread the word about the IWM periodicals collection, and has co-supervised CDP students studying First World War Women’s Auxiliary Service Old Comrades Association periodicals and British Garrison newspapers of Cold War Berlin. Recent research outputs delivered at conferences include: ‘Pantomimes, Postcards and Periodicals: A Historical Review’ marking the Centenary of the Imperial War Museum’s Library and ‘Jolly Publications’: Ship Journals of the First World War and the IWM Library.

**Dr Stephen Sandford** is a former government policy analyst. A qualified accountant and member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, he has a MSc in Policy Analysis from the University of Ulster and a PhD in Modern British History from Queens University, Belfast. Although a member of the WFA for the past 30 years he chose to write his doctoral thesis on a formation that never served on the Western Front, the 10th (Irish) Division, which has been published as *Neither Unionist nor Nationalist* by Irish Academic Press. He has also had a number of articles published in international academic journals. He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

**Professor Gary Sheffield**…

**Barbara Taylor,** the cartographer for this work, was a career draughtswoman, including employment with the MoD at what was the Army Staff College and the Defence Geographic Centre. She is a Great War expert in her own right, a long-standing member of the Western Front Association and currently chairman of the Thames Valley Branch. Barbara is also a member of the British Commission for Military History, the Battlefields Trust and the Douglas Haig Fellowship. Her maps are to be found in many other Helion publications, including Dr Spencer Jones’ Great War series. She has also produced maps for Gary Sheffield, Jonathan Boff and Mungo Melvin.

**Professor David Taylor** is emeritus professor of history at the university of Huddersfield and has written several articles on Patrick MacGill as well as being the author of *Memory, Narrative and the Great War: Rifleman Patrick MacGill and the Construction of Wartime Experience* (Liverpool University Press, 2013). His interest in the Great War stems from the fact that his maternal grandfather was also a rifleman in the London Irish Rifles.

**Dr Tom Thorpe** is originally from London but grew up in the Shropshire Marches from the mid-1970s and until 1988 when he returned to the capital to read History at KCL. He remained at KCL, completing a MA in War Studies in 1993. After this he embarked on a career as a communications, policy and public affairs professional working in the health and care setting covering statutory and voluntary sectors. In 2017, he completed a PhD in Defence Studies from KCL exploring motivation and cohesion in London TF units during the Great War. He is now a public historian, podcaster and tour guide in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

## Appendices

Appendix 1 – Drill hall locations of the London Territorial Force in 1913

(based on TNA:WO 114/55 Territorial Force: Return of unit HQs and outlying drill stations, 30 April 1913)

Appendix 2 - Tbc – probably only Colours of the London TF by Derrick Harwood including a table listing those and extant war memorials

## Indices

* Index of units and formations
* Index of personalities
* Index of places
* General Index

**Volume 2: War, the Learning Process and the Aftermath**

### Editors’ Introduction

### CHARLES FAIR, RICHARD HENDRY & TOM THORPE

This will be much shorter than that in Vol 1 and will only refer to themes in this volume.

**Part 7 – The learning process and the supporting arms**

**The London Territorial Force and the Machine Gun Corps**

### RICHARD FISHER

At the outbreak of War, each infantry battalion and cavalry regiment had two machine guns integral to their unit. These men were an essential part of the fighting strength, yet they would soon become part of the Machine Gun Corps and this firepower was replaced with lighter weapons. The Machine Gun Corps provided companies to each brigade and this chapter explores the role and the relationships of the machine gunners from their time as a unit asset through to the machine gun battalions of 1918, with a particular examination of how those from London and their associated units developed and employed their machine gun capability. This will include the numerous machine gun companies and battalions of the 47th, 56th and 60th Divisions, the 21st MG Squadron of the MGC Cavalry, the 103rd and 104th Army Troops Battalions that were short-lived formations in 1918. It will also discuss how the Artists Rifles became the first instructors of the Machine Gun School in France.

### ‘The Londoners could not dig’ 4/RWF chapter for London Pride (title TBC)

### GERAINT OWAIN

To be added

### ‘Gunners definitely, but not necessarily Arsenal fans’: The Four London Territorial Force Division’s Field Artillery Brigades 1914-1918 [CHAPTER IN 2 PARTS]

### SIMON SHEPHARD

London delivered four TF infantry divisions to battle in the First World War. So simplistically this should be the story of some eight field artillery brigades. However, it is far more complex. In 1914 the two extant TF divisions, 56th (1st London) and 47th (2nd London) where each established for three field artillery brigades (each of three batteries) and a heavy artillery brigade (of two batteries). When the Second Line TF divisions were raised, 58th (2/1st London) and 60th (2/2nd London) they mirrored these establishments.

These field and heavy brigades did not necessarily always serve with their parent divisions, in the case of the 56th they were transferred to the 58th on its formation but were reconstituted within the 56th later in the war. Whilst with the 58th these First Line TF batteries were sent to fight as part of the 36th (Ulster) Division and the 58th then formed its own Second Line batteries. Just as brigades and batteries left the London TF divisions so others from elsewhere, such as Glamorgan and Staffordshire joined as replacements.

Originally the First Line TF divisions had been equipped with 15-prds for the field batteries together with a mix of 5” howitzers and 4.7” guns in the heavy batteries. By late 1914 they were established for an additional Anti-Aircraft section of a single 1-pdr gun. Following the major organisation of the Army in 1916 their four artillery brigades were equipped with the standard mix of 18-pdrs and 4.2” howitzers. At the same time three medium (2” mortar) and one heavy (9.45” mortar) batteries were added to the artillery compliment. By the end of the war each division’s artillery component would consist of two field artillery brigade, each of three field batteries and one howitzer battery together with two medium mortar batteries.

Through the use of the relevant war diaries, and additional archival material, this chapter will seek to follow the histories of the London Division’s TF artillery brigades and batteries, including the mortar batteries, as they fought on the Western Front, in Salonika, and in Palestine.

### Royal Engineer Units of the London Territorial Force

### Dr JOHN PEATY

To be added.

### From Prominence to Obscurity: The Engineer and Railway Staff Corps, 1865–1918

### CHRISTOPHER PHILLIPS

The Engineer and Railway Staff Corps (ERSC) was established as a branch of the Royal Engineers in 1865, and comprised some of Britain’s most prominent civil engineers and railway managers. It began its existence as a purely defensive body, charged with securing unity of purpose on the privately owned railways of Britain and the coordination of engineering works considered necessary by the War Office in the event of war on British soil. By 1907, the Corps had an establishment of more than a hundred officers and had contributed a series of mobilisation schemes to meet the perceived threats of both French and German invaders. However, by 1914 the ERSC’s status had diminished to the extent that it took no direct role in the mobilisation of the British Expeditionary Force.

This chapter will address three things: first, it will provide an overview of the ERSC’s establishment and development prior to the First World War; second, it will chart the manner in which the Corps gained and lost prominence as Britain’s strategic focus shifted from defence to offense in the 1900s; third, it will document some of the ways in which individual officers of the ERSC contributed to the war effort after 1914, emphasising the scale, breadth, and complexity of the conflict.

## Part 8: The Learning Process on the Western Front

### ‘A feat of arms surpassed by no battalion’: The 1/13th Battalion, London Regiment and the Battle of Aubers Ridge (Sunday, 9 May 1915)

### TOM THORPE

This chapter examines the role and experience of the 1/13 Bn, The London Regiment (Kensingtons) during the single-day battle at Aubers Ridge on May 9, 1915. The Kensingtons were the first TF unit to be placed in an offensive role as part of a set-piece battle. Their role was to protect the left flank of the attack by crossing no man's land and forming a defensive front to protect the offensive. During the attack, they managed to traverse no man's land and established their defensive line in the first three German trenches. In the afternoon of May 9, the German forces launched a counter-attack and managed to eject all British units that had established lodgements in their front line. At the end of the day, the Kensingtons had suffered 436 casualties, which was 70% of those who had gone into battle that morning. This was the highest casualties the Kensingtons suffered in a single day during the entire Great War. The Kensingtons have been credited as the only battalion on May 9 to achieve all their objectives, but their attack was still considered a failure. This paper explores why the Kensingtons were able to carry out their orders and why ultimately the attack, of which they were a part, failed.

### Resurrecting the Rangers: Attrition, Adaptation and Innovation in 1/12th Londons from the Frezenberg Ridge to the Gommecourt Salient

### MARK JONES

This paper examines the experiences of the 1/12th (County of London) Battalion (The Rangers) during its service on the Western Front from December 1914 to July 1916. Having landed in Le Havre on 25 December 1914, the battalion experienced a frustrating period of service behind the lines before ultimately being absorbed into the 28th Division. At the Second Battle of Ypres (22 April – 25 May 1915) the battalion fought valiantly and suffered accordingly, with just 53 soldiers remaining amongst the battalions ranks at the conclusion of the fighting. Forced to amalgamate with two other London battalions, the Rangers recovered their strength and reformed as an independent battalion within three months. Transferred to the newly formed 168th Brigade of 56th (London) Division, the Rangers would be at the forefront of the assault on Gommecourt less than 14 months after their near-destruction at Ypres.

The interrelated concepts of adaption, innovation and learning remain effective and popular areas of research within the wider historiography of the First World War. Studies of the British Army within these themes have primarily focussed on the decades preceding the outbreak of the conflict, or on the cataclysmic years of 1916-1918. In contrast the British Army’s experiences in 1915 and early 1916 remain unheralded; “noticeable only by its absence from the historiography”.[[2]](#footnote-2) This paper will assess how the Rangers learnt from, and adapted to, the reality of fighting on the Western Front in 1915-1916. By assessing organisational culture, and the process of innovation and adaption at the tactical level of war, this paper will provide an insight as to how the process of learning functioned within this battalion. In doing so it will demonstrate how the officers and men of the Rangers sought to understand, implement, and recover from, the lessons of combat and the experience of battle during their service on the Western Front.

### ‘The fighting spirit and endurance of both officers and men was beyond all praise.’ The ‘blooding’ of 173rd Brigade (58th (London) Division) on the Western Front May-June 1917

### COLIN TAYLOR

Generally, the Second Line Territorial Force infantry divisions have a poor reputation for combat performance. 58th London Division deployed to France in early 1917 low in confidence but its initial operations have been neglected. This chapter will delve into two tactical vignettes to assess the effectiveness of one brigade in their initial operations (173rd Brigade; 2/1st, 2/2nd, 2/3rd and 2/4th Battalions of the London Regiment). The Brigade fought defensively at Bullecourt in May 1917 and in a complex, set-piece trench warfare battle for Tunnel Trench in June. This study will use first-hand accounts (including Bernard Freyberg, the brigade commander) and archive documents, to examine the quality of morale, training, tactical leadership and formation command. Examining these topics in relation to these operations will assess whether these troops were actually poor-performing, or just poorly thought of.

### 56th Division at Third Ypres, 1917: Thirty-Six Hours of Disaster in the Front Line: *“…one of the most heroic as well as one of the bloodiest day’s fighting in all this war…”* (Philip Gibbs, war correspondent)

### KEN WAYMAN

At Third Ypres in August 1917 56th Division was hurled in where two earlier efforts to capture the Gheluvelt Ridge, east of Ypres, had failed miserably. Apart from individual battalions, 56th ‘1/1st London’ Division had never fought at Ypres yet its ten London Regiment battalions were experienced on the Somme and at Arras. For the division’s assault the Gheluvelt Plateau, almost unreconnoitred by its officers, was a slimy shell-scape of marshes and shattered woodlands. A poor plan had failed twice previously and little was changed in terms of heavy guns and their chosen targets; and von Lossberg’s German ‘Flexible Defence’ was still remarkably effective. Trained for its unenviable task, on 16-17th August disaster overtook the London lads on the Gheluvelt Ridge. After 36 hours the bloodied division was withdrawn, suffering 2,905 casualties for no gain. 56th Division never visited Ypres again.

### 58th Division’s performance in the March Retreat 1918

### GLYN TAYLOR

58th Division was the BEF’s southernmost division when it faced the first German Spring Offensive in March 1918. Only five weeks prior to the attack it became one of the most disrupted divisions in Fifth Army when it reorganised to nine battalions with the rest of the BEF in February 1918, suffering three disbandments and six mergers. The German attack fell upon only one brigade north of the Oise valley, which disintegrated. The remainder of the division retired through French lines to fight again in the defence of Amiens. The chapter will examine all the factors which may have affected its performance in the battle.

### Battlegroup on the Western Front: 90 Brigade and combined arms operations in the 100 Days

### DENNIS WILLIAMS

This chapter considers the actions of 30th Division, and particularly 90 Brigade, part of British Second Army, during the final phase of the First World War. 90 Brigade comprised the three London Battalions, 2/14th (London Scottish), 2/15th (Prince of Wales’ Own Civil Service Rifles), and 2/16th (Queen’s Westminster Rifles). Two other London battalions also served in 30th Division during this period, 2/23rd, and 2/17th. All these units had transferred in May and June 1918 to the Western Front from Palestine following the ‘Indianisation’ of 60th Division. As part of 30th Division they made a major contribution to the Final Advance in Flanders, and to the liberation of Belgium. The final 100 Days campaign saw British forces conducting an open warfare which was rarely seen on the Western Front since the embedding of trench warfare four years earlier. The chapter looks at the operations of 90 Brigade in Flanders and describes the combined arms tactics and deployment which were used to such good effect. With the London Battalions having had experience of a more open form of warfare during the fighting in the Middle East, did this help or hinder them in adapting to the demands of the breakout from Ypres and the drive to liberate Belgium in the autumn of 1918?

### One more push? The 47th Division in battle on the Western Front, 1915-1918 – performance, development and reputation

### RICHARD HENDRY

In its major engagements on the Western Front from March 1915 until November 1918, the 47th Division at least ‘passed muster’. Despite the historiography’s often relatively patchy coverage and qualified recognition of its achievements, there are grounds for going farther, to assert that the Division easily exceeded such bare adequacy and, even, to speculate that it became an elite formation of the BEF. To explore these questions, this piece will, extending a scoring methodology previously trialled by the author, seek to: a) evaluate the performance of the 47th, and its constituent battalions, in all its fighting incidents from spring 1915 to The Hundred Days; b) consider the extent to which its tactical development adhered to ‘learning curve’ orthodoxy; and c) measure its achievements against an academically-endorsed threshold for elite status.

### Raiding and the Learning Process in the 56th Division during the Great War

### TOM THORPE

This study examines the learning process within the British Army during the Great War by analysing 34 raids conducted by the 56th (London) Division between 1916 and 1918. Using three key indicators—penetration of enemy lines, securing identifications, and destruction of enemy material—it assesses whether raiding success reflects tactical adaptation and increased operational effectiveness. Findings show that while early raids were largely ineffective, by 1918, success rates had significantly improved due to better leadership, artillery support, and unit cohesion. The study highlights how small-unit experience and teamwork contributed to battlefield learning, demonstrating that adaptation occurred not only at high command but also among frontline troops. This research offers a new perspective on how raiding served as a proxy for operational effectiveness, contributing to the broader debate on the British Army’s evolving combat capabilities during the Great War.

### The Evolution of Infantry Battalion Command in the London Regiment

### DR PETER HODGKINSON

Using the author’s complete database of infantry COs of the London Regiment, the chapter would analyse the regiment’s COs of 1914 and the evolution of commanders through key stages of the war, contrasting them with the wider TF and considering the way the Army as a whole ‘stiffened’ the development of the TF with Regular officers and at the same time discriminated against the TF in terms of promotion. Emphasis would be placed on the Hundred Days campaign as the final point of evolution.

**The Yeomanry**

**PROFESSOR GARY SHEFFIELD**

To be added.

## Part 9: The Learning Process in other theatres

### London Territorials in Gallipoli

### CLIVE HARRIS

Whilst none of the four London territorial divisions served at Gallipoli, six London Regiment battalions, five London Yeomanry Regiments, the 2nd London Field Company and the 1st London Divisional Signal Company all played their role in the campaign. This contribution amounted to around 8500 officers and men who found themselves serving not side by side, but split among several regular, new army and territorial formations. They served in locations that stretched from Helles in the south, at Anzac and through to Suvla in the north, they saw action from the landings on the 25 April 1915 through to the evacuation the following January. This spread across the breadth of the MEF, somewhat uniquely enabled them to experience the campaign in its entirety, enduring all that that entailed. This essay will study their contribution to the Gallipoli campaign, examine their experiences whilst in theatre and consider what lessons they learnt that would prove of value in the later years of the war. It looks at the Gallipoli campaign through the eyes of the Londoners who served among their ranks including the bandleader Billy Cotton and the 1st Viscount Stansgate, William Wedgewood Benn.

### Medical Challenges of the 60th (2/2nd London) Division

### BRADFORD WATERS

The 60th (2/2nd London) Division served in France, Macedonia, Egypt and Palestine during World War I. Few Divisions experienced deployments with such diverse environmental and medical challenges. In addition to combat casualties, medical challenges included endemic diseases such as malaria, typhus and gastrointestinal infections. In Egypt and Palestine, medical evacuation was successful despite the limited resources, rapidly changing front lines, and terrain. The Egyptian Expeditionary Force’s modes of evacuation ranged from camels to aircraft. In Palestine, the successful development of disease prevention, early diagnosis of malaria, and excellent surgical care close to the front lines provide models for medical care in subsequent conflicts.

### ‘But we had been bored – bored stiff’: The 60th (2/2nd London) Division and the Psychological Demands of Soldiering on the Salonika Front, December 1916 – June 1917

### JAKE GASSON

This chapter explores the distinct psychological challenges faced by men of the 60th (2/2nd London) Division while serving at Salonika between December 1916 and June 1917. In contrast to the Western Front, soldiering in the Balkans did not subject men to the worst aspects of the modern industrialised warfare that has defined popular perceptions of the First World War. Instead, non-combat hardships abounded, notably the harsh climate and endemic disease. But, above all, boredom dominated their experience of active service. Compared to the Western Front, the conduct of warfare seemed unexciting, characterised by infrequent operations and trench warfare of generally low intensity. Rather than fight, men spent much of their time labouring or holding an uneventful front. Dispatched to Katerini, the 179th Brigade became even more bored guarding against an attack from Greek Royalist forces that would never come. Even the Macedonian countryside bored men, with a widespread consensus on its desolate and uninteresting nature. On a deeper level, men were troubled by the overriding atmosphere of futility associated with the Salonika campaign. Failing to break through the Bulgarian position at the First Battle of Doiran in April and May 1917 only reinforced such sentiments, contributing to the relief felt when the Division departed for Palestine.

### *Oh Yes They Did!* Pantomimes created in Salonika by 85th Field Ambulance (2/5th County of London Field Ambulance)

### KATHARINE WILLS

Concerts and dramatic productions were an established part of British Army life long before 1914, London units being notable exponents. 85th Field Ambulance were theatrical pioneers on the new Salonika front. This chapter looks at these frontline shows and their creators, one of which was the London story, *Dick Whittington*. 85th Field Ambulance, said H. Collinson Owen in *Salonica and After* “set the standard for all future developments”, going on to say such “entertainments did an immense amount of good…They were as necessary as mules or shells.”

**‘France had made us realise the grimness of war, but it was the Balkans that taught us to be soldiers’: Independent Operations and Open Warfare in Salonika with 60 Division December 1916 – June 1917**

### CHARLES FAIR

Despite the boredom described in the previous chapter, elements of the Division were engaged in operations against the Bulgarian Army. However, these were predominantly minor operations and the Division was not involved in the main effort of the First Battle of Doiran. It first looks at the reconnaissance patrols, fighting patrols and raids carried out by 181 Brigade in the Krusha Balkan Hills in February and March 1917. With each company responsible for about a mile of front, and patrols taking routes of several miles this was a very different experience from the claustrophobia of the Western Front. It also describes the long-distance trench raid carried out by 180 Brigade in April 1917 as a diversionary operation for the Doiran offensive. Arguably this open warfare with a high reliance on individual initiative at low levels of command was a return to what a pre-war Regular soldier might have considered to be ‘proper soldiering’. The terrain engendered physical fitness, and this, combined with the type aand low lethality of operations, meant that the Division’s Balkan experience turned out to be excellent training for the tougher tests that were to come in Palestine.

### Amritsar, Afghanistan and Cholera: The 1/25th County of London Cyclists in India 1916-1919

### ADAM PRIME

The 1/25th County of London Cyclists had a rather different war that the majority of the London Regiment. Initially fulfilling the role envisaged for territorials, garrisoning England and guarding against invasion, in February 1916 they embarked for India. One of a number of territorial battalions sent to India to defend the North-West Frontier against both the bellicose tribes who inhabited the region and against a potential incursion by Afghanistan. In 1917 the 1/25th joined the Waziristan Field Force and had its first taste of frontier warfare. Whilst in India, the 1/25th took part of the Kitchener Tests a competition of regimental efficiency (first carried out in 1904 under the auspices of Lord Kitchener himself). They would have been exposed to new cultures, an alien climate, different races and religions, whilst India also afforded many sporting opportunities.

In 1919 the 1/25th were involved in two important events of the British Empire. Firstly, a detachment of men was present in Amritsar in April 1919. Though not present in the Jallianwalla Bagh for the shooting of protestors, the detachment was involved in the days prior to the massacre, carrying out the ‘crawling order’, forcing Indian men to crawl along the street where a British missionary had been assaulted days earlier (an image of men of the 25th carrying out the order exists in the NAM archive). The following month, the 25th joined the Thal Relief Force, thus taking part in the Third Anglo-Afghan War, after the Afghan Army had invaded India, looking to take advantage of British war weariness. Shortly after the armistice with Afghanistan, in June 1919, the 1/25th experienced a cholera outbreak whilst stationed in Nowshera. Finally, the 1/25th embarked for England in November 1919 and disbanded a month later.

The purpose of the chapter is to study the experience of the men of 1/25th in India, as part time soldiers, never initially intended for service overseas. Secondly, to analyse their involvement and capability in frontier warfare. Finally, the understand the 1/25th role in two of the watershed moments of the post-war British Empire, Amritsar and Afghanistan.

## Part 10: Aftermath

### Shell Shock and Psychological Casualties in the London Regiment

### DR STEPHANIE LINDEN

This chapter focuses on those soldiers from the London Regiment who were admitted to the world-leading neurological hospital at Queen Square which also became a specialist centre for shell shock treatment during the First World War. These are some of the best documented shell shock cases of the Great War. Some soldiers of the London Regiment received pioneering treatment by Dr Lewis Yealland who discussed some of these cases in his controversial wartime book “Hysterical disorders of Wartime”. Drawing upon individual histories from soldiers of the London Regiment, this chapter illustrates the often devastating and long-term consequences of combat trauma for their mental health. It also shows how these London-based soldiers could never get away from the war stage. Even when on home leave in London, they were constantly reminded of the war, and the use of zeppelins and airplanes to attack civilian populations challenged the idea that the home front and war front were naturally separated.

### ‘Made out that we were conscripts, but we weren’t, we were Territorials, London Territorial regiment’: the martial identities of British conscripts in the London Regiment, 1916–1918

### JOSH BILTON

This chapter demonstrates that the martial identities of British conscripts serving in the London Regiment on the Western Front between October 1916 and the Armistice, were in general comparable to the prewar and volunteer Territorials who served. This is significant as it contradicts the accepted belief among the general public and some historians that the identities of these men were divergent due to their enlistment. To achieve this, it focuses first on the sociocultural, examining the prewar demographics of British conscripts and the composition of London battalions throughout this period. It then addresses tactical and doctrinal factors, such as the influence of unit commanders, BHQ and GHQ as well as the proliferation and subsequent decline of specialist roles in the BEF. Though this chapter looks more broadly at conscripts in the London Regiment, particular attention is drawn to those in the little known 29–34th Battalions, raised much later in the war as Provisional and Service units.

### Facial injury in the London Territorials

### DR ANDREW BAMJI

Prior to the First World War, facial injury among combatants was not a major surgical issue. In many theatres of war disease was more prevalent than injury and the problems of infection, blood loss and anaesthesia were only being addressed properly by the start of the 20th Century. New ordnance and trench warfare conspired to produce a dramatic increase in facial injury, and the army medical services had begun to develop the wherewithal to manage these. Thanks to the interest of an ear, nose and throat surgeon, Harold Gillies, who went to France under the auspices of the Red Cross and began to see the facial casualties, an entire facial injury service began in Aldershot in 1916, being rapidly expanded during the following years with the building of the Queen’s Hospital, Sidcup.

Among the 5000 or so men treated at Sidcup, for which about half the British records survive, there are case files for 108 men from the London Regiment and the Honourable Artillery company. Most are designated as “GSW”, or gunshot wound, but a large proportion were, from the pattern of injury, the victims of shell explosions. The prevailing wisdom was that severely disfigured men would lead lives of misery and isolation, but the stories related by families or friends of the injured suggest that most lived contented lives. This chapter describes case studies of three men from the London Territorials who have postwar histories that are consistent with this interpretation.

### ‘Their Name Liveth For Evermore’: Burying the London Territorials

### DR GEORGE HAY AND TIM HALSTEAD

The British Army’s small professional army was prepared for war in 1914. It played a significant role in halting the German advance but at a heavy price. If it was prepared for war the army was unprepared for its heavy losses which included burying its dead. A problem made more difficult with the growth of Britain’s citizen army. This chapter examines the establishment of CWGC cemeteries both during and after the Great War; it examines the cemeteries with strong associations with the London Territorials such as London Cemetery, High Wood, to analyse how their establishment falls within the wider picture.

### Keeping bright the memory - remembrance and commemoration: Pride of service, rolls of honour, street shrines and memorials in South London

### MARIETTA CRICHTON STUART

To be added.

### “The Peculiar Bond”: Old Comrades of the Queen's Westminster Rifles from ‘Maidaners’ to Retired Members

### STEVE HAMMOND

This chapter is a case study of the old comrades of a battalion of the London Regiment, namely the officers and men of the 1st Battalion Queen's Westminster Rifles. It will begin with the ‘Maidaners’ who sailed to France from Southampton on 1st November 1914 on board the S.S Maidan and their first reunion dinner in November 1915. It will then look at the formation of the Old Comrades Association and will discuss the introduction of reunion dinners and the battlefield tours taken in the 1930's. It will include the post Second World War formation of the combined 15th/16th Londons Retired Members Association in 1946 and the publication of their first regimental newsletter in 1948. Drawing on newsletters and veterans logs that contribute many personal photos, the chapter will highlight the camaraderie and brotherhood of lifelong friendship created within the Battalions of the London Regiment.

## Appendices

## Indices

* Index of units and formations
* Index of personalities
* Index of places
* General Index

Contributors’ **biographies (vol 2)**

**Dr Andrew Bamji** qualified in medicine from the Middlesex Hospital, University of London in 1973, and was a consultant (rheumatology and rehabilitation) at Queen Mary’s Hospital, Sidcup for 28 years. He is a past President of the British Society for Rheumatology. An expert on medicine and surgery of the Great War he is Gillies Archivist to the British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons and has twice been the Association’s Gillies Lecturer and Gold medallist; author of *Faces from the Front: Harold Gillies, The Queen's Hospital, Sidcup and the Origins of Modern Plastic Surgery* (Helion Press, 2017); contributor to *Facing Armageddon* (Cecil & Liddle, 1996) and *Britain and the Widening War 1915-1916* (Liddle, 2016); numerous articles on surgery, dentistry and anaesthesia relating to facial injury; *Mad Medicine: Myths, Maxims and Mayhem in the National Health Service* (KDP, 2019). He maintains a website about the WW1 history of the Queen’s Hospital and writes a regular blog on medical topics.

**Josh Bilton** is a PhD student in the Department of War Studies at KCL. His research addresses the military identities of British conscripts on the Western Front. Prior to this he completed an MA in the History of War at the same university, for which he was awarded a distinction. Josh also works part-time as a defence consultant and has published several monographs with Pen & Sword Military on the Central Powers in the First World War.

**Marietta Crichton Stuart** was brought up in Scotland and currently lives in London. She has a history degree and had a career in the newspaper industry. Now a freelance researcher and historian, her interests include her family’s history, Victorian architecture and the Great War; she does walks and talks on all of these and her long-term project is a biography of her MP grandfather who was killed at the Battle of Loos. After becoming a member of the Friends of Kennington Park and later its Chair, Marietta began researching the park’s history which includes the 1848 Chartist “monster” rally and the local battalion, the 24th Londons, whose Grade II listed war memorial stands in the park.

**Charles Fair** has had a lifelong interest in the history of the British Army of the 1908-1945 era. His first book, *Marjorie's War: Four Families in the Great War 1914-1918*, was published in 2012 and is based on a family archive of 800 letters and 400 photographs by his grandmother and other family members. This includes letters by his grandfather who commanded 1/19th Londons after High Wood and a gunner officer who served in 47 Division RFA. He was the Haig Fellowship's 2009 Scholar for his essay on the social history of the working class 19th Londons. He was a third-generation Territorial officer and served in the infantry. His 'day job' is as a consultant and researcher on command and control (C2) issues for a UK defence contractor. He is an active member of the 19th London Old Comrades Association and has led several battlefield tours looking at the actions of 47 and 60 Divisions on the Western and Salonika Fronts. He is currently combining his personal and professional interests by writing his PhD on the selection and training of junior officers in the British Army of the Great War at the Dept of War Studies, KCL.

**Richard Fisher** is a founding Director of the Vickers MG Collection & Research Association: a non-for-profit organisation that educates and informs people on all aspects of the Vickers machine gun and its use across military history, spanning the twentieth century and many nations around the world. He has written and edited a range of books related to the Vickers and the Association publishes much of their own material, including new editions of out-of-print accounts and memoirs. One of their long-term projects is a comprehensive history of the Machine Gun Corps. He is also a Research Fellow at Cranfield University based at the Defence Academy in Shrivenham, where he researches the effectiveness of comparative historical analysis in defence studies, with a tendency to use cases studies related to machine gunnery!

**Jake Gasson** is a History DPhil student at Pembroke College, University of Oxford specialising in the Salonika campaign of the First World War. His doctoral research investigates the endurance of the men serving with the British Salonika Force, with a focus on the psychological challenges of boredom. He previously completed an MSt in the History of War at the University of Oxford, with his thesis examining attitudes amongst British soldiers at Salonika towards the armies of the Allies and the Central Powers.

**Timothy Halstead** has written extensively about the role of the public schools in the Great War, as well as the development and role of the Officer Training Corps both before and during the Great War. His first book was *A School in Arms: Uppingham and the Great War* and since then *More than Victims of Horace: Public Schoolboys 1914-1918* has been published by Helion. He was educated at Uppingham and completed an MA in British First World War Studies at the University of Birmingham. He works as Data Protection Officer for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

**Steve Hammond** lives near Leverstock Green in Hertfordshire which is where the Queen's Westminster Rifles were billeted in 1914 prior to going to France. This link led to him researching the battalion over many years and a project to identify as many of the men as possible. Steve worked as a plasterer for 40 years and now works at Berkhamsted School in the Maintenance Department. He is a member of the WFA and a regular visitor to the Western Front. Steve is also a member of the Military Historical Society and has put together two exhibitions relating to the QWR. In his spare time Steve enjoys walks with his Springer Spaniel and is a long-suffering fan of Sunderland.

**Clive Harris** served in the Royal Signals and with Hertfordshire Constabulary before embarking on a career in military history in 1998. He first visited the battlefields as a child with his Grandfather and was regularly exploring the Western Front by the late 1980s. In addition to the publication of *Walking the London Blitz* (2003), *Wander through Wartime London* (2008) and *The Greater Game* (2008) he has contributed to *Time Team, Time Watch, Blitz Spirit*, CBS’s *Legacy of War* and the BBC Centenary coverage for Gallipoli 100. His specialist battlefield subjects are The Gallipoli Campaign, the Retreat of 1914 and 1918. The London Blitz and the Italian Campaign during the Second World War are also areas of specific interest. Clive is a member of the Guild of Battlefield Guides and the British Commission for Military History. Clive completed his MA in Great War Studies at Wolverhampton and in 2021 was the Douglas Haig Fellow. He is a proud Freeman of the City of London and currently researching a PhD on how the emergence of football impacts on the British Army 1900-1919. His favourite battlefield to visit remains Gallipoli, but when not guiding, writing or lecturing he can be found following his passions of Charlton Athletic, soul music or mudlarking along the Thames.

**Dr George Hay** is the Official Historian at the CWGC, an Honorary Academic at the University of Kent and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. He writes widely on the social history of British and Commonwealth armies in peace and war and co- authored the CWGC’s 2021 Report on Historical Cases of Non-Commemoration. He is currently leading the research strand of the CWGC’s Non-Commemoration Programme.

**Richard Hendry** holds undergraduate and Masters degrees in Law, and, before opting for full-time leisure six years ago, spent his working life first as a legal academic and then as director of employment law and employee relations for a management consultancy. An independent scholar, he was awarded an MA in “The History of Britain in the First World War” (University of Wolverhampton) in 2018. He has a particular interest in the work and experiences of the London Regiment’s battalions and divisions on the Western Front during the Great War, but also enjoys examining many other aspects of that conflict and wider military history. A lifelong follower of, and a season-ticket holder at, Manchester United, he lives in Cheshire.

**Dr Peter Hodgkinson** is the author of *British Infantry Battalion Commanders in the First World War*, (Ashgate, 2015); *Glum Heroes – Hardship, Fear and Death: Resilience and Coping in the British Army on the Western Front*, (Helion, 2016); *The Battle of the Selle*, (Helion, 2017); *Fourth Army at the Battle of the Selle: A Battlefield Guide*, (Amazon KDP, 2017); *The Resourceful Gunner: Inventor Major Conrad Dinwiddy in the First World War*, (Amazon KDP, 2018); *A Complete Orchestra of War – A History of 6th Division on the Western Front*, (Helion 2019); and *From the Dardanelles to Dunkirk* (Amazon KDP, 2022).

**Mark Jones** is an MA student at the University of Birmingham. His research interests include the reform of the British Army from 1868 to 1918, innovation and learning within Western European armies in the years preceding the First World War, and the role of the British Army on the Western Front in 1915. His masters research evaluates the experiences of the 27th and 28th Divisions on the Western Front in 1915 and how they sought to understand, and implement, the lessons of combat and the experience of battle. In 2023, he received a Master’s Grant award from the WFA.

**Dr Stefanie Linden** is a Consultant psychiatrist and medical historian with a particular interest in human reaction to psychological trauma and adversity. After studying the link between transient psychotic experiences and stress during the Religious Revival in North Wales at the beginning of the 20th century, and psychotic experiences of women after childbirth, she completed a PhD at King’s College London on post combat reactions in soldiers of the Great War. Dr Linden’s work is based on medical case records, and she has analysed all military admissions to the National Hospital at Queen Square during WW1 and also records of traumatized German soldiers admitted to the Charité in Berlin and the Jena Military Hospital. She argues that cultural factors play a crucial role in the expression and understanding of mental illness. Stefanie Linden is author of *They Called it Shell Shock* (Helion, 2017) and currently holds a post as Clinical Lecturer at Cardiff University.

**Geraint Owain** graduated with joint honours in History/Welsh History from Bangor University in 1976 and obtained an MEd during the 80s. Having pursued a career in teaching history and serving as a head teacher, he opted for early retirement and focused on researching various aspects of local history. His publications encompass both Welsh and English medium history resources covering topics such as Lenin, The Middle East, Wales in the Tudor Period, Crime and Punishment, and The Pubs of Denbigh and Ruthin, as well as Ruthin and the Great War. His current interests lie in the 138th Magnac Laval Infantry Regiment from the area of his current home in Haute Vienne and the investigation of a Gallic tumulus in a nearby field. Geraint remains married, with three daughters and nine grandchildren.

**Dr John Peaty** is He also sits of the committee of the Royal Engineers Historical Society.

**Dr Christopher Phillips** is a Lecturer in the History of Warfare in the Department of International Politics at Aberystwyth University. He is the author of *Civilian Specialists at War: Britain’s Transport Experts and the First World War*, published by the University of London Press in 2020, and the book reviews editor for the *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research*. His research interests include the conduct of coalition warfare, the role of logistics in military operations, and the interrelationship between civil and military expertise in the era of ‘total war’.

**Harry Potter** is a former Fellow of Selwyn College, Cambridge, a practising defence barrister and the author of *Hanging in Judgment: Religion and the Death Penalty from the Bloody Code to Abolition* (1993), *Bloodfeud: The Stewarts and Gordons at War* (2002), *Edinburgh Under Siege 1571-1573* (2003), *Law, Liberty and the Constitution: a Brief History of the Common Law* (2017), *Shades of the Prison House: A History of Incarceration in the British Isles* (2019) and *Alexander Paterson: Prison Reformer* (2022). In addition he wrote and presented an award-winning BBC4 series on the Common Law and have contributed to many BBC documentaries on television and radio. He is a life member of Talbot House and is currently assisting The National Archives in an exhibition on Treason.

**Dr Adam Prime** is a historian of the military in British-India. He has previously held teaching positions at the Universities of Leicester and Salford. Adam completed his PhD at the University of Leicester in 2018, his thesis was entitled ‘The Indian Army’s British Officer Corps, 1861-1921’. He has previously published on the Indian Army’s defence of the Suez Canal in 1914 and 1915, and on the make-up of the Indian Army officer corps in the late Victorian period.

**Professor Gary Sheffield**…

**Lt-Col (Ret’d) Simon Shephard** completed his 35-year Regular career in 2018 and served a further four years in the Army Reserve. He spent 9-years in the ranks, including a period in the Small Arms School Corps before commissioning through the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Most of his officer career has been spent delivering personnel policy and operational G1 activities. In 2020 he completed a MA in ‘Britain and the First World War’ at Wolverhampton University. His dissertation, ‘‘Artillery Conquers: Infantry Occupies’: A Study in the Performance of the British Artillery at the Third Battle of Years’, appears as a chapter in Dr. Spencer Jones 2022 book *The Darkest Year, The British Army on the Western Front 1917*. He is also co-authoring, with Dr Victoria Carr, a history of officer commissioning into the British Army from 1660 - 2025. It will be published by Helion under the title *The Steps to Glory* in late 2025.

**Barbara Taylor,** the cartographer for this work, was a career draughtswoman, including employment with the MoD at what was the Army Staff College and the Defence Geographic Centre. She is a Great War expert in her own right, a long-standing member of the Western Front Association and currently chairman of the Thames Valley Branch. Barbara is also a member of the British Commission for Military History, the Battlefields Trust and the Douglas Haig Fellowship. Her maps are to be found in many other Helion publications, including Dr Spencer Jones’ Great War series. She has also produced maps for Gary Sheffield, Jonathan Boff and Mungo Melvin.

**Colin Taylor** has served as a British Army officer for eighteen years and has completed two operational tours of Afghanistan (one as an Improvised Explosive Device Disposal operator). He has a long-standing enthusiasm for military history and has been studying the Great War for fifteen years. His academic credentials comprise a War Studies BA and two MAs (in Military History and Defence Studies). He has visited numerous battlefields in Europe and worldwide and has assisted on a couple of archaeological digs. He has contributed articles to ‘Stand To!’ and the Royal Logistic Corps Foundation Review. He enjoys spending time with his family, visiting museums and orienteering.

**Glyn Taylor** is a former Army officer who has taken up an academic career following his retirement from the Services. He graduated with a MA in ‘The History of Britain and the First World War’ at the University of Wolverhampton in 2020 and is currently researching for a PhD at King’s College London on the performance of Fifth Army in 1918. He is a member of the Royal Engineers Historical Society and author of a chapter in the latest volume of the Corps History. He is also a member of the WFA and contributor to its journal, *Stand To*!

**Dr Tom Thorpe** is originally from London but grew up in the Shropshire Marches from the mid-1970s and until 1988 when he returned to the capital to read History at KCL. He remained at KCL, completing a MA in War Studies in 1993. After this he embarked on a career as a communications, policy and public affairs professional working in the health and care setting covering statutory and voluntary sectors. In 2017, he completed a PhD in Defence Studies from KCL exploring motivation and cohesion in London TF units during the Great War. He is now a public historian, podcaster and tour guide in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

**Professor Bradford Waters, MD** is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine. He served in Afghanistan with the U.S. Navy. As his family was from Stepney, he has researched the Poplar and Stepney Rifles, 17th (County of London) Battalion in World War I. He is a member of the WFA and the Royal Society of Medicine. His World War I, World War II and Vietnam research were presented at the U.S. Army Medical Department Museum. He wrote a chapter on the Eastern Front in *Glimpsing Modernity, Military Medicine in World War I* (2015).

**Ken Wayman** taught history for 26 years, and is now retired. He holds a BA from London University. He has been a long-time member of the WFA and has been a regular visitor to the Western Front since 1985, sometimes with parties of disadvantaged students. He has written six books on various aspects of the Great War, local, family and national, most published by ‘Tommies Guides’. He has been instrumental on adding many names to the local Pelsall village war memorial. He is a lifelong cricketer with Bloxwich C.C.

**Dennis Williams** moved into education management after ten years in teaching, and subsequently held a number of senior positions. After leaving local government he undertook a range of consultancy, interim management and administrative roles, and currently works under contract for the NHS; throughout this time, pursuing his interest in military history. This is reflected in both his research and writing, and as a specialist feature of his second-hand book business. He is the author of *Pouring With Rain – Troops Fed Up: British Second Army and the Liberation Offensive in Flanders 1918* (Helion, 2018). As well as painting model soldiers, he has written a tabletop games rulebook for 19th century warfare in Europe, *There Are Your Guns* (Caliver Books, 2008). He is a member of the WFA and holds BEd, MEd, MA and MPhil degrees from the Universities of Hull, Leeds, and Birmingham.

**Katharine Wills** was a news librarian for her local paper in Northampton until redundancy heralded a varied working life including tour guiding, theatre work, teaching and reminiscence projects. Her interest in WW1 stems from her grandfather, who landed in Salonika in November 1915, serving with 7th Ox & Bucks LI (26th Division), later transferring to the ASC. She has explored the battlefields with the Salonika Campaign Society, discovering the location of a British Army theatre on one occasion. Kate has a longstanding interest in army concert parties, studying the soldier artistes and their theatrical productions. She has identified over 1,200 army troupes, and presents a talk entitled *Treading the Duckboards*. Away from the war she volunteers for Save the Strays (a local animal welfare charity), enjoys classical music and is a keen local historian.

1. Realities of War, p. 132. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Nick Lloyd, “With Faith and without Fear: Sir Douglas Haig's Command of First Army during 1915”, *The Journal of Military History*, Vol. 71, No. 4 (Oct. 2007), 1053. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)