

EASTERFORD FIRST WORLD WAR SERVICE

W. Bro Edward Arthur Wilson – mentioned in dispatches – c1876- 1933

- Chief Engineer of the Metropolitan Railway. Son of John Wilson PM who was chief engineer of GER and designed Liverpool St Station (connection with temple in old Great Eastern Hotel ???).
- Royal Corps of Engineers.
- 110th Batn Comp. Lieutenant
- RCE Comms Acting Lieutenant Colonel (Temporary Major) M.C.
- Theatre of War - France 5th Feb 1915
- Military cross for an act of gallantry not in the presence of the enemy. The London Gazette 7 June 1918
- June 19 1919 – Legion d'Honneur- Chevalier (Knight)
- 110th Company – Railway Construction Company
- Aged 40 when first went to war.
- Sadly later committed suicide at age of 76.

**RAILWAY CHIEF ENGINEER
FOUND SHOT**

Mr Edward A. Wilson, chief civil engineer of the Metropolitan Railway, was found seriously wounded in his office at Baker Street Station on Thursday night. A revolver was lying near him. He was taken at once to Middlessex Hospital, where he died at 3 a.m. yesterday. An inquest is to be held on Monday.



W.Bro Ernest Mansfield



- Despite his age Ernest Mansfield spent three years serving in the forces during the Great War as a private the 23rd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers Regiment, also known as the First Sportsman's Battalion. This information was kindly given to us by William Mackain-Bremner of Houston, Texas, who discovered it as part of research into his relative Fergus Mackain, a cartoonist and illustrator who served in the same regiment. William's website about Fergus, with many examples of his cartoons and caricatures relating to the regiment is at... <http://fmsketches.blogspot.co.uk/> One of Fergus's caricatures has a remarkable resemblance to Ernest.
- At the age of 52 Ernest enlisted with the rank of private in London and received initial training at "Grey Towers" in Hornchurch, Essex. Grey Towers was a new military depot and was rapidly erected with many wooden huts in the extensive grounds of an imposing house and was ready for occupation by November 1914. It became the Battalion Headquarters of the 23rd Royal Fusiliers, otherwise known as the First Sportsman's Battalion. It was a unit based on proficient sportsmen who, by special dispensation, could be recruited up to the age of 45 years, whereas a the upper age limit for recruitment at that time was normally 38. So either he falsified his age or a "blind eye" was shown to those over age but keen to enlist. Most were amateur sportsmen, including amongst others were: footballers, cricketers, oarsmen and mountaineers, big-game hunters, There were also authors, artists, clergymen, engineers, actors and archaeologists, and they came from all over the world. Ernest would have been in his element.
- He is recorded as attesting at an officially recognized location (military barracks or recruiting office) during the week starting Monday, October 5th where he is described as the "famous" mining engineer alongside up with a number of well-known people such as;
 - J.W. Hitch of Manchester who played cricket for Surrey and England as is described as a "Famous fast bowler".
 - R.T Noyes of Winnipeg described as "An all-round sport". With the Gordon Relief Expedition to Khartoum. Known as "Canada" and was "a brilliant raconteur and a great traveller".
 - W. Hooper a professional welterweight boxer who fought under name "Dick Brown".
 - S.H.W O'Shea, a breeder of sporting dogs.
 - W. Albany a world famous sculler.
 - H.J Butler as professional cricketer.
 - H.F. Carew, as sketch writer

- T. Rose, a professional footballer.
 - G.M. Miller, a professional footballer.
- Very early in his army career at Hornchurch, Ernest became a member of the editorial committee of a weekly regimental magazine called: The Sportsman's Gazette, with the nominal role of Advertising Manager, and he used his experiences and skills as journalist, author and poet to write a variety of articles for the magazine. Several of these are included on this website at... Ernest Mansfield - Journalist, Author and Publicist. As the last of these articles reveals however, he gave up "his position on the executive staff" when the regiment left Hornchurch.
- The first Sportsman Gazette issue no. 12 dated March 12th 1915 mentions Ernest
- It also has a note as follows;
 - A WORD WITH FREEMASONS.
 A meeting of a few of the brethren was held on Wednesday evening last, under the Chairmanship of Bro. the Rev. A. J. Parry; it was then decided to summon a mass meeting of the brethren in the Battalion for the purpose of deciding whether or not it is desirable to hold a Craft Re-union Dinner at an early date.
 The meeting will be held at 8.30 p.m. on Thursday next at the Drill Hall and the presence of every brother is earnestly requested.
 The further business of the meeting, should a dinner be decided upon, will be to elect an Organising Committee and Secretary and brethren outside the Battalion are cordially invited.
 Those intending to come are invited to communicate with Pte. G. Vernell, Hut 35, who is acting as temporary secretary.

- From his military records...
- Enlisted Oct 1914 (he was 52 yrs old at the time)
- Service number: 1104
- Posted to France with his regiment in Nov 1915 and was on "active service" for 23 months
- Discharged from the army in Nov 1917 at the age 55yrs old. Reason given for discharge was "increasing age"
- Completed 3yrs service and was awarded the usual three WW-1 campaign medals: The 1914 Star or 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal, these were affectionately known as "Pip, Squeak and Wilfred".
- From November 1914 until June 1915, training took place at a purpose-built camp (Grey Towers) in Hornchurch, Essex. In June 1915 the battalion was attached to 99th Brigade, 33rd Division, it landed at Boulogne in November 1915 and on 25 November transferred with Brigade to 2nd Division.
- The battalion saw action at Vimy Ridge, the Somme and the battle for Delville Wood.
- It included several first class cricketers, the lightweight boxing champion of England, an ex-mayor of Exeter, and the author John Chesshire. Taking Surrey County Cricket Club as an example, Ernie Hayes, Bill Hitch and Andy Sandham joined the battalion.
- There were many middle-aged men in the First Sportsman's. This introduces one of them.
 - "The Battalion was marching down the main street of Carnoy when a charming French girl of about eighteen dashed into the line of route,

evidently with the idea of 'parleyvooring' with one of the young sports. She commenced in a breezy manner chatting with my father, a youngster of fifty, not noting, at first, his grey hair. Suddenly he turned his head toward her and smiled. 'Oh, papa!' she ejaculated, and fled...."

- The history of the regiment is well recorded in a book by Capt. Fred W. Ward published in 1920 and entitled:
 - The 23rd Battalion Royal Fusiliers (First Sportsman's) - A Record of its Services in The Great War, 1914-1919 available in full on-line at... www.gutenberg.org/files/20377/20377-h/20377-h.htm
 - Some statistics from that book:
 - The initial strength of the Battalion: 1000 men
 - Number of men who served during the the war: 5000
 - Killed or missing in action, and died of wounds: 930
 - Wounded in action: 2300
 - Ernest is listed in the book in The Nominal Roll on page 156 with the service number of 1104, but otherwise is not mentioned
- A book written by Charles Thomas Perfect published in 1920 and entitled:
 - Hornchurch During the Great War: An Illustrated Account of Local Activities and Experiences has 18 pages about the regiment while it was based at Hornchurch, (beginning on page 139) and is available on-line at... <http://lib.militaryarchive.co.uk/library/Biographical/library/Hornchurch-During-The-Great-War/files/assets/basic-html/page146.html>
 - Page 162 of the book has an abridged version of Ernest's article in the Sportsman's Gazette entitled "Good-Bye, Hornchurch", however, Ernest is not identified as author.
- Info above courtesy of Goldhanger Digital Archive.

Robert Wilfred Wakelin

- Rank: Sapper
- Medal Awarded: British War Medal and Victory Medal
- Regiment or Corps: Royal Engineers
- Regimental Number: 546456
- The undermentioned Cadets and exCadets, O.T.C., to be temp. 2nd Lts. (on prob.). 31st July 1916: — SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE, 10 AUGUST, 1916. 7895
 - Robert Wilfred Wakelin.
- Previous Units: R.E. (T) 2247 Spr., Royal Engineers. 546456
- Farmed Freebournes Farm in Witham
- Aged 31 in 1914
- Married to Edith Wakelin

Lewis James Cullen

- Aged 34 in 1914
- Farmed at Clarks Farm
- Possible match
 - Private
 - Medal Awarded: 1914 Star
 - Regiment or Corps: Royal Army Medical Corps
 - Regimental Number: 3219

Charles Augustus Royer Flood Dunbar C.B.E

- Date of Birth: 30 June 1849
- Enrolled in navy: 12 December 1866
- Served in China in the Bafleur – China medal awarded
- Paymaster in Chief – RN (retd) during ww1
- Final Rank: paymaster rear admiral
- Silver war badge
- WWI Naval War Medal
- British War Medal
- Worked at Southampton during the war

Charles Augustus Royer Flood Dunbar, who was born in June 1849, entered the Royal Navy as an Assistant Clerk in December 1866. Advanced to Assistant Paymaster in December 1870, he served in the same rank aboard the Jumna in the Red Sea, during the Suakin operations of 1885, but did not qualify for entitlement to the Egypt Medal.

In September 1889, having been advanced to Paymaster, he was wrecked in the gun boat Lily in the St. Lawrence, the survivors receiving the 'expression of their Lordships approval of the conduct of officers and men in trying circumstances':

'The gunboat Lily was commissioned at Bermuda in January 1888, under Commander Gerald W. Russell, as a unit of the North American squadron. On 16 September 1889, the vessel put out from St. Margaret's Bay, Newfoundland, with the intention of crossing the Straits of Belle Isle to Forteau Bay on the coast of Labrador. The weather was boisterous but clear at the outset but later a dense fog came on aggravated by the smoke of a forest fire on the Labrador shore. The steam whistle of the lighthouse on Point d'Amour was plainly heard on board Lily but owing to the strong on-shore wind the sound seemed two or three miles distant. At about 6 p.m. the navigating officer was in the act of taking soundings when the breakers on shore became audible. The ship was under sail and steam and the engines were immediately reversed but too late to save the vessel which crashed on the rocks and heeled over to starboard, breaking her back. The boats were launched but after three had capsized in succession it was left to the crew to get ashore as best they could. Fortunately the water about the rocks was shallow and nearly everybody got ashore in safety. The weather was bitterly cold and the men suffered greatly from exposure. When the roll-call was made it was found that seven men had lost their lives' (A Dictionary of Disasters at Sea refers). Advanced to Staff Paymaster in August 1893, and to Fleet Paymaster in October 1897, Dunbar went on to witness active service off China in 1900 in the Barfleur. Then, having retired in the rank of Paymaster-in-Chief in June 1908, he was recalled on the advent of hostilities in August 1914, when he was re-employed ashore as a Paymaster Captain. On this occasion, on returning to the Retired List, Dunbar did so as a Paymaster Rear-Admiral with a C.B.E., the latter having been gazetted in January 1919.

Rev. Charles P. Pierreport Edwards MC

- Old Spiery
- Vicar of Tollesbury
- He was chaplain to 1/5th Suffolks during the war, and won his M.C. collecting wounded after the attack of the 163rd Brigade on 12th August 1915.

- The Rev. Pierrepont Edwards 1/5th Suffolk Regiment did such good work in charge of a volunteer stretcher-party that he was awarded the Military Cross. This was on the 12th August when 11 Officers and 178 N.C.O.'s and men were killed, wounded or missing.
- Aged 50 went to war
- A Chaplains Dept 54 Div Attd 5 Suffolks, Att RA (Territorials)
- 1/5th Battalion of Suffolk Regiment Territorial Force - 54th (East Anglian) Division
- British War Medal, Victory Medal and 1915 Star
- Exploits dramatized in 1999 feature length drama 'All Kings Men'
- CP Edwards played by Ian McDiarmid (who later played Foreign Secretary Sir Edward Grey in 37 days which portrays run to ww1)



On the morning of 12th August three infantry battalions of the 163rd Brigade (1/5 Norfolks, 1/5 Suffolks and 1/8 Hants) were occupying trenches, running south from the right of the 10th Division, ('at 117 D y to Point 28'). They had occupied these positions since the early morning of 11th August, and had experienced artillery fire and a certain amount of sniping; they were also suffering from a shortage want of water and great difficulty was had been experienced in getting water to them. At 1.15pm, orders were received at Brigade HQ, which was still situated at the Beach, 'to advance and clear the area up to 118 Squares I N S of snipers'.

The advance starts circa 4.45/4.50 and almost immediately the 1/5 Norfolks' make a half-turn to the right resulting in a separation of forces and confusion (and ultimately damaging intermingling of units). After a about 1000 yards advance across the plain (difficult, thorny scrub, ditches and dry watercourse) the Brigade is subjected to devastating enfilade fire (machine guns and small arms from the left, from the direction of Kidney Hill, and shelling, shrapnel from the right, from the direction of the W Hills; but the firing is les ferocious from the front allowing the advance to progress, although many men fall to sniper fire from well concealed Turkish marksmen (and women?) hidden in the scrub and low well-leaved trees (stunted oaks). Some elements of The 1/5 Norfolks on the right outpace the 1/8 Hants in the centre and the 1/5 Suffolks on the left. The confusion is increased by the scrub being set alight by shell fire and the chaotic advance continues unsupported through thick smoke; component forces getting split up, disorientated and attacked by

defending Turks; resulting in many casualties killed and wounded. The men, weak through lack of sleep and water become exhausted and the attack slows; some (notably a number of the Norfolks) press on and, getting beyond the Turkish line are dealt with by the defending forces. The attack halts and a rallying position is established in the sunken track near the Anafarta wells.

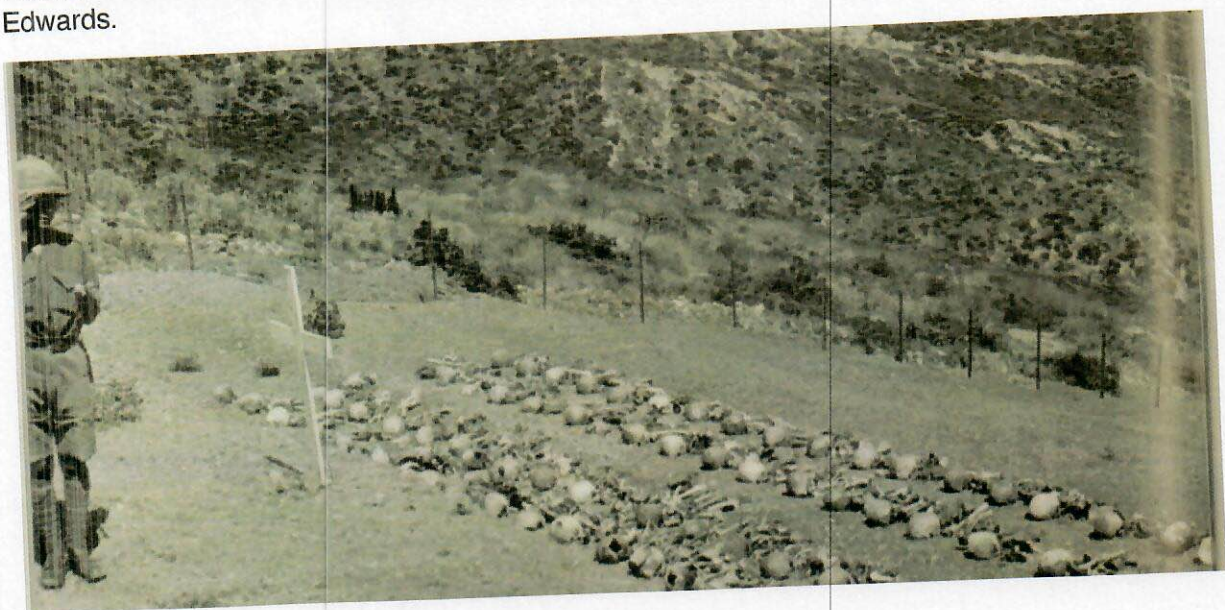
2nd Lt A R (Roland) Pelly, 1/5 Norfolks in a letter to his father,

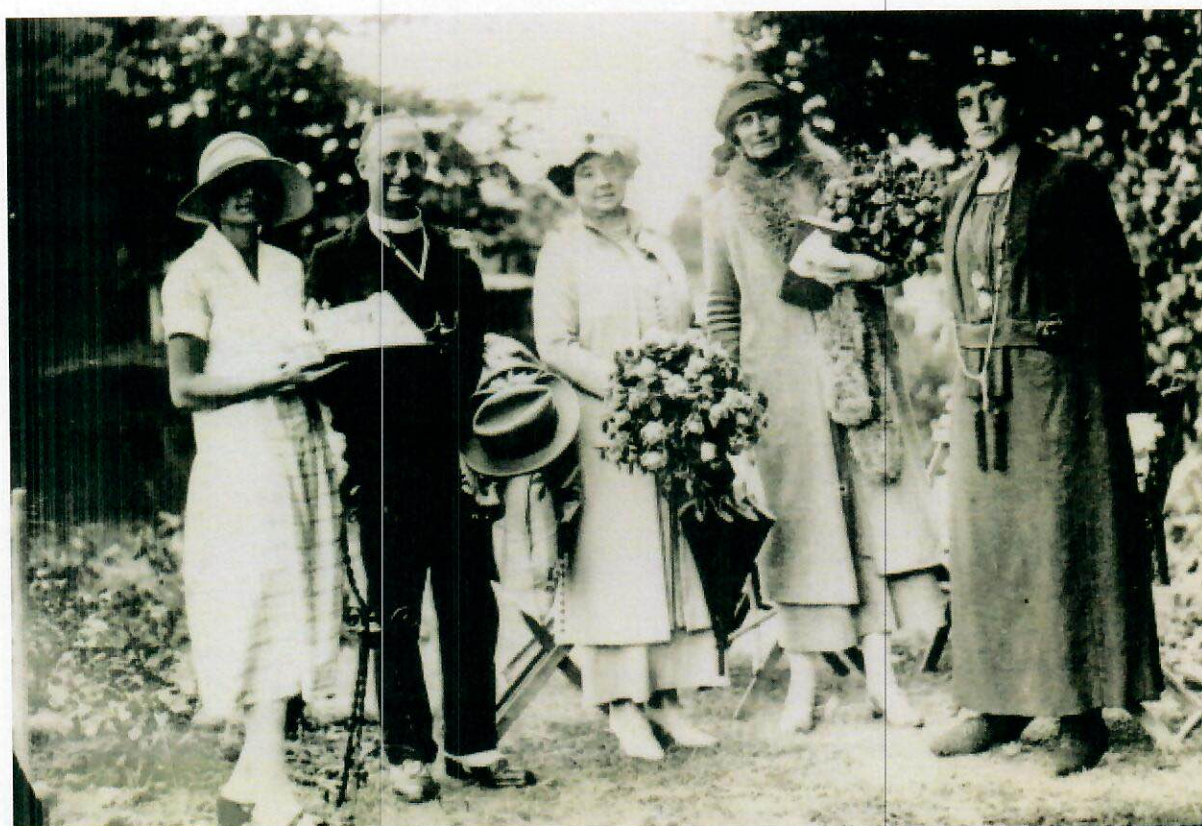
'What a lot has happened since I wrote ... The same night we had the most awful smack. We were suddenly ordered out at 4pm and down we went into the Turks. For some reason or mistake no regiment, of which there were loads, backed us up to shove us through. We were opposed by a wall of bullets and were knocked over right and left. I got too far ahead, lost my way and trying to find it again, was bagged by a Turkish sniper - which swarm - at very close range. The bullet broke my left lower jaw, tore my tongue in shreds and then out through my right cheek. Then after an awful wandering the RAMC got me; by 11pm they had carried me right back to expert care...One or two wounded followed - Purdy, Oliphant, Seymour and told me we had been most frightfully cut up and almost wiped out...That was an awful night - absolute HELL - and surely if there had been someone behind we should have gone right through.'

As with countless engagements in World War One, the bodies of the men who fell that day did not have the luxury of a burial detail. In fact, they lay where they fell until 1919 when the battalion's Chaplain the Reverend Pierrepont Edwards found them and reported on September 23, 1919 as the officer commanding the Graves Registration Unit in Gallipoli

'We have found the 5th Norfolks - there were 180 in all; 122 Norfolk and a few Hants and Suffolks with 2/4th Cheshires. We could only identify two - Privates Barnaby and Carter. They were scattered over an area of about one square mile, at a distance of at least 800 yards behind the Turkish front line. Many of them had evidently been killed in a farm, as a local Turk, who owns the place, told us that when he came back he found the farm covered with the decomposing bodies of British soldiers, which he threw into a small ravine. The whole thing quite bears out the original theory that they did not go very far on, but got mopped up one by one, all except the ones who got into the farm.'

From Steve Newman's book "Gallipoli Then and Now". Remains of soldiers later found by Rev Edwards.





Charles Pierrepont Edwards' Conservative Garden Part, Early 1920s

Photograph used in "Old Spiery" published by Mersea Museum, which gives names:

L-R Miss Mary Lock (a helper, "Old Spiery", Mrs Stanley Baldwin (Prime Minister's wife), Lady Worthington Evans and Mrs Annie Edwards.

Date: c1922

Capt. Henry William Farrow

- District Inspector Of Main Roads
- Aged 41 in 1914
- Lived at the Bungalow, Feering
- Possible match
 - Rank: Corporal
 - Medal Awarded: British War Medal and Victory Medal
 - Regiment or Corps: Army Service Corps
 - Regimental Number: M.S.363
 - Previous Units: R.A.S.C. M.S.363 Corporal.
 - From the Gazette
 - Eastern Mounted Brigade, Transport and Supply Column.
 - Lieutenant Henry William Farrow, from the Territorial Force Reserve, to be Lieutenant. Dated 5th August, 1914.
 - Lieutenant Henry W. Farrow to be Captain. Dated 21st October, 1914
 -



Dr. Henry Ernest McCready

- Lieutenant Colonel in R.A.M.C.
- British War Medal, Victory Medal and 1914 Star
- Awarded Military Cross 1918

Henry Ernest, b. February 3, 1879, in Dublin: B.A., M.D., T.C.D., M.C.: Deputy Commissioner, Medical Services (Neurological), Midland Region, 1925. War Service: - 1st South Mid. Field Ambulance, 1/5 Batt. Royal Warwickshire Regt., in France, Belgium and Italy: 1/3 South Mid. Field Ambulance: Second i/c. South Mid. Casualty Clearing Station: Major, R.A.M.C.: mentioned in despatch."

Could wear oak leaf spray on medal ribbon as MID

Capt Dr Edward James Boome

- Served in France from March 1915
- RAMC
- French Medal de la Reconnaissance Francaise
- British War Medal, Victory Medal and 1914 Star

Lieutenant Louie Emanuel Kalker

- In hospital with shell shock - May 1917
- Royal Warwickshire Regmt
- Aged 21 when went to war
- Went on to live to 87

Lieutenant Dr. J.L Meynell

- British War Medal, Victory Medal
- RAMC

Harry Keyes

- Beer Retailer & Seedgrower from Tiptree
- Born in Inworth
- Lived at the Ship in Tiptree
- Aged 46 in 1914
- Sapper
- Medal Awarded: British War Medal and Victory Medal
- Regiment or Corps: Royal Engineers
- Regimental Number: WR.336466
- Sub Unit: Inland Water Transport
- Previous Units: Royal Engineers WR/336466 Spr
- Died 24th January 1942 aged 76 – Leaving widow Emily £817 3s 11d (£36k today)

H. Ledger lost two sons

- 2nd Lt. Horace Martin Capon Ledger – died 22 Dec 1915
 - 2nd Lt H M C Ledger, the son of Horace and Kathleen Ella Ledger, and husband of Ellinor Ledger was commissioned in the Indian Army Reserve of Officers, and served initially in a Regiment of the Egyptian Army before training as an Observer in the Royal Flying Corps. In 1915 he was attached to the French Seaplane Squadron in Palestine. He was awarded the Croix de Guerre in Nov 1915 and twice mentioned in the Commanding Admiral's 'Ordre du Jour'. He was shot down and killed near Beersheba on 22 Dec 1915.
 - Indian Army Reserve of Officers attached to the French Seaplane flight.
 - Jerusalem Memorial Part One A-L
 - Croix de Guerre with palms
 - Legion d'Honneur
 - The Jerusalem Memorial stands in Jerusalem War Cemetery, 4.5 kilometres north of the walled city
 - At the outbreak of the First World War, Palestine (now Israel) was part of the Turkish Empire and it was not entered by Allied forces until December 1916. The advance to Jerusalem took a further year, but from 1914 to December 1917, about 250 Commonwealth prisoners of war were buried in the German and Anglo-German cemeteries of the city.



- Capt Philip Girling Ledger
 - Royal Army Veterinary Corp.
 - Survived
- Ernest Ledger – No records
- Sgt Douglas Ledger
 - Household Cavalry and Cavalry of the Line - Essex Yeomanry
 - Killed in action - Western European Theatre – France & Flanders
 - 14th May 1915
 - Aged 23
 - Ypres – Menin Gate Memorial
 - Battle of Frezenberg (8–13 May)

The Germans moved field artillery forward, placing three army corps opposite the 27th and 28th Divisions on the Frezenberg ridge. The German attack began on 8 May with a bombardment of the 83rd Brigade in trenches on the forward slope of the ridge, but the first and second infantry assaults were repelled by the survivors. However, the third German assault of the morning pushed the defenders back. Although the neighbouring 80th Brigade repulsed the attack, the 84th Brigade was pushed back; this left a 2-mile (3.2 km) gap in the line. The Germans were prevented from advancing further by Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI)'s counter-attacks and a night move by the 10th Brigade. The PPCLI held the line at a steep cost; their 700-man force were reduced to 150, who were in no shape to fight. After this, their unofficial motto—"Holding up the whole damn line"—is still used today.

Dr Salter had local posts – details in his diaries – copy in library