

WFA SUFFOLK BRANCH

Branch Briefing

October 2023

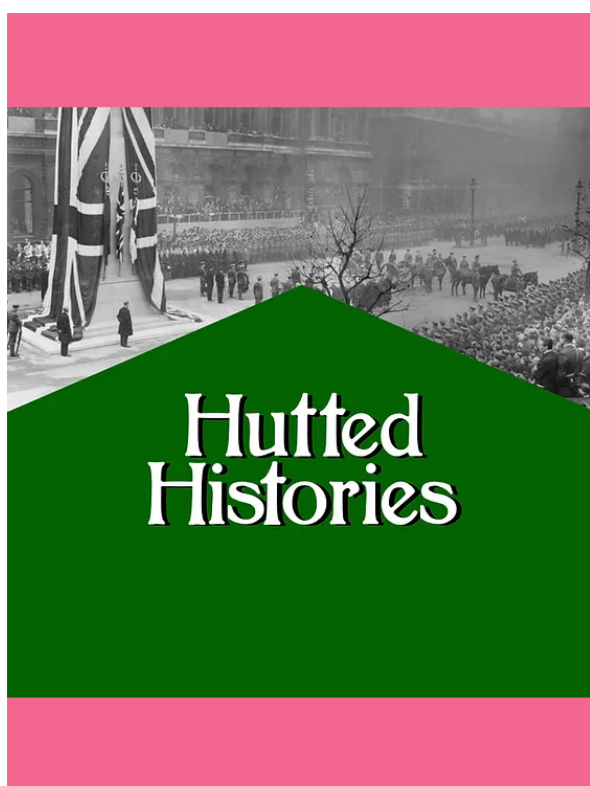
Our Website : <https://suffolk-wfa.org.uk>

Our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/WFASuffolk>



Tonight's talk

Simon Shephard Artillery conquers, Infantry Occupies :
A study of the effectiveness of the British Artillery at the 3rd battle of Ypres



Wed, 25 Oct | Great War Huts

Hutted Histories: A Century at the Cenotaph with Lyndsay Knight & Taff Gillingham

In this month's Hutted Histories talk, Great War Huts duo Lyndsay Knight and Taff Gillingham give a brief history of the Britain's focus of national Remembrance - The Cenotaph.

In October's Hutted Histories talk at Great War Huts, Lyndsay Knight and Taff Gillingham will be talking about Britain's national focus of Remembrance - The Cenotaph; looking at its origins, symbolism, and a peek behind the scenes of the annual service, little changed in over a century.

Most of you have seen the service at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday, and some will even have taken part in it.

For a number of years during the First World War Centenary, Lyndsay was part of the tiny DCMS Ceremonials team that organised the November service and her talk is absolutely fascinating!

Wednesday 25th October, 7.30pm.

For more details and to book tickets:

<https://www.greatwarhuts.org/event-details/hutted-histories-a-century-at-the-cenotaph-with-lyndsay-knight-taff-gillingham>

BIG BUS 2024 Keith Cooper

We were disappointed that our near-annual tour to the battlefields did not take place this year. There were just too many date clashes, not the least of which was the Rugby World Cup, which put pressure on hotel cost and availability in the area we needed to stay.

We're already planning the 2024 trip with Battle Honours who did us so well in 2022. The location will be Picardy and our likely base will be in Amiens. Clive Harris and Julian Whippy are working on the itinerary and pricing. We'll bring these to branch members as soon as they become available.

Many of this year's disappointed have left their deposits with Battle Honours in anticipation of 2024 and we're already up to 15 participants.

The dates of the trip will be from **Saturday 29 June returning 2 July 2024**

If you're interested in joining us please talk to me or David Hedges.

A BIT OFF SUBJECT David Hedges

Fornham is about the only large battle that took place in Suffolk and Suffolk County Council are making a big thing of the anniversary. Its a free event (but you have to pay for the buffet if wanted).



Battle of Fornham 1173 **850th Anniversary**

East Anglia Region Study Day
Sunday 15th October 2023



The remains of the church tower at Fornham St. Genevieve near where the battle was fought.

Special event to mark the 850th Anniversary of the Battle of Fornham

Start time 1000
Registration from 0945

Venue: All Saints Hotel, Fornham St Genevieve, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. IP28 6JQ

The day is being sponsored by the West Suffolk District Council and their local museum, Moyses Hall, as part of a series of events being held during the year to mark this anniversary. Attendance will be free to BT Members. We will also be offering the presentations on Zoom.

To book your place at the Study Day; an optional Buffet Lunch [£17.50 per person - with GF and vegetarian choices] or to join the meeting though Zoom click here:

<https://buytickets.at/thebattlefieldstrust/968127>

The programme is as follows:

Daniel Clarke

Heritage Officer, West Suffolk District Council

Moyes's Hall and the season of activities associated with the Battle of Fornham

Dr. Rebecca Pinner

Associate Professor, School of Literature, Drama and Creative Writing

'Conflict and Controversy in Twelfth-Century Suffolk: a Local Backdrop to the Battle of Fornham'

Dr. Emily Winkler

Research Fellow in Medieval History at St Edmund Hall, Oxford

Angevin Warfare and Leadership in the time of Henry II

Dr. Matthew Bennett

Author and former Senior Lecturer in the Department of Communication and Applied Behavioural Science at The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst

Military developments in the 12th Century

Dr. Michael Walker

Historian and lecturer on the early modern period

The Battle of Fornham – the lead up and background to the battle and the battle itself

If you want to 'read up' on the battle please see the article in the Summer 2023 Edition of Battlefield (Volume 27 Issue 4; pp 14-19)

LEST WE FORGET Kelvin Dakin

13521, Corporal Cecil Edward Cornwell MM & Bar, 2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment



(Photo credit: roll-of-honour.com © 2000 Dave Edwards)

Cecil was born in 1894, the son of Edward and Annie Cornwell of Isleham, Cambs and in 1911 he was living with his parents in Church Street, Isleham, working as a Bricklayer's labourer.

He crossed to France on the 25th July 1915 with the 8th Battalion and is mentioned in *The History of the Suffolk Regiment 1914-1927* for his part in repulsing a German trench raid on the 1st February 1917:

"In this affair Pte C Cornwell of the battalion scouts greatly distinguished himself."

"This affair" is very well documented in the Battalion war diary with two accounts – one by the "B" Company Commander, Captain T H Whitehead and an Intelligence Summary by Major P C Bull. In neither document is Pte Cornwell mentioned but he was gazetted for the Military Medal on the 17th April 1917.

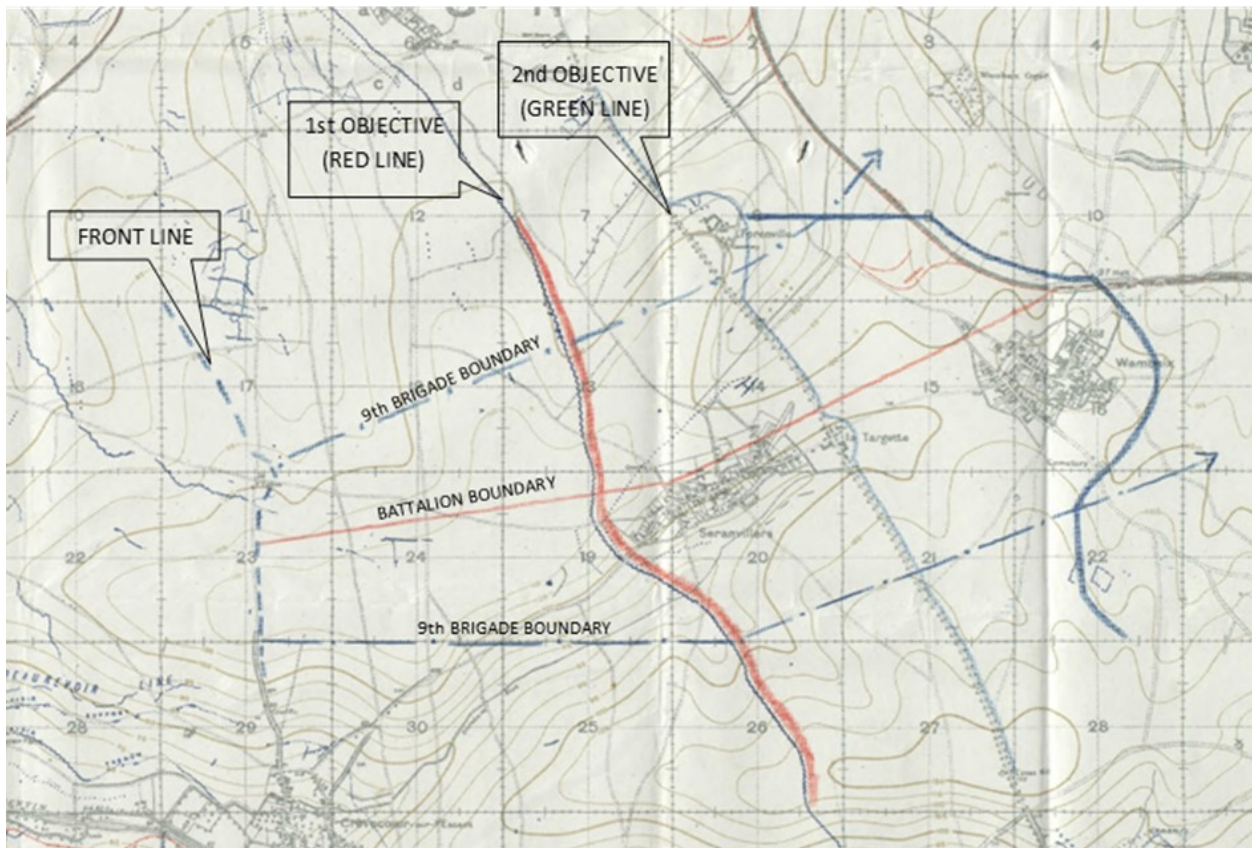
His Bar to the MM was first recorded in the War Diary on the 11th November 1917, following the Battalion's part in the Third Battle of Ypres, and officially gazetted on the 22nd February 1918.

Cecil was transferred to the 2nd Battalion when the 8th was disbanded on the 16th February 1918.

He was killed in action on the 8th October 1918.

History of the Suffolk Regiment 1914-1927

[1918]"During the night of 5th-6th October the battalion came out of the line to Masnieres and on the following afternoon was attached to the 9th Brigade for the attack on Seranvillers on October 8. The 2nd Suffolk Regiment and another battalion, who were in support, were to pass through the attacking battalions on the Red Line and to capture Green Line. The objective of the 2nd Battalion was the village of Seranvillers and the road to La Targette. The attack commenced at 4.30 am, the Red Line being captured without much resistance. The battalion then advanced to the Green Line and gained all its objectives in time, except La Targette itself. At dusk the fire died down, and the enemy evacuated La Targette, leaving a few machine guns behind them. The casualties amounted to 135..."



A report of his death was published in the Cambridge Daily News of 25th October 1918:

ISLEHAM CORPL. CECIL CORNWELL,—*Corpl. Cecil Cornwell, of the Suffolk Regt. youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. George Cornwell, Lyndhurst, Isleham, was killed on October 8th. A letter has been received by his parents from a Lieut. at the front, who writes: "He was very popular amongst his comrades, and the loss greatly felt by us all. I understand that his death was practically instantaneous it is therefore certain relief to know that he did not suffer long. Please accept my heartfelt sympathy in your great loss, and may you be given strength to bear through your sad bereavement." Corpl. C. Cornwell had been serving in France over three years, and during that time had won the Military Medal and Bar.*

He is buried at Naves Communal Cemetery Extension (picture from www.findagrave.com) and commemorated on the Isleham War Memorial in St Andrews Church.

THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD

Talk at the Norwich Branch Tuesday 7th November

STEVE WARBURTON : 'OUT OF THE WESTERN FRONT FRYING PAN AND INTO THE FIRE OF FERMOY...

An account of Brig-Gen C H T Lucas' (87th Brigade, 29th Division) time in command of the Fermoys Brigade post-war including the period of his 1920 capture, captivity and escape from Irish Republicans - supported by his 'secret diary entries' written whilst in captivity.

Our next month's talk Wednesday 8th November

Dr Graham Kemp : German commerce raiders 1914-15

Please send any contributions for the *Branch Briefing* to:
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telephone: 01394 272677 and email: david.j.hedges@btopenworld.com
Next Committee meeting: tba
Approach a committee member if you want any issue raised.